













ILLINOIS TOLLWAY  
PARTNERING FOR GROWTH - CONSTRUCTION  
GUIDELINES

for 

## **VII. Mentor Incentives: Partnering for Growth – Construction Bid Credits**

A contractor or subcontractor performing as a Mentor in an approved Partnering for Growth – Construction relationship can earn bid credits to be used toward future Tollway construction bids per the most recent revision of the Illinois Tollway Special Provision for Bid Credit Incentive Programs and the Operational Guide for Partnering for Growth – Construction for Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise (VOSB) Bid Credit Incentive Program.

A bidder can apply its bid credits to lower their bid amount and increase the chances of winning the contract as the low bidder. Bid credits earned via the Earned Credit Program (ECP) or any other approved Tollway bid credit program may all be used to a maximum bid credit cap as stated in the bid documents for each project.

## **VIII. Partnering for Growth - Construction Oversight Committee**

Oversight of the Partnering for Growth – Construction Program shall be performed by the Partnering for Growth - Diversity Team. The Diversity Team is the "working arm" of the Partnering for Growth – Construction Program. The Committee consists of Tollway Diversity staff.

The essential document that will govern the Partnering for Growth – Construction Program is the written Partnering for Growth – Construction Agreement (signed by both parties) that outlines the parties' goals and expectations. The agreement shall describe measurable benchmarks and milestones to be reached (by the VOSB Protégé) at successive stages of the plan. The P4G Portal and Partnering for Growth - Diversity Team should give input to both firms regarding the Mentor- Protégé Agreement.

- A. The Diversity Team will quarterly and annually evaluate the Mentor- Protégé relationship, including the following criteria:
- i. Satisfactory progress toward the stated goals of the Agreement and Protégé Development Plan;
  - ii. Improved competency of the Protégé in specific aspects of highway contracting;
  - iii. Decreased reliance on the Mentor by the Protégé for equipment, personnel, and capital;
  - iv. Protégé's increased capital and/or financial/bonding capacity; and
  - v. Increased numbers of projects by Protégé with contractors including other than the Mentor
  - vi. Bids submitted by Protégé as a prime contractor

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ENTERPRISE (VOSB)**

B. The Diversity Team shall require the parties to submit Quarterly Progress Reports, indicating the status of their progress toward each of the Agreement's stated goals. Reference the Tollway Special Provision for Partnering for Growth - Construction for Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise (VOSB) Bid Credit Incentive Program.

The success of the Partnering for Growth – Construction relationship will be measured quarterly (Quarterly Progress Reports) by a system of metrics designed to coincide with milestones outlined in the Mentor- Protégé Agreement. Quarterly Progress Reports will include review of measurable progress (milestones) on the following:

- i. Identification of specific assistance provided by Mentor to Protégé during quarter.
- ii. Listing of initiatives accomplished – consistent with goals outlined in the Partnering for Growth – Construction Agreement.
- iii. Listing of milestones reached to date, as well as milestones behind schedule (and reasons).
- iv. Listing of regularly scheduled Mentor and Protégé meetings and outcomes.
- v. Listing of targets set for improvement.

C. The Diversity Team will consider for release any Partnering for Growth bid credits to the Mentor that result from evaluation and approval of a Quarterly Report.

D. If at any time the Diversity Team determines that the Program Guidelines or the spirit thereof are not being adhered to by the parties, or that satisfactory progress is not being made, the Diversity Team reserves the right to revoke its approval of the Mentor- Protégé relationship. Reasonable progress will be expected, though this will vary according to each Plan.

E. Program participants agree that interpretation of the Guidelines or regulations and award of P4G incentive credit shall rest with the Partnering for Growth – Diversity Team. Parties may feel free (and in fact are encouraged) to seek interpretation of any provision they find ambiguous or confusing. If both Participants so desire, they may jointly appeal any adverse Diversity Team decisions to the Tollway's Chief of Diversity and Strategic Development. These requests shall be in writing. The Chief's determination shall be final.

## **IX. Term of Relationship**

The Partnering for Growth – Construction relationship shall be between twelve (12) and thirty-six (36) months in duration, but may not exceed thirty-six (36) months in duration.

If a mentor and Protégé wish to enter into a subsequent Partnering for Growth – Construction relationship, the request will be considered by the P4G-Construction Portal and P4G-Construction Diversity Team on a case-by-case basis.