WEBINAR SERIES #29
The ABC's of the Small Business Initiative
Presented by: Illinois Tollway Diversity Department
April 19, 2021
WEBINAR SERIES

Housekeeping

All attendees will be muted

Please submit questions via the “chat box” function

• Please provide name & company along with question

Today’s presentation will be recorded and posted online at later date

Please fill out survey following the presentation
Commitment to Diversity

Tollway’s Diversity Department is a driving force for increasing economic opportunities in the diverse communities we serve

- Tollway programs and initiatives provide small, diverse and veteran businesses and individuals with opportunities to grow and succeed

Tollway Diversity’s renewed focus

- Increased training and education opportunities
- PSB review process
- Outreach to broader small/DBE/veteran companies
- Recruiting new firms
- Innovative ideas to create new contracting and employment opportunities
TODAY’S TOPIC:
The ABC’s of the Small Business Initiative
1. What is the goal of the Small Business Initiative (SBI)?

The Illinois Tollway Small Business Initiative is intended to increase opportunities for small construction companies to participate on Tollway construction contracts.

Again, SBI contracting opportunities are for Tollway construction work, not professional services/consulting opportunities or goods and services opportunities.
There are two requirements to participate as a prime or subcontractor on a Tollway SBI contract.

First, must be a registered small business with the State of Illinois through the Illinois Procurement Gateway (IPG).

Then, you must register in the SBI through the Tollway’s B2GNow portal.

Prime contractors should be registered in both IPG and SBI at time of bid.

Subcontractors must also be registered in SBI before they can perform any work.
3. There have been some recent changes to the SBI enrollment process, can you summarize them?

- SBI enrollment is electronic via B2GNow (no more paper enrollments)
- JVs must complete pre-assessment form before applying for SBI application
- NAICS codes are required as part of SBI enrollment process
- IPG verification no longer required as part of enrollment application
4. If I am a registered small business with the state why do I also have to enroll in the Tollway SBI?

All Tollway SBI projects are covered by a Rolling Owner Controlled Insurance Program (ROCIP) which requires all firms enroll in the Tollway SBI in order to provide general liability insurance coverage.
5. What registrations/certifications do I need to have to qualify for enrollment in the Tollway’s SBI?

- To qualify for SBI enrollment the contractor must be registered as a small business with the state of Illinois.
- Being certified as D/M/WBE or SBA 8(a) only does not qualify you for SBI Certification.
3. I am submitting a bid for an SBI contract. Is there anything I should pay particular attention to in my submittal?

Review the Construction Bid Checklist in Volume I

- This document provides a three-page list of all **required** documents to be submitted for responsiveness
Disclosures not submitted (Forms A or Forms B)
DBE 2026
VOSB 2026
EEO 1256
Bid Bond: Must be presented with seals and required signatures
Pay Items: Complete ALL P-pages with unit price and unit totals
Not registered as Small Business Set Aside or SBI
Not IDOT or CDB prequalified if required
Late submittals are not considered
6. If a prime vendor cannot identify a subcontractor registered with the SBI to perform a scope of work, is there a waiver request process?

A vendor may request a Small Business Exception as outlined in the SBI Special Provisions.
7. Can a contractor establish a joint venture (JV) with a non-SBI vendor?

No. Each JV partner must be a registered small business and enrolled in the Tollway SBI; further, the combined gross annual revenue of all JV partners cannot exceed the state’s $14 million threshold.
8. Where can I find a list of SBI registered contractors?

Registered SBI contractors can be found at https://iltollway.diversitysoftware.com.
B2G – VENDOR DIRECTORY
9. Who do I contact if I applied for registration in the SBI program and have not heard back?

Please contact Shavon Moore at smmoore@getipass.com.
10. What if I need help completing the registration process with the state or the Tollway?

The Illinois Tollway Technical Assistance Program is designed to prepare emerging and established transportation-related construction firms to participate on highway and vertical construction contracts at no cost. Further information is available the Illinois Tollway website at Technical Assistance Program.
THANK YOU