



DOT Biz Journal

The official publication of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

www.osdbu.dot.gov

DOT OSDBU Welcomes New Organizations Supporting the SBTRC Program for Central and Mid-Atlantic Regions

The U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) recently announced the selection of two organizations to serve as the Small Business Transportation Resource Centers (SBTRC) for the Central and Mid-Atlantic Regions.

The Enterprise Center of Philadelphia will serve as the Mid-Atlantic Region SBTRC, covering the states of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia. The Enterprise Center helps small business owners access the financing and capital needed for growth. The Enterprise Center works with all small businesses, but the majority of its clients are

diverse; including women and veteran-owned enterprises. The Enterprise Center believes that successful small businesses strengthen the local economy, stabilizing income for both business owners and employees, and contribute to the economic revitalization of distressed communities.

The Enterprise Center was founded in 1989 by the Wharton Small Business Development Center, to provide access to capital, capacity building, business education and economic development opportunities to diverse small businesses.

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To learn more, visit:

<http://www.theenterprisecentercapital.com/index.html>

Emergency Relief Funds for Hurricane Sandy Includes Assistance for Impacted Small Businesses

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood announced \$59 million in Quick Release Emergency Relief Funds for Hurricane Sandy damages. DOT approved relief funds in the amount of \$20 million for New Jersey, \$30 million for New York, \$2 million for Connecticut, \$3 million for Rhode Island and \$4 million for North Carolina. Quick Release Emergency Funds provided by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are used for a variety of repairs to roads, bridges and tunnels that are immediately necessary.

In response to President Obama's call for federal agencies to provide all available resources as quickly as possible, the Small Business Administration (SBA) opened Business Recovery Centers in NJ and NY. The Business Recovery Centers provide one-on-one help to business owners seeking disaster assistance for losses caused by Hurricane Sandy. Businesses and non-profit organizations may be eligible to borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets.

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U.S. Department of Transportation Finalizes Significant Changes to Major Capital Transit Investment Program

On December 27, 2012, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) unveiled a streamlined approach for administering its primary capital public transportation program for expanding transit systems. The New Starts/Small Starts program, one of the largest competitive grant programs in the U.S. government, funds roughly half the cost of new and extended light rail, commuter rail, bus rapid transit and ferry systems built in the United States.

“Now more than ever, Americans need quality transportation choices that improve mobility, enhance access to jobs and encourage sustainable communities,” said Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. “These changes, years in the making, reflect the Obama Administration’s commitment to strengthening public transportation across the United States as efficiently, effectively and fairly as possible.”

The new approach (<http://www.fta.dot.gov/grants/12304.html>) is the product of more than two years of public outreach to identify ways to cut red tape, reduce regulations for communities seeking federal funds, and help get critical transit projects under construction more quickly without compromising a stringent project review process. The changes are estimated to save taxpayers almost \$500,000 annually by requiring less time-consuming paperwork and allowing communities to pre-qualify for certain projects. Additional savings may result from accelerating project delivery.

Four key changes are being made to the New Starts/Small Starts program:

1. FTA is adopting a simpler, more straightforward approach for measuring a proposed project’s cost-effectiveness.
2. FTA is expanding the range of environmental benefits used to evaluate proposed projects.
3. FTA is adding new economic development factors to its ratings process.
4. FTA is streamlining the project evaluation process by reducing regulations and red tape.

“The changes we’re making to the New Starts capital investment program are a huge win for communities that want to see more of their local transportation priorities become reality,” said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. “We’ll be in a position to save federal and local taxpayers’ money and put more Americans to work by allowing good projects to begin construction more quickly.”

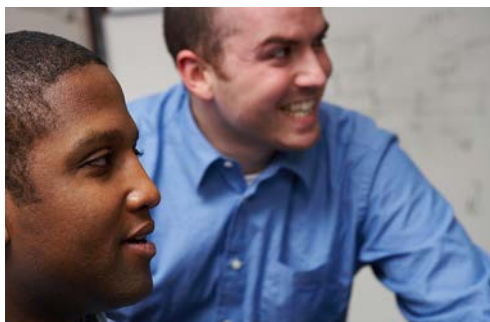
In the 2012 fiscal year, FTA’s New Starts/Small Starts program provided more than \$2 billion for capital projects to help build light rail, commuter rail, and bus rapid transit projects. In the 2011 and 2012 fiscal years alone, FTA signed more capital construction agreements for transit projects than in any two-year period in the agency’s history.

DOT OSDBU WELCOMES NEW ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THE SBTRC PROGRAM...

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Helping Hand Community Development Corporation (CDC) will serve as the Central Region SBTRC,

covering the states of Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, and Kansas. CDC provides assistance to small, socially, and economically disadvantaged businesses in the areas of business development, administration, and technical assistance. CDC provides workforce development services benefitting individuals in the areas of heavy construction, highway, and utility construction. CDC also provides training of office personnel for construction administration, coordination and job site management.



For more information about the SBTRCs, visit: <http://osdbu.dot.gov/regional/index.cfm>

CDC’s highly skilled and certified professionals promote best practices and project management techniques that help clients gain a greater understanding of the skill sets needed to succeed in the construction industry. CDC’s mission is to eventually empower an entire community by supporting and encouraging their clients to use their newly acquired knowledge in lending someone else a hand in the future.

“We are extremely pleased to have these two great organizations join our team. They both will allow the Department to better serve the small businesses in their regions. Their network and expertise are a welcome addition to our program,” said OSDBU Director Brandon Neal.

Georgia DOT Awards Contracts for Resurfacing Projects and Bridge Work

The Georgia DOT continues its RoadWorks 2012 construction program. Dozens of important roadway improvement projects continue throughout the state. Georgia DOT recently announced almost \$43 million in new projects related to improving road and bridge safety across the state. Some of these projects include:

- The US 78/State Route 10 bridge over the Apalachee River at the Oconee-Walton County line will be replaced by C.W. Matthews Contracting, Inc. of Marietta. The \$2,683,368 contract requires the work to be finished by May 31, 2014.
- State Route 53 from the Jackson-Barrow county line to SR 11 in Barrow County will be resurfaced by E.R. Snell Contractor, Inc. of Snellville. The 3.365 miles will be completed by October 31, 2013 at a contract price of \$781,353.
- Two resurfacing projects are in Hall County. The 1.45 mile long section of State Route 53 from Bolling Bridge over Lake Lanier to west of Manor Ridge Road will be completed by October 31, 2013 at a contract cost of \$413,048 by Allied Paving Contractors of Pendergrass. The 0.73 mile long section of State Route 369 from SR 11 to I-985 will be resurfaced by October 31, 2013 at a contract cost of \$391,391 by Allied Paving Contractors of Pendergrass.

Information on other projects is available at: <http://tomcat2.dot.state.ga.us/ContractsAdministration/uploads/A1210191.pdf>

calendar

FEBRUARY 22, 2013

U.S. Black Chamber, Inc. (USBC) Annual Small Business Awards Gala, Austin, Texas

Contact via email at: membership@capcitychamber.org or by phone at: 512-459-1181 Ext. 202

MARCH 21, 2013

WAVE 3rd Annual Women Veteran Small Business Seminar, Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia (DC Area)

Contact Ms. Harvetta Spann via e-mail at: hspann@blsgroupinc.com or by phone at: 703-362-8020
<http://www.thewave.us.com/Home/tabid/67/Default.aspx>

MARCH 21, 2013

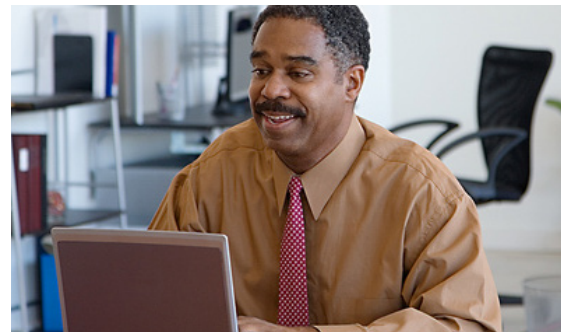
8th Annual Veterans in Business Conference Army Navy Country Club, Arlington, Virginia (DC Area)

Contact Ms. Anna Urman via e-mail at: anna@cbponline.org
<http://www.veteransbusinessconference.com/>

MARCH 27-28, 2013

Government Procurement Connections Conference (GPC), George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston, Texas

Contact Ms. Helen L. Callier via e-mail at: helen@bradlinkllc.com or by phone at: 281-361-5809
<http://www.houstongpc.org/>



SBA Online Resources for Regulatory Compliance

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) provides information to transportation businesses about compliance with laws and regulations. Relevant guides for transportation businesses include:

- Hazardous Materials Transportation
- Maritime & Ocean Transport
- Rail Industry
- Road Construction
- Trucking Industry
- Drug Testing Policies

The guides provide regulatory compliance information to businesses that transport people, cargo, goods, merchandise and products by land, air or sea.

To access the guides, visit: <http://www.sba.gov/content/transportation-logistics>.

EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDS FOR HURRICANE SANDY INCLUDES ASSISTANCE FOR IMPACTED SMALL BUSINESSES...

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“Businesses with physical damages or loss of revenue should visit a Business Recovery Center and apply for an SBA disaster business loan,” said SBA Administrator, Karen Mills. “The SBA is opening these centers and making resources available to assist affected business owners in their recovery. Customer service representatives will be available to answer questions about the disaster loan program and assist business owners in completing their applications during this sensitive time.” Below is a list of the Business Recovery Centers and contact information for NJ and NY.

NY Business Recovery Centers

QUEENS COUNTY

Rockaway Development & Revitalization Corporation
1920 Mott Avenue, 2nd floor
Far Rockaway, New York 11691
Hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday;
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday

BALDWIN COUNTY

Baldwin Public Library
2385 Grand Avenue
Baldwin, New York 11510
Hours: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday;
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday;
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday;
1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday

ROCKLAND COUNTY

Rockland Community College
37 West Broad Street, 2nd Floor
Haverstraw, NY 10927
Hours: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday

NJ Business Recovery Centers

BERGEN COUNTY

Bergen Community College
Small Business Development Center
355 Main Street, Room 121
Hackensack, NJ 07601
Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

ESSEX COUNTY

Rutgers University
Small Business Development Center
25 James Street
Newark, NJ 07102
Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

HUDSON COUNTY

New Jersey City University
Small Business Development Center
285 West Side Avenue, Suites 189-191
Jersey City, NJ 07305
Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

John F. Kennedy Library
500 Hoes Lane
Piscataway, NJ 08854
Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday;
1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday

MONMOUTH COUNTY

Brookdale Community College
765 Newman Springs Road
Bankier Library, Room 246 (SBDC)
Lincroft, NJ 07738
Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday



Islip, N.Y., Dec. 15, 2012 – Shanita Washington, left, a Small Business Administration counselor, reviews paperwork for Linda Merrill, a survivor. The Small Business Administration is normally available in the Disaster Recovery Centers to assist survivors with business matters. Ed Dahhl/FEMA