



Diversity Gains in Transportation Contracts

By Jared Bray

Editor's note: This New York City model for diversity gains in contracting can also be useful for other jurisdictions, entities, and small businesses.

New York City's Department of Transportation awarded a third of its contracts to minority- and woman-owned businesses last year, a priority of Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez.

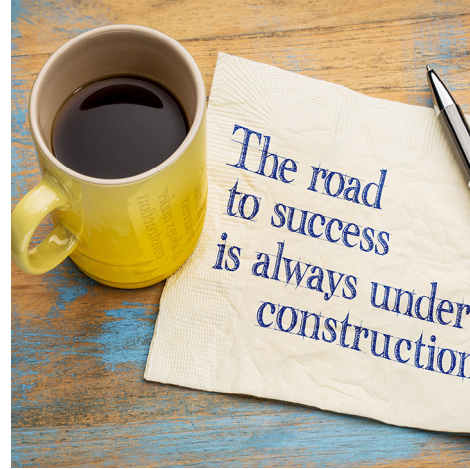
A lot of the work that governments pay for is actually carried out by private contractors. And some governments, especially big cities, have labored for years to diversify their pool of suppliers and contractors, with the goal of spreading the largesse to more communities and preventing the same big companies from getting all the work. It can be slow progress, given the need to put contracts out for competitive bids and build a pipeline of certified Minority- and Woman-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBEs) that are qualified to do city work.

But in the last three years, the New York City Department of Transportation has drastically

increased the share of its contracts that go to MWBEs. The department awarded 32 percent of its total contract spending in fiscal year 2024 to MWBEs—up from 24 percent in 2023 and 11 percent in 2022. The department has awarded 407 contracts worth a total of \$432 million to MWBEs in the last three years.

Part of the reason for the increase is Ydanis Rodriguez, a former city councilmember who was named transportation commissioner by Mayor Eric Adams. Rodriguez, an immigrant from the Dominican Republic, says that diversifying the contractor pool helps the department's spending do more good in more communities, and can help build buy-in for its projects.

The department has taken advantage of the city's "small purchase" program, which allows contracts of up to \$1.5 million to be offered only to MWBEs. Rodriguez has also emphasized getting the message out in community and ethnic media to spread the word about contract opportunities. The effort is part of a larger focus on diversity in contracting from the Adams administration.



Governing recently spoke with Rodriguez about supporting MWBEs, helping promote new ones, and diversifying the contractor pool, along with Carlos Bannister, the assistant commissioner and chief contracting diversity officer for the NYC

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Rehabilitation of Primary Settling Tanks and Ancillary Facilities at North River WRRF NYC DEP Contract No. NR-111 Bid Date: January 28, 2025

Description of project:
 The scope of work at the North River WRRF includes the replacement of the eight PST sludge collection system mechanisms, rehabilitation of the PST interior concrete structures, and improvements to related PST systems, such as the influent channel motorized slide gates, the primary sludge pumps, scum collection and concentration system, and the grit suspension pumps. The scope also includes replacement of the two SCT collection mechanisms and rehabilitation of the SCT interior concrete structures.

Many bidding opportunities are available: CPM scheduling, progress photos, pest control, demolition, spall repair and crack repair, sawcutting, structural concrete, rebar supply and installation, survey, masonry, miscellaneous metals, roofing, doors, mechanical pumps and equipment, HVAC, hazardous material removals, piping, electrical, I&C, office cleaning, trailer rental.

If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska's Outreach Coordinator: Aislinn.Speranza@skanska.com • EOE/M/F/Vet/Disabled

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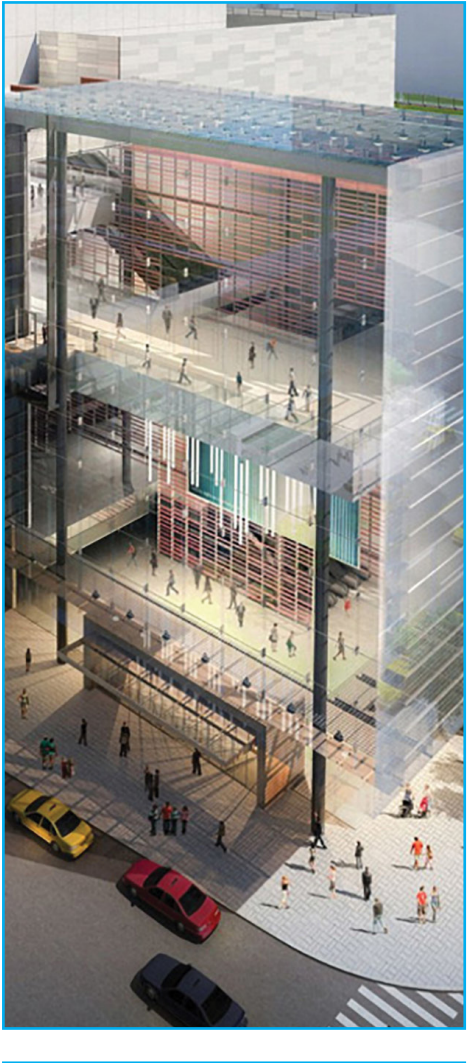
Design-Build Services for LIRR West Side Yard Flood Mitigation Measures MTA Construction and Development Contract No. 6401 Bid Date: February 3, 2025

Description of project:
 Design, furnish, construct, and install concrete perimeter flood walls, seepage cut-off barriers below the concrete flood walls, flood gates, deployable flood barriers, sump pumps, a tide gate chamber, drainage system improvements, workable aisles and a diesel generator, an automatic transfer switch, ancillary electrical equipment, and required communications.

This project will develop flood protection solutions for the West Side Yard in order to prevent and mitigate flooding of the LIRR Tunnels. The flood protection along the WSY perimeter will be accomplished via a combination of permanent flood walls and deployable flood barriers.

Many bidding opportunities are available: deep foundations, minipiles, jetgrout, sheeting, rebar installation, concrete supply, site work, electrical work, painting, paving, curb and sidewalk, site utilities.

If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska's Diversity and Outreach Coordinator: Aislinn.Speranza@skanska.com • EOE/M/F/Vet/Disabled



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IS CURRENTLY SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM QUALIFIED AND CERTIFIED DBE AND SDVOB SUBCONTRACTORS, VENDORS, SERVICE PROVIDERS

Midtown Bus Terminal Replacement Program Construction Services for the Staging and Storage Facility and Ramp Structure Project PANYNJ RFP No. 62272 Bid Date: February 13, 2025

Brief description of work:
 The project's scope of work includes, but is not limited to, the preparation for construction and the construction of the SSF and associated ramp structure that serves the SSF, underground utility work and relocations, demolition of existing car and bus ramps, and construction of a new temporary ramping system to facilitate and maintain an uninterrupted operation at the existing main terminal. Once the project is completed, the SSF and ramp structure will serve as a temporary terminal for the duration of the existing PABT demolition and construction of the new main terminal. The Port Authority expects zero impacts to all existing operations, inclusive of all city street and tunnel traffic.

Invitation to Bid for DBE and SDVOB firms

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8(a) Orientation and SAM Registration Webinar Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 10:30 am–12:00 pm Online
 Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
 Contact: SBA Illinois District Office, 312-353-4528, illinois.do@sba.gov
 Fee: Free; registration required

Join the Small Business Administration (SBA) Illinois District Office for a virtual workshop providing an overview of the 8(a) Business Development program, eligibility requirements, and program benefits. Also learn how to increase your potential for federal contract opportunities through System for Award Management (SAM) registration, including information that you need for the registration process. SBA presenters will offer additional tips, address FAQs, give directions on where to get further assistance, and answer your other questions. To register for this free webinar, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/basics-of-sbas-8a-business-development-orientation-and-sam-registration-tickets-1030099444167>

Selling to the Federal Government Webinar Thursday, January 23, 2025, 1:00 pm–4:00 pm Online
 Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
 Contact: George Tapia, 610-382-3086, george.tapia@sba.gov
 Fee: Free; registration required

Did you know that the federal government is the largest purchaser of goods and services in the world? Interested in learning how your business can market your services or goods to the federal government? Register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/how-to-sell-to-the-federal-government-tickets-21790713611> SBA helps to ensure small businesses get fair opportunities to share federal government prime contracts. Topics will include: How to Register, Small Business Certifications, Finding Opportunities, Marketing Your Firm, Federal Supply Schedules, Getting Paid, Tips to Prepare Your Offer, How to Seek Additional Assistance. All training sessions are held via Microsoft Teams Meeting.

Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Certification Program Webinar Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 2:00 pm–4:00 pm Online
 Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
 Contact: Patrice Dozier, patrice.dozier@sba.gov
 Fee: Free; registration required

SBA is creating a space for Woman-Owned Small Businesses, via WOSB certification! Are you a woman owner of a small business? The federal government's goal is to award at least five percent of all federal contracting dollars to woman-owned small businesses each year. Join us for training on how to register for SBA's Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) program, which helps eligible small businesses to qualify for federal contracting opportunities. The monthly sessions include an overview of the self-certification process, and a discussion of the NAICS codes that qualify as WOSB or EDWOSB. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/woman-owned-small-business-wosb-certification-program-tickets-1123658967219>

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