Business Item

Management Committee

Committee meeting date: December 2, 2026 **For the Metropolitan Council:** December 2, 2026

Business Item: 2026-198 SW

Approval of FTA and EPA Triennial DBE goals for FFY 2027 through FFY 2029

District(s), member(s):	All
Policy/legal reference:	United States Department of Transportation Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program (49 CFR 26; 26.45), United States Environmental Protection Agency Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program (40 CFR 33); Metropolitan Council Policy OCRSB 5-1 Inclusion of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises
Staff prepared/presented:	Ashanti Payne, Director - 612-349-7660, Megan Solberg, Senior Manager - 651-602-1406 and Trina Bolton, Senior Small Business Consultant - 612-349-7567
Division/department:	RA / Office of Civil Rights and Small Business Programs

Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the Triennial FTA and EPA DBE Program goals for FFYs 2027-2029.

Background

The Council is proposing a 4.7% FTA DBE program goal and a 5.4% EPA DBE program goal for the FFYs 2027 through 2029. Council approval of the goal is required by the FTA.

When establishing an FTA Triennial DBE program goal, the Council must inform, consult, and engage with the public and provide an opportunity for public comment. The Council's 30-day public comment period ran from October 16th to November 16th. A virtual public comment meeting was held via TEAMS on October 23, 2026. A total of eleven comments were received.

Goal Setting Methodology

Staff from the Office of Civil Rights and Small Business Programs (OCRSB) followed a methodology outlined in the Federal DBE regulations.

The following information outlines how OCRSB arrived at the recommended DBE program goals:

- Calculated the availability of DBE firms compared to all businesses in the seven-county metropolitan area that can perform work found on projects that receive federal funds
- Estimated future Council spending on Transportation and Environmental Service

projects
- Weighted this future spending with the availability of DBEs in the region; and
- Reviewed for potential adjustments to the base relative availability

Rationale

Triennial FTA DBE Program goal: The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) requires that agencies like the Council administer a DBE program on projects receiving federal funding. The DBE regulations describe many requirements the Council must satisfy to remain eligible for future USDOT funding. One requirement is that the Council engage in an analysis of future transportation spending to set a DBE inclusion goal that will remain in effect for three years. This program goal helps the Council set subcontracting inclusion goals on specific transportation projects that receive USDOT funding.

Triennial EPA DBE Program goal: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires that agencies like the Council administer a DBE program on projects receiving federal funding. The regulation requires the Council to annually report DBE participation to remain eligible for future US EPA funding. The Council sets a DBE inclusion goal that will remain in effect for three years. This program goal helps the Council set subcontracting inclusion goals on specific environmental service contracts that receive EPA funding.

Thrive lens analysis

On Feb. 12, 2025, the Council adopted Imagine 2050, which builds on policy direction in Thrive MSP 2040. Under the Thrive lens, approval of the Triennial DBE program goals advance Equity and other Thrive outcomes. This action supports the region's small business community by helping to eliminate barriers that typically impact subcontracting inclusion.

Funding

The Council's Triennial DBE Program Goals and the implementation of the DBE program are achieved using general operating funds.

Small business inclusion

The triennial goals serve as a benchmark and are considered when OCRSB establishes project specific goals on FTA and EPA funded projects.