



# MINORITY, VETERAN AND WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISES ENFORCEABLE GOALS PROGRAM PROPOSED RULEMAKING PUBLIC MEETING

## WHY ARE WE MEETING?

WSDOT has long been committed to promoting equity in state-funded contracts while complying with state and federal law. In 2017, based on guidance from the Attorney General's Office, and statistical evidence gathered from multiple disparity studies, WSDOT established the [State-Funded Contracts - Diversity Roadmap](#) to improve equitable spending with diverse firms on state construction and consulting contracts. Following the Roadmap, WSDOT initiated multiple race- and gender-neutral measures to increase diverse spending on state-funded contracts.

## WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

WSDOT is currently conducting a disparity study to determine whether its race and gender-neutral measures have been effective in increasing diversity in the state's contracting program. Based on the outcome of the disparity study, WSDOT may take further steps, including an enforceable goals program on state-funded WSDOT projects—similar to the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program for federally-funded projects. Such a program would be in addition to the existing race-neutral measures WSDOT has implemented over the last six years. WSDOT will work with the Attorney General's Office to determine whether the completed Disparity Study and other evidence meets the legal tests laid out by the courts for a race or gender-based preference to be permissible. If so, WSDOT

will be implementing an enforceable Minority, Veteran and Women's Business Enterprise goals program on state-funded construction and consulting projects. This meeting is for the public to comment on the proposed rule changes creating this program, should WSDOT move forward with implementing it.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

All contractors, subcontractors and stakeholders working on WSDOT consulting and construction projects.

## WHAT WILL WE DO?

WSDOT will provide interested persons with an opportunity to provide public comment or testimony on the proposed enforceable goals program rule. Comments may be submitted in writing or electronically before 5:00 pm, September 22, 2023, to:

Jackie Bayne, Deputy Director  
WSDOT Office of Equity and Civil Rights  
310 Maple Park Avenue SE  
Olympia, WA 98504-7314  
BayneJ@wsdot.wa.gov

## WHERE:

The in-person meeting will be held in the Nisqually Boardroom at 10 am on September 29, 2023:

310 Maple Park Avenue SE  
Olympia, WA 98504

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**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information:** This material can be made available in an alternate format by emailing the Office of Equity and Civil Rights (OECR) at [wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov) or by calling toll free, 855-362-4ADA(4232). Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may make a request by calling the Washington State Relay at 711.

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