

Connect 202 Partners is encouraging Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firms to explore the potential subcontracting opportunities available for the Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway Project. The Project is a Design-Build Maintain Project that was awarded to Connect 202 Partners by ADOT early in 2016.

Firms interested in this upcoming project may be able to obtain various types of assistance from the following organizations (*information below copied directly from identified Websites*):

Arizona Department of Transportation Business Engagement and Compliance Office – Website:

<http://www.azdot.gov/business/business-engagement-and-compliance>

ADOT's Business Engagement and Compliance Office (BECO) is responsible for ensuring that ADOT, its subrecipients, contractors and consultants achieve full compliance with all applicable federal regulations related to disadvantaged and small business inclusion, equal and fair employment opportunity in contracting and on-the-job training for women and minorities in the construction trades by facilitating these efforts:

- ADOT's good faith efforts to meet overall DBE participation goals
- Compliance with all applicable federal requirements
- Equal Employment Opportunity contractor compliance and On-the-Job Training contractor compliance to provide training and employment opportunities for women, minorities and economically disadvantaged individuals in the construction industry.

City of Phoenix – Website: <https://www.phoenix.gov/eod/programs>

The Equal Opportunity Department offers certification services at no cost for small business owners interested in participating in the DBE program. Certification workshops are offered quarterly and staff is available to assist in the application process.

US Department of Transportation – Website: <https://www.dot.gov/osdbu>

Small Business Transportation Resource Centers, provide an array of technical assistance and support services in an effort to build the capacity of Small and Disadvantaged Businesses, making the businesses more competitive when bidding on federally-funded contracts. USDOT provides Bonding Education Programs, Short Term Lending Programs, and many other types of services.

U.S. Small Business Administration – Website: <https://www.sba.gov>

SBA provides a number of financial assistance programs for small businesses that have been specifically designed to meet key financing needs, including debt financing, surety bonds, and equity financing. For the Loop 202/South Mountain Freeway P3 project, DBE firms may benefit from SBA's Bonding Program (Surety Bonds).

Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA), Small Business Services – Website: www.azcommerce.com/smallbiz

ACA Small Business Services' free, online resource center provides information for every stage of business development:

- **ACA Checklist Program** - designed to guide start-up, growing, and out-of-state businesses to commonly requested licensing information, as well as statewide resources and assistance to accelerate business growth.
- **Arizona Entrepreneur's Edge** - state's official resource guide for starting, operating and growing a business in Arizona – available online, searchable and printable.

Greater Phoenix SCORE – Website: <http://scorephoenix.org>

Greater Phoenix SCORE provides free mentoring to small business owners and entrepreneurs, along with classes, seminars, and special events to benefit small businesses across the Valley. SCORE has over 70 mentors, each with extensive business experience, ready to help you start up a business, grow your business, or work through difficult business management issues. We have experts in all functional areas and many different businesses.

Associated Minority Contractors of America (AMCA) – Website: <http://www.amcaaz.com>

A non-profit trade association established to address the business needs and concerns of Minority and Women Contractors on a statewide basis.