

To: Administration & Finance Committee

Date: 04/28/2025

From: Kristina Martinez, Director of Human Resources

Reviewed by: *Ref*

SUBJECT: Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Goal for Federal Fiscal Years (FFYs) 2026-2028

Background:

County Connection has had a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program in place since October 20, 1983. Pursuant to changes in the Regulations, 49 CFR Part 26, County Connection has revised its DBE Program at various times. The most recent revision was adopted by the Board of Directors and submitted to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on February 27, 2025.

As part of the DBE Program, the regulations require grantee to establish a three-year overall goal for DBE participation in FTA-assisted contracts. The Board adopted a 5.9% overall DBE goal for FFY 2023 through FFY 2025 on July 21, 2022, and received concurrence by the FTA on August 12, 2022.

County Connection's next goal submission is due to FTA on August 1, 2025, covering FFY 2026 through FFY 2028. Staff is proposing a 3.5% overall goal based on federal contracting opportunities and DBE availability for those projects. Calculation of this goal was based on a percentage of all FTA-assisted contracting funds anticipated to be expended during FFYs 2026-2028. County Connection anticipates receiving FTA Section 5307 grants, which will be used for operating assistance in the paratransit division.

Prior to submission to the FTA, the regulations require that County Connection post a notice on its official web site announcing the proposed goal. In addition, the notice will inform the public the proposed goal is available for inspection and comment for a 30-day period. Following public review, staff will apprise the A&F Committee of any comments received and will recommend the final overall DBE goal for adoption by the Board at their July meeting.

Financial Implications:

An approved DBE Program, which includes a three-year DBE overall goal, will enable County Connection to continue to be eligible for federal financial assistance.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the A&F Committee authorize staff to post the proposed DBE overall goal of 3.5% on the County Connection website and begin the 30-day public review and comment period.

Action Requested:

Staff requests that the A&F Committee authorize posting of the proposed DBE overall goal on the County Connection website and begin the 30-day public review and comment period.

Attachments:

None.