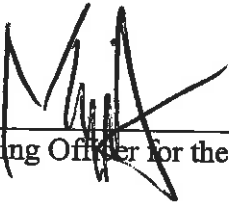


# Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Utilization

It is the policy of the Lee County MPO that disadvantaged businesses, as defined by 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 26, shall have an opportunity to participate in the performance of Lee County MPO contracts in a nondiscriminatory environment. The objects of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program are to ensure non-discrimination in the award and administration of contracts, ensure firms fully meet eligibility standards, help remove barrier to participation, create a level playing field, assist in development of a firm so it can compete successfully outside of the program, provide flexibility, and ensure narrow tailoring of the program.

The Lee County MPO, and its consultants shall take all necessary and reasonable steps to ensure that disadvantaged businesses have an opportunity to compete for and perform the work of the Lee County MPO in a non-discriminatory environment.

The Lee County MPO shall require its consultants to not discriminate on the bases of race, color, national origin, sex, age handicap/disability, or income status in the award and performance of its contracts. This policy covers in part the applicable federal regulations and the applicable statutory references contained therein for the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program Plan, Chapters 337 and 339, Florida Statutes, and Rule Chapter 14-78, Florida Administrative Code.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Presiding Officer for the MPO/TPO

5/20/10  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Signature