

Metra's Office of Business Diversity & Civil Rights

"What Certified DBE's are saying about Metra"

What factors made you choose to do business with Metra?

"Metra provides DBE's with many opportunities to successfully bid on construction projects. Their evaluations of bids are very fair. Once a contract is awarded, Metra's team works with contractors to ensure that projects are completed in a successful and timely manner." -**Omar Ali, Northwest General Contractors, Inc.**

"Our experience and expertise that Metra requires for their projects. Metra appreciates engineering and architectural consultants and their work because the projects are managed by engineers and architects and not just by administrators." -**Dipak S. Shah, Rubinos & Mesia Engineers, Inc.**

Describe your business experience with Metra.

"We have been very pleased with doing business with Metra. The bidding process was easy. Working with the procurement department has been seamless and we have had no issues with performing said work on contracts. The accounting team has answered all of our questions and responded to our calls in a reasonable amount of time." -**Sylvia E. Lopez, A. M. C. Mechanical, Inc.**

"It has been a pleasure doing business with Metra. Metra's procurement, DBE, and project teams are very easy to work with. They are very reasonable in their expectations from the contractors." -**Omar Ali, Northwest General Contractors, Inc.**

"Metra has been fair and easy to work with. The Purchasing Department is consistently the best that we deal with and invoices are always paid in a timely fashion." -**Jean Simons Bradfield, J. P. Simons & Co.**

"Everything I expected it would be. Metra's ardent support of minority business enterprise has been enlightening and encouraging; and in accordance with W.A. George's core philosophy, the commitment to professionalism and diligence in their approach to servicing customers." -**Mercedes George, W.A. George Insurance Agency**

What would you identify as some of the biggest benefits of being a certified DBE vendor?

"Networking due to Metra's outreach program." -**Dipak S. Shah, Rubinos & Mesia Engineers, Inc.**

"We have been contacted by various other organizations that have access to the Metra DBE list for our services." -**Sylvia E. Lopez, A. M. C. Mechanical, Inc.**

"Metra DBE goals are very fair. The DBE Department works with procurement to make sure DBE's have their share of federally funded projects." -**Omar Ali, Northwest General Contractors, Inc.**

"Being a DBE has opened the door for new business. We have established solid relationships with several electrical contractors who now purchase materials from us. It has also helped when we bid on contracts because we do not need to get participation." -**Jean Simons Bradfield, J. P. Simons & Co.**

"Being a certified DBE vendor gives us an opportunity to work closely with major corporate and government entities, as well as other major vendors in the insurance industry." -**Mercedes George, W.A. George Insurance Agency**

“What Certified DBE’s are saying about Metra”

How are things different for your business now that you are a certified DBE vendor?

“Being a certified DBE gives you a competitive advantage as a contractor to successfully bid on more projects.” -**Omar Ali, Northwest General Contractors, Inc.**

“It opened the door to additional opportunities to be apart of the teams for which without DBE certification it was not possible.” -**Dipak S. Shah, Rubinos & Mesia Engineers, Inc.**

“J.P. Simons has more opportunities and better relationships with contractors.” -**Jean Simons Bradfield, J. P. Simons & Co.**

“As a certified DBE vendor we are able to expand our business to incorporate additional services. We are also positioned to become a positive example for other small business entrepreneurs.” -**Mercedes George, W.A. George Insurance Agency**

Would you recommend DBE certification with Metra to a business associate?

“Definitively, Metra’s DBE group is not only very knowledgeable, but very accessible and helpful in every aspect of DBE certification...plus more.” -**Dipak S. Shah, Rubinos & Mesia Engineers, Inc.**

“Yes, we would definitely recommend pursuing a DBE certification. The goals help disadvantaged businesses compete against larger firms and obtain contracts which they would normally not be able to obtain. Metra’s DBE staff is very helpful and they work diligently with DBE’s to ensure that they are paid on time once work is satisfactorily completed.” -**Omar Ali, Northwest General Contractors, Inc.**

How did the opportunity to be a subcontractor on a Metra project help your business?

“It has helped immensely. It allows us to improve our engineering and architectural experience, which will eventually lead to being prime consultants for Metra and other agencies.” -**Dipak S. Shah, Rubinos & Mesia Engineers, Inc.**

“I believe it has introduced our company to others looking for DBE participation thus increasing our sales.” -**Sylvia E. Lopez, A. M. C. Mechanical, Inc.**