

Diversity and inclusive contracting SR 520 quarterly progress report: July-September 2015

Quarter highlights

Sharing available resources with interested firms

The SR 520 Program is helping small businesses be aware of the many resources available to them by partnering with WSDOT and other state agencies that support disadvantaged, minority, veteran and woman-owned firms.

These resources help firms meet several key requirements such as Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE) certifications, North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes, and WSDOT audited rates.

WSDOT is also partnering with industry groups to ensure that resources are accessible, including a training class with the Procurement Technical Assistance Center.

What people are saying about SR 520 DBE outreach

"I am glad for the outreach ... I am encouraged by WSDOT's efforts."

– Rodney Proctor, Gladstone Enterprises

"I am so glad you called! This is very positive and the set-up is good."

– Bian Weiming, Northwest Civil Engineers

"Thank you. We appreciate the call and the contact and we definitely want to be on the [contracting] list."

– Catherine Mirkin, CM Design Group

"Thank you for the calls. I hope I can get work from this. For a small firm to get on a team is really good."

– Xiaoping Zhang, Concord Engineering



WSDOT Secretary Lynn Peterson (right) and SR 520 Program consultant Jane Li, RHC Engineering, DBE firm owner specializing in structural engineering (left) attend the 2015 Tabor 100 Unity Gala and networking event in Seattle. Tabor 100 is one of the SR 520 partners. See full list of partners in our last quarterly report on our website.

Our commitment to fairness in contracting

WSDOT and the SR 520 Program are committed to providing opportunities for small businesses owned by individuals who are at a social or economic disadvantage in securing government contracts or procurement. Based on federal requirements, we establish specific targets for our construction contractors to subcontract with disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs) – and we hold contractors responsible for meeting those targets. On the SR 520 Program, we also set a voluntary goal for our architecture and engineering contracts – aiming for 9 percent of upcoming work to go to MWDBE firms.

Progress continues in recruiting DBE firms

The SR 520 Program team has conducted interviews with several qualified firms interested in architecture and engineering (A&E) opportunities with the highway's west side segment in Seattle – *the Rest of the West*.

We anticipate hiring multiple new firms for the project this winter.



Staff with the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises tour the SR 520 construction zone in fall 2015.

DBE spotlight: RHC Engineering, Inc.



Jane Li, President

- **Firm name:** RHC Engineering, Inc.
- **Position on SR520 Project (GEC):** Structural Engineer
- **Based in:** Seattle
- **Founded:** 2013, by Jane Li
- **Key areas of expertise:** Civil and structural engineering, with a mission of providing reliable, high-quality and cost-effective engineering services to public and private clients.
- **SR 520 staff member:** Jane Li, PhD, PE, SE
- **Started work on SR 520:** Fall 2014

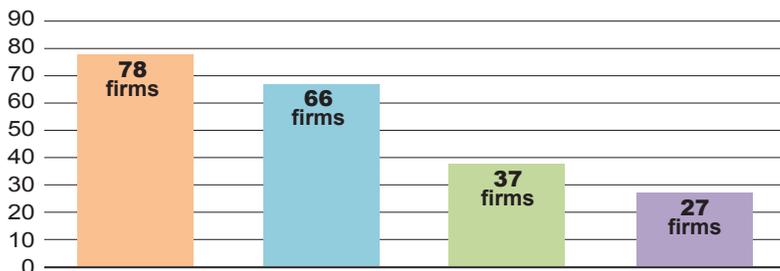
- **Bio:** Jane has 22 years of professional experience in structural engineering and is a licensed structural engineer in Washington state. She has diverse experience, including cable-stayed bridges, post-tension concrete box girders bridges, steel truss and box girder bridges, and bridge and building mixed structures. Jane is familiar with alternative project delivery procedures, including design-bid-build, design-build, and GC/CM.
- **Quote:** “You must try as hard as you can and believe in what you want to do and it will happen. Go forward and believe you can achieve.”
– Jane Li

Outreach to A&E firms

The SR 520 Program continues reaching out to current and potential DBE firms around the region to share DBE resources and contract opportunities with the state of Washington.

Impact of SR 520 outreach

Total number of firms contacted: 278



- Firms that registered for June 2015 SR 520 open house event
- Firms that attended June 2015 SR 520 open house event
- Firms that meet prequalification requirements (OMWBE certified, Small Business, NAICS codes are applicable to A&E project needs, WSDOT Audited Rates)
- Firms that are fully qualified for interviews

Steps to SR 520 A&E contracting

- WSDOT expects to need help on SR 520's "Rest of the West" segment in technical disciplines, including project management, civil and utility design, traffic engineering, structural design, environmental studies and permitting, and architectural work.
- The SR 520 Diversity and Inclusion Manager recruited and sent requests for qualifications to firms with certifications and audited rates on file with the state Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises. The team has also worked with the SR 99 Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement team and other governmental agencies for firms to contact. To ensure seamless communications, personal phone calls were made to all 257 firms who received invitations to attend June 2015 open house event. This direct and ongoing one-on-one contact with small businesses and MWDBE firms has resulted in firms learning how to obtain audited rates, certifications and updated NAICS codes. The internal team working with SR 520 includes OMWBE, WSDOT OEO, Internal Audit Office and Consultant Services Office. This builds Diversity and Inclusion process and procedures, relevant across WSDOT projects.
- The Diversity and Inclusion Manager is helping firms without approved audited rates gain knowledge of the Safe Harbor Program or Federal Acquisition Cost Requirements, and is tracking the process.

SR 520 contact



Regina Glenn
SR 520 Diversity and Inclusion Manager
Phone: 206-770-3520
Cell: 425-503-7212
Email: GlennRe@consultant.wsdot.wa.gov

Additional resources

- **Office of Minority & Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE)**
Alexis Oliver, Director, (360) 664-9760, alexiso@omwbe.wa.gov
- **WSDOT Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO)**
Mike North, Director, (360) 705-7095, northm@wsdot.wa.gov
- **WSDOT Consultant Services Office (CSO)**
Erik Jonson, Consultant Services Manager, (360) 705-7106, ejonson@wsdot.wa.gov
- **WSDOT Internal Audit Office (FAR and Safe Harbor Program)**
Schatzie Harvey, Audit Specialist, (360) 705-6967, harveys@wsdot.wa.gov
- **USDOT Small Business Transportation Resource Center**
Lily Keeffe, Project Director, (206) 718-7250, lilyk@economicalliancesc.org
- **Washington State Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC)**
Tiffany Scroggs, Program Director, (360) 754-6320, tscroggs@thurstonedc.com

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