



## Public Workshop: Hal Greer Boulevard Improvements at Columbia Avenue and 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue



HUNTINGTON- The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways (WVDOH) will hold an informational public workshop on **Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016** at the A. D. Lewis Center in the Multi-Purpose Room at 1450 A. D. Lewis Avenue in Huntington, WV. The public workshop is concerning potential improvements to Hal Greer Boulevard at Columbia Avenue and 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

This will be an informational workshop through which WVDOH officials will seek public input regarding potential improvements to the intersections of Columbia Avenue and 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue with Hal Greer Boulevard (WV 10/16<sup>th</sup> Street).

**NO FORMAL PRESENTATION WILL BE MADE.** The public workshop will be held from **4:00 to 7:00 PM**. Information identifying the area of interest and potential alternatives will be displayed for discussion. Representatives from the WVDOH will be available. Verbal and written comments will be accepted during the meeting; written comments are requested by November 8<sup>th</sup> 2016.

Those wishing to file written comments may send them to Mr. Richard L. Warner, P. E., Director, Planning Division, West Virginia Division of Highways, Capitol Complex Building 5, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0430, or by email to [robert.c.watson@wv.gov](mailto:robert.c.watson@wv.gov).

Excerpt: [www.transportation.wv.gov/communications/PressRelease/Pages/Hal-Greer-Boulevard-Improvements-at-Columbia-Avenue-and-13th-Avenue.aspx](http://www.transportation.wv.gov/communications/PressRelease/Pages/Hal-Greer-Boulevard-Improvements-at-Columbia-Avenue-and-13th-Avenue.aspx)



### About The West Virginia DOT

The purpose of the West Virginia DBE program is to encourage, cultivate and support equal opportunities for firms owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

The WVDOT provides support for its certified DBE firms through the DBE Supportive Services Program with the intent to improve economic growth and future of WV DBE firms by utilizing the following tactics:

- Expand and Enhance business knowledge
- Increase project quality
- Create marketability of WV DBEs

### About The Program

The Construction Estimating Institute (CEI) works with West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) as the statewide provider of the federally funded Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) Supportive Services Program.

We want to increase the number of certified DBEs participating in highway and bridge construction, as well as assist DBEs in growing and eventually becoming self-sufficient.

Additionally, CEI provides supportive services by assisting prime contractors and consultants with identifying DBEs for subcontracting opportunities on priority projects.

## Advantages of a Minority Business Status



Across the country, state and local governments register small businesses as disadvantaged business enterprises. These businesses are primarily owned by women or racial and ethnic minorities. The federal government offers numerous benefits to disadvantaged business enterprises. These benefits were created to level the playing field between new firms entering the market and well-established firms that may have gained a competitive advantage through historic discrimination.

### Set-Asides

Government projects often set aside a portion of their contracts to disadvantaged business enterprises. The amount may vary, but that figure usually hovers around 5 percent, and 25 percent of the value will go to a minority enterprise. In instances where one contractor bids and wins a job, the contract may stipulate that the prime contractor must divert a portion of the contract to disadvantaged business enterprises. In other instances, procurement officers may add points to a contract bid for firms that are disadvantaged business enterprises.

### New Opportunities

Set-asides allow small, minority-owned businesses to compete with bigger firms. But they also give these disadvantaged business enterprises a chance to diversify their businesses. Contractors may start with the cleaning contract on a construction site, but may learn how to hire and manage other contracts and move up the value-chain ladder.

### Technical Assistance

Many are the contractors who started businesses only to realize that they lack knowledge of certain aspects of the industry. There are many government programs that help new business owners navigate these difficult aspects, including the United States Small Business Administration's 8(a) program. The program connects contractors to mentors, helps them understand and find adequate business insurance, and may help them understand, where needed, contract terms and loan agreements.

### Financial Assistance

Credit is the lifeblood of business, and there are few businesses that can survive without access to financing. Some disadvantaged business enterprise programs may provide low-interest loans or grants, or they may provide loan guarantees, essentially reducing the risk to lenders who give money to disadvantaged business enterprises.

<http://smallbusiness.chron.com/advantages-minority-business-status-24816.html>

## Supportive Services Offered



- Estimating Training
- Building Capacity
- Mobilization Financing
- Bonding Assistance
- Marketing Plan Development
- Creating a Business Plan
- Building a Website



CEI is an educational organization providing the highest quality construction training in the industry. Over 100,000 owners, estimators, project managers, field supervisors, office support staff, foremen, laborers, and key management personnel have attended courses that are offered nationwide. The courses provide students with construction skills training and the critical information needed to be effective within their companies and organizations.

CEI DBE Supportive Services

Call 855-678-9DBE (9323) or visit us online at [www.wvdbesupport.com](http://www.wvdbesupport.com)