

[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

► [Safety](#)

► [Pressroom](#) (web)

► [Ask the CEO](#)

► [CEO Forum](#)

► [Employee Recognition](#)

► [Employee Activities](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

► [Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

► [Archives](#)

► [Events Calendar](#)

► [Research Center/ Library](#)

► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

► [30/10 Initiative](#)

► [Policies](#)

► [Training](#)

► [Help Desk](#)

► [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Nearly 100 representatives of small business representatives attend Transportation Business Advisory Council meeting to hear Deputy CEO John Catoe report on contracting opportunities at Metro.



PHOTOS: GAYLE ANDERSON

Small Businesses Seek Opportunities to 'Do Business with Metro.'

- The Transportation Business Advisory Council (TBAC) is a group of business organizations that advocate on behalf of greater participation of small business in the Metro contract process.

By GAYLE ANDERSON
(Oct. 14, 2005) Metro awarded \$40.3 million in contracts to disadvantaged business enterprises during FY04. "That's good, but not good enough," said Deputy CEO John Catoe at the regular meeting of the Transportation Business Advisory Council (TBAC).

Hosted by Metro's Small Business Diversity and Economic Diversity Department on Oct. 6, nearly 100 representatives of small business attended the TBAC meeting to hear Catoe's remarks on Metro's support for contracting opportunities for small businesses.



Deputy CEO John Catoe reviews contracting opportunities at Metro for small business firms at TBAC meeting.

Catoe said that Metro has taken steps to remove barriers to participation in the contracting process that are a disadvantage to small firms.

For example, an insurance program gives small and disadvantaged businesses the opportunity to purchase the required insurance coverage at a reduced rate.

Another innovative policy requires prompt payment of invoices from contractors within 30 days of receipt.

"Metro is committed to doing a great job," said Catoe. "And, we want our vendors, big and small, to do the same."

Metro offers services to assist small business owners interested in doing business with the agency: Certification, which increases opportunities by teaming up contractors; workshops on proposals and certification, and CEO Roger Snoble's initiative "Shared Responsibility Program" that raises the bar towards achieving participation goals of Disadvantaged Business Enterprise.

"TBAC's strong network is providing a contracting 'safety net' that increases opportunities for certified small businesses to secure contracts at Metro and other public contracting agencies," said Deputy Executive Officer Linda Wright.

Dedicated to strengthening the network of small business organizations who track contracting opportunities at Metro and other public agencies, TBAC represents a powerhouse of diversity in the small business community.

Currently, 13 organizations, including the American Indian



TBAC Chairman Robert Weir, at left, listens as Johnathon Hou gives report on professional services.



Ezekiel Patten Jr. reports on activities of the Commodities Committee. Below, Vice-chairwoman Barbara Sullivan, a representative of the National Association of Women Business Owners, briefs TBAC increasing membership.



Kellie Irving, at podium, gives results of participation survey conducted by Metro's Small

Chamber of Commerce of Southern California, Black Business Association, Filipino American Society of Architects and Engineers, Latin Business Association and the National Association of Women Business Owners, head a large membership of small businesses and entrepreneurs.

Business Diversity and Economic Diversity Department. At right, Norfina Joves, Contract Compliance, stands by to take questions from the audience.

| [Home](#) | [Phone Directory](#) | [Forms Online](#) | [FIS Online](#)