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**U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration
Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Program Policy
49 Code of Federal Register Part 26**

For

**Charlotte Area Transit System, City of Charlotte, North Carolina
Organization and the Business Community**

The Charlotte Area Transit System, City of Charlotte, North Carolina has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26. The Charlotte Area Transit System has received Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation, and as a condition of receiving this assistance, The Charlotte Area Transit System has signed as assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26.

It is the policy of the Charlotte Area Transit System to ensure that DBEs are defined in Part 26.1 and 23, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in DOT-assisted contracts. It is also our policy:

1. To ensure non-discrimination in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts;
2. To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for DOT assisted contracts;
3. To ensure that the DBE Program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
4. To ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
5. To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT assisted contracts;
6. To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE program.

The Civil Rights Officer has been delegated as the DBE Liaison Officer. In that capacity, the Civil Rights Officer is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE program. Implementation of the DBE Program is accorded the same priority as compliance with all other legal obligations incurred by the Charlotte Area Transit System in its financial assistance agreements with the Department of Transportation.

Charlotte Area Transit System has disseminated this policy statement to the Metropolitan Transit Commission, City Manager, Council Members and all of the components of our organization. We have distributed this statement of DBE and non-DBE business communities that perform work for us on DOT-assisted contracts. This policy statement will be distributed by mailings, posted throughout the organization and placed on our DBE internet webpage.

Carolyn Flowers,

Chief Executive Officer and Director of Public Transit

3-7-11

Date



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