




STATE OF WASHINGTON
Capital Projects Advisory Review Board

January 6, 2022

TO: Stakeholders in Public Construction

FROM: Janice Zahn, CPARB Chair 

Subject: Seeking Feedback on CPARB BE/DBI Priorities

We are reaching out to you as a stakeholder in public construction in the state of Washington. RCW 39.10 which was authorized by SB 5032 during the 2021 State Legislature asks the Capital Projects Advisory Review Board (CPARB) to report back on best practices around diversity, equity and inclusion in public contracting in State of Washington.

Informed by the 2019 Washington State Disparity Study and by other disparity studies performed by public agencies in the State we have developed a few key areas for additional work.

The purpose of this letter is to ask you to complete a simple [survey](#) indicating:

- How you view your role as a stakeholder
- How you would prioritize efforts to mitigate the barriers to diverse businesses in public construction.

The actionable objective of the Business Equity/Diverse Business Inclusion (BE/DBI) Committee is to create an environment where the use of diverse businesses is the first choice, instead of a goal to be met. Actions through that lens should then pivot around those measures needed to make the businesses successful and competitive. Components of this actionable approach would include best practices and programs that provide well rounded solutions to the barriers.

These areas are:

- Access to opportunities in public contracting
- Access to capital including firm financing, eligibility for financing, bonding
- Access to project cash flow and prompt pay issues
- Access to training and business services support
- Access to networks/ relationship opportunities

Your feedback will guide our committee in focusing on which barriers need work.

CC:

BE/DBI Co-chairs:

Santosh Kuruvilla

Olivia Yang

BE/DBI Subcommittee Co-chairs:

Irene Reyes

Linda Womack

Aleanna Kondelis

Brenda Nnambi

Lisa Van der Lugt, Office of Minority & Women's Business Enterprises

Legislative Sponsors:

Sen. Bob Hasegawa

Sen. Judy Warnick

Sen. Patty Kuderer

Sen. Claire Wilson

Relevant Links:

SB 5032: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5032&Year=2021&Initiative=false>

Washington State Disparity Study: <https://omwbe.wa.gov/governors-subcabinet-business-diversity/disparity-study>

CPARB Website: <https://des.wa.gov/about/boards-committees/capital-projects-advisory-review-board>

BE/DBI Committee Minutes/Info/Documents: <https://des.wa.gov/about/boards-committees/capital-projects-advisory-review-board/current-cparb-committees>