



## Kingsport Area Transit Service DBE Policy Statement

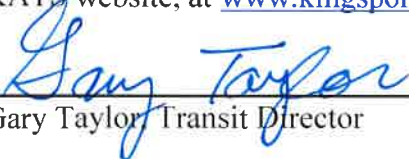
The Kingsport Area Transit Service (KATS) has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26. Kingsport Area Transit Service has received Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation,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


It is the policy of the Kingsport Area Transit Service (KATS) to ensure that DBEs are defined in part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in DOT-assisted contracts. It is also our policy:

1. To ensure nondiscrimination 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.

Candace Sherer has been delegated as the DBE Liaison Officer. In that capacity, Candace Sherer and Transit Director, Gary Taylor are 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 City of Kingsport on behalf of Kingsport Area Transit Service in its financial assistance agreements with the Department of Transportation.

Kingsport Area Transit Service has disseminated this policy statement to the City of Kingsport governing board and all of the components of our organization. We will distribute this statement to DBE and non-DBE business communities that perform work for us on DOT-assisted contracts. Additional outreach efforts have included distribution of this policy statement to the Kingsport Chamber of Commerce through the KOSBE (Kingsport Office of Small Business Development and Entrepreneurship) which is a local Kingsport agency that works collaboratively with other resource partners including the U.S. Small Business Association (SBA), and the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), State of Tennessee Economic and Community Development of Transportation (BERO), Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), and Downtown Kingsport Association (DKA) in order to coordinate efforts to expand services and avoid duplication. This policy statement is also posted on the KATS website, at [www.kingsporttransit.org](http://www.kingsporttransit.org).

  
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Gary Taylor, Transit Director

  
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