



# DOT Biz Journal

The official publication of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

www.osdbu.dot.gov

## From the Desk of the Director

Spring is a time of renewal and new growth and this can be seen both outdoors and in the recovery of the nation's economy. DOT has been doing its part to help spur development and job growth through investments in the transportation infrastructure. The Department has new and ongoing programs that help small businesses gain access to the numerous transportation-related projects that are planned or underway across the country.



In April we hosted the second annual OSDBU Small Business Summit in Washington, DC, which was attended by over 450 business leaders, policymakers, and entrepreneurs from all across the nation. This year's theme was "From Recovery to Beyond: Small Business Thinking Big." The event offered an opportunity for participants to learn about some of the large investments being made in the country's transportation infrastructure and ways that small businesses can take part in these projects. We also shared success stories and best practices and recognized individuals working on the front lines of the federal transportation marketplace who advocate for the interests of the small business community.

In this edition of the DOT Biz Journal, we discuss the key highlights of the Summit and report on the recent expansion of the very successful Bonding Education Program, which was announced by Secretary of Transportation LaHood during the event. We also report on the continued growth of the Women and Girls Internship Program and the recent award of the Small Business Administration's Gold Star to the Department for its efforts to help increase small business participation in federal procurement opportunities.

**Brandon Neal, Director  
Office of Small and Disadvantaged  
Business Utilization (OSDBU)**

## OSDBU Hosts 2nd Annual Small Business Summit

On April 20th OSDBU hosted the "2011 Small Business Summit From Recovery to Beyond: Small Business Thinking Big" at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC. This event was attended by over 450 participants from across the nation and provided the opportunity to learn strategies to assist small businesses in meeting the demands of competing in the transportation industry.

The Summit commenced with welcome remarks from several dignitaries including Brandon Neal, Director of DOT OSDBU; the Honorable Kasim Reed, Mayor of Atlanta; Thomas Dortch, Jr., President and CEO, TWD, Inc.; and Angelic Washington, Project Coordinator for the U.S. DOT Women & Girls Internship Program in the Mid South Atlantic Region Small Business Transportation Resource Center.



Participants in CEO Leadership Roundtable share their experiences

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Secretary Ray LaHood speaking at the Second Annual Small Business Summit

## Secretary LaHood Announces Expansion of Successful Bonding Education Program

On April 20th, U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced that small and disadvantaged businesses will be better positioned to compete for large government contracts as the result of an expansion of the Department of Transportation's successful bonding education program. The Secretary made the announcement at the department's Second Annual Small Business Summit in Washington, D.C.

"When more small and disadvantaged businesses are bond-ready, more will be able to compete for large government contracts," said Secretary LaHood. "Helping small businesses helps the U.S. economy grow."

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**OSDBU HOSTS 2ND ANNUAL SMALL BUSINESS SUMMIT**...continued from page 1

There were also special appearances by Linda Johnson Rice, Chairwoman of Johnson Publishing, Actress Holly Robinson Peete, and U.S. Small Business Administrator Karen Mills.

Following welcome remarks, a roundtable discussion took place with business experts who shared their experiences leading high profile businesses and stories of entrepreneurship. This roundtable was moderated by John Rogers, Chairman of Ariel Investments, LLC and panelists include Ronald Baylock, Founder and Managing Partner of Gen-Nx360 Capital Partners and Paula Boggs, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Starbucks Coffee Company.

The Summit also had a number of breakout sessions throughout the day with speakers from the federal government, as well as small and large business executives and owners. Topics discussed included:

- Ways to market your company to the federal government and how to do business with DOT;
- Status updates on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) high speed rail projects and the challenges and solutions related to their development;
- Strategies to help small businesses take advantage of the green economy;
- Recent changes made by the Administration to improve the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program and current initiatives aimed at helping socially and economically disadvantaged businesses participate in rebuilding the national transportation infrastructure; and
- Lessons for women-owned businesses, service disabled veteran-owned businesses and young entrepreneurs, as well as other topics aimed at providing small business owners with the knowledge, tools and networking skills needed to succeed.

There was also an awards luncheon where U.S. DOT recognized individuals that provided outstanding service to the transportation industry. During the luncheon, the Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton provided welcome remarks, and the keynote speech was delivered by U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. Tony Award Winning Actress Phylicia Rashad served as Mistress of Ceremonies and presented recipients with their awards. Former U.S. Transportation Secretary, Rodney Slater, was in attendance and received special recognition. During the keynote address, Secretary LaHood announced the expansion of the Department’s Bonding Education Program (see related article on page 1).

“Today’s Summit showed the Department’s commitment to keeping small businesses a priority for the agency and the Administration. OSDBU continues to help small businesses think and build big, and we’re looking forward to the road ahead,” remarked OSDBU Director Brandon Neal, who also served as host for the event.

To learn more and see photographs from the “2011 Small Business Summit: Recovery and Beyond Small Business Thinking Big” visit: <http://www.osdbu.dot.gov/>

**2010 Small Business Specialists Awards**

*Awarded to federal employees for their outstanding performance in providing assistance to small business.*

1. **Federal Aviation Administration**  
Inez Williams, Frederick Dendy, Lisa Floyd, and Gloria Rosier
2. **Federal Highway Administration**  
Frank Waltos
3. **Federal Railroad Administration**  
Dana Hicks
4. **Maritime Administration**  
Rita Thomas
5. **Office of the Secretary**  
Phaedra Johnson
6. **Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration**  
Nathan Watters
7. **Federal Transit Administration**  
Sonja Rousey
8. **National Highway Traffic Administration**  
Lloyd Blackwell
9. **Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration**  
Eric Hilton



2010 Small Business Specialists Awardees with DOT Secretary Ray LaHood (center) and Brandon Neal, OSDBU Director (far right)

## White House Launches Startup America Initiative

Startup companies are a major source of job creation since these businesses often create a variety of new jobs as they grow. As a matter of fact, it is entrepreneurs in clean energy, medicine, advanced manufacturing, information technology, and other innovative fields who will build the new industries of the 21st century and solve some of our toughest global challenges.

President Obama has recently called on both the federal government and the private sector to dramatically increase the prevalence and success of entrepreneurs across the country. "Startup America" is the White House initiative to celebrate, inspire, and accelerate high-growth entrepreneurship throughout the nation.

First, the Obama Administration is rolling out a set of entrepreneur-focused policy initiatives in five areas which include:

1. Unlocking Access to Capital
2. Connecting Mentors
3. Reducing Barriers
4. Accelerating Innovation
5. Unleashing Market Opportunities

In addition, leaders in the private sector have launched the Startup America Partnership. This is an independent alliance of entrepreneurs, corporations, universities, foundations, and other leaders all of whom will join together to fuel innovative, high-growth startups in the U.S.

For additional information on the "Startup America" initiative visit: [www.whitehouse.gov/issues/startup-america](http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/startup-america)



### The Startup America initiative will provide entrepreneurs with:

- A platform to submit ideas for reducing barriers to entrepreneurship
- Private-sector services mobilized by the Startup America Partnership
- More control over the speed of patent processing
- Enhanced access to government-patented energy technology
- A mentorship and software for military families through Veteran Fast Launch

### For Investors the initiative will provide

- No capital gains taxes on qualified small business investments made throughout 2011
- Federally guaranteed leverage for private funds that invest in clean energy, education, or underserved markets
- Streamlined rules for private funds that invest in lower-income communities

### Communities will also benefit by receiving:

- New funding for proof of concept centers that accelerate green technology innovation
- Nationwide engagement with Administration leaders on major new entrepreneurial opportunities in healthcare, clean energy, and learning technology

## Ohio DOT Rolls Out 700 Construction Projects Slated for 2011

In April, the Ohio Department of Transportation announced it was ready to begin construction on nearly 700 projects statewide. Of those projects, 250 will be devoted to bridge maintenance and replacement, 200 to reconstruction and widening, and 150 to paving. Projects adding new lanes and general maintenance projects make up the difference.

This year, work will begin on two of the Department's largest-ever Design-Build projects—the I-90 westbound Innerbelt Bridge in downtown Cleveland and the I-71/I-670 Interchange in downtown Columbus. While work is already underway on the I-90 bridge, construction will not begin on the I-71/I-670 project until later this year.

Work will also continue on the I-71 Jeremiah Morrow Bridge - Ohio's tallest bridge - near Lebanon, the Nelsonville Bypass, the I-75 Modernization Project through downtown Dayton, and the U.S 24 Fort-to-Port in Napoleon and near Toledo.

These projects are great opportunities for small businesses, especially those certified as DBEs in Ohio.

For a list of major projects statewide, visit [www.dot.state.oh.us/services/RoadConstruction](http://www.dot.state.oh.us/services/RoadConstruction)

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## DOT Receives Gold Star Award During SBA's Small Business Week

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) was one of two federal agencies recognized during the 2011 Small Business Week for its exemplary performance and commitment to providing contracting and subcontracting opportunities for small, women-owned and disadvantaged businesses.

The Gold Star Award, presented each year by the Small Business Administration (SBA) recognizes federal agencies and their staff that exhibit exemplary performance in pursuit of aggressive goals and strategic initiatives that help ensure increased small business participation in the federal marketplace. SBA recognized DOT for its impressive achievements in Fiscal Year 2009, including surpassing contracting goals to small businesses, small and disadvantaged firms, HUBZone firms, and women-owned small businesses.

"Diversity and equality can only be achieved by an agency wide commitment that begins with Secretary LaHood and the DOT leadership," said OSDBU Director Brandon Neal, who accepted the award and was also honored for his personal efforts. "This award is a tribute to the DOT procurement community working with program offices to expand the agency's ability to achieve and exceed small business goals." At DOT, OSDBU oversees the agency's small business program, supported by headquarters, the modal administrations, and its network of Small Business Transportation Resource Centers.

Under the theme, "Empowering Entrepreneurs," a series of events and educational forums marked the 58th anniversary of the SBA and the 48th annual proclamation of National Small Business Week. From May 16th -20th in Washington, DC more than 100 outstanding small business owners from across the country received awards, as well as others who were also recognized for their involvement in disaster recovery, government contracting, and support for small businesses and entrepreneurship. Awards were also presented to SBA partners in financial and entrepreneurial development, including the year's top SCORE Chapter, Small Business Development Center and Women's Business Center.

For more information visit: [www.nationalsmallbusinessweek.com/](http://www.nationalsmallbusinessweek.com/)

## Women and Girls Program Continues Expansion

Throughout the fall of 2010 and into the spring of this year, over 200 female students from across the country have participated in internships through the expanded DOT Entrepreneurial Training Women and Girls Internship Program. This marks the continued expansion of the program, which now has over 115 participating colleges and universities. This program, operated through DOT's OSDBU, is part of the department's ongoing effort to increase the participation of women in the transportation industry and prepare young women to become the nation's future leaders.

Through these internships, young women have an opportunity to work for state departments of transportation, transit agencies, airports, private businesses, banks, and technical resource centers. Administered through the Department's 11 Small Business Transportation Resource Centers (SBTRC) which provide resources, technical assistance and outreach to all 50 states and U.S. territories, each SBTRC is responsible for placing qualified female college students in transportation related internships throughout their regions.

The expanded program, based on a successful pilot with Spelman College that Secretary LaHood announced with Congressman John Lewis and OSDBU Director Neal in Atlanta in 2009, is part of a broader effort led by the White House to ensure that federal programs and policies take into account the distinct needs and concerns of women and girls.

For more information visit:  
<http://osdbu.dot.gov/WG/index.cfm>

### SECRETARY LAHOOD ANNOUNCES EXPANSION...

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Most government contracts require a business to produce a bond to protect the government financially in the event the business is not able to complete a project under the terms of a contract. Lacking bonding capacity can severely limit the ability of small companies to compete for federal projects. The expansion of the department's Small Business Bonding Education Program, a partnership with the Surety and Fidelity Association of America, is designed to help more businesses become bond-ready and better able to compete.

The program expansion consists of an educational workshop component and a bond readiness component. The educational workshops include a curriculum designed to help small businesses improve their operations in order to become bonded or to increase their bonding capacity. The bond readiness component consists of one-on-one meetings with local surety professionals to assemble materials necessary to complete the bond application process.

Last year, Chicago, Dallas and Atlanta were chosen to pilot the program. This year, the program will expand to Baltimore, Raleigh, Miami, Orlando, Denver, New Orleans, Los Angeles, Chicago, New York, Seattle, Columbia, SC and Minneapolis.

# calendar

### Begins JUNE 23

**OSDBU Bonding Education Program**  
 Raleigh, NC

### Begins JUNE 28

**Bonding Education Program**  
 Miami, FL

### JUNE 27-30

**VETS2011 Veteran Entrepreneur Training Symposium • Reno, NV**  
<http://www.veterantrainingsymposium.com/>

### JULY 16-19

**Conference of Minority Transportation Officials 40th National Meeting and Training Conference • Philadelphia, PA**  
<http://www.comto.org/?page=EventMainPage>

### JULY 18-21

**2011 Annual FAA National Small Business Procurement Opportunities Training Conference and Trade Show**  
 Atlantic City, NJ  
[www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventId=908860](http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventId=908860)

### AUGUST 10

**Government Procurement Conference 2011**  
 Arlington, TX  
<http://ctpc-texas.org/>

### AUGUST 15-18

**The 7th Annual National Veterans Small Business Conference and Expo**  
 New Orleans, LA  
<http://www.nationalveteransconference.com/>



U.S. Department of Transportation  
 Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
 Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization  
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Secretary Ray LaHood,  
U.S. DOT



## 2011 OSDBU Small Business Summit

“From Recovery to Beyond: Small Businesses Thinking Big”

The premier small business conference for transportation related businesses, where attendees shared their experiences and knowledge about business ownership.

### Participants included:

The Honorable Rodney Slater, Former U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton, U.S. House of Representatives

Ms. Phylicia Rashad, Tony Award Winning Actress

Ms. Holly Robinson Peete, Actress and Founder, HollyRod Foundation

The Honorable Kasim Reed, Mayor of Atlanta

Ms. Linda Johnson Rice, Chairwoman, Johnson Publishing Company, Inc.

Mr. John Rogers, Chairman, Ariel Investments, LLC

OSDBU works to assist small and disadvantaged businesses by providing the information and tools entrepreneurs need to partner with the U.S. Department of Transportation to drive the nation's economy forward.

To learn more about these and other programs visit our website at

[www.osdbu.dot.gov](http://www.osdbu.dot.gov)

**Thank you for your participation and for making this event a success!**

