



For Immediate Release:
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Aug 25-27, Douglasville

Georgia DOT Hosts 2015 DBE State Conference *Blueprint for Success*

ATLANTA – Certified Georgia Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) companies and non-certified potential DBEs are invited to attend *Blueprint for Success*, an annual state conference sponsored by the Georgia Department of Transportation DBE Support Services Team. The three-day conference will be held August 25-27 in Douglasville.

The conference is designed to help certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and other small businesses develop and maintain sound business practices, establish relationships with industry experts, and to provide technical expertise for a wide variety of business functions and best practices. The program also provides tools for professional development and networking opportunities with local and state agencies. For example, by pre-registering for face-to-face Matchmaking Meetings with large construction and consulting firms and municipalities, DBEs can learn about specific contracting and sub-contracting opportunities.

Kimberly King is director of Georgia DOT's Equal Employment Opportunity office.

"The DBE program is about maximizing opportunities for historically underutilized firms," King said. "We work with our Supportive Services consultant to make sure that we are identifying all available opportunities for these firms to grow and prosper. The State Conference is about making those opportunities transparent and providing the existing DBE firms a setting in which they are able to gain a better understanding of the Program and for potential DBEs to learn about the benefits of certification."

The theme of this year's conference is *Delivering Business Excellence*. Workshops will be conducted by industry professionals from the public and private sectors, as well as GDOT leaders. Numerous workshops will be held on topics including Transportation Trends; GDOT's Design-Build Activities; the Pre-Qualification Process; Doing Business with the State; Doing Business with the Private Sector; Compliance; Branding; Legal; and more. Attendees will also hear remarks by GDOT Commissioner Russell McMurry and Chief Engineer Meg Pirkle.

Blueprint for Success will be held August 25-27 at the Douglasville Conference Center, 6700 Church Street, Douglasville, Georgia 30134. The conference kicks off with a golf tournament on Tuesday, August 25. Full day technical workshops begin at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 26. The event is free to state-certified DBEs; there is a registration fee of \$150 for non-certified attendees. Meals are included. Additional fees apply for the golf tournament.

For conference details and registration, visit www.gdot-dbeconference.com. Contact Carol Phelps (404) 633-4555, cphelps@mhm-cpa.com. For DBE Supportive Services, visit <http://mhm-cpa.com/dbe-supportive-services/>. For information about Georgia DOT, visit www.dot.ga.gov.

DriveAlert ArriveAlive calls attention to an alarming increase in roadway fatalities across Georgia, many resulting from preventable crashes and distracted driving. **DriveAlert ArriveAlive** implores motorists to buckle up; stay off the phone and no texting; and drive alert. Visit www.dot.ga.gov/DS/SafetyOperation/DAAA. #ArriveAliveGA
Please follow GDOT on Facebook (www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT) and Twitter (<http://twitter.com/gadepoftrans>).

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