



## NEWS RELEASE

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

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### **WisDOT announces change to construction bid-letting schedule**

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is changing its schedule for when construction bids are submitted and posted.

Contract lettings will continue to close on the second Tuesday of the month but, starting Tuesday, October 13, 2020, the lettings will close at 11 a.m., instead of 9 a.m. The as-read bids will be posted starting at noon on the Wednesday following the letting. The pattern of closing on the second Tuesday of the month and publishing at noon on Wednesday will continue from that point on.

The timeline shift is part of an enhanced process to encourage contractors to engage early with subcontractors in the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program. In addition, this change provides contractors with extra time to compile a portion of DBE documentation if required. For more information, please review the ASP-3 guidelines at [www.wisconsin.gov/DBEcontracting](http://www.wisconsin.gov/DBEcontracting).

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Wisconsin Division Administrator Glenn Fulkerson applauded the changes to the bidding procedures. "FHWA places a high priority on a fair and open process for awarding construction contracts. WisDOT's changes to their bidding procedures will improve the process and further strengthen the state's DBE program," he said.

"Our agency is committed to expanding participation in the construction bidding process," WisDOT Secretary-designee Craig Thompson said.

Bidding for WisDOT highway construction projects is conducted under the authority provided in Wisconsin Statutes 84.06(2)(a) Bids, Contracts. Bids respond to the letting process, which advertises upcoming work. Valid bids are published "as read" – or without modification – as they come in to the department for inspection.

WisDOT's DBE program has been in place since the 1980s. It offers mentoring and skill-building resources to small and emerging firms that, historically, have been underrepresented in the transportation construction business. Federal law provides guidance for state DOTs to establish goals and processes to provide access to opportunities and facilitate DBE participation.

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