

WORCESTER REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY



**PROPOSED DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE)
GOAL SUBMISSION**

FFY 2024 – FFY 2026

Goal Submission for Fiscal Years 2024-2026

New Goals

The Worcester Regional Transit Authority's (WRTA) overall goal for the time period FFY 2024 – FFY 2026 (October 1, 2023, - September 30, 2026) is 0.66% of Federal financial assistance. During this period, the WRTA will expend in DOT-assisted contract, exclusive of FTA funds to be used for the purchase of transit vehicles \$9,494,453 (\$4,099,508 in FFY24, \$3,322,073 in FFY25, and \$2,072,873 in FFY26).

The WRTA has set a goal of expending \$62,475 with DBE's over the next three Federal fiscal years. WRTA estimates that in meeting our overall goal of 0.66% we will obtain 0.66% from race-neutral participation and 0% through race-conscious measures.

Proof of Publication

WRTA published a notice announcing the DBE goals that it has established as part of the DBE program of each applicable Federal fiscal year (FFY24-FFY26) on the WRTA website (www.therta.com). The goal has been actively shared with local Chambers, Minority Activist groups, and promoted on WRTA social media outlets.

The notice informed the public that a DBE participation program, including DBE goals and a description of how these goals were developed, are available for inspection through August 19, 2023 by contacting the WRTA. Both the WRTA and Federal Transit Administration will accept comments throughout this period.

Consultation with DBE Stakeholders

WRTA invited 12 community and minority-based groups along with 13 local chambers of commerce and community development corporations to a virtual Zoom meeting to review the WRTA's proposed goal and goal making methodology. Attendees were given background information on the WRTA DBE Program, resources on how to become a certified DBE vendor, the proposed contracting opportunities for the three-year period covered by the goals and an explanation of the proposed goals, the WRTA's assumptions, and how the goals were calculated. During the meeting, WRTA sought feedback from attendees on our assumptions as well as identifying potential small and minority owned businesses that the WRTA could establish relationships with.

In addition to the input mentioned above, WRTA participates in the Unified Certification Program (UCP) managed by MassDOT. The UCP provides DBE certification for eligible business and conducts outreach and training across the state. WRTA utilizes the database, as maintained by the UCP, to locate DBE-certified businesses.

Goal Construction

Projects

The WRTA and the Worcester Redevelopment Authority (WRA), a sub-recipient of the WRTA, plan the following projects for the FFY2024 – FFY2026 period:

WRTA:

- Support Vehicles for operations and maintenance
- Support Equipment including upgrades to various ITS elements, computers, and servers.
- Associated Capital Maintenance parts including bus and van tires, engines, transmissions, diesel particulate filters, and more
- Computer software including upgrades to servers and laptops
- Replace bus stop signage

WRA (all projects relate to the design, renovation and rehabilitation of Union Station and surrounding area):

- Automated lighting controls, refinish elevators, exterior electrical service, replace generator, repair interior floor of intercity bus terminal, bicycle storage, bike lockers, front driveway repair, public address system, repair terrazzo floor, carpet replacement, regrade entrance to boiler room, replace exhaust fans, paint and refinish gypsum wall system, train platform tactile warning system, repair front canopy marquee, exterior site improvements, Harding Street entrance improvements, install single stall restrooms, for staff and WPD.

The above projects are a detailed sample of the projects planned during the next three years but should not be considered all inclusive.

Goal Methodology

Geographic Region

The relevant geographic market for contractors for WRTA projects is defined as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This was determined based on substantial number of past projects being awarded to firms from across the state.

Information Sources

WRTA used two sources to determine the availability of total firms and the number of DBE firms certified in our area.

1. WRTA is part of a UCP with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. The Commonwealth's Supplier Diversity Office (SDO) works to certify Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and, in doing so, keeps a directory of these businesses

on their website. This is a searchable and downloadable directory, which allows for DBE certified businesses to be sorted by NAICS.

WRTA downloaded the SDO directory, then categorized, sorted, and checked for duplicate listings in similar categories. WRTA identified 231 DBE certified firms with the applicable NAICS codes.

2. To determine the overall number of firms – per applicable NAICS code – within the same geographic region, WRTA used the Census Bureau’s County Business Pattern (CBP) database that is made available by the U.S. Census. The database is searchable by state, county, as well as NAICS code.

WRTA identified 13,117 – via the Census Bureau’s County Business Pattern (CBP) database that are associated with the applicable NAICS codes as well as located within the same geographic area.

Goal Setting Process

Step One: Base Figure

In order to determine a base figure for the DBE goal the following methodology was used:

WRTA began by first determining a base figure for the relative availability of DBE’s

Using the Massachusetts Supplier Diversity Office (SDO) DBE Directory, WRTA determined the number of ready, willing, and able DBE’s located within the WRTA geographic area for each of the projects / procurements that WRTA expects to award during each of the three years within the period (FFY 24 – FFY 26).

Next, WRTA utilized the Census Bureau’s County Business Pattern (CBP) database to determine the total number of ready, willing, and able firms available within the WRTA geographic area that perform work in the same applicable NAICS codes.

After determining the number of DBE firms and the number of all firms in each applicable NAICS, WRTA divided the number of DBE firms by the total number of ready, willing and able firm in each applicable NAICS. In doing so, the WRTA provided a baseline figure for the relative availability of DBE firms by NAICS code.

The baseline figure for each year was then weighted by applying the Weight % by Project Expense applicable to each contract that is anticipated for award. This process gives a final Step 1 Base Figure.

Fiscal Year 2024

For Fiscal Year 2024, the Authority anticipates awarding the following contracts:

NAICS	Project	A	B	C	D	E	F	
		Projected Cost	Weighted by Project Expense	# of Ready, Willing Able DBE Firms	# of all DBE Firms	% of Ready Willing, Able DBE Firms	Value x % of RWA	
			(A / A Total)			(C / D)	(B x E)	
236220	Nonresidential Building Construction	Harding Street Improvements, Hub Improvements, M&O Improvements	\$ 96,540	2.35%	26	728	3.57%	0.08%
238160	Roofing Contractors	Renovate Union Station Roof	\$ 480,000	11.71%	0	427	0.00%	0.00%
238210	Building Equipment Contractors	Automated Lighting Controls, Replacement Generator, Public Address System, Lighting and Electrical Service Upgrades	\$ 528,000	12.88%	33	2,541	1.30%	0.17%
238220	Building Equipment Contractors	Replace Exhaust Fans, Construct Single Stall Restrooms, Parking Garage Fire Sprinklers	\$ 960,800	23.44%	4	3,034	0.13%	0.03%
238310	Building Finishing Contractors	Repaint Gypsum Wall System	\$ 80,000	1.95%	5	569	0.88%	0.02%
238330	Building Finishing Contractors	Replace Carpet, Repair Floor Bus Waiting Area	\$ 92,000	2.24%	2	451	0.44%	0.01%
238340	Building Finishing Contractors	Repair Terrazzo Floor Cracks	\$ 60,000	1.46%	2	242	0.83%	0.01%
238390	Building Finishing Contractors	Refinish Elevators, Replace Bike Lockers, Renovate Front Driveway, Union Station Garage Waterproofing	\$ 576,000	14.05%	2	181	1.10%	0.16%
238990	Specialty Trade Contractors	Renovate Front Driveway, Regrade Entrance to Boiler Room	\$ 16,000	0.39%	23	841	2.73%	0.01%
323111	Printing and Related Support Activities	Install and Replace Bus Stop Signage, Replacement Bus Shelters	\$ 28,044	0.68%	11	326	3.37%	0.02%
333618	Engine Equipment Manufacturing	Spare Engine	\$ 24,000	0.59%	0	4	0.00%	0.00%
334111	Computer and Peripheral Equipment Manufacturing	Upgrade Bus ITS	\$ 40,000	0.98%	0	16	0.00%	0.00%
334220	Communications Equipment Manufacturing	DVR Upgrades	\$ 20,000	0.49%	0	30	0.00%	0.00%
335312	Motor and Generator Manufacturing	Spare Transmissions	\$ 92,000	2.24%	0	7	0.00%	0.00%
336211	Motor Vehicle Body Manufacturing	Optional Van Equipment and Logos	\$ 132,734	3.24%	0	7	0.00%	0.00%
339950	Sign Manufacturing	Interior Signage	\$ 79,250	1.93%	2	109	1.83%	0.04%
423120	Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Parts and Supplies Merchant Wholesalers	Bus and Van Parts	\$ 120,000	2.93%	1	212	0.47%	0.01%
423420	Office Equipment Merchant Wholesalers	Miscellaneous Equipment	\$ 4,000	0.10%	1	192	0.52%	0.00%
423430	Professional and Commercial Equipment and Supplies Merchant Wholesalers	Desktop and Laptop Computers, Upgrade Servers	\$ 224,080	5.47%	2	211	0.95%	0.05%
444110	New Car Dealer	Purchase Non-Revenue Operations and Maintenance Vehicles	\$ 120,000	2.93%	0	484	0.00%	0.00%
441340	Tire Dealers	Bus and Van Tires	\$ 220,848	5.39%	0	0		0.00%
541511	Computer Programming Services	Software Updates and Upgrades	\$ 80,000	1.95%	26	1,826	1.42%	0.03%
561621	Investigation and Security Services	Install Additional Camera's at M&O	\$ 25,212	0.62%	0	135	0.00%	0.00%
			\$ 4,099,508	100.00%	243	14,785	1.64%	0.64%

FY 2024 Base Figure = 1.63%

FY 2024 Base Figure Weighted = 0.64%

Fiscal Year 2025

For Fiscal Year 2025, the Authority anticipates awarding the following contracts:

NAICS	Project	A	B	C	D	E	F	
		Projected Cost	Weighted by Project Expense	# of Ready, Willing Able DBE Firms	# of all DBE Firms	% of Ready Willing, Able DBE Firms	Value x % of RWA	
		(A / A Total)	(C / D)	(B x E)				
236220	Nonresidential Building Construction	Harding Street Improvements, Hub Improvements, M&O Improvements	\$ 188,200	5.67%	26	728	3.57%	0.20%
238140	Foundation, Structure, and Building Exterior Contractors	Exterior Masonry Repair	\$ 600,000	18.06%	9	610	1.48%	0.27%
238160	Roofing Contractors	Renovate Union Station Roof	\$ 160,000	4.82%	0	427	0.00%	0.00%
238190	Foundation, Structure, and Building Exterior Contractors	Repair Front Canopy Marquee	\$ 12,000	0.36%	4	120	3.33%	0.01%
238210	Building Equipment Contractors	Automated Lighting Controls, Replacement Generator, Public Address System, Lighting and Electrical Service Upgrades	\$ 248,000	7.47%	33	2,541	1.30%	0.10%
238220	Building Equipment Contractors	Repace Exhaust Fans, Construct Single Stall Restrooms, Parking Garage Fire Sprinklers	\$ 411,200	12.38%	4	3,034	0.13%	0.02%
238310	Building Finishing Contractors	Repaint Gypsum Wall System	\$ 60,000	1.81%	5	569	0.88%	0.02%
238330	Building Finishing Contractors	Replace Carpet, Repair Floor Bus Waiting Area	\$ 8,000	0.24%	2	451	0.44%	0.00%
238340	Building Finishing Contractors	Repair Terrazzo Floor Cracks	\$ 40,000	1.20%	2	242	0.83%	0.01%
238390	Building Finishing Contractors	Refinish Elevators, Replace Bike Lockers, Renovate Front Driveway, Union Station Garage Waterproofing	\$ 177,720	5.35%	2	181	1.10%	0.06%
238990	Specialty Trade Contractors	Renovate Front Driveway, Regrade Enterance to Boiler Room	\$ 53,600	1.61%	23	841	2.73%	0.04%
323111	Printing and Related Support Activities	Install and Replace Bus Stop Signage, Replacement Bus Shelters	\$ 35,604	1.07%	11	326	3.37%	0.04%
333618	Engine Equipment Manufacturing	Spare Engine	\$ 52,000	1.57%	0	4	0.00%	0.00%
334220	Communications Equipment Manufacturing	DVR Upgrades	\$ 48,000	1.44%	0	30	0.00%	0.00%
335312	Motor and Generator Manufacturing	Spare Transmissions	\$ 194,738	5.86%	0	7	0.00%	0.00%
423120	Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Parts and Supplies Merchant Wholesalers	Bus and Van Parts	\$ 281,766	8.48%	1	212	0.47%	0.04%
423420	Office Equipment Merchant Wholesalers	Miscellaneous Equipment	\$ 16,000	0.48%	1	192	0.52%	0.00%
423430	Professional and Commerical Equipment and Supplies Merchant Wholesalers	Desktop and Laptop Computers, Upgrade Servers	\$ 163,200	4.91%	2	211	0.95%	0.05%
444110	New Car Dealer	Purchase Non-Revenue Operations and Maintenance Vehicles	\$ 84,000	2.53%	0	484	0.00%	0.00%
441340	Tire Dealers	Bus and Van Tires	\$ 231,890	6.98%	0	0		0.00%
541330	Architectural, Engineering, and Related Services	Union Station Renovations and Repairs	\$ 152,154	4.58%	90	1,482	6.07%	0.28%
541511	Computer Programming Services	Software Updates and Upgrades	\$ 88,000	2.65%	26	1,826	1.42%	0.04%
561621	Investigation and Security Services	Install Additional Camera's at M&O	\$ 16,000	0.48%	0	135	0.00%	0.00%
			\$ 3,322,073	100.00%	243	14,785	1.64%	1.17%

FY 2025 Base Figure = 1.70%

FY 2025 Base Figure Weighted = 1.17 %

Fiscal Year 2026

For Fiscal Year 2026, the Authority anticipates awarding the following contracts:

NAICS	Project	A	B	C	D	E	F	
		Projected Cost	Weighted by Project Expense	# of Ready, Willing Able DBE Firms	# of all DBE Firms	% of Ready Willing, Able DBE Firms	Value x	
			(A / A Total)			(C / D)	(B x E)	
236220	Nonresidential Building Construction	Harding Street Improvements, Hub Improvements, M&O Improvements	\$ 154,620	7.46%	26	728	3.57%	0.27%
238140	Foundation, Structure, and Building Exterior Contractors	Exterior Masonry Repair	\$ 297,687	14.36%	9	610	1.48%	0.21%
238160	Roofing Contractors	Renovate Union Station Roof	\$ 83,254	4.02%	0	427	0.00%	0.00%
238210	Building Equipment Contractors	Automated Lighting Controls, Replacement Generator, Public Address System, Lighting and Electrical Service Upgrades	\$ 156,929	7.57%	33	2,541	1.30%	0.10%
238310	Building Finishing Contractors	Repaint Gypsum Wall System	\$ 20,000	0.96%	5	569	0.88%	0.01%
238340	Building Finishing Contractors	Repair Terrazzo Floor Cracks	\$ 20,000	0.96%	2	242	0.83%	0.01%
323111	Printing and Related Support Activities	Install and Replace Bus Stop Signage, Replacement Bus Shelters	\$ 87,664	4.23%	11	326	3.37%	0.14%
333618	Engine Equipment Manufacturing	Spare Engine	\$ 56,000	2.70%	0	4	0.00%	0.00%
334220	Communications Equipment Manufacturing	DVR Upgrades	\$ 48,000	2.32%	0	30	0.00%	0.00%
335312	Motor and Generator Manufacturing	Spare Transmissions	\$ 191,249	9.23%	0	7	0.00%	0.00%
336211	Motor Vehicle Body Manufacturing	Optional Van Equipment and Logos	\$ 93,751	4.52%	0	7	0.00%	0.00%
423120	Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Parts and Supplies Merchant Wholesalers	Bus and Van Parts	\$ 229,196	11.06%	1	212	0.47%	0.05%
423420	Office Equipment Merchant Wholesalers	Miscellaneous Equipment	\$ 20,000	0.96%	1	192	0.52%	0.01%
423430	Professional and Commerical Equipment and Supplies Merchant Wholesalers	Desktop and Laptop Computers, Upgrade Servers	\$ 163,200	7.87%	2	211	0.95%	0.07%
444110	New Car Dealer	Purchase Non-Revenue Operations and Maintenance Vehicles	\$ 88,000	4.25%	0	484	0.00%	0.00%
441340	Tire Dealers	Bus and Van Tires	\$ 248,122	11.97%	0	0		0.00%
541330	Architectural, Engineering, and Related Services	Union Station Renovations and Repairs	\$ 3,200	0.15%	90	1,482	6.07%	0.01%
541511	Computer Programming Services	Software Updates and Upgrades	\$ 96,000	4.63%	26	1,826	1.42%	0.07%
561621	Investigation and Security Services	Install Additional Camera's at M&O	\$ 16,000	0.77%	0	135	0.00%	0.00%
			\$ 2,072,873	100.00%	243	14,785	1.64%	0.94%

FY 2026 Base Figure = 2.05 %

FY 2026 Base Figure Weighted = 0.94%

Three Year (FFY 2024 – FFY 2026) Weighted Step One Base Figure Average:

Fiscal Year	Percent
2024	1.63%
2025	1.70%
2026	2.05%
Net	5.38%
FY Period (3)	3
3-Year Average	1.79%

Step Two: Adjustment

An adjustment to the overall goal of 1.79% is warranted. WRTA determined this by examining the following evidentiary information:

1. Past Participation

WRTA did not meet the DBE goal attainment during the previous 3-year (FFY 21-23) goal-setting period. In addition, as the table below shows, the median past DBE participation for the previous 5-year (FFY16-20) was 0%.

Federal Fiscal Year	Race		Overall Goal	October - March	Goal Attained	April - September	Goal Attained
	Conscious Projection	Race Neutral Projection					
FFY23	0.00%	1.22%	1.22%	0.43%	No		
FFY22	0.00%	1.22%	1.22%	2.10%	Yes	1.00%	No
FFY21	0.00%	1.22%	1.22%	1.00%	No	0.40%	No
FFY20	1.50%	1.10%	2.60%	0.04%	No	0.00%	No
FFY19	1.50%	1.10%	2.60%	0.00%	No	3.80%	Yes
FFY18	1.50%	1.10%	2.60%	0.00%	No	0.00%	No
Median Past Participation				0.24%		0.40%	

To calculate the adjustment to its overall DBE goal, the WRTA added the Step 1 Weighted Step One Base Figure to the Past Median Attainment and then divided by 2.

Federal Fiscal Year	Step 1 Base Goal	Past Median Attainment	Base Goal + Past Median Attainment 2
FFY24	0.64%	0.40%	0.52%
FFY25	1.17%	0.40%	0.78%
FFY26	0.94%	0.40%	0.67%
3-Year Average	0.92%	0.40%	0.66%

Based on the information from the above two tables, the WRTA projects an overall adjusted DBE goal of 0.66%.

Race-Neutral & Race Conscious Participation

Past Goal Attainment

The WRTA did not meet the goal of 1.22% for the past three fiscal years (FFY 2021-2023).

1. In 2021, there was 0.58% DBE participation
2. In 2022, there was 1.77% participation
3. In 2023, there was 0.43% participation
 - a. 2023 information is for reporting period October 2022 through March 2023.

WRTA's past attainments were all made by Race-Neutral measures (no contract goals were set). WRTA will strive to continue to meet the maximum feasible portion of its overall goal by using race-neutral means of facilitating DBE participation. WRTA will attain this through the following means:

1. Provide assistance in overcoming limitations such as inability to obtain bonding or financing (e.g., by such means as simplifying the bonding process, reducing bonding requirements, eliminating the impact of surety costs from bids, and providing services to help DBEs, and other small businesses, obtain bonding and financing);
2. Provide technical assistance and other services;
3. Carrying out information and communications programs on contracting procedures and specific contract opportunities (e.g., ensuring the inclusion of DBEs, and other small businesses, on recipient mailing lists for bidders; ensuring the dissemination to bidders on prime contracts of lists of potential subcontractors; provision of information in languages other than English, where appropriate);
4. Ensuring distribution of our DBE directory, through print and electronic means, to the widest feasible universe of potential prime contractors; and
5. Each time WRTA submits its overall goal for review we will also submit a projection of the portion of the goal that we expect to meet through race-neutral means and the basis for that projection.