



The Equity in Infrastructure Project (EIP) exists to build generational wealth and reduce the racial wealth gap by improving public infrastructure contracting practices to create more prime, joint venture and equity contracting opportunities for Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs).

It secures measurable commitments through its Pledge:

Starting from the baseline of our current actions and initiatives, by December 2025, the undersigned will work to increase the number, size and percentage of HUBs growing to prime contractors, participating in joint ventures or as equity participants by:*

- *Increasing the number, size and proportion of contracting opportunities going to HUBs;*
- *Increasing the number, size and proportion of contracting opportunities going to HUBs as prime contractors;*
- *Streamlining the administration of contracting with HUBs to centralize certification, improve payment time, and standardize transparent data collection;*
- *Increasing the amount and type of financing available to HUBs aiming to meet infrastructure contracts by working with private and public partners; and*
- *Expanding the number of signatories to this Pledge.*

**Historically underutilized businesses (HUBS), by our definition, can include firms formally designated as DBES, Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (M/WBE), Small Business Enterprises (SBE), and it can include any other business classification used locally in the United States intended to boost the participation of otherwise underutilized firms, which can vary by state, region, and municipality.*

***The EIP Pledge does not take the place of existing federal, state or local contracting program requirements. The EIP Pledge is an organizational commitment to go above and beyond existing practices.*

EIP was co-founded by Phillip A. Washington, CEO of Denver International Airport, John D. Porcari, former Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation, and others in anticipation of the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. In 2023, Everett Lott, Director of the District of Columbia's Department of Transportation, joined EIP as Vice-Chair.

EIP brings to life President Biden's [Justice40 Initiative](#) and his [Executive Order](#) to increase the share of diverse firms fulfilling infrastructure contracts.



Five First Mover agencies helped shape the Pledge, identify initial projects of interest, and prove the concept. EIP has since grown to include multiple public, private and non-profit sector partners, and it works closely with USDOT and other stakeholders.

Over the course of the past year, we have added additional signatories, each of which is led by a CEO committed to the work necessary to achieve the goals of the pledge.

Key achievements since EIP's public launch in April 2022 include a first-of-kind MOU between Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) and Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) to recognize each others' certified Small Business Enterprises. It's a model for others to replicate with the goal of broader reciprocity and even a national certification database. This is a model for others to replicate, beginning with a California Plan in which the California signatories intend to establish similar reciprocity and a broader effort to share best practices. In light of the impending Supreme Court rulings on affirmative action, we envision even greater value in the network of leaders and organizations committed to creating generational wealth for communities and entrepreneurs left behind.

In June 2023, we launched a paid internship program with two students from HBCUs with University Transportation Centers. These interns will become familiar with the operations of EIP, meet EIP principals and signatories, write case studies and, we hope, become part of the cadre of future leaders focused on equity in infrastructure.

EIP's goals for 2023 include:

1. Establishing additional certification reciprocity between agencies;
2. Identifying and creating solutions to contracting obstacles faced by HUBs;
3. Launching an accountability dashboard to monitor progress;
4. Growing the Advisory Council to include more members across industries, sectors, and backgrounds; and,
5. Developing a best practices forum.

EIP Pledge Signers

- Chicago Transit Authority, Dorval R. Carter, Jr., President
- Denver International Airport, Phillip A. Washington, CEO
- Port of Long Beach, Mario Cordero, Executive Director
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern CA, Adel H. Hagekhalil, General Manager
- Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority, Leslie S. Richards, General Manager & CEO
- California State Transportation Agency, Dr. Toks Omishakin, Secretary



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- Colorado Department of Transportation, Shoshana M. Lew, Executive Director
- Connecticut Department of Transportation, Garrett Eucalitto, Commissioner
- Delaware Department of Transportation, Nicole Majeski, Secretary
- District Department of Transportation, Everett Lott, Director
- Hawaii Department of Transportation, Ed Sniffen, Director
- Illinois Department of Transportation, Omer Osman, Secretary
- Kansas Department of Transportation, Calvin Reed, Acting Secretary
- Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Jim Gray, Secretary
- Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development, Dr. Eric Kalivoda, Secretary
- Maryland Department of Transportation, Paul Wiedefeld, Secretary
- Michigan Department of Transportation, Brad Wieferich, Acting Director
- Minnesota Department of Transportation, Nancy Daubenberger, Commissioner
- New Jersey Department of Transportation, Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, Commissioner
- Oregon Department of Transportation, Kris Strickler, Director
- Puerto Rico Department of Transportation & Public Works, Eileen M. Vélez-Vega, Secretary
- Washington State Department of Transportation, Roger Millar, Secretary
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Craig Thompson, Secretary
- City and County of Denver, Michael B. Hancock, Mayor
- City of Philadelphia, Jim Kenney, Mayor
- AECOM
- Airport Minority Advisory Council (AMAC)
- American Public Transportation Association (APTA)
- Anser Advisory
- Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO)
- Dikita Enterprises
- Eno Center for Transportation
- Environmental Financial Consulting Group (EFCG)
- Evolution Advisors, LLC
- Gannett Fleming
- HNTB
- J. Morey Company, Inc.
- Merriwether & Williams Insurance Services
- Milhouse Engineering & Construction, Inc.
- Somat Engineering
- STV



EIP Advisory Council

- Diana Mendes (Chair), Corporate President of Mobility and Infrastructure, HNTB
- Dwight H. Pullen, Jr. (Vice-Chair), Senior Vice President of Global Aviation, AECOM
- Bryan Carruthers, CEO, Anser Advisory
- Steve Hall, Senior Vice President for Advocacy, American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC)
- Greg Kelly, President and CEO, STV
- Esther McGinnis, Executive Vice President & Director of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG), Gannett Fleming
- Ann McNeill, Chair & Founder, National Association of Black Women in Construction (NABWIC)
- Ingrid Merriwether, President & CEO, Merriwether & Williams Insurance Services
- Wilbur C. Milhouse III, Chairman and CEO, Milhouse Engineering & Construction, Inc.
- Joshua Morey, President and CEO, J. Morey Company, Inc.
- Dr. Leroy D. Nunery II, President, Evolution Advisors, LLC
- Robert Puentes, President and CEO, Eno Center for Transportation
- April Rai, President and CEO, Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO)
- G. Ramnujam, CEO, Somat Engineering
- Paul Skoutelas, President and CEO, American Public Transportation Association (APTA)
- Eve Williams, President, Dikita Enterprises
- Eboni Wimbush, President and CEO, Airport Minority Advisory Council (AMAC)
- Rebecca Zofnass, Managing Partner, Environmental Financial Consulting Group (EFCG)

Generous Supporters

- AECOM
- Anser Advisory
- EFCG
- Gannett Fleming
- HNTB
- Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation
- The James Irvine Foundation
- Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs
- Social Impact Fund
- STV
- United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners



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