

**Public Notice of  
Fiscal Years 2025-2027 FAA DBE Goal for the  
Grand Forks International Airport**

---

Goal-setting for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) with capabilities in the transportation industry is required by 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 26. The following goal is applicable for the 2025-2027 federal fiscal years (October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2027)

**2025-2027 FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION DBE GOAL: 2.27 PERCENT**

This goal represents the percentage of work to be accomplished by DBE prime contractors, subcontractors, consultants, vendors, and material suppliers for professional services, construction, and procurement contracts on federal-aid airport projects for the Grand Forks International Airport.

The 2025-2027 Goal Setting Methodology can be found at [www. www.gfkairport.com](http://www.gfkairport.com)

**SUBMIT COMMENTS:**

Information concerning these goals is available for inspection, from 8 am to 5 pm, at the following location:

Grand Forks International Airport  
2301 Airport Drive  
Grand Forks, ND 58203

Until August 23, 2024, written comments may be submitted to Ryan Riesinger, Executive Director, at the above address or via e-mail at [riesinger@gfkairport.com](mailto:riesinger@gfkairport.com).

## **FY 2025 – FY 2027 DBE GOAL UPDATE**

**Airport Sponsor:** Grand Forks International Airport – Grand Forks Regional Airport Authority

**City/State:** 2301 Airport Drive  
Grand Forks, ND 58203

**Name of Preparer:** Adam Dillin, Airport Planner, ND Aeronautics Commission  
Ryan Riesinger, Executive Director, Grand Forks International Airport

**Preparer’s Phone:** (701) 328-9657 – Adam Dillin  
(701) 795-6981 – Ryan Riesinger

**Goal Period:** October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2027

**Overall Goal:** **2.27%** (2.27% race conscious + 0% race neutral)

### **OVERALL GOAL:**

The overall goal of the Grand Forks International Airport for FY 2025 – FY 2027 is **2.27%** of the FAA grant program. During this period, the airport will be constructing a separate phase of the reconstruction of its main runway each year utilizing annual AIP grants, ultimately totaling \$37,106,888 of which \$842,326 in DBE participation is expected.

### **METHOD:**

The Grand Forks International Airport competes for bidders with other public airports and with highway-related work. The airport has therefore utilized the goal calculated by the North Dakota Department of Transportation Civil Rights division in their respective FY2024-2026 methodology to help calculate the overall goal for the airport.

**Step 1:** Availability of DBEs is determined from information supplied by all federal-aid bidders on prime and consultant contracts, from April 1, 2022, to March 30, 2023. NDDOT believes this timeframe is appropriate as the difference between the kind of federal projects let during this timeframe and those planned for FY 2024-2026 were considered insignificant. The data from this timeframe is an accurate reflection of the availability of ready, willing, and able DBEs relative to all businesses ready, willing, and able to participate on DOT-assisted contracts.

There was a total of 391 bidders and quoters on construction projects: 49 DBEs and 342 non-DBEs. A total of 62 consultants bid or were included in the bid on consulting projects: 4 DBEs and 58 Non-DBEs. A weighted average was developed by determining the comparative percentage non-DBEs and DBEs obtained in prime contracting (Asphalt, Bridge, Concrete, Consulting, Dirt, and Additional Contracting Opportunities) and consulting dollars.

In accordance with 49 CFR Part 26, the Department calculated the FY 2024 - 2026 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal at **4.21%, Step One Base Figure**. The Department calculated the DBE goal using the following two step process. As permitted by 49 CFR Part 26 the Department is using the base figure calculated in Step One, not the higher calculation in Step Two. This determination was made based on the loss of multiple DBEs within the last three years through withdrawal and program graduation.

**Description of Calculation Performed –**

The relative availability was calculated by dividing the number of DBE primes that bid on Asphalt contracts (0) by the number of total prime bidders (32); and multiplying that quotient by the percentage of dollars projected for asphalt work in FY 2024-2026 as compared to overall dollars projected to be spent in FY 2024-2026 and multiplying that by the percent of work paid to primes in 2022-2023 ( $\$933,616,489 / \$1,547,691,806 = 60.32\% \times 73.23\% = 44.17\%$ ).

$$0 \text{ DBE primes}/32 \text{ total primes} = 0.00\% \times 44.17\% = 0.00\%$$

The relative availability was calculated by dividing the number of DBE primes that bid on Bridge contracts (0) by the number of total prime bidders (11); and multiplying that quotient by the percentage of dollars projected for bridge work in FY 2024-2026 as compared to overall dollars projected to be spent in FY 2024-2026 and multiplying that by the percent of work paid to primes in 2022-2023 ( $\$217,639,160 / \$1,547,691,806 = 14.06\% \times 73.23\% = 10.30\%$ ).

$$0 \text{ DBE primes}/11 \text{ total primes} = 0.00\% \times 10.30\% = 0.00\%$$

The relative availability was calculated by dividing the number of DBE primes that bid on Concrete contracts (0) by the number of total prime bidders (21); and multiplying that quotient by the percentage of dollars projected for concrete work in FY 2024-2026 as compared to overall dollars projected to be spent in FY 2024-2026 and multiplying that by the percent of work paid to primes in 2022-2023 ( $\$6,694,125 / \$1,547,691,806 = 0.43\% \times 73.23\% = 0.32\%$ ).

$$0 \text{ DBE primes}/21 \text{ total primes} = 0.00\% \times 0.32\% = 0.00\%$$

The relative availability was calculated by dividing the number of DBE primes that bid on Dirt contracts (1) by the number of total prime bidders (17); and multiplying that quotient by the percentage of dollars projected for dirt work in FY 2024-2026 as compared to overall dollars projected to be spent in FY 2024-2026 and multiplying that by the percent of work paid to primes in 2022-2023 ( $\$165,328,472 / \$1,547,691,806 = 10.68\% \times 73.23\% = 7.82\%$ ).

$$1 \text{ DBE primes}/17 \text{ total primes} = 5.88\% \times 7.82\% = 0.46\%$$

The relative availability was calculated by dividing the number of DBE primes that bid on Additional Contracting Opportunities contracts (1) by the number of total prime bidders (21); and multiplying that quotient by the percentage of dollars projected for other work in FY 2024-2026 as compared to overall dollars projected to be spent in FY 2024-2026 and multiplying that by the percent of work paid to primes in 2022-2023 ( $\$129,138,057 / \$1,547,691,806 = 8.34\% \times 73.23\% = 6.11\%$ ).

$$1 \text{ DBE primes}/21 \text{ total primes} = 4.76\% \times 6.11\% = 0.29\%$$

The relative availability was calculated by dividing the number of DBE Consultants that responded to an RFP or were included in a consultants response to an RFP (1) by the number of total consultants (25); and multiplying that by the percentage of dollars projected for consultants in FY 2024-2026 as compared to overall dollars projected to be spent in FY 2024-2026 and multiplying that by the percent of work paid to primes in 2022-2023 (\$30,645,000 / \$1,547,691,806 = 1.98% x 1.10% = 0.02%).

$$1 \text{ DBE consultants}/26 \text{ total consultants} = 3.84\% \times 0.02\% = 0.0008\%$$

The relative availability was calculated by dividing the number of DBE Subcontractors that bid (47) by the number of total subcontractors (343); and multiplying that sum by the percentage of dollars in 2022-2023 (25.29%). This serves as an indicator of the overall total dollars projected to be spent in FY 2024-2026.

$$47 \text{ DBE subcontractors}/343 \text{ total subcontractors} = 13.70\% \times 25.29\% = 3.46\%$$

**2. Resulting Baseline Goal** - The baseline goal for North Dakota is **4.21%**.

$$0.46\% + 0.29\% + 0.0008\% + 3.46\% = 4.21\%$$

**Step 2:** We calculated the median participation from the past seven years which came to 0.33%. Averaging 0.33% and 4.21% brings the adjusted base figure to 2.27%.

The median past participation was calculated by sorting the DBE achievements in numerical order and then removing an equal number of entries from the lowest and the highest achievements. The remaining percentages were summed and then divided by the count of the remaining entries.

Fiscal Year	Percent Achieved
<del>2018</del>	<del>0.0%</del>
<del>2021</del>	<del>0.0%</del>
<b>2023</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>0.1%</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
<del>2022</del>	<del>0.9%</del>
<del>2019</del>	<del>2.1%</del>

$$0.0\% + 0.1\% + 0.9\% = 1.0\% / 3 = 0.33\% \text{ Median Past Participation}$$

The average of the Step One Base Figure and the median past participation was calculated by adding the Median Past Participation in Step 1 and dividing by two.

$$0.33\% + 4.21\% = 4.54\% / 2 = 2.27\% \text{ Step One Base Figure adjusted for past participation.}$$

## **ADJUSTMENTS**

ND DOT also considered available evidence from related fields that affect the opportunities for DBEs to form, grow, and compete. To determine the effects of discrimination on opportunities for DBEs to get financing, bonding, or insurance, The ND DOT contacted the following:

- ND Attorney General's Office
- ND Department of Banking and Financial Institutions
- ND Department of Commerce
- ND Department of Human Services
- ND Small Business Development Center
- ND Office of Management and Budget
- ND University System
- Independent Bankers Association

No information was received from these sources indicating that an adjustment was warranted. No disparity studies have been conducted in the state.

NDDOT conducted a virtual public consultation meeting to allow input from stakeholders. This meeting was held via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023. A question was received "If Prime Bidders are using 'Non-Low' DBE subcontractors when preparing our proposals in lieu of risking losing a project through the Good Faith review, does this have an effect on the department setting their goal?", to which ND DOT determined "It would have an impact, but the impact would be extremely minimal in the overall scope of things."

It is estimated that Grand Forks International Airport would achieve 2.27% from race conscious participation and 0% through race neutral measures. A notice of proposed goal was published on the airport website before the methodology was submitted to the FAA.

## **PROCESS**

The Grand Forks International Airport submits its overall goal on August 1<sup>st</sup> of each three-year cycle for all FAA grants that exceed \$250,000. Before establishing the overall goal, the Grand Forks International Airport will consult with the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission and the ND DOT and then utilize the current listing of minority contract associations in the DBE roster (Minority Contractors Association of ND and Minority Association of Contractors) to obtain information concerning the availability of disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged businesses, the effects of discrimination on opportunities for DBEs, and the efforts to establish a level playing field for participation of DBEs. The ND DOT web site provides information on the DBE program, goals, and certification.

Following the consultation, and prior to submitting the goal to the operating administration, the Airport published a notice of the proposed overall goal, informing the public that the proposed goal and its rationale were available for inspection and comments during normal business hours at the Grand Forks Regional Airport Authority offices for a period of 30 days following the date of the notice. The notice was posted on the airport's website at [www.gfkairport.com](http://www.gfkairport.com) and

included addresses to which comments may be sent and where the proposal may be reviewed. The Airport will begin using the updated overall goal on October 1<sup>st</sup> of each third year, unless different instructions are received from the FAA or DOT.

**BREAKOUT OF ESTIMATED RACE-NEUTRAL AND RACE CONSCIOUS PARTICIPATION:**

Grand Forks International Airport will meet the maximum feasible portion of its overall goal by using race-neutral means of facilitating DBE participation. The Airport uses the following race-neutral means to increase DBE participation:

1. Advertise program goals.
2. Encourage prime contractors to subcontract portions of their work they would otherwise perform.
3. Provide engineer consultant technical assistance and other services to fill out bids.
4. Ensure prime contractors have lists of potential DBE subcontractors.
5. Inform prime contractors of past DBE participants.
6. Ensure prime contractors have the web address for the ND DOT DBE Directory.
7. Utilize engineer consultants to administer and monitor compliance.

For reporting purposes, race-neutral DBE participation includes but is not necessarily limited to:

1. DBE participation through a prime contract a DBE obtains through customary competitive procurement procedures or through the consultant selection process;
2. DBE participation through a subcontract on a prime contract that does not carry a DBE goal; and
3. DBE participation through a subcontract from a prime contractor that did not consider a firm's DBE status in making the award.

It is estimated that, in meeting the overall goal of 2.27%, Grand Forks International Airport will achieve 2.27% from race-conscious participation and 0% through race-neutral means.

**CONTRACT GOALS**

The Airport will use contract goals to meet any portion of the overall goal. Contract goals are established so that, over the period to which the overall goal applies, they will cumulatively result in meeting any portion of the overall goal that is not projected to be met through the use of race-conscious means.

Contract goals will be established only on those DOT-assisted contracts that have subcontracting possibilities. A contract goal need not be established on every contract. The size of contract goals will be adapted to the circumstances of each such contract (e.g. type and location of work, availability of DBEs to perform the particular type of work).

Contract goals will be expressed as a percentage of the total amount of the DOT-assisted contract.