



Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) makes a consensus effort to diversify its vendors. The department's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Unit was recognized with the Mobile Area Chamber's Rev. Wesley A. James Minority Business Advocate Award in 2015. Pictured are ALDOT employees who help with assistance and training for potential vendors looking to do business with the department.

Alabama Department of Transportation Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Unit

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) is a state agency awarding millions of dollars in government contracts annually. For its commitment to diversity, ALDOT's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Unit received the Mobile Area Chamber's Rev. Wesley A. James Minority Business Advocate Award in October during the Chamber's minority business conference.

Through that unit, the agency provides one-on-one assistance and training to improve a prospective vendor's ability to compete without sacrificing a safe and well-maintained highway system. Qualifying businesses are 51 percent owned and controlled by an individual or individuals who are socially and economically disadvantaged.

According to federal guidelines, the U.S. Department of Transportation identifies the following groups as disadvantaged: women, Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Asian-Pacific Americans, Subcontinent Asian-Pacific Americans and other minorities.

ALDOT encourages inclusion in every level of the contracting process by establishing goals and tracking results of the percentage of dollars spent with minority firms. These markers show the agency is committed to the success of small, minority and women-owned businesses.

In the latest statistics available, ALDOT spent more than \$63 million with disadvantaged business enterprises in 2014-15.