## **Policy Statement:**

VIA Metropolitan Transit is a direct recipient of U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) funds and has a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program that meets the requirements of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for federally funded projects under 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 26.

VIA Metropolitan Transit (VIA) established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26. VIA receives Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation, and as a condition of this assistance, VIA has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26, Subpart A.

VIA's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program policy ensures that DBEs, as defined in 49 CFR Part 26 have the opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts financed in whole or in part with Federal funds on all VIA's contracts. This formal policy signed by VIA President/Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mr. Jeffrey Arndt and submitted to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) designates VIA's Director of Business/Supplier Diversity, Mr. Maurice Bridges as the DBE Liaison Officer (DBELO). His office is currently located at 800 W. Myrtle Street, San Antonio, TX 78212; (210) 362-2071; <u>maurice.bridges@viainfo.net</u>. Mr. Bridges reports directly to Mr. Jeffrey Arndt, President/Chief Executive Officer.

The DBELO is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE program which include, but are not limited to, ensuring nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts; creating a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for DOT-assisted contracts; ensuring that the DBE program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law; ensuring that only firms that fully meet the requirements of 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs; helping remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT-assisted contracts; and assisting in the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE program.

VIA will disseminate this policy document to the VIA Board of Trustees, the Executive Management Team, all DBE, and non-DBE business communities that perform work for VIA on DOT-assisted contracts. Distribution will occur electronically or in paper format upon request

In my role as President/CEO, I shall take all reasonable steps to ensure the achievement of VIA's DBE program plan. The Board of Trustees at VIA Metropolitan Transit and VIA's Advanced Transportation District and Executive Management Team share in the responsibility for making the DBE Program a success.

Jettrey C. Arndt President/CEO

September 28, 2020

Date