



THE SAN FRANCISCO-OAKLAND  
**BAY BRIDGE**  
SEISMIC SAFETY PROJECTS

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)**

1. **Where can I find out about contracting opportunities on the Toll Bridge Projects?**

You can find out first-hand about Toll Bridge Contracting Opportunities by visiting the Toll Bridge Small Business Program (TBSBP) Contracting Opportunities website, at <http://baybridgeinfo.org/smallbusiness/opportunities>.

Additionally, you can find out about all of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Contracting Opportunities, in District 4, by visiting the Caltrans Advertised Projects website, at [http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/oe/weekly\\_ads/index.php](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/oe/weekly_ads/index.php).

The TBSBP also hosts Bidder Conferences/Networking and Outreach events for construction contracts advertised on the various Toll Bridge projects. These events provide an opportunity for Small Businesses (SBs) and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBES) to learn about contracting opportunities and network with prospective prime contractors.

The TBSBP Team is available to assist in getting your firm acclimated with all of the above-listed websites. Please refer to question 10 of these FAQs for the TBSBP's contact information, location, and hours of availability.

2. **Is there a way for my firm to advertise my services to Prime Contractors that are bidding on the Toll Bridge or other construction contracts in District 4?**

Yes, the first step is to register for the Caltrans Connect program, by signing up online at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/oe/connect/register.php>, and/or by contacting the TBSBP for an in-person Caltrans Connect technical assistance appointment.

Caltrans Connect allows contractors and subcontractors the ability to advertise their services for Caltrans projects they are interested in. Using the new *Opt-in* feature on the Caltrans Connect website allows contractors to be considered for subcontractor or supplier bids without ordering a plan set from our plans desk. Prime contractors looking for subcontractors and suppliers will see the information provided when they search for non-bidding planholders on our site.

In addition, while logged in to Caltrans Connect, users can download bid documents for our e-advertised projects, manage which projects they have opted in on, which projects they are advertising for help on, and modify the information they have entered for those projects. Registration and use is free and easy.

Please refer to question 10 of these FAQs for the TBSBP's contact information, location, and hours of availability.

**3. Must I be a certified SB or a DVBE to count towards the SB/DVBE SFOBB Goals?**

Yes. In order for a Prime Contractor performing on a Toll Bridge Construction Contract to receive credit for SB or DVBE firm participation, a firm must be properly certified as an SB and/or DVBE, as applicable.

**4. How do I get SB Certified?**

The first step to receiving Small Business (SB) Certification is by applying online with the Department of General Services at <http://www.dgs.ca.gov/pd/Programs/OSDS/GetCertified.aspx> and/or by contacting the TBSBP for an in-person certification application technical assistance appointment.

In order for a small business to be eligible for certification, the small business must meet the following requirements:

- Be independently owned and operated;
- Not dominant in field of operation;
- Principal office located in California;
- Owners (officers, if a corporation) domiciled in California; and, including affiliates, be either:
  - A business with 100 or fewer employees; an average annual gross receipts of \$14 million or less, over the last three tax years;
  - A manufacturer with 100 or fewer employees; or,
- A microbusiness. A small business will automatically be designated as a microbusiness if gross annual receipts are less than \$3,500,000, or the small business is a manufacturer with 25 or fewer employees.

Please refer to question 10 of these FAQs for the TBSBP's contact information, location, and hours of availability.

**5. How do I get DVBE Certified?**

The first step to receiving Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) Certification is by applying online with the Department of General Services (DGS) at <http://www.dgs.ca.gov/pd/Programs/OSDS/GetCertified.aspx> and/or by contacting the TBSBP for an in-person certification application technical assistance appointment.

To be certified as a DVBE, your firm must meet the following requirements:

- Your business must be at least 51% owned by one or more Disabled Veteran(s); and
- Your daily business operations must be managed and controlled by one or more Disabled Veteran(s).

For DVBE certification purposes, a "Disabled Veteran" is:

- A veteran of the U.S. military, naval, or air service;
- The veteran must have a service-connected disability of at least 10% or more; and
- The veteran must reside in California.

Please refer to question 10 of these FAQs for the TBSBP's contact information, location, and hours of availability.

**6. What Programs and/or Services are offered by the Toll Bridge Small Business Program?**

The TBSBP offers a number of services designed to increase access and participation of Small Businesses (SBs) and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBEs) on the Toll Bridge Projects. Examples of services provided include, but are not limited to:

- No-Cost Contractor Training Workshops;
- SB/DVBE Certification and Recertification Assistance;
- Plan Review Assistance;
- Networking Events;
- Contractor Technical Assistance;
- Prevailing Wage Assistance (Forms Availability); and
- Contract Opportunity Identification.

To receive any of these services, or to inquire about additional services provided, please contact the TBSBP to schedule an in-person technical assistance appointment. Please refer to question 10 of these FAQs for the TBSBP’s contact information, location, and hours of availability.

**7. How do I know if the prime contractor received payment from Caltrans on a project I am working on?**

To determine whether a prime contractor received payment on a specific Caltrans construction project, please visit the Department of Transportation’s Major Construction Payment & Information website, at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/asc/oap/payments>.

This website contains payment history and contract information for major Caltrans construction projects, including Toll Bridge Construction contracts. To access the Contract information, users will need the relevant Contract Number for that particular project. Enter the contract number in the designated entry field, and then press ‘Go to Contract’. Alternate methods of obtaining this data are to click on ‘Contractor List’ or ‘Contract List’ in the left hand column of the webpage.

**8. What is BidSync?**

BidSync is the electronic bidding and procurement software utilized by State Departments, including the Department of Transportation (Caltrans). BidSync allows State Departments to utilize and electronically advertise contracting opportunities on the web.

The State of California’s electronic bidding website is *eProcurement*, located at <http://www.dgs.ca.gov/pd/Programs/eprocure.aspx>. *eProcurement* provides contractors with a streamlined and efficient approach to doing business with the State of California. Additionally, BidSync and *eProcurement* systems enable easy access to:

- Applying for SB/DVBE certifications;
- State contract advertisements;
- Electronic (and paper) supplier bid/proposal submittal;
- Bid proposal/bid evaluation and award information;
- Responding to solicitations; and
- Information regarding procurement and contracting activities electronically.

**9. Are Plans and Specifications available for review?**

Yes, relevant Caltrans Construction Contract Plans and Specifications, including Toll Bridge Contracts Plans and Specifications, are available for review. Plans and Specifications for projects that are currently being advertised are available for review through the Caltrans Advertised Projects website at: [http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/oc/weekly\\_ads/all\\_advertised.php](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/oc/weekly_ads/all_advertised.php).

For Toll Bridge Plans and Specifications relevant to awarded contracts, please contact the TBSBP for an in-person Plans and Specifications Review technical assistance appointment. Please refer to question 10 of these FAQs for the TBSBP's contact information, location, and hours of availability.

**10. How can I contact the Toll Bridge Small Business Team?**

You can schedule an appointment, or drop by our offices, located on Pier 7 at 355 Burma Road, Oakland, CA 94607.

Office hours are Monday through Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Appointments can be scheduled between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

The Toll Bridge Small Business Team can also be reached by telephone at (510) 286-0974 or (510) 410-2243, or via email at [smallbizconstruction@dot.ca.gov](mailto:smallbizconstruction@dot.ca.gov).

**11. Is the Toll Bridge Project Federally Funded?**

No. Currently, the Toll Bridge active projects are not federally funded. Therefore, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goals and Davis Bacon prevailing wage rate requirements are not applicable to projects that are currently active.

Please Note: State of California prevailing wage rate requirements are applicable.

**12. What are the Toll Bridge Project goals for SB/DVBE participation?**

The Toll Bridge Project strives to comply with the State of California's Small Business (SB) and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) participation goals, which are 25% and 3%, respectively.

**13. Who are the active Prime Contractors or Joint Venture Firms currently performing work on the Toll Bridge Project?**

There are currently four active projects on the Toll Bridge Program. The following represents a listing of the Prime Contractors by project.

- American Bridge-Fluor/Joint Venture (Self-Anchored Suspension Span);
- MCM Construction (Yerba Buena Island Transition Structure 1);
- CEC Construction Inc. (Antioch Toll Bridge Seismic Retrofit); and
- Shimmick Construction (Dumbarton Toll Bridge Seismic Retrofit).