

****Attention All Business Owners**
YOUR VOICE MATTERS!**

If you are doing business or attempting to do business with the Railroad Industry, WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) cordially invites you to participate in a FOCUS GROUP WEBINAR of business owners. This is your chance to share your experiences and insights into doing business or attempting to do business with FRA grantees and or the railroad industry in general.

The focus group sessions are part of the Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) Disparity Study. These important sessions provide an opportunity to share your experiences and insights regarding both the opportunities and the challenges involved in doing business or attempting to do business with projects that receive Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) funding.

Your insights and experiences will help to identify possible enhancements to FRA programs and support the strategic objectives of open access to FRA funded government contracting and purchasing opportunities. The FRA will keep your comments strictly confidential according to established legal and policy standards. No information attributable to you will be included in the final report for the Study.

The FRA has engaged Jack Faucett Associates, Inc. (JFA), a small veteran-owned economics-consulting firm to conduct this independent third-party study. JFA will hold the webinar sessions throughout the fall of 2019. To reserve your space at the appropriate session, please contact JFA at (301)346-8850 or click on DisparityStudy@JFA.com

In your opinion, at any time during the last five years, have government entities or prime contractors discriminated against your firm while your firm was participating or attempting to participate in any of the business dealings listed below? In other words, have government entities or prime contractors treated your firm less favorably than otherwise similar firms because of the race, ethnicity, or sex of its owners to an extent that you believe caused economic or financial harm or loss to your firm?

Public reporting burden for this information collection is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, a federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 2130-XXXX. All responses to this collection of information are voluntary. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection, including suggestions for reducing this burden to: Information Collection Officer, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E., Washington D.C. 20590

1. Applying for surety bonds (Please Describe)

2. Applying for commercial or professional insurance (Please Describe)

3. Hiring workers from union hiring halls (Please Describe)

4. Obtaining price quotes from suppliers or subcontractors (Please Describe)

5. Working or attempting to obtain work on public-sector prime contracts (Please Describe)

6. Working or attempting to obtain work on public-sector subcontracts (Please Describe)

7. Working or attempting to obtain work on private-sector prime contracts (Please Describe)

8. Working or attempting to obtain work on private-sector subcontracts (Please Describe)

9. Receiving timely payment for work performed (Please Describe)

10. Functioning without hindrance or harassment on the work site (Please Describe)

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11. Joining or dealing with construction trade associations (Please Describe)

12. Having to do inappropriate or extra work that was not required of comparable firms (Please Describe)

13. Having to meet quality, inspection, or performance standards that were not required of comparable firms (Please Describe)

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