

Texas Department of Transportation

Federal-aid Project: STP 2016(884)MM

Local Project Number: 0197-03-122

Special Experimental Project No. 14 (SEP-14) to evaluate the use of Local Labor Hiring Preferences (LLHP)

Status Update: June 20, 2017

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| Contracting Agency: | TxDOT |
| Project Description: | S. M. Wright Project (US 175 from Bexar St. to IH 45 in Dallas) |
| FHWA Division POC: | Hala Elgaaly |
| Construction Start Date - Actual or Expected: | Time charges started on June 20 th , 2016 |
| Construction Completion Date - Actual or Expected: | Estimated completion date: September 2019 |
| Estimated Percent of Construction Completion: | Time charged: 235 days / 819 days: 29% Percent paid to date: 49% |
| PODI (Y or N): | Y |
| Evaluations: Date Submitted or Expected: | |
| Comments on Issues, Progress, Successes: Please provide comments on activity to date, issues experienced | Please see the comments below |

Comments:

Project Background

The S.M. Wright project is a multiple phase project in Dallas, Texas that will connect US 175 C.F. Hawn freeway directly to IH-45. The project was re-let in February 2016 for \$103,886,600 with LLHP provisions and an increased goal for DBE participation. The LLHP provision approved under SEP-14 for this project stipulates that 15% of all contract labor hours be performed by residents of the area surrounding the project. The project includes a S/M/WBE and HUB participation aspirational goal of 16.7%, in addition to the standard DBE goal of 13.3%.

US 175 Good Faith Efforts Documentation

July 2017 through April 2017

Since project award, Webber, LLC has made sincere efforts to work collaboratively with project stakeholders and community partners to maintain direct access to a pool or ready, willing and able applicants for employment on the project. Our community partners have assisted and often times provided us with local residents within the geographic area of the project who are searching for employment. Webber has established an internal policy that all employment openings are to be primarily filtered to our community partners and organizations such as Regional Black Contractors Association, CitySquare, Road to Work Opportunity Program, Boots on the Ground and Greater Dallas Workforce Solutions.

This relationship has aided Webber in receiving approximately two hundred five (205) applications. Thirteen offers of employment have resulted from our efforts to provide meaningful employment opportunities for residents who live within the designated zipcode boundaries. This number includes applications accepted by our subcontractors who are working with Webber to meet the project's local labor hiring initiative. Webber's DBE/Jobsite Coordinator, Velina Willis, regularly meets with the project subcontractors to obtain the most current information regarding any available employment opportunities.

To kick off the local labor hiring initiative, Webber held a "Let's Go to Work Career/Hiring Fair" on November 16, 2016 at the Bill J. Priest Institute for Economic Development. Our partners including Greater Dallas Workforce Solutions along with seven project subcontractors were attendance available to meet applicants, accept applications and conduct on-the-spot interviews. Of the twelve attendees, four offers of employment were extended.

Local Labor Hire Facts

- As of May 17, 2017, seven (7) employees (residency verified) are employed by Webber who reside within the designated zip codes.
- Two hundred and five (205) applications have been received through April 30, 2017
 - Webber LLC - one hundred and eighty-two (182) applications
 - Webber Subcontractors - twenty-three (23) applications
- Twelve (12) Offers of Employment by Webber (11) and its Subcontractors (1) as April 30, 2017
 - Two offers were declined. Applicants accepted employment offers from other employers.
 - One of the applicants who accepted an offer lives outside of the designated zip code boundary. Residency has been verified for applicants who will be included with Webber's request for reimbursement.

- An offer of employment to a local resident was made and accepted by Bowman Engineering & Consulting, Inc. Applicant was injured on the job (01/16/17) and has not returned to work as of May 17, 2017.
- Four of the employees who accepted offers of employment are no longer employed by Webber. Three of those four vacancies have been filled by applicants who fall within the local labor hire zip code boundary.

Webber Stakeholder and Community Partner Meetings

- Meeting with Stakeholders & Community Partners held on October 14, 2016 and February 23, 2017 at Edison's. The purpose of these meetings are to keep stakeholders and community partners up on Webber's local hiring efforts and solicit feedback.

Webber Community Outreach and Accessibility

- Attended Windelkin/Driskell Neighborhood Association Meeting on August 6, 2016.
- Attended Greater Dallas Workforce Solutions 5th Annual Hiring Red, White and You! Job Fair on November 10, 2016 at Gilley's Dallas
- Hosted a hiring fair for SM Wright hiring needs at the Bill J. Priest Institute for Economic Development on November 16, 2016.
- Exhibited and handed out employment applications to potential applicants for employment opportunities at City of Dallas MLK Celebration Job Fair on January 13, 2017 at the MLK, Jr. Community Center
- Attended Seasoned Saints New Hope Baptist Church community meeting on January 18, 2017
- Exhibited and accepted employment applications to potential applicants for employment at the 12th Annual Career & Resource Fair on March 22, 2017 at the MLK, Jr. Recreation Center
- Presented and exhibited at the Franklin D. Roosevelt HS Career Day on April 28, 2017. This event was used as an opportunity to promote careers in the construction trades and study in the engineering and construction management at the collegiate level
- Attended and accepted employment applications at the Greater Dallas Workforce Solutions Annual Infrastructure Week Job Fair on May 17, 2017 at Southwest Center
- Will be participating at the James Madison HS Career Day on May 22, 2017 to discuss careers in construction

**Involvement with Employment Advocacy and Minority Organizations along the US 175
Project Line**

- Regional Black Contractors Association (RBCA) SM Wright - US 175 Trade Contractors Community Awareness Event on June 10,2016
- Regional Black Contractors Association {RBCA) Monthly Membership Meetings on January 11,2017 and February 9, 2017
- Workforce Solutions Greater Solutions Infrastructure Industry Sector Meeting on February 9, 2017

