



2025 Fall Small Business Symposium

SYMPOSIUM INFORMATION

**Held at the Sheraton Grand Rapids Airport Hotel:
5700 28th St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546**

To receive the special room rate of **\$98.00** per night, or simply click on the following link to make your reservation: [Reservation-Link](#)

The deadline to reserve your hotel room at the special rate is **Monday September 29, 2025**.
Please click on the following link to register for the conference:

[2025 MDOT Small Business Symposium Tickets, Sun, Oct 19, 2025, at 5:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

There is no fee to register for this conference

**Accommodations can be made of persons with disabilities and limited English-speaking ability. Large print materials, auxiliary aids or the services of interpreters, signers, or readers are available upon request. Please call 517-241-7462 to request at least seven days before the symposium. **

Sunday, October 19, 2025

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Early Bird Registration
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	DBE Small Business Networking Dinner

Monday, October 20, 2025

8:00 a.m.	Registration Opens
8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.	Welcome & OBD Update
9:20 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	MDOT Update: <i>Brad Wieferich, MDOT Director</i> <i>Laura Mester, MDOT Chief Administrative Officer</i> <i>Terri Slaughter, MDOT Chief Strategic Impact Officer</i>
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	OJT Summit: For On-the-Job Trainees Only

Concurrent Workshops 10:00 – 11:10	Proposal Writing: Understanding RFP's, Selection, and Prequalification for Consultants. <i>This session will help participants understand where to find MDOT Requests for Proposals (RFP), how to submit a proposal, MDOT's processes for scoring proposals and selection, when prequalification is needed, and where to find related resources.</i>
	OBD Update <i>This session will give updates on what's been happening in the Office of Business Development and will include information about some Michigan Contracting Initiatives. This session is beneficial to DBE/SBPs and stakeholders, however all are welcome!</i>
	Construction Field Services Update <i>This workshop will provide information regarding MDOT's Prevailing Wage, Prompt Pay, Subcontract and LCP Tracker requirements.</i>
11:10 – 11:20	BREAK
11:20 – 12:30	Local Opportunities <i>Come learn about other contracting opportunities outside of the Michigan Department of Transportation. Representatives from agencies in the Grand Rapids and surrounding areas will be present to discuss upcoming business opportunities and how to bid on them.</i>
	Elevator Pitch <i>Elevate your Business introduction to spark conversation for future potential business opportunities.</i>
	How to Read MDOT Plans, Proposals, and Standard Specifications <i>This session will provide information on reading MDOT plans, proposals, and standard specifications, the MDOT eProposal site and navigating MDOT's website for these resources.</i>
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch Keynote Address: Nikki Thompson-Frazier, The Sweet Encounter On-the-Job Training (OJT) Graduation Bonding and Education Program (BEP) Graduation
1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	DBE Stakeholder Meeting (Invitation Only)
	Certification (SBE/DBE) <i>Learn how to become certified as a Michigan Unified Certified Program (MUCP) applicant. This session will help participants understand the criteria to apply for Small Business Enterprise/Disadvantaged Business Enterprise/Mentor Protégé Program, requirements for MDOT's prequalification, understanding MDOT work categories and where to find related resources- www.michigan.gov/mucp. Learn how certification status as an MBE or WBE firm can grant you Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) status through a one-stop process.</i>
	OBD Update <i>This session will give updates on what's been happening in the Office of Business Development and will include information about some Michigan Contracting Initiatives. This session is beneficial to DBE/SBPs and stakeholders, however all are welcome!</i>