



Colas Construction owner Hermann Colas (left) goes over the plans for new housing. The company builds about 100 units per year.

ODOT Reinstates Disadvantaged Contracting Increasing business opportunities

The Oregon Department of Transportation is reinstating a narrowly-tailored goals program increasing business opportunities for Asian-American and African-American-owned businesses in the Portland metro area.

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters announced Sept. 9 that the Federal Highway Administration has approved ODOT's request for a waiver allowing ODOT to implement changes to its Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program.

The changes allow ODOT to require that prime construction contractors use more minority-owned small businesses in ODOT contracts.

"This waiver allows us to get back to business," said Matthew Garrett, ODOT director. "ODOT remains committed to using well-qualified, diverse small businesses representative of the public we serve. This is a major next step in fulfilling our commitment."

The U.S. Ninth Circuit Court ruled in May 2005 that a state department of transportation could not have a race-conscious disadvantaged business program without a disparity study demonstrating inequity in contracting opportunities.

The issue was addressed in a 2007 study that concluded that in the Portland metro area, Asian-American and African-American-owned firms were under-utilized as construction subcontractors.

ODOT used the conclusions and recommendations of the report to modify its Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program, and requested that the Federal Highway Adminis-

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Building Homes and Dreams

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ropolitan area. The company focuses on commercial multi-family units and residential custom homes. According to Colas, his company's success has depended on recognizing the importance of homeownership and delivering a product buyers can be proud of.

With his company's core values in mind, Colas began looking for ways his company could give back to Portland and in 2007 he found HOST Development. As Oregon's largest non-

profit homebuilder focused on ownership, HOST was the perfect partner for Colas Construction — together they're building high-quality housing for working Portlanders earning 70 to 100 percent of the median family income.

Colas Construction is currently building homes in HOST's southeast Portland planned community, Raymond Park Place. The first units are already finished.

"Colas Construction is the type of company we love working with," said Ted Salter, HOST's deputy director. "Not only do they build superior housing units, but they

understand that a house is so much more than walls and a roof. It's a chance to help families and local communities prosper."

With the help of community-conscious firms like Colas Construction, HOST continues to provide affordable home ownership opportunities and build strong, vital neighborhoods. And thanks to companies like Colas, HOST's Building Blocks campaign to create 1,000 new home owners by 2017 is moving steadily forward.

"My favorite part of working with HOST is helping those who, due to lack of funds, education or

because of their backgrounds, couldn't afford a house finally become homeowners," Colas said. "In America, I believe the best way to attain wealth is to own a home. By working with HOST, we're helping people build equity, wealth and the American dream."

For more information about HOST Development or Raymond Park Place, call 503-331-1752 or visit hostdevelopment.com. For more details about Colas Construction, Inc. visit the web at colasconstruction.com or call 503-292-4025.

We Want To Do Business With You



We are striving to increase the numbers of minority-owned, women-owned, and emerging small businesses that provide services to us.

We have opportunities for consultants across a range of professional services, including the technical, creative, finance, and legal fields.

We can help businesses and individuals enter the construction industry with resources such as the Sheltered Market, Technical Assistance, and Workforce Hiring and Training programs.

Contact our agency at the number listed below for specific opportunities. You can also visit our website for more information on our programs to support diversity in contracting.

Housing Authority of Portland

Jerry Walker 503.802.8509

Cinna'Mon Williams, CPPB, MCA 503.802.8533

David Delk 503.802.8517

www.hapdx.org

