

LAW & JUSTICE

Minority Contractors Build Capacity

Group honors TriMet for its light-rail partnerships

The Oregon chapter of the National Association of Minority Contractors has named its 2012 champions who have supported the organization and its mission of building the capacity of Minority Business Enterprise firms through project opportunities.

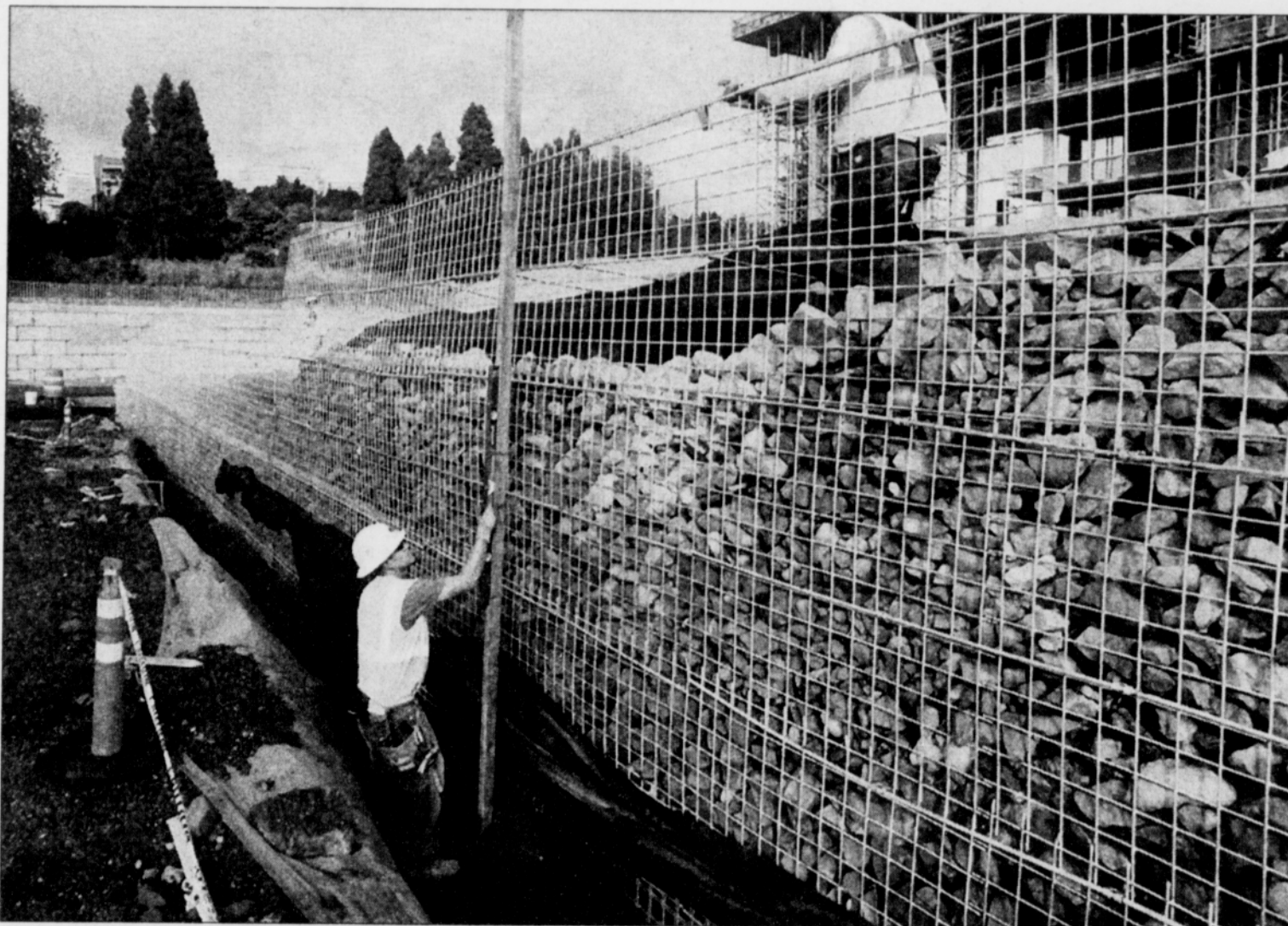
TriMet was named the group's top champion and agency of the year for its support of minority business. The selection represented an overwhelmingly positive report of the transit agency's contracting practices from NAMC Oregon members, association leaders said.

Also recognized at the was Stacy and Witbeck, Inc., the prime contractor working with TriMet on the Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Transit Project.

Faye Burch, NAMC board member said she was delighted to see this joint recognition.

"TriMet has a strong and committed DBE program (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise), which has steadily grown with each rail project over the past decade," Burch said. "And Stacy and Witbeck, well they are just the best. DBE firms have the opportunity to put all systems in place to build the capacity of their businesses, and Stacy Witbeck is there to support them 100 percent."

When it opens in 2015, the 7.3-mile light rail project will provide



Raimore Construction crews install gabion retaining walls as part of the construction of the Portland-Milwaukie light rail line. The Oregon chapter of the National Association of Minority Contractors has honored TriMet as its top champion and agency of the year for supporting minority business in contracting for work on the mass transit project.



increased transit options and connections for the region where benefits of the project are already being felt in the community.

The project has two more years of construction to go and 102 disadvantaged firms have already re-

◀ *Jorge Garcia of Stacy and Witbeck, Inc., the prime contractor working with TriMet on the Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Transit Project. Stacy and Witbeck has been named a minority contracting champion.*

ceived contracts to work on the project. Additionally, nearly a third of all contracts have been awarded to firms owned by DBE's, making this the highest DBE participation level for a regional rail project.

"We thank the honorees tremendously and all of our partners for their support this past year and we look forward to working with them in 2013," said Maurice Rahming, executive vice president of the Oregon minority contractors group.

NAMC Oregon is a nonprofit trade association that advocates for building the capacity of local minority construction and contracting businesses. Established in 2007, it is the local affiliate of the National Association of Minority Contractors, a nonprofit trade association headquartered in Washington DC, established in 1969 to address the needs and concerns of minority contractors.

While membership is open to people of all races and ethnic backgrounds, the organization's mandate, "Building Bridges - Crossing Barriers," focuses on construction industry concerns common to African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native Americans.

NAMC-Oregon's ongoing mission is to eliminate barriers to full and profitable participation on Oregon and Regional construction and design projects, both public and private, by certified minority-owned businesses who are committed to mutually engage in capacity building and utilizing members and other MBE firms, inclusion of a diverse workforce, and actions that support the improved economic status of our communities.

THE LAW OFFICES OF Patrick John Sweeney, P.C.

Patrick John Sweeney
Attorney at Law

1549 SE Ladd
Portland, Oregon

Portland: (503) 244-2080
Hillsboro: (503) 244-2081
Facsimile: (503) 244-2084
Email: Sweeney@PDXLawyer.com

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