

The Connecticut General Assembly



For IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 24, 2016

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Rep. McGee to Hold Meeting for Bonding Program

Bonding Education Program to assist minority and women-owned businesses

Today, **Representative Brandon McGee** (D-Hartford, Windsor) along with local business and development organizations will hold a meeting in Hartford to discuss a proposed Bonding Education Program to help small businesses secure government contracts.

The U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) holds programs throughout the country that help small businesses gain access to bonding. Participants attend classes and pair with a local surety bond professional for personal mentoring.

“I’m very excited to bring this program to Hartford,” Rep. McGee said. “It all started with asking the question, what are the challenges that minority and women-owned businesses face when bidding for government contracts? The Bonding Education Program will give businesses that are traditionally underrepresented in the bonding process the tools they need to be successful.”

Rep. McGee is partnering with local and regional organizations, including the Northeast Small Business Transportation Resource Center, the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA), the Hartford Economic Development Corporation (HEDCO), Nutmeg Planners, LLC and Voices of Women of Color.

“As the state’s largest business organization, CBIA is committed to supporting opportunities for Connecticut companies to grow and thrive,” said Andrea Comer, Executive Director of the CBIA Education & Workforce Partnership. “We are excited to partner with Rep. Brandon McGee, HEDCO, and the Northeast Small Business Transportation Resource Center on this crucial initiative, which will better position disadvantaged businesses to participate in the varied transportation construction projects along the I-95 corridor.”

Local government officials, business and development organizations, project developers, and business owners will provide input on implementing a program that will best address the needs of small contractors.

“We applaud Representative McGee’s efforts through this collaboration to build bonding capacity for disadvantaged contractors,” Kim Hawkins, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of HEDCO said. “HEDCO welcomes the opportunity to partner with the many stakeholders as we look to improve the availability of bonding, build capacity, and create job opportunities in the minority contracting community through this program in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Transportation.”

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