MBE’s/PRIMES/CLIENTS: COLLABORATION = SUCCESS

Successful project collaborations results in successful projects. While this statement is intuitive, in practice, there are many issues that MBE firms face every day related to administrative processes, quality of work and submissions, schedule adherence and project management that result in poor collaboration and communication. This session is designed to have representatives of MBE/DBE firms, prime engineering firms and Clients (MDOT Agencies) work in Focus Groups to address issues which will improve the quality of projects. The results of this interactive workshop will be used to establish multiple teams which will work throughout 2011 to establish best business practices and policies for implementation by the industry.

Belinda Calabrese-Connor – Connor Support Services, LLC

Belinda Calabrese-Connor, President of Connor Support Services, LLC (CSS), formed this company in 2008 shortly after receiving her Master’s Degree in Business from the University of Maryland. Although CSS is a newly formed company, Ms. Connor has been performing traffic data collection since 1999. Ms. Connor’s experience was acquired while working in the traffic engineering industry from 1999 to 2008 for two large engineering firms in the Baltimore, MD area.

CSS is a professional traffic data collection company that can provide a wide variety of traffic data collection services. Located in Annapolis, Maryland, CSS is an MDOT, VADOT, DELDOT, Baltimore City, and Washington D.C. certified MBE/DBE/WBE firm. CSS is also listed in the Anne Arundel County Directory of Minority and Woman-Owned Businesses and registered as a WBE company in Howard, Montgomery, Prince Georges, and Baltimore County.

Beverly Pannee – RJM Engineering, Inc.

Beverly Pannee is Vice President and part-owner of RJM Engineering, Inc. Established in 1991, and headquartered in Ellicott City, Maryland, RJM Engineering, Inc. is a full service civil, structural and transportation engineering firm. RJM provides high quality planning and design for transportation, recreational and institutional facilities, including highways, bridges, rail, transit, parking facilities and buildings. RJM also has extensive experience in site planning, hydrology/hydraulics, traffic engineering and structural engineering. RJM is a certified MBE/DBE with the Maryland Department of Transportation and other Maryland agencies.

Beverly has a Master’s Degree in Business Administration from Loyola University and over 30 years management experience ranging from international corporations to small business start-ups. She currently oversees RJM’s business development, financial, human resources and administrative functions. Beverly has held Legislative Committee and Small Business Committee chairmanships in the American Council of Engineering Companies/Maryland (ACEC/MD) and supports a strong, high-quality MBE/DBE program in Maryland’s transportation engineering community.
Cathy Ritter – Constellation Design Group, Inc.

In 1982, Ms. Ritter established Constellation Design Group and remains the president and project manager. CDG employs over thirty individuals, practicing civil engineering design and construction inspection, predominantly in the transportation arena. In recent years, CDG has focused on storm drainage, erosion/sediment control, hydrology/hydraulic studies, stormwater management design and permitting issues. CDG is certified as an MBE/DBE with the MD Department of Transportation and several other states and jurisdictions.

Cathy graduated from Kansas State University in 1975 and holds an MBA from Johns Hopkins, 1981. She has served as ACEC/MD’s president and national director, as a national ACEC Vice President, and as chair of both ACEC’s Business Insurance Trust and ACEC’s Small Firm Council. Currently Cathy chairs the ACEC Fellow’s committee and serves on the ACEC Transportation and Small Firm Committees. She was a 2006 recipient of Kansas State University’s Hall of Fame award.

Ms. Ritter has been a long time advocate of small business, testifying before Congress regarding contract bundling and small business opportunity.

Charles Kumi – Kumi Construction Management Corporation

Charles Kumi is the President and CEO of Kumi Construction Management Corporation (KCM), a construction management firm with offices in Washington, DC and Baltimore, Maryland. (KCM) is a full-service, construction cost/project management company serving government agencies, architectural and engineering firms and developers. KCM is certified by the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) as a MBE/DBE. KCM addresses a broad range of tasks related to design, construction and post-construction activities. KCM’s staff’s expertise includes program/project planning and management, value engineering, contract administration, scheduling, cost estimating/cost management, construction management, life cycle cost analysis, technical oversight, A/E & remedial design review, and economic studies.

Charles is a seasoned construction manager with over 25 years of experience in the construction industry. He has been a construction engineer, project manager, and oversight executive on several building and road construction projects, nationally and internationally. Charles holds an undergraduate degree in Construction Management from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) and a graduate degree in Management from the University of Maryland University College.

He is a member of the following professional organizations: The Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering International (AACEI); The Construction Management Association of America (CMAA); The Society for American Military Engineers (SAME); and the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) Maryland. He is currently the president of CMAA, National Capital Chapter and also serves on the construction and small business committees of the ACEC/MD.
Daniel T. Cheng- Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc.

Daniel T. Cheng, P.E. is an Executive Vice President at Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson (JMT) which is headquartered in Sparks, Maryland. He is one of the Board of Directors of this multi-disciplined architectural, engineering and technology firm which has over 700 employees in the Eastern US. Dan is involved in the operations, strategic planning and growth of JMT’s 17 offices.

Dan has over 39 years experience in the planning, design and management of transportation improvements in the eastern United States and is a Registered Professional Engineer in MD, VA, DE, PA, OH & FLA. Dan is very active and participates in many professional associations, promoting engineering in the region. Dan is the past President of the American Council of Engineering Companies/Maryland (ACEC/MD), the Maryland Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and the Maryland Association of Engineers (MAE). He currently serves as President of the Engineering Society of Baltimore.

He is a strong advocate of quality in planning, design and construction of highways in Maryland, and serves as Co-Chair of the Maryland Quality Initiative (MdQI) which involves 11 sponsors including government agencies, consultants, contractors and suppliers. A graduate of the University of Maryland-College Park in 1972 with a Bachelor’s of Science in Civil Engineering, he continued at the University of Maryland to earn his Masters of Science in Civil Engineering in 1978, specializing in Transportation and Urban Planning.

Harvey Floyd – KCI Technologies, Inc.

Harvey Floyd, P.E. is a Senior Vice president with KCI Technologies Inc., a multi-disciplined engineering firm with 20 offices throughout the eastern United States. Working out of KCI’s headquarters in Sparks, Md., he is responsible for management and direction of the firm’s transportation planning and design efforts companywide.

Harvey has over 31 years experience in the design and management of transportation projects. He joined KCI in 1985 as a project engineer and was later promoted to vice president and chief of the structures division. In 1995, he was promoted to senior vice president and appointed head of KCI’s Mid-Atlantic transportation market, serving clients in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. In 2006, Floyd was named Chief Client Services Officer, where he developed and implemented the firm’s ISO 9001:2008 certified quality management system. He assumed his current role as head of the Transportation Discipline in June 2010.

Harvey is a Past President of the American Council of Engineering Companies/MD (ACEC/MD) and currently serves as Chairman of the American Council of Engineering Companies National PAC and treasurer of ACEC/MD’s PAC. He also serves on the board of trustees for the Baltimore Museum of Industry.

He received a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1978, and an M.B.A. from Loyola University Maryland in 1989. He is also a graduate of ACEC’s Senior Executive Institute.