Ronald L. Freeland is the only person in the history of the Maryland Department of Transportation, and maybe the state, to have headed three separate agencies. He was appointed to his third assignment as Executive Secretary (CEO) of the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) in February, 2007, where he is responsible for overall operations and the agency’s police force. Prior to MDTA, he headed both the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration and the Maryland Transit Administration. A common theme through each appointment is the Executive Secretary’s strong advocacy for small and minority owned businesses.

He has used both his private and public sector experiences to provide direction and hold staff accountable for getting everyone to the table. Mr. Freeland established agency objectives for a successful procurement program. Success was defined to include broad business participation including Small and Minority Businesses. One strategy to reach that objective was to strengthen dialogue with that segment of the business community.

On March 20, 2010, the MDTA hosted the first of four outreach events entitled, “Getting Your Foot in the Door.” The events are designed to provide an opportunity for businesses to receive individual attention from the procurement staff, get their questions answered and interact with each other. Key staff members with procurement responsibilities in the areas of IT, Maintenance, Engineering, Construction, Architecture & Engineering and Small Procurements were on hand that morning alongside Mr. Freeland.

MDTA Procurement staff says that feedback has been very encouraging. Some of the contractors’ suggestions have already been incorporated into pilot efforts that will be monitored for effectiveness. MDTA Executive Secretary Ron Freeland is also monitoring effectiveness.