

Title VI

Non-Discrimination Plan | 2023

Lancaster County Public Rural Transit

Attachment "A"

Under the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes, Lancaster County Public Rural Transit ensures that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits or services of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in all programs, services or activities administered by the agency.



Signed By *Christa Spakum*

All entities who receive Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant dollars either directly from the FTA or through the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) are subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d) and the U.S. Department of Transportation's implementing regulations. This manual provides technical assistance on Title VI compliance requirements.

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I. Introduction and Overview

Plan Statement

Lancaster County Public Rural Transit (LCPRT) operates a demand response public transit program serving the residents of Lancaster County, Nebraska. LCPRT also provides service to neighboring areas of Adams, Ceresco, Cortland, Eagle, and Greenwood, Nebraska. As a condition of receiving Federal financial assistance to operate these services, the agency ensures that its programs, policies, and activities comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. The following program details how LCPRT meets the Title VI requirements set forth in FTA Circular 4702.1B.

LCPRT is the recipient of the following FTA funds:

- Federal Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Area Formula Grant Program

LCPRT receives Federal funding through the Nebraska Department of Transportation Transit Section. NDOT administers LCPRT's FTA transit service funding and provides all Title VI program oversight for LCPRT.

Policy

Section 601 under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states the following:

"No person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

LCPRT is committed to ensuring that no person, on the basis of race, color, or national origin, shall be excluded from participation in or subjected to discrimination under its programs or services, or be denied the benefits of the level and quality of transit services provided by the agency's employees, affiliates, and contractors.

Authorizing Legislation

Most Federal transit laws are codified at title 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53. Authorizing legislation is substantive legislation enacted by Congress that establishes or continues the operation of a Federal program or agency. FTA's most recent authorizing legislation is entitled the *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law*, signed into law on November 15, 2021.

How to Contact FTA and LCPRT

FTA's regional and metropolitan offices are responsible for providing financial assistance to FTA grant recipients and for oversight of grant implementation for FTA programs. Certain specific programs are the responsibility of FTA headquarters. Inquiries should be directed to either the regional or metropolitan office responsible for the geographic area in which the recipient is located.

For more information regarding LCPRT's Title VI Program, please contact the agency at:

Lancaster County Public Rural Transit

Attn: Mitch Sump, Transit Manager
600 South 70th St. Building #2
Lincoln, NE 68510
(402) 441-8815
msump@lincoln.ne.gov

FTA Headquarters can be contacted at:

Federal Transit Administration

Office of Civil Rights
Attn: Title VI Program Coordinator
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590
888-446-451

The Nebraska Department of Transportation can be contacted at:

Nebraska Department of Transportation

Attn: Title VI Transit Manager
1400 Hwy 2
Lincoln, NE 68502
(402) 479-4694
kari.ruse@nebraska.gov

Governing Body

The governing body of LCPRT is comprised of five (5) elected County Commissioners representing Lancaster County.

FTA Circular 4702.1B

LCPRT's Title VI Plan has been developed to address FTA's Title VI requirements and oversight responsibilities. The plan follows the guidelines set forth in FTA Circular 4702.1B.

II. General Reporting Requirements

Chapter III of FTA Circular 4702.1B addresses the general reporting requirements for recipients and subrecipients of FTA funding to ensure that their activities comply with US DOT Title VI regulations. Those requirements are summarized below, accompanied by details on how LCPRT's Title VI Transit Program fulfills each requirement.

1. Requirement to Provide Title VI Assurances

In accordance with 49 CFR Section 21.7(a), every application for FTA financial assistance must be accompanied by an assurance that the applicant will carry out the program in compliance with DOT Title VI regulations. This requirement shall be fulfilled when the applicant/recipient submits its annual certifications and assurances to FTA.

LCPRT annually submits its Certifications and Assurances to the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT). NDOT collects LCPRT's Title VI Assurances prior to passing through FTA funds.

2. Requirement for First-Time Applicants: N/A

New applicants will submit a Title VI program that is compliant with FTA Circular 4702.1B, as well as an assurance that the applicant will carry out the program in compliance with DOT Title VI regulations.

LCPRT is not a first-time applicant and is therefore exempt from this requirement.

3. Requirement to Prepare and Submit a Title VI Program

FTA requires that all direct and primary recipients document their compliance with DOT's Title VI regulations by submitting a Title VI Program to their FTA Regional Civil Rights Officer once every three years, or as otherwise directed by FTA. For all recipients (including subrecipients), the Title VI Program must be approved by the recipient's board of directors or appropriate governing entity or official(s) responsible for policy decision prior to submission to FTA. Subrecipients shall submit Title VI Programs to the primary recipient from whom they receive funding in order to assist the primary recipient in its compliance efforts.

The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners will approve this Title VI Program by resolution. Documentation of such approval will be submitted with the agency's Title VI Program. The effective date of the Program will be the date of the resolution.

LCPRT will submit its Title VI Program to the Nebraska Department of Transportation for review and approval.

4. Requirement to Notify Beneficiaries of Protection under Title VI

Title 49 CFR Section 21.9(d) requires recipients to provide information to the public regarding the recipient's obligations under DOT's Title VI regulations and appraise members of the public of the protections against discrimination afforded to them by Title VI. At a minimum, recipients shall disseminate this information to the public by posting a Title VI notice on the agency's website and in public areas of the agency's office(s), including the reception desk, meeting rooms, etc. Recipients should also post Title VI notices at stations or stops, and/or on transit vehicles.

A copy of LCPRT's Title VI Notice to the Public is displayed below. The notice is also displayed in English and Spanish within the agency's service vehicles and in a public location at the agency's main office in Lincoln, Nebraska. The notice is also available in English on the agency website at <https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/Aging-Partners/Living-at-Home/Transportation-Options>

Title VI Notice to the Public

Lancaster County Public Rural Transit

Lancaster County Public Rural Transit operates its programs and services without regard to race, color, or national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by an unlawful discriminatory practice under Title VI may file a complaint of discrimination by completing and submitting the agency's Title VI Discrimination Complaint Form. This form can be downloaded on the agency website at <https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/Aging-Partners/Living-at-Home/Transportation-Options>; additionally, the form can be requested by contacting the agency at the address provided below. A telephone interpreter can be provided to assist persons of limited English proficiency.

To request more information on the agency's Title VI obligations, or to obtain a detailed description of the agency's Title VI discrimination complaint procedures, please visit the agency website or contact the agency using the information provided. Title VI Discrimination Complaint Forms and additional information can also be obtained through the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) website at www.dot.nebraska.gov, or by contacting NDOT using the information provided below. A telephone interpreter can be provided to assist persons of limited English proficiency.

Lancaster County Public Rural Transit

Attn: Mitch Sump, Transit Manager
600 South 70th St. Building #2
Lincoln, NE 68510
(402) 441-8815
msump@lincoln.ne.gov

**Nebraska Department of
Transportation**

Attn: Title VI Transit Manager
1400 Hwy 2
Lincoln, NE 68502
(402)-479-4694
kari.ruse@nebraska.gov

**Federal Transit Administration
Office of Civil Rights**

Attn: Title VI Program Coordinator
East Building, 5th Floor-TCR
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Lancaster County Public Rural Transit opera sus programas y servicios sin tomar en cuenta raza, color, u origen nacional de conformidad con el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles. Cualquier persona que cree que ha sido agraviada por cualquier práctica discriminatoria ilegal bajo el Título VI puede presentar una queja de discriminación por completar y enviar el Formulario de Queja de Discriminación de Título VI de la agencia. Este formulario se puede descargar en el sitio de web de la agencia en <https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/Aging-Partners/Living-at-Home/Transportation-Options>. adicionalmente, se puede solicitar el formulario poniéndose en contacto con la agencia a la dirección proporcionada arriba. Un interprete telefónico está disponible para asistir personas de dominio de Inglés limitado.

Para solicitar mas información sobre las obligaciones de Título VI de la agencia, o para obtener una descripción detallada del procedimiento de Quejas de Discriminación del Título VI, favor de visitar la pagina de la agencia o contactar la agencia a la dirección proporcionada arriba. También se puede obtener los Formularios de Quejas de Discriminación del Título VI y información adicional en el sitio de web del Departamento de Transporte de Nebraska (NDOT) en www.dot.nebraska.gov o poniéndose en contacto con NDOT a la dirección proporcionada arriba. Un interprete telefónico está disponible para asistir personas de dominio de Inglés limitado.



Public Transit

NEBRASKA

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

5. Requirement to Develop Title VI Complaint Procedures and Complaint Form

All recipients shall develop procedures for investigating and tracking Title VI complaints filed against them, and shall make their procedures for filing a complaint available to members of the public. Recipients must also develop a Title VI complaint form, and the form and procedure for filing a complaint shall be available on the recipient's website:

LCPRT has adopted the Nebraska Department of Transportation's procedures and forms for investigating and tracking Title VI complaints of discrimination. Discrimination Complaint Forms (pictured below) are available in English on the agency website at <https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/Aging-Partners/Living-at-Home/Transportation-Options> and are maintained in print form by LCPRT for upon-request distribution; instructions for accessing these forms are provided on the LCPRT's Title VI Notice to the Public.

Copies of LCPRT's Title VI Complaint Procedures and Complaint Form are displayed below. A description of LCPRT's Title VI Complaint Procedures follows the forms.