



TITLE VI CIVIL RIGHTS 1964 PROGRAM

Pursuant to Federal Regulations of U.S. Department of Transportation

Notice to Public

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance (42 U.S.C. Section 2000d). Augusta, Georgia is committed to a policy of non-discrimination in its operations, including the responsibilities of the Augusta Planning and Development Department to facilitate and implement federal regulations relative the Metropolitan Transportation Planning process in the support of the Augusta Regional Transportation Study – MPO to develop the Long Range Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program and other required plans and program; and operations, including the responsibilities of the Augusta Public Transit.

If you believe you have been subjected to discrimination in any Augusta, Georgia service, program or activity receiving federal financial assistance, you may file a Complaint in the Augusta, Georgia Administrator's Office (Title VI Coordinator) at (706) 821-2400; 535 Telfair Street, Suite 910 Augusta, GA 30901; the Augusta Planning and Development Department at (706) 821-1796, 535 Telfair Street, Suite 300 Augusta, GA 30901; or with the Augusta Public Transit Department, 1535 Fenwick Street, Augusta Georgia 30904. Any Complaint or question regarding Augusta, Georgia's Title VI Program will be directed to the Office of the Administrator.

Title VI Statement of Policy: Augusta, Georgia is committed to a policy of non-discrimination in its operations, including its responsibilities under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. As a result, Augusta, Georgia will utilize its best efforts to assure that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program that receives federal funds and its related benefits.

Objectives: Towards this end, it is Augusta, Georgia's objective to:

1. Ensure that the level and quality of services under any program that receives federal funds are provided without regard to race, color, or national origin;
2. Identify and address, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, of programs and activities on minority populations and low-income populations;
3. Promote the full and fair participation of all affected populations in transportation planning and program decision making;
4. Prevent the denial, reduction, or delay in benefits related to programs and activities that benefit Environmental Justice populations including but not limited to minority populations and low-income populations;
5. Ensure meaningful access to programs and activities by persons with limited English proficiency.

Responsibility: All Directors, managers, supervisors, and employees share in the responsibility of making Augusta, Georgia's Title VI Program a success. Augusta, Georgia will ensure that third party contractors and/or sub-recipients receiving federal funds shall adhere to and implement this policy to the fullest extent possible.



Any complaints or questions regarding Augusta, Georgia's Title VI Program should be directed to the Augusta, Georgia Administrator's Office at (706) 821-2400; 535 Telfair Street, Suite 910 Augusta, Georgia 30901.

Title VI Notification Procedures: Augusta, Georgia, as a condition for receiving financial assistance from the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), ensures that:

1. Augusta, Georgia will compile, maintain, and timely submit Title VI information required by the FTA and FHWA, copies of which will be available to the general public.
2. Augusta, Georgia makes it known to the public that any person or persons alleging discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin as regards the provision of transportation services and transit-related benefits may file a Complaint in the Office of the Administrator of Augusta, Georgia, with the Augusta Planning and Development Department, the Augusta Public Transit Department, or the Federal Transit Administration – Region IV. Any complaint or questions regarding Augusta's Title VI Program will be directed to the Office of the Administrator of Augusta, Georgia.
3. Informal Compliant - Any member of the general public who feels that his or her rights under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 have been violated in any manner may first speak informally with the Administrator of Augusta, Georgia or her/his designated representative in order to see if the matter can be resolved informally. The Administrator or her/his designated representative will investigate the complaint and make a determination on its merits. Complaining parties will receive notification of the determination of the Administrator. As pertaining to public transit services and operations of the Augusta Public Transit Department and/or any sub-recipient of federal funds, all complaints whether informal or formal are referred to the Office of Administrator and/or designated representative.
4. Formal Compliant - Any complaining individual who does not feel that his or her concerns have been resolved informally may then file a formal written complaint in the Office of the Administrator, 535 Telfair St., Suite 910 Augusta, GA 30901, phone (706) 821-2400. A Formal Complaint should be submitted no later than thirty (30) days from the date of the last alleged discriminatory act.

With regard to public transit services and operations of the Augusta Public Transit Department and/or any sub-recipient of federal funds, all complaints whether informal or formal are referred to the Office of Administrator of Augusta, Georgia or her/his designated representative.

The Office of the Administrator of Augusta, Georgia (Title VI Coordinator) or his or her designated representative will set a mutually agreed-upon time and place for the review process with the complaining individual or their representatives within thirty (30) working days of filing the complaint. The complainant may submit documents or other information to be included with the record and considered in the review process. The complainant will generally be issued a letter of findings and recommendations from the Office of the Administrators within forty five (45) working days after filing a formal complaint. If additional time is required to investigate the complaint, then all parties will be



notified by the Administrator's Office. Individuals may withdraw their formal grievance and decide to seek mediation or an informal resolution at any point in the compliant process.

Procedures to correct any deficiencies found through the complaint will be initiated within a forty five (45) day period from the issuance of the final findings of the Administrator. If no deficiencies are found to exist as a result of the complaint, a written response will be sent to the complainant within fifteen (15) working days from the completed investigation, detailing the investigation and the results of that investigation. Any complainant not satisfied with the results of the investigation may further appeal his or her complaint to the offices of the Federal Transit Administration, Regional Civil Rights Office, 230 Peachtree St., NW, Suite 800, Atlanta, GA 30303.

5. Augusta, Georgia, through the Augusta Planning and Development (APDD) and Augusta Public Transit Department, will notify the general public of its Title VI responsibilities by posting this statement on the physical office bulletin board, Public Transit terminal, transit terminal office and web sites. The statement will be posted to meet requirements of individuals within the minority populations as well as persons with limited English proficiency.

This notice and complete contents of this program are available at the following locations:

- The Augusta Planning and Development Department
- The Augusta Public Transit Department
- The Augusta Human Resource Department
- Office of Equal Employment Opportunity of Augusta, Georgia
- Augusta Public Transit Department website
- ARTS web site
- Aiken County Website
- Aiken County Planning Department