



## **RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

### **TITLE VI POLICY STATEMENT AND DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

#### **TITLE VI POLICY STATEMENT**

The River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (R2CTPO) values diversity and both welcomes and actively seeks input from all interested parties, regardless of cultural identity, background, or income level. Moreover, the River to Sea TPO does not tolerate discrimination in any of its programs, services, or activities. The River to Sea TPO will not exclude participation in, deny the benefits of, or subject to discrimination against anyone on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, income, or family status. The River to Sea TPO will actively work to ensure the inclusion of everyone in our community so that the River to Sea TPO's programs, services, and activities represent the diversity we enjoy.

The purpose of the River to Sea TPO Title VI program is to establish and implement procedures that comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and other related federal and state statutes and regulations. These procedures have been adopted to conform to Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) regulations, as well as to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) guidelines.

#### **COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

##### **Filing of Title VI Complaints of Discrimination**

Any person who feels that he/she has been subjected to race, color, or national origin discrimination under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, or other forms of discrimination based upon sex, age, disability, religion, family, or income status discrimination under related nondiscrimination laws and regulations, may file a complaint with the River to Sea TPO.

A complaint must be filed within one hundred eighty (180) days after the date of the alleged

discrimination unless the time for filing is extended by the FTA, FHWA, or other federal authorities.

If possible, complaints should be submitted in writing, signed by the complainant or his/her representative(s), and must include the following information:

1. Complainant(s) name, address, and telephone number
2. Basis of the complaint (i.e., race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, family, or income discrimination)
3. Date of the alleged discrimination
4. Statement of the complaint
5. Other agencies (state, local or federal) where the complaint has been filed
6. Explanation of the actions the complainant has taken or proposed to resolve the allegation in the complaint

Allegations of discrimination received via facsimile, mail, or e-mail will be acknowledged and processed within five (5) business days. Allegations received by telephone will be documented in writing and provided to the complainant(s) for review before processing. If the complainant is hearing or speech-impaired, call the Florida Relay Service (FRS) by dialing 711 or 1-800-955-8771 (TTY) or email the Title VI Coordinator for assistance.

Complaints should be submitted to:

River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization  
ATTN: Pamela Blankenship, Title VI Coordinator  
1 Deuce Court, Suite 100  
Daytona Beach, FL 32124  
Phone: 386.226.0422, ext. 20416  
[pblankenship@r2ctpo.org](mailto:pblankenship@r2ctpo.org)

### **Complaint Investigation**

Upon receipt of a signed complaint, the River to Sea TPO Title VI Coordinator will, within five (5) business days, provide the complainant or his/her representative with a written acknowledgment of the complaint.

The Title VI Coordinator will take reasonable steps to resolve the matter and respond to the complaint within thirty (30) business days of receipt. The Title VI Coordinator will notify the complainant in writing of the final decision and/or action recommended to be taken. The River to

Sea TPO's Title VI Coordinator has 'easy access' to the TPO Executive Director and will immediately report allegations of discrimination to the Executive Director.

If the TPO is unable to informally resolve the complaint, the River to Sea Title VI Coordinator will forward the complaint, along with a record of its disposition, to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Title VI Coordinator for further processing.

Should the complainant be unable or unwilling to complain to the River to Sea TPO, or if the complainant is dissatisfied with the River to Sea TPO's handling of a complaint, a written complaint may be submitted directly to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Title VI Coordinator.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Title VI Coordinator can be contacted at:

Jacqueline E. Paramore  
Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Title VI Coordinator  
605 Suwannee Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450  
850-414-4753  
[Jacqueline.Paramore@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Jacqueline.Paramore@dot.state.fl.us)

Complaints may also be submitted directly to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). The DOJ will ensure that the matter is assigned to the correct federal or state authority for processing.

The U.S. Department of Justice may be contacted at:

U.S. Department of Justice  
Civil Rights Division  
Federal Coordination and Compliance Section, NWB  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20530  
Title VI Hotline: 1-888-TITLE-06 (1-888-848-5306) (Voice /TTY)  
<https://www.justice.gov/crt/fcs/TitleVI-Overview>

## **RETALIATION**

Retaliation is prohibited under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related federal and state nondiscrimination authorities. It is the policy of the River to Sea TPO that persons filing a complaint of discrimination should have the right to do so without interference, intimidation, coercion, or fear of reprisal. Anyone who feels he/she has been subjected to retaliation should report such incident to the River to Sea TPO's Title VI Coordinator.

The TPO Title VI Coordinator will maintain a log of all verbal and written complaints received by the TPO. The log will include:

1. Name of Complainant
2. Basis of Complaint (i.e., race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, familial status, income discrimination, or retaliation)
3. Date of verbal or written complaint
4. Explanation of the actions the TPO has taken or proposed to resolve the issue raised in the complaint

### **ADA/504 STATEMENT**

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and related federal and state laws and regulations forbid discrimination against those who have disabilities. Furthermore, these laws require federal aid recipients and other government entities to take affirmative steps to reasonably accommodate the disabled and ensure that their needs are equitably represented in the transportation planning process.

The River to Sea TPO will make every effort to ensure that its facilities, programs, services, and activities are accessible to those with disabilities. The River to Sea TPO will also make every effort to ensure that its advisory committees and public involvement activities include representation of the disabled community and disability service groups.

The River to Sea TPO encourages the public to report any facility, program, service, or activity that appears inaccessible to the disabled. Furthermore, the River to Sea TPO will provide reasonable accommodations to disabled individuals who wish to participate in public involvement events or who require special assistance to access River to Sea TPO facilities, programs, services, or activities. Because providing reasonable accommodation may require outside assistance, organization, or resources, the River to Sea TPO asks that requests be made at least five (5) calendar days prior to the need for accommodations.

The following notice is provided on all meeting agendas and notices:

Individuals covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 in need of accommodations for this public meeting should contact the River to Sea TPO office, 1 Deuce Court, Suite 100, Daytona Beach, Florida 32124; (386) 226-0422, extension 20416, at least five (5) working days prior to the

meeting date.

Questions, concerns, comments, or requests for accommodations should be made to:

River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization  
ATTN: Pamela Blankenship, Title VI Coordinator  
1 Deuce Court, Suite 100  
Daytona Beach, FL 32124  
386.226.0422, ext. 20416  
[pblankenship@r2ctpo.org](mailto:pblankenship@r2ctpo.org)

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

In order to plan for efficient, effective, safe, equitable, and reliable transportation systems, the River to Sea TPO must solicit the input of the public. The TPO expends extensive staff and financial resources in the furtherance of this goal and strongly encourages the participation of the entire community. The TPO offers a number of volunteer roles for those wishing to become more involved in the planning process. The TPO also holds a number of transportation meetings, workshops, and other events designed to gather public input on planning activities. In addition, the TPO attends and participates in other community events to promote its services and improve its name recognition among the public. The TPO is constantly seeking ways of measuring the effectiveness of its public involvement.

For more information on the TPO's public involvement and measures of effectiveness, the public may view the TPO Public Participation Plan (PPP), on the River to Sea TPO's website (<https://www.r2ctpo.org/public-involvement/public-participation-documents/>) and at the TPO office. Persons wishing to request special presentations by the TPO, volunteer for any of its activities, or offer suggestions for the improvement of TPO public involvement activities may contact:

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1 Deuce Court, Suite 100  
Daytona Beach, FL 32124  
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## **DATA COLLECTION**

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) regulations require federal-aid recipients to collect racial,

ethnic, and other similar demographic data on beneficiaries of those affected by TPO programs, services, and activities. The TPO accomplishes this through the use of Census data, American Community Survey reports, Environmental Screening Tools (EST), driver and ridership surveys as well as other methods. From time to time, the TPO may find it necessary to request voluntary identification of certain racial, ethnic, or other data from those who participate in its public involvement events. This information assists the TPO with improving its targeted outreach and measures of effectiveness. Self-identification of personal data to the TPO will always be voluntary and anonymous. Moreover, the TPO will not release or otherwise use this data in any manner inconsistent with federal regulations.

### **ASSURANCES**

Each year, the TPO must certify to FHWA and FDOT that its programs, services, and activities are being conducted in a nondiscriminatory manner. These certifications are termed ‘assurances’ and serve two important purposes. First, they document the TPO’s commitment to nondiscrimination and equitable service to its community. Second, they serve as a legally enforceable agreement by which the TPO may be held liable for the breach. The public may view the annual assurances on the TPO website ([www.r2ctpo.org](http://www.r2ctpo.org)) or by visiting the TPO offices.

### **TITLE VI PROGRAM REVIEW AND TRAINING**

The TPO's Title VI Program will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Title VI Coordinator to ensure compliance with Title VI (policies, regulations, procedures, etc.). Updates to the Title VI Plan will be made as needed. Revisions to the Title VI Plan that include only minor changes and do not affect policy or specific details may be made as an “administrative modification.” An administrative modification does not require public review and comment.

The TPO's Title VI Coordinator will provide comprehensive staff training on Title VI and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) on an annual basis.