

Rides Mass Transit District

TITLE VI PLAN

Approved by RMTD Board of Trustees

Cheryl Milburn
Chairman

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I. Purpose of Plan

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, applies to U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration (FTA) sub-recipients. The purpose of Title VI is to ensure that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, creed 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 from the FTA. Later statutes extended the scope of Title VI to include prohibitions against discrimination on the basis of age, sex, and disability. The program described herein describes Rides Mass Transit District's efforts to comply with the Title VI regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Transportation. The objectives of The Rides Mass Transit Title VI program are to:

- Ensure that the level and quality of transportation service is provided equitably and without regard to race, color, national origin, income, age, sex, or disability;
- Avoid, minimize, or mitigate 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;
- Ensure the full and fair participation of all affected populations in transportation decision making;
- Prevent the denial, reduction, or delay in benefits related to programs and activities that benefit minority populations or low-income populations; and
- Ensure that persons with limited English proficiency have meaningful access to programs and activities that are administered by recipients and sub-recipients.

II. THE RIDES MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT TITLE VI PROGRAM

Rides Mass Transit District (RMTD) has established the following program to comply with the Department of Transportation (DOT) Title VI regulations.

ANNUAL SUBMISSIONS TO ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (IDOT) AND THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA)

RMTD ensures compliance with the requirements of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Title VI Program and FTA requirements. RMTD will submit an annual assurance to verify Title VI compliance as part of the standard assurances it submits to FTA or IDOT with grant applications. RMTD shall also collect Title VI Assurances from sub recipients prior to passing through FTA funds. Currently RMTD has no sub- recipients. Exhibit I on the following page is RMTD's Title VI assurance.

EXHIBIT I: RMTD TITLE VI ASSURANCE:

TITLE VI ASSURANCE TO FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

Rides Mass Transit District hereby agrees that, as a condition to receiving any Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation it will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and all requirements imposed by or pursuant to Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally-Assisted Programs of the Department of Transportation--Effectuation of the Title VI of the

Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other pertinent directives, to the end and that in accordance with the Act, Regulations, and other pertinent directives, 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 otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which RMTD received Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation, including the Federal Transit Administration and, Hereby gives assurance that it will promptly take any measures necessary to effectuate this agreement.

This assurance is required by subsection 21.7(a) of the Regulations.

More specifically and without limiting the above assurances, RMTD gives the assurances as listed in the "Verification of Level and Quality of Service," with respect to the Federal Transit Administration Grant Program.

This assurance is given in consideration of and for the purpose of obtaining any and all Federal grants, loans, contracts, property, discounts or other Federal financial assistance extended after the date hereof to the Recipient by the Department of Transportation under the Federal Transit Administration.

TRIENNIAL SUBMISSIONS TO DOT/IDOT

RMTD will report the information contained in this section to DOT and IDOT on a triennial basis with the first submission parceled as part of the plan. The following report addresses each of the eight primary Title VI considerations and the associated forms, policies, and activities of its Title VI program.

1. Title VI Complaint Procedures

In order to comply with 40 CFR Section 21.9 (b) RMTD has developed procedures for investigating and tracking Title VI complaints. The procedures for filing a complaint will be made available to members of the general public. The following measures will be taken in dealing with Title VI Complaints:

- 1) A formal complaint must be filed within 180 days of the alleged occurrence. Complaints shall be in writing and signed by the individual or his/her representative, and will include the Complainant's name, address, and telephone number; name of alleged discriminating official, basis of complaint (race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age), and the date of alleged act(s). A statement detailing the facts and circumstances of the alleged discrimination must accompany all complaints. Exhibit II provides RMTD's Title VI complaint form.
- 2) In the case where a Complainant is unable or incapable of providing a written statement, a verbal complaint of discrimination may be made to RMTD's Title VI Coordinator. Under these circumstances, the complainant will be interviewed, and the Coordinator will assist the Complainant in converting the verbal allegation into writing.
- 3) RMTD will investigate complaints filed against contractors, consultants, or other sub-recipients. Complaints filed directly against RMTD shall be forwarded to the IDOT Title VI Coordinator for investigation.
- 4) When a complete complaint is received, the Title VI Coordinator will provide written acknowledgement to the Complainant within five (5) days by registered mail. At the same time, the complaint will be forwarded to the State of Illinois for investigation.
- 5) If a complaint is deemed incomplete, additional information will be requested from the Complainant within 15 business days from receipt of the original complaint. The Complainant will be provided 60 business days to submit the required information. Failure to do so may be considered good cause for a determination of no investigative merit.

- 6) Within 15 business days from receipt of a complete complaint, RMTD will determine its jurisdiction in pursuing the matter and whether the complaint has sufficient merit to warrant investigation. Within five (5) days of this decision, the Complainant and Respondent will receive notification of the disposition by registered mail.
 - a. If the decision is not to investigate the complaint, the notification shall specifically state the reason for the decision.
 - b. If the decision is to be investigated, the notification shall inform the parties that their full cooperation will be required in gathering additional information and assisting the investigator.
- 7) When RMTD does not have sufficient jurisdiction, the complaint will be referred to IDOT for further investigation.
- 8) If the complaint has investigative merit, an investigator will be assigned. A complete investigation will be conducted, and an investigative report will be submitted within 45 days from the receipt of the complaint. The report will include a narrative description of the incident, summaries of all persons interviewed, and a finding with recommendations.
- 9) A letter of finding will be issued to the Complainant and Respondent. Where appropriate, these letters will include conciliatory measures. A copy of the investigative report shall be forwarded to IDOT within 60 days from recipient of the complaint. If the investigation is delayed for any reason, the investigator will notify the appropriate authorities, and an extension will be requested.
- 10) If the Complainant is dissatisfied with RMTD's resolution of the complaint, he/she has the right to file the complaint with the IDOT Title VI Coordinator directly.

2. Title VI Investigations, Complaint, and Lawsuit Record Keeping Procedures

In order to comply with 49 CFR Section 21.9 (b) RMTD has prepared and maintains a list of active investigations, lawsuits, or complaints naming RMTD that allege discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin. The list includes:

- The date the investigation, lawsuit, or complaint was filed;
- A summary of the allegation;
- The status of the investigation; and
- Actions taken in response to the investigation, lawsuit, or complaint.

