



TITLE VI

POLICY, PROCEDURES, AND PLAN

Adopted: November 16, 2023

Continuing · Comprehensive · Cooperative · Transportation Planning

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Title VI Policy Statement and Notice of Non-discrimination

It is the policy of the New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (NBAMPO), as a federal-aid recipient, to ensure that no person shall, on the ground of **race, color, national origin, Limited English Proficiency, sex, age, or disability, (and low-income, where applicable)**, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any of our programs and activities, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Orders 12898 and 13166, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, and other pertinent nondiscrimination authorities.

If you feel you have been subjected to discrimination, you may file a complaint. Allegations of discrimination should be promptly reported to our Title VI Coordinator.

New Bern Area MPO
Deanna Trebil, Title VI Coordinator
303 First Street
New Bern, NC 28560
Phone: 252-639-7592
Email: trebil.deanna@newbernnc.gov

This policy is an expression of our commitment to nondiscrimination and support of the Title VI Program.



John Kirkland, TAC Chairman
11/16/23

Date

Implementation (Dissemination)

- This Policy Statement contains contact information for the Title Coordinator, and it will also serve as our notice to public.
- This statement will be signed by Chairman of the New Bern Area MPO, and re-signed whenever a new person assumes that position.
- The signed statement will be posted on office bulletin boards, near the receptionist's desk, in meeting rooms, and disseminated within brochures and other written materials.
- The statement will be incorporated into Title VI training and acknowledgement activities.
- The statement will be posted or disseminated in languages other than English, when appropriate.
- Low-income will be applicable to our programs, policies and activities under Environmental Justice when determining if there will be disproportionately high and adverse effects.

Standard USDOT Title VI Assurances

The New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (herein referred to as the "Recipient"), HEREBY AGREES THAT, as a condition to receiving any Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), through Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is subject to and will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq., 78 stat. 252), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin); 49 C.F.R. Part 21 (entitled Nondiscrimination In Federally-Assisted Programs Of The Department Of Transportation-Effectuation Of Title VI Of The Civil Rights Act Of 1964); 28 C.F.R. section 50.3 (U.S. Department of Justice Guidelines for Enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964). The preceding statutory and regulatory cites hereinafter are referred to as the "Acts" and "Regulations," respectively. Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (hereinafter referred to as the Regulations) and other pertinent directives, to the end that in accordance with the Act, Regulations, and other pertinent directives, no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, age, national origin or disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which the Recipient receives Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation, including the Federal Highway 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) (1) of the Regulations.

More specifically, and without limiting the above general Assurance, the Recipient agrees with and gives the following Assurances with respect to its Federally assisted Federal-Aid Highway Program:

1. The Recipient agrees that each "activity," "facility," or "program," as defined in §§ 21.23(b) and 21.23(e) of 49 C.F.R. § 21 will be (with regard to an "activity") facilitated, or will be (with regard to a "facility") operated, or will be (with regard to a "program") conducted in compliance with all requirements imposed by, or pursuant to the Acts and the Regulations.
2. The Recipient will insert the following notification in all solicitations for bids, Requests For Proposals for work, or material subject to the Acts and the Regulations made in connection with all Federal-Aid Highway Program and, in adapted form, in all proposals for negotiated agreements regardless of funding source:
"The New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 US.C. §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award."
3. The Recipient will insert the clauses of Appendix A and E of this Assurance in every contract or agreement subject to the Acts and the Regulations.
4. The Recipient will insert the clauses of Appendix B of this Assurance, as a covenant running with the land, in any deed from the United States effecting or recording a transfer of real property, structures, use, or improvements thereon or interest therein to a Recipient.
5. That where the Recipient receives Federal financial assistance to construct a facility, or part of a facility, the Assurance will extend to the entire facility and facilities operated in connection therewith.

6. That where the Recipient receives Federal financial assistance in the form, or for the acquisition of real property or an interest in real property, the Assurance will extend to rights to space on, over, or under such property.
7. That the Recipient will include the clauses set forth in *Appendix C* and *Appendix D* of this Assurance, as a covenant running with the land, in any future deeds, leases, licenses, permits, or similar instruments entered into by the Recipient with other parties: (a) for the subsequent transfer of real property acquired or improved under the applicable activity, project, or program; and (b) for the construction or use of, or access to, space on, over, or under real property acquired or improved under the applicable activity, project, or program.
8. That this Assurance obligates the Recipient for the period during which Federal financial assistance is extended to the program, except where the Federal financial assistance is to provide, or is in the form of, personal property, or real property, or interest therein, or structures or improvements thereon, in which case the Assurance obligates the Recipient, or any transferee for the longer of the following periods: (a) the period during which the property is used for a purpose for which the Federal financial assistance is extended, or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits; or (b) the period during which the Recipient retains ownership or possession of the property.
9. The Recipient will provide for such methods of administration for the program as are found by the Secretary of Transportation or the official to whom he/she delegates specific authority to give reasonable guarantee that it, other recipients, sub-recipients, sub-grantees, contractors, subcontractors, consultants, transferees, successors in interest, and other participants of Federal financial assistance under such program will comply with all requirements imposed or pursuant to the Acts, the Regulations, and this Assurance.
10. The Recipient agrees that the United States has a right to seek judicial enforcement with regard to any matter arising under the Acts, the Regulations, and this Assurance.

This ASSURANCE is given in consideration of and for obtaining any Federal grants, loans, contracts, agreements, property, and/or discounts, or other Federal-aid and Federal financial assistance extended after the date hereof to the recipients by the U.S. Department of Transportation under the Federal-Aid Highway Program. This ASSURANCE is binding on the State of North Carolina, other recipients, sub-recipients, sub-grantees, contractors, subcontractors and their subcontractors', transferees, successors in interest, and any other participants in the Federal-Aid Highway Program. The person(s) signing below is authorized to sign this ASSURANCE on behalf of the Recipient.

John Kirkland
Chairman, Transportation Advisory Committee


Signature and Date 11/16/23

Please refer to Appendix A of this Plan for a copy of our completed, signed NCDOT Title VI Assurances.

Organization & Staffing

A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is the policy board of an organization created and designated to carry out the metropolitan transportation planning process. MPOs are required to represent localities in all urbanized areas (UZAs) with populations over 50,000, as determined by the U.S. Census. MPOs are designated by agreement between the governor and local governments that together represent at least 75 percent of the affected population (including the largest incorporated city, based on population) or in accordance with procedures established by applicable state or local law. When submitting a transportation improvement program to the state for inclusion in the statewide program, MPOs self-certify that they have met all federal requirements.

An urbanized area with a population over 200,000, as defined by the Bureau of the Census and designated by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), is called a Transportation Management Area (TMA). As described in 49 U.S.C. 5303(k), and in recognition of the greater complexity of transportation issues in large urban areas, an MPO in a TMA has a stronger voice in setting priorities for implementing projects listed in the transportation improvement program and are responsible for additional planning products. The planning processes in MPOs in TMAs also must be certified by the Secretary of DOT as being in compliance with federal requirements.

The New Bern Area MPO was established in 2013. Our Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) has 6 members and typically meets six times a year (every other month). Our Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) has 13 members and meets six times a year (every other month). Please refer to **Appendix B** for lists of current TAC and TCC members with race, gender, and affiliation included.

Title VI Coordinator

Key responsibilities of the Coordinator include:

- Maintaining knowledge of Title VI and related requirements.
- Attending civil rights training when offered by NCDOT, FHWA or other federal agencies.
- Administering the Title VI Nondiscrimination Program and coordinating implementation of this Plan.
- Making sure internal staff and officials are familiar and complying with their Title VI obligations.
- Disseminating Title VI information internally and to the public, including in languages other than English.
- Presenting Title VI-related information to decision-making bodies for input and approval.
- Ensuring Title VI-related posters are prominently and publicly displayed.
- Developing a process to collect data related to race, national origin, sex, age, and disability to ensure minority, low-income, and other underserved groups are included and not discriminated against.
- Ensuring that non-elected boards and committees reflect the service area and minorities are represented.
- Promptly processing (receiving, logging, investigating and/or forwarding) discrimination complaints.
- Providing information to NCDOT and cooperating during compliance reviews and investigations.

- Promptly resolving deficiencies to ensure compliance with Title VI nondiscrimination requirements.

If the TAC Chairman or Title VI Coordinator changes, the Title VI Policy Statement and USDOT Title VI Assurances, will immediately be updated, and an updated policy statement (and nondiscrimination agreement, if standalone) will be signed by the new TAC Chairman.

Staffing

We currently employ a staff of two, which consists of the following job categories:

- MPO Administrator
- MPO Planner

An organizational chart showing the Title VI Coordinator’s place within the organization is located in [Appendix C](#).

Environmental Justice (EJ)

In 1994, President William Jefferson Clinton issued Executive Order (EO) 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice (EJ) in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations. To comply with the EO, federal agencies developed EJ guidelines for their funding recipients, including Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Order 6640.23A. Accordingly, the New Bern Area MPO will make achieving EJ part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations.

EJ is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. The three fundamental EJ principles that guide USDOT (affiliated) actions are:

- To avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including interrelated social and economic effects, on minority and low-income populations.
- To ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process.
- To prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority and low-income populations.

To achieve EJ, our programs will be administered so as to identify and avoid disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority populations and low-income populations by:

- (1) Identifying and evaluating environmental, public health, and interrelated social and economic effects of our programs, policies and activities;
- (2) Proposing measures to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse environmental and public health effects, and interrelated social and economic effects, and providing offsetting benefits and opportunities to enhance communities, neighborhoods, and individuals affected by our programs, policies and activities, where permitted by law;

- (3) Considering alternatives to proposed programs, policies, and activities, where such alternatives would result in avoiding and/or minimizing disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental impacts to minority and/or low-income populations; and
- (4) Eliciting public involvement opportunities and considering the results thereof, including soliciting input from affected minority and low-income populations in considering alternatives.
- (5) Adding an EJ section to plans and studies, such as Long-Range Plans, Public Involvement Plans, and Corridor Studies.

EJ analyses will be conducted to determine if our programs, policies, or activities will result in disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations. EJ applies to our policies, such as where public meetings will be held, and our projects, such as when we plan to construct or expand a facility. Thus, we will look at various alternatives and seek input from potentially affected communities before making a final decision. Demographic data will be collected to document public involvement in the decision-making process. EJ analyses will remain on file indefinitely, and copies will be provided to NCDOT, upon request, during compliance reviews or complaint investigations. (See [Appendix D](#) – Tables for Race/Ethnicity and Poverty)

Data Collection/Analysis/Reporting

Data collection, analysis and reporting are key elements of a successful Title VI enforcement strategy. To ensure that Title VI reporting requirements are met, New Bern Area MPO will collect and maintain data on potential and actual beneficiaries of our programs and services. This section contains relevant population data for our overall service area. The data provides context for the Title VI Nondiscrimination Program and will be used to ensure nondiscrimination in public outreach and delivery of our programs. Please refer to [Appendix D](#) for demographic tables on Race & Ethnicity, Age & Sex, Disability, Poverty, and Household Income.

Population Locations

Recipients of FHWA funds are required to identify the characteristics and locations of populations they serve, particularly by race/ethnicity, poverty and limited English proficiency. We will document this narratively or through maps that overlay boundaries and demographic features on specific communities, and provide this information to NCDOT, upon request. (See [Appendix E](#) – Demographic Maps)

Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

Limited English Proficient (LEP) persons are individuals for whom English is not their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English. These individuals reported to the U.S. Census Bureau that they speak English less than very well.

To comply with USDOT's LEP Policy Guidance and Executive Order 13166, this section of our Title VI Plan outlines the steps New Bern Area MPO will take to ensure meaningful access by LEP persons to all benefits, services and information provided under our programs and activities. A four factor analysis was conducted to determine the LEP language groups present in our planning area and the specific language services that are needed.

Four Factor Analysis

This Four Factor Analysis is an individualized assessment that balances the following four factors:

- (1) The number or proportion of LEP persons eligible to be served or likely to be encountered by a program, activity, or service of the recipient or grantee;
- (2) The frequency with which LEP individuals come in contact with the program;
- (3) The nature and importance of the program, activity, or service provided by the recipient to people's lives; and
- (4) The resources available to the recipient and costs.

Factor #1: *The number or proportion of LEP persons eligible to be served or likely to be encountered by the program, activity, or service of the recipient.*

The following table was compiled using data from "B16001 Language Spoken at Home by Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over" from the 2015: ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables filtered using "New Bern city, North Carolina".

[B16001 - Census Bureau Tables](#)

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-	Percent of Population	Margin of Error
Total (population 5 years and over):	28,055	254	100%	(X)
Speak only English	24,630	628	87.79%	2.55%
Spanish or Spanish Creole:	1,554	472	5.54%	30.37%
Speak English "very well"	914	282	58.82%	30.85%
Speak English less than "very well"	640	333	41.18%	52.03%
Other Asian language:	1,057	308	3.77%	29.14%
Speak English "very well"	148	119	14.00%	80.41%
Speak English less than "very well"	911	286	86.19%	31.39%

The data shows there is a high population of Spanish and Other Asian Languages in our community. However, the City of New Bern is known to have a large community of Burmese refugees that speak a language known as Karen or Karenic (in Myanmar/Burma this language is spoken by about 5% of the population). As shown in Appendix E -Demographic Maps (EJ), it shows geographically where these individuals reside within the MPO planning area boundary.

Factor #2: *The frequency with which LEP individuals come in contact with the program.*

NBAMPO staff frequently attend meetings both in the office and outside the office in various locations around the region. Additionally, NBAMPO hosts open houses, public meetings and committee meetings regarding a range of transportation projects and planning documents. It is possible that people with limited English proficiency (LEP) may attend some of these meetings.

As a public entity, there are multiple opportunities for LEP individuals to interact with our organization through our website, public engagement surveys, public involvement meetings, and our bi-monthly meetings of the Transportation Advisory Committee and the Transportation

Technical Committee. NBAMPO provides up to date planning and project information on the website (www.nbampo.org), as well as, current surveys, public notices, and public comment periods.

Factor #3: *The nature and importance of the program, activity, or service provided by the recipient to people's lives.*

The New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is an organization that is funded through federal, state, and local funds to conduct transportation planning in a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive manner. The responsibilities of the NBAMPO are to establish the mission, goals, and objectives for the transportation planning process of the region; review and approve the Prospectus and Unified Planning Work Program; develop and approve the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Comprehensive Transportation Plan; partner with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and our members to prioritize projects and to develop and approve the State/Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Programs; develop, approve and implement a Public Participation Policy; ensure citizen input into the continuing transportation planning process; self-certify the long-range planning process; coordinate the operations of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC); coordinate planning activities with NCDOT and ensure compliance with federal requirements; adopt the Federal Functional Classification; assist with development review; coordinate Transportation Impact Analysis review; conduct long range planning; and conduct any other duties identified as necessary to further facilitate the transportation planning process.

The areas in which the MPO would most often come into contact with LEP populations are when developing the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Comprehensive Transportation Plan; developing and implementing the Public Involvement Plan; ensuring citizen input into the coordinating transportation planning process; and conducting long-range planning.

Factor #4: *The resources available to the recipient and costs.*

NBAMPO understands the importance of providing access to LEP individuals during the planning process and at public meetings. NBAMPO strives to provide opportunities for LEP individuals as much as possible through no or low-cost resources. This includes utilizing translation tools on the NBAMPO's website so that individuals of many languages can read it and translation software to translate public notices and smaller plans and documents into Spanish. Costs for these resources is limited to the time and additional printing costs. If additional resources are required, such as in-person translation or translation of larger documents, NBAMPO will reach out to local resources such as the Community College or Community-based organizations for assistance to determine the most cost-effective way to provide these services.

Language Assistance Plan

As a result of the above four factor analysis, a Language Assistance Plan (Plan) was required. This Plan represents our commitment to ensuring nondiscrimination and meaningful access by persons who are Limited English Proficient (LEP). This Plan also details the mechanisms we will use to reach LEP persons and the language assistance services we provide. We will provide services to any person, upon request. If an individual is LEP, we will work with the individual to ensure they receive the needed transportation service. Our employees will be routinely oriented on the principles and practices of Title VI and LEP to ensure fairness in the administration of this Plan.

Language Assistance Measures

The following general language assistance measures are reasonable and achievable for our organization at this time:

- Translating public notices posted in the local paper and at stations, stops, and in vehicles into any languages that meet the safe harbor threshold in Factor 1.
- Vital documents—such as brochures with service times and routes—are translated into Spanish across the entire service area, and available in our facilities, doctor's offices and shopping centers and if needed it will be translated into Asian, Pacific Island and/or Karenic.
- Making a concerted effort to inform LEP persons of available language assistance via staff, broadcast media, relationship-building with organizations, and our website.
- Posting vital bulletin board information and disseminating community surveys in various languages.
- Providing translation and interpretive services when appropriate (upon request or predetermined) at meetings.
- Determining how best to take public involvement to LEP groups directly, including through small group meetings.
- Where possible, utilizing or hiring staff who speak a language other than English and can provide competent language assistance.
 - Note: We will not ask community-based organizations (CBO) to provide, or serve as, interpreters at our meetings. Relying upon CBOs in that capacity could raise ethical concerns. If a CBO decides (on its own) to translate any materials for its constituents, or bring interpreters it trusts to our meetings, we will not object. That is their right.
- Using language identification flashcards to determine appropriate services.
- Establishing a process to obtain feedback on our language assistance measures.

Specific Measures by Language Group

As noted above, Spanish speaking, Asian or Pacific Islanders are two language groups that met the safe harbor thresholds. Additionally, there is a large population of Burmese refugees that speak a language known as Karen or Karenic.

Written Translation and Oral Interpretation

Vital documents will be translated for each eligible LEP language group in our service area that constitutes 5% or 1,000, whichever is less, of the population of persons eligible to be served or likely to be encountered. Translated materials will be placed online and in appropriate public (or private) places accessible to LEP persons. The safe harbor provisions apply to the translation of written documents only, and do not affect the requirement to provide meaningful access to LEP

individuals through competent oral interpreters where oral language services are needed and are reasonable. When appropriate, translation of any document will be communicated orally in the appropriate language.

In the event that the 5% trigger is reached for a LEP language group that is fewer than 50 persons, written notice will be provided in the primary language of that group of the right to receive competent oral interpretation of vital written materials, free of cost. The most effective method of notice, which could be an ad in the local newspaper or other publication, a radio commercial, or door hangers, will be determined in consideration of the circumstances on the ground and in coordination with LEP community contacts.

Staff Support for Language Assistance

- Our staff (including receptionists) will be provided a list of referral resources that can assist LEP persons with written translation and oral interpretation, including the Title VI Coordinator and consultants contracted to provide LEP services. This list will be updated as needed to remain current.
- All main offices will have available language assistance flashcards and materials translated into the languages that meet the safe harbor threshold. When encountering an LEP person, staff should present the individual with an iSpeak flashcard and let them choose the language. Do not assume their preferred language. Assistance may be sought from bilingual staff fluent in the identified language before contacting a referral resource. Document the encounter and report it to the Title VI Coordinator.
- Training: All employees will be instructed on our procedures for providing timely and reasonable assistance to LEP persons. New employee orientation will also explain these procedures to new hires. Staff routinely encountering LEP persons by telephone or in person will receive annual refresher training. All other employees will be reminded of LEP through annual Title VI program acknowledgements and basic Title VI trainings.

Project-Specific LEP Outreach

A project-specific four factor analysis will be conducted for any project or outreach event limited to a specific geographical area (i.e., the project study area or outreach area, respectively). Language assistance will be provided in accordance with the measures already outlined, including translating written materials for each LEP language group that is 5% or 1,000, whichever is less, of the project or outreach area population.

Monitoring and Updating the Language Assistance Plan

Monitoring of daily interactions with LEP persons will be continuous, thus language assistance techniques may be refined at any time. This Plan will be periodically reviewed—at least annually—to determine if our assistance measures and staff training are working. Resource availability and feedback from agency staff and the general public will be factors in the evaluation and any proposed updates. Among other practices, this process will include working with LEP community contacts to determine if our employees are responding appropriately to requests made with limited English or in languages other than English, and observing how agency staff responds to requests, including observing drivers or surveying riders. To the best of our ability, we will attempt to never eliminate a successful existing LEP service. Significant LEP program revisions will be approved or adopted by our board or designated official and dated accordingly. LEP data and procedures will be reviewed and updated at least once every three years.

Dissemination of Title VI Information

In accordance with 23 CFR 200.9(b)(12) and 49 CFR 21.9(d), New Bern Area MPO will utilize community outreach and public education to disseminate Title VI information to our employees, contractors, sub-recipients and the general public. Reasonable steps will be taken to make the public aware of their rights and our obligations under Title VI through, including, but not limited to:

- Visibly posting our Title VI Policy Statement in public areas at our facilities, on our website, at our meetings, and prominently in any documents and reports we distribute;
- Placing notices in newspapers and publications with a large circulation among minority groups in the general vicinity of projects and activities. Ads in newspapers and other publications shall include the following:

“New Bern Area MPO operates without regard to **race, color, national origin, limited English proficiency, sex, age or disability**. For more information on our Title VI program, or how to file a discrimination complaint, please contact Deanna Trebil by phone (252-639-7592) or email (trebil.deanna@newbernnc.gov).”
- Translating information into languages other than English that meet the LEP safe harbor threshold;
- Incorporating Title VI language into our contracts and agreements (See [Appendix C](#) for Title VI Contract Language); and
- Ensuring any contractors and sub-recipients we have also disseminate Title VI information.

Please refer to our Public Involvement Plan (PIP) for additional outreach methods we employ to comply Title VI. Our PIP can be found here: www.nbampo.org

External Discrimination Complaint Procedure

These discrimination complaint procedures outline the process used by New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (NBAMPO) to process complaints of alleged discrimination filed under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related nondiscrimination laws that are applicable to New Bern Area MPO programs, services, and activities. Complaints will be investigated by the appropriate authority. Upon completion of an investigation, the complainant will be informed of all avenues of appeal. Every effort will be made to obtain early resolution of complaints at the lowest level possible by informal means.

FILING OF COMPLAINTS

- 1. Applicability** – These procedures apply to the beneficiaries of our programs, activities, and services, such as the members of the public and any consultants/contractors we hire.
- 2. Eligibility** – Any person or class of persons who believes that he/she has been subjected to discrimination or retaliation prohibited by any of the Civil Rights authorities based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability, may file a written complaint. The law prohibits intimidation or retaliation of any sort. The complaint may be filed by the affected individual or a representative, and must be in writing.
- 3. Time Limits and Filing Options** – A complaint must be filed no later than 180 calendar days after the following:
 - The date of the alleged act of discrimination; or
 - The date when the person(s) became aware of the alleged discrimination; or

- Where there has been a continuing course of conduct, the date on which that conduct was discontinued or the latest instance of the conduct.

Complaints may be submitted to the following entities:

- **New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Organization**, Deanna Trebil, MPO Administrator and Title VI Coordinator, 303 First Street, New Bern, NC 28560; 252-639-7592
- **North Carolina Department of Transportation**, Office of Civil Rights, External Civil Rights Section, 1511 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1511; 919-508-1830 or toll free 800-522-0453
- **Federal Highway Administration**, North Carolina Division Office, 310 New Bern Avenue, Suite 410, Raleigh, NC 27601, 919-747-7010
- **US Department of Transportation**, Departmental Office of Civil Rights, External Civil Rights Programs Division, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590; 202-366-4070
- **US Department of Justice**, Special Litigation Section, Civil Rights Division, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530, 202-514-6255 or toll free 877-218-5228

4. Format for Complaints – Complaints shall be in **writing** and **signed** by the complainant(s) or a representative and include the complainant’s name, address, and telephone number. Complaints received by fax or e-mail will be acknowledged and processed. Allegations received by telephone or in person will be reduced to writing, may be recorded and will be provided to the complainant for confirmation or revision before processing. Complaints will be accepted in other languages, including Braille.

5. Complaint Basis – Allegations must be based on issues involving race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. The term “basis” refers to the complainant’s membership in a protected group category.

Protected Categories	Definition	Examples	Applicable Statutes and Regulations
Race	An individual belonging to one of the accepted racial groups; or the perception, based usually on physical characteristics that a person is a member of a racial group	Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian, American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, White	Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; 49 CFR Part 21; 23 CFR 200. <i>(Executive Order 13166)</i>
Color	Color of skin, including shade of skin within a racial group	Black, White, brown, yellow, etc.	
National Origin <i>(LEP)</i>	Place of birth. Citizenship is not a factor. Discrimination based on language or a person’s accent is also covered.	Mexican, Cuban, Japanese, Vietnamese, Chinese	
Sex	Gender	Women and Men	1973 Federal-Aid Highway Act; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.
Age	Persons of any age	21 year old person	Age Discrimination Act of 1975
Disability	Physical or mental impairment, permanent or temporary, or perceived.	Blind, alcoholic, paraplegic, epileptic, diabetic, arthritic	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

Complaint Processing

1. When a complaint is received, an Acknowledgment Letter and a Complainant Consent/Release Form will be mailed to the complainant within ten (10) business days by registered mail.
2. We will consult with the NCDOT Title VI Program to determine the acceptability and jurisdiction of all complaints received. (Note: If NCDOT will investigate, the Title VI Program will be responsible for the remainder of this process. We will record the transfer of responsibility in our complaints log).
3. Additional information will be requested if the complaint is incomplete. The complainant will be provided 15 business days to submit any requested information and the signed Consent Release form. Failure to do so may be considered good cause for a determination of no investigative merit.
4. Upon receipt of the requested information and determination of jurisdiction, we will notify the complainant and respondent of whether the complaint has sufficient merit to warrant investigation.
5. If the complaint is investigated, the notification shall state the grounds of our jurisdiction, while informing the parties that their full cooperation will be required in gathering additional information and assisting the investigator.
6. If the complaint does not warrant investigation, the notification to the complainant shall specifically state the reason for the decision.

Complaint Log

1. When a complaint is received, the complaint will be entered into the Discrimination Complaints Log with other pertinent information, and assigned a **Case Number**. (Note: All complaints must be logged).
2. The complaints log will be submitted to the NCDOT's Civil Rights office during Title VI compliance reviews. (Note: NCDOT may also request the complaints log during pre-grant approval processes).
3. When reporting **no complaints**, check the **No Complaints or Lawsuits** box and sign the log.

Please refer to [Appendix F](#) for a copy of our Discrimination Complaint Form, Complaints Log, and Sample Investigation Template.

Review of Organizational Directives

It is the responsibility of every official who develops policies, procedures, manuals, guidelines, and other directives to ensure they have been reviewed for Title VI compliance. All staff members will assist in carrying out this requirement by making sure drafts of these documents are submitted to the Title VI Coordinator to ensure Title VI requirements are included.

Title VI Training

All employees will receive basic Title VI training at least once every three years. New hires will receive this training within 15 days of their start date. Basic training will cover all sections of this Plan and our overall Title VI obligations. Staff may receive specialized training on how Title VI applies to their specific work areas. Those who routinely encounter the public, such as office personnel, call center staff, and vehicle drivers, will receive annual refresher training. Trainings

will be provided or organized by the Title VI Coordinator and will often coincide with updates to our nondiscrimination policies and procedures. Records of staff trainings, such as agendas, sign-in sheets, copies of calendars, and certificates, will remain on file for at least three years (and in personnel files).

Compliance and Enforcement Procedures

FHWA recipients must have mechanisms in place to enforce compliance with Title VI. New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Area (NBAMPO) utilizes internal training, meetings, monitoring contractors, technical assistance, and findings from periodic NCDOT reviews to identify deficiencies and potential discrimination. If NCDOT identifies deficiencies, New Bern Area MPO will correct all deficiencies within 90 days based on a Corrective Action Plan (CAP). If attempts by NCDOT to resolve a compliance issue are unsuccessful, NCDOT may take any or all of the following steps with FHWA's concurrence:

- a. Canceling, terminating, or suspending the contract or agreement in whole or in part;
- b. Refraining from extending any further assistance to the recipient under the program with respect to which the failure or refusal occurred until satisfactory assurance of future compliance has been received from the recipient.
- c. Taking such other action that may be deemed appropriate under the circumstances, until compliance or remedial action has been accomplished by the recipient.
- d. Referring the case to the FHWA for appropriate administrative or legal proceedings.
- e. Other means authorized by law.

To ensure compliance with Title VI, New Bern Area MPO will take proactive steps to prevent discrimination in our programs and activities, including the following:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct periodic Title VI training; | <input type="checkbox"/> Customize public outreach according to the situation or community at hand; |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Address Title VI issues at staff meetings; | <input type="checkbox"/> Build a system of mutual trust and two-way communication with the public; |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Participate or cooperate during compliance reviews conducted by NCDOT; | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain pertinent demographic data (statistical); |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inform and monitor any consultants/contractors regarding their Title VI obligations, including review of contracts for nondiscrimination language; | <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure policies and procedures support and comply with Title VI; |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Document processes & activities related to Title VI. |

If New Bern Area MPO identifies compliance issues with our consultants/contractors, we will also take corrective action. If attempts at corrective action are unsuccessful, any or all of the following steps may be taken with NCDOT's concurrence:

- a. Canceling, terminating, or suspending the contract or agreement with the consultant/contractor in whole or in part.
- b. Taking such other action that may be deemed appropriate under the circumstances.
- c. Referring the case to the NCDOT for appropriate administrative or legal proceedings.

Appendix A – USDOT Title VI Assurances

United States Department of Transportation
STANDARD TITLE VI / NONDISCRIMINATION ASSURANCES
DOT Order No. 1050.2A

The *New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Organization* (herein referred to as the "Recipient"), **HEREBY AGREES THAT**, as a condition to receiving any Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), through **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)**, is subject to and will comply with the following:

Statutory/Regulatory Authorities

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq., 78 stat. 252), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin);
- 49 C.F.R. Part 21 (entitled Nondiscrimination In Federally-Assisted Programs Of The Department Of Transportation-Effectuation Of Title VI Of The Civil Rights Act Of 1964);
- 28 C.F.R. section 50.3 (U.S. Department of Justice Guidelines for Enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964).

The preceding statutory and regulatory cites hereinafter are referred to as the "Acts" and "Regulations," respectively.

General Assurances

In accordance with the Acts, the Regulations, and other pertinent directives, circulars, policy, memoranda, and/or guidance, the Recipient hereby gives assurance that it will promptly take any measures necessary to ensure that:

"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 the Recipient receives Federal financial assistance from DOT, including the Federal Highway Administration."

The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 clarified the original intent of Congress, with respect to Title VI and other Nondiscrimination requirements (The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973), by restoring the broad, institutional-wide scope and coverage of these nondiscrimination statutes and requirements to include all programs and activities of the Recipient, so long as any portion of the program is Federally assisted.

Specific Assurances

More specifically, and without limiting the above general Assurance, the Recipient agrees with and gives the following Assurances with respect to its Federally assisted **Federal-Aid Highway Program**:

1. The Recipient agrees that each "activity," "facility," or "program," as defined in §§ 21.23(b) and 21.23(e) of 49 C.F.R. § 21 will be (with regard to an "activity") facilitated, or will be (with regard to a "facility") operated, or will be (with regard to a "program") conducted in compliance with all requirements imposed by, or pursuant to the Acts and the Regulations.
2. The Recipient will insert the following notification in all solicitations for bids, Requests For Proposals for work, or material subject to the Acts and the Regulations made in connection with all Federal-Aid Highway Program and, in adapted form, in all proposals for negotiated agreements regardless of funding source:

"The *New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Organization*, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award."

3. The Recipient will insert the clauses of Appendix A and E of this Assurance in every contract or agreement subject to the Acts and the Regulations.
4. The Recipient will insert the clauses of Appendix B of this Assurance, as a covenant running with the land, in any deed from the United States effecting or recording a transfer of real property, structures, use, or improvements thereon or interest therein to a Recipient.
5. That where the Recipient receives Federal financial assistance to construct a facility, or part of a facility, the Assurance will extend to the entire facility and facilities operated in connection therewith.
6. That where the Recipient receives Federal financial assistance in the form, or for the acquisition of real property or an interest in real property, the Assurance will extend to rights to space on, over, or under such property.
7. That the Recipient will include the clauses set forth in Appendix C and Appendix D of this Assurance, as a covenant running with the land, in any future deeds, leases, licenses, permits, or similar instruments entered into by the Recipient with other parties:
 - a. for the subsequent transfer of real property acquired or improved under the applicable activity, project, or program; and
 - b. for the construction or use of, or access to, space on, over, or under real property acquired or improved under the applicable activity, project, or program.
8. That this Assurance obligates the Recipient for the period during which Federal financial assistance is extended to the program, except where the Federal financial assistance is to provide, or is in the form of, personal property, or real property, or interest therein, or structures or improvements thereon, in which case the Assurance obligates the Recipient, or any transferee for the longer of the following periods:
 - a. the period during which the property is used for a purpose for which the Federal financial assistance is extended, or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits; or
 - b. the period during which the Recipient retains ownership or possession of the property.
9. The Recipient will provide for such methods of administration for the program as are found by the Secretary of Transportation or the official to whom he/she delegates specific authority to give reasonable guarantee that it, other recipients, sub-recipients, sub-grantees, contractors, subcontractors, consultants, transferees, successors in interest, and other participants of Federal financial assistance under such program will comply with all requirements imposed or pursuant to the Acts, the Regulations, and this Assurance.
10. The Recipient agrees that the United States has a right to seek judicial enforcement with regard to any matter arising under the Acts, the Regulations, and this Assurance.

By signing this ASSURANCE, the *North Carolina Department of Transportation* also agrees to comply (and require any sub-recipients, sub-grantees, contractors, successors, transferees, and/or assignees to comply) with all applicable provisions governing the **FHWA** access to records, accounts, documents, information, facilities, and staff. You also recognize that you must comply with any program or compliance reviews, and/or complaint investigations conducted by the **FHWA**. You must keep records, reports, and submit the material for review upon request to **FHWA**, or its designee in a timely, complete, and accurate way. Additionally, you must comply with all other reporting, data collection, and evaluation requirements, as prescribed by law or detailed in program guidance.

The *North Carolina Department of Transportation* gives this ASSURANCE in consideration of and for obtaining any Federal grants, loans, contracts, agreements, property, and/or discounts, or other Federal-aid and Federal financial assistance extended after the date hereof to the recipients by the U.S. Department of Transportation under the **Federal-Aid Highway Program**. This ASSURANCE is binding on the *City of New Bern*, other recipients, sub-recipients, sub-grantees, contractors, subcontractors and their subcontractors', transferees, successors in interest, and any other participants in the **Federal-Aid Highway Program**. The person(s) signing below is authorized to sign this ASSURANCE on behalf of the Recipient.

New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

by _____
John Kirkland
Chairman, Transportation Advisory Committee
DATED 11/16/23

Attachments:
Appendices A, B, C, D, E

APPENDIX A

During the performance of this contract, the contractor, for itself, its assignees, and successors in interest (hereinafter referred to as the "contractor") agrees as follows:

1. **Compliance with Regulations:** The contractor (hereinafter includes consultants) will comply with the Acts and the Regulations relative to Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), as they may be amended from time to time, which are herein incorporated by reference and made a part of this contract.
2. **Nondiscrimination:** The contractor, with regard to the work performed by it during the contract, will not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in the selection and retention of subcontractors, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment. The contractor will not participate directly or indirectly in the discrimination prohibited by the Acts and the Regulations, including employment practices when the contract covers any activity, project, or program set forth in Appendix B of 49 CFR Part 21.
3. **Solicitations for Subcontracts, Including Procurements of Materials and Equipment:** In all solicitations, either by competitive bidding, or negotiation made by the contractor for work to be performed under a subcontract, including procurements of materials, or leases of equipment, each potential subcontractor or supplier will be notified by the contractor of the contractor's obligations under this contract and the Acts and the Regulations relative to Nondiscrimination on the grounds of race, color, or national origin.
4. **Information and Reports:** The contractor will provide all information and reports required by the Acts, the Regulations, and directives issued pursuant thereto and will permit access to its books, records, accounts, other sources of information, and its facilities as may be determined by the Recipient or the FHWA to be pertinent to ascertain compliance with such Acts, Regulations, and instructions. Where any information required of a contractor is in the exclusive possession of another who fails or refuses to furnish the information, the contractor will so certify to the Recipient or the FHWA, as appropriate, and will set forth what efforts it has made to obtain the information.
5. **Sanctions for Noncompliance:** In the event of a contractor's noncompliance with the Non discrimination provisions of this contract, the Recipient will impose such contract sanctions as it or the FHWA may determine to be appropriate, including, but not limited to:
 - a. withholding payments to the contractor under the contract until the contractor complies; and/or
 - b. cancelling, terminating, or suspending a contract, in whole or in part.
6. **Incorporation of Provisions:** The contractor will include the provisions of paragraphs one through six in every subcontract, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment, unless exempt by the Acts, the Regulations and directives issued pursuant thereto. The contractor will take action with respect to any subcontract or procurement as the Recipient or the FHWA may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance. Provided, that if the contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with litigation by a subcontractor, or supplier because of such direction, the contractor may request the Recipient to enter into any litigation to protect the interests of the Recipient. In addition, the contractor may request the United States to enter into the litigation to protect the interests of the United States.

APPENDIX B: CLAUSES FOR DEEDS TRANSFERRING UNITED STATES PROPERTY

The following clauses will be included in deeds effecting or recording the transfer of real property, structures, or improvements thereon, or granting interest therein from the United States pursuant to the provisions of Assurance 4:

NOW, THEREFORE, the U.S. Department of Transportation as authorized by law and upon the condition that the *North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)* will accept title to the lands and maintain the project constructed thereon in accordance with the *North Carolina General Assembly*, the Regulations for the Administration of the Federal-Aid Highway Program, and the policies and procedures prescribed by the Federal Highway Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation in accordance and in compliance with all requirements imposed by Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, U.S. Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation pertaining to and effectuating the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252; 42 U.S.C. § 2000d to 2000d-4), does hereby remise, release, quitclaim and convey unto the *NCDOT* all the right, title and interest of the U.S. Department of Transportation in and to said lands described in Exhibit A attached hereto and made a part hereof.

(HABENDUM CLAUSE)

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said lands and interests therein unto the *North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)* and its successors forever, subject, however, to the covenants, conditions, restrictions and reservations herein contained as follows, which will remain in effect for the period during which the real property or structures are used for a purpose for which Federal financial assistance is extended or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits and will be binding on the *NCDOT*, its successors and assigns.

The *NCDOT*, in consideration of the conveyance of said lands and interests in lands, does hereby covenant and agree as a covenant running with the land for itself, its successors and assigns, that (1) no person will 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 with regard to any facility located wholly or in part on, over, or under such lands hereby conveyed [,] [and]* (2) that the *NCDOT* will use the lands and interests in lands and interests in lands so conveyed, in compliance with all requirements imposed by or pursuant to Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, U.S. Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and as said Regulations and Acts may be amended [, and (3) that in the event of breach of any of the above-mentioned nondiscrimination conditions, the Department will have a right to enter or re-enter said lands and facilities on said land, and that above described land and facilities will thereon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of the U.S. Department of Transportation and its assigns as such interest existed prior to this instruction].*

(*Reverter clause and related language to be used only when it is determined that such a clause is necessary in order to make clear the purpose of Title VI.)

APPENDIX C: CLAUSES FOR TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY ACQUIRED OR IMPROVED UNDER THE ACTIVITY, FACILITY, OR PROGRAM

The following clauses will be included in deeds, licenses, leases, permits, or similar instruments entered into by the *North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)* pursuant to the provisions of Assurance 7(a):

- A. The (grantee, lessee, permittee, etc. as appropriate) for himself/herself, his/her heirs, personal representatives, successors in interest, and assigns, as a part of the consideration hereof, does hereby covenant and agree [in the case of deeds and leases add "as a covenant running with the land"] that:
 - 1. In the event facilities are constructed, maintained, or otherwise operated on the property described in this (deed, license, lease, permit, etc.) for a purpose for which a U.S. Department of Transportation activity, facility, or program is extended or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits, the (grantee, licensee, lessee, permittee, etc.) will maintain and operate such facilities and services in compliance with all requirements imposed by the Acts and Regulations (as may be amended) such that no person on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the use of said facilities.
- B. With respect to licenses, leases, permits, etc., in the event of breach of any of the above Nondiscrimination covenants, the *NCDOT* will have the right to terminate the (lease, license, permit, etc.) and to enter, re-enter, and repossess said lands and facilities thereon, and hold the same as if the (lease, license, permit, etc.) had never been made or issued.*
- C. With respect to a deed, in the event of breach of any of the above Nondiscrimination covenants, the *NCDOT* will have the right to enter or re-enter the lands and facilities thereon, and the above described lands and facilities will there upon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of the *NCDOT* and its assigns.*

(*Reverter clause and related language to be used only when it is determined that such a clause is necessary to make clear the purpose of Title VI.)

**APPENDIX D: CLAUSES FOR CONSTRUCTION/USE/ACCESS TO REAL PROPERTY
ACQUIRED UNDER THE ACTIVITY, FACILITY OR PROGRAM**

The following clauses will be included in deeds, licenses, permits, or similar instruments/agreements entered into by the *North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)* pursuant to the provisions of Assurance 7(b):

- A. The (grantee, licensee, permittee, etc., as appropriate) for himself/herself, his/her heirs, personal representatives, successors in interest, and assigns, as a part of the consideration hereof, does hereby covenant and agree (in the case of deeds and leases add, "as a covenant running with the land") that (1) no person on the ground of race, color, or national origin, will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the use of said facilities, (2) that in the construction of any improvements on, over, or under such land, and the furnishing of services thereon, no person on the ground of race, color, or national origin, will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination, (3) that the (grantee, licensee, lessee, permittee, etc.) will use the premises in compliance with all other requirements imposed by or pursuant to the Acts and Regulations, as amended, set forth in this Assurance.
- B. With respect to (licenses, leases, permits, etc.), in the event of breach of any of the above Non discrimination covenants, the *NCDOT* will have the right to terminate the (license, permit, etc., as appropriate) and to enter or re-enter and repossess said land and the facilities thereon, and hold the same as if said (license, permit, etc., as appropriate) had never been made or issued.*
- C. With respect to deeds, in the event of breach of any of the above Nondiscrimination covenants, the *NCDOT* will there upon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of the *NCDOT* and its assigns.*

(*Reverter clause and related language to be used only when it is determined that such a clause is necessary to make clear the purpose of Title VI.)

APPENDIX E – Standard Title VI/Nondiscrimination Assurances

During the performance of this contract, the contractor, for itself, its assignees, and successors in interest (hereinafter referred to as the "contractor") agrees to comply with the following nondiscrimination statutes and authorities; including but not limited to:

Pertinent Nondiscrimination Authorities:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq., 78 stat. 252), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin); and 49 CFR Part 21.
- The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, (42 U.S.C. § 4601), (prohibits unfair treatment of persons displaced or whose property has been acquired because of Federal or Federal-aid programs and projects);
- Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973, (23 U.S.C. § 324 et seq.), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex);
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, (29 U.S.C. § 794 et seq.), as amended, (prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability); and 49 CFR Part 27;
- The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, (42 U.S.C. § 6101 et seq.), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of age);
- Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982, (49 USC § 471, Section 47123), as amended, (prohibits discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, or sex);
- The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, (PL 100-209), (Broadened the scope, coverage and applicability of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, The Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, by expanding the definition of the terms "programs or activities" to include all of the programs or activities of the Federal-aid recipients, sub-recipients and contractors, whether such programs or activities are Federally funded or not);
- Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in the operation of public entities, public and private transportation systems, places of public accommodation, and certain testing entities (42 U.S.C. §§ 12131-12189) as implemented by Department of Transportation regulations at 49 C.F.R. parts 37 and 38;
- The Federal Aviation Administration's Nondiscrimination statute (49 U.S.C. § 47123) (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, and sex);
- Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, which ensures Nondiscrimination against minority populations by discouraging programs, policies, and activities with disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations;
- Executive Order 13166, Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency, and resulting agency guidance, national origin discrimination includes discrimination because of Limited English proficiency (LEP). To ensure compliance with Title VI, you must take reasonable steps to ensure that LEP persons have meaningful access to your programs (70 Fed. Reg. at 74087 to 74100);
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, which prohibits you from discriminating because of sex in education programs or activities (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq).

Appendix B - TAC and TCC Members

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) is composed of one member from each of the municipalities within the planning area boundary: City of New Bern, Town of Bridgeton, Town of River Bend, Town of Trent Woods; one member from Craven County; and one member from North Carolina Board of Transportation. The TAC provides policy direction for the transportation planning process for the New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, which was established in accordance with federal transportation legislation.

Race/Ethnicity			Gender	
White	Black	Hispanic	Male	Female
6	0	0	5	1

Affiliation	Number
City of New Bern	1
Town of Bridgeton	1
Town of River Bend	1
Town of Trent Woods	1
Craven County	1
NC Board of Transportation	1

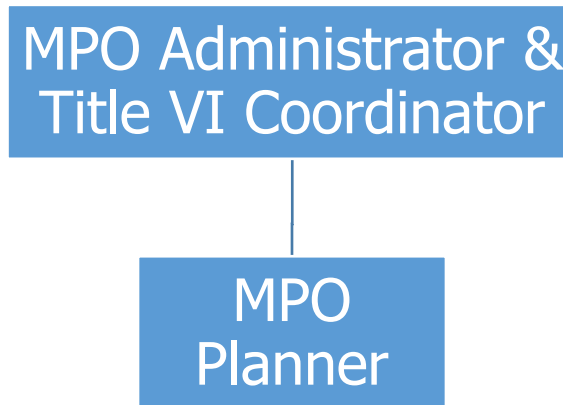
Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)

The purpose of the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) is to provide general review, guidance, and coordination of the transportation planning process in the New Bern Urban Area. The TCC makes recommendations to the respective local, State, and Federal governmental agencies and the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) regarding any necessary actions relating to the continuing transportation planning process. The Committee is comprised of nine voting members.

Race/Ethnicity			Gender	
White	Black	Hispanic	Male	Female
14	0	0	10	4

Affiliation	Number
City of New Bern	2
Craven County	2
Town of Trent Woods	1
Town of Bridgeton	1
Town of River Bend	1
Craven County Area Rural Transit Service	1
Coastal Carolina Regional Airport	1
New Bern Chamber of Commerce	1
Department of Transportation	4

Appendix C - Organizational Chart



Appendix D - Demographic Tables

Race and Ethnicity

The following table was completed using data from "DP05 ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates" from the 2021: ACS 5-Year Estimates Selected by Population Data Profiles filtered using "New Bern city; North Carolina", "Trent Woods, town, North Carolina", Bridgeton town, North Carolina", and "River Bend town, North Carolina."

[demographic - Census Bureau Tables](#)

Race and Ethnicity	Number	Percent
Total Population	38,494	100.00%
White	24,165	62.78%
Black or African American	10,631	27.62%
American Indian or Alaska Native	34	0.09%
Asian	1,610	4.18%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	0.00%
Some other Race	1,367	3.55%
Two or More Races	742	1.93%
HISPANIC OR LATINO (of any race)	6,779	17.61%
Mexican	1,785	4.64%
Puerto Rican	974	2.53%
Cuban	10	0.03%
Other Hispanic or Latino	348	0.90%

Age and Sex

The following table was completed using data from "DP05 ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates" from the 2021: ACS 5-Year Estimates Selected by Population Data Profiles filtered using "New Bern city; North Carolina", "Trent Woods, town, North Carolina", Bridgeton town, North Carolina", and "River Bend town, North Carolina."

[demographic - Census Bureau Tables](#)

Age	Number			Percent		
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
Total Population	38,494	18,198	20,296	100%	47.27%	52.73%
Under 18 years	30,424	14,325	16,099	100%	47.08%	52.92%
18 to 64 years	9,651	4,377	5,274	100%	45.35%	54.65%
65 years and over	38,494	18,198	20,296	100%	47.27%	52.73%
Median Age	44.8					

Disability

The following table was completed using data from "S1810 Disability Characteristics" from the 2021: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subjected Tables" filtered using "New Bern city; North Carolina", "Trent Woods, town, North Carolina", Bridgeton town, North Carolina", and "River Bend town, North Carolina."

[disability - Census Bureau Tables](#)

Subject	Total		With a Disability		Percent with a Disability	
	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-
Total civilian noninstitutionalized population	37,830	136.5	5,641	238	14.9%	6.8
Population under 5 years	2,133	132.5	0	16	0.0%	26.1
Population 5 to 17 years	5,933	188.5	382	48.25	6.4%	8.4
Population 18 to 64 years	7,701	213.8	490	75	6.4%	12.8
Population 65 years and over	12,628	231.3	1,872	125.5	14.8%	11.9
SEX	5,652	203.8	1,076	88	19.0%	14.3
Male	3,780	170.8	1,827	122	48.3%	16.6
Female						
RACE AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN	17,711	214.8	2,579	153.25	14.6%	10.6
White	20,119	203.5	3,062	150.25	15.2%	5.8
Black or African American						
American Indian and Alaska Native	23,575	396.5	3,775	183.75	16.0%	6.7
Asian	10,557	240.8	228	94.5	2.2%	36.6
Native American and Other Pacific Islander	34	18.5	0	10.25	0.0%	80.2
Some other Race	1,610	155.8	7	13	0.4%	0.8
Two or more races	0	16.8	0	10.25	-----	-----
Hispanic or Latino	1,312	147.8	155	50.25	11.8%	47.2

Poverty

The following table was completed using data from "S1810 Disability Characteristics" from the 2021: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subjected Tables" filtered using "New Bern city; North Carolina", "Trent Woods, town, North Carolina", Bridgeton town, North Carolina", and "River Bend town, North Carolina."

[poverty - Census Bureau Tables](#)

Subject	Total		Below poverty level		Percent below poverty level	
	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-
Population for whom poverty status is determined	38,002	136	6,323	388.25	16.6%	12.9
AGE						
Under 18	7,841	235	2,135	219.75	27.2%	16.4
18 to 64	20,726	259	3,200	198.5	15.4%	12.1
60 years and over	11,566	253	1,140	83.5	9.9%	5.5
65 years and over	9,435	238	988	70.75	10.5%	5.4
SEX						
Male	17,923	211	2,685	176	15.0%	14.6
Female	20,079	202	3,460	178.75	17.2%	12.1
RACE AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN						
White	23,887	394	2,227	261	9.3%	13.7
Black or African American	10,417	250	3,082	168.25	29.6%	43.8
American Indian and Alaska Native	34	19	19	19.75	55.9%	80.2
Asian	1,610	156	71	160.75	4.4%	25.6
Native American and Other Pacific Islander	0	17	0	16.75	-----	-----
Some other Race	1,312	148	2	10.75	0.2%	41.4
Two or more races	742	125	222	55.5	29.9%	32.6
Hispanic or Latino	2,904	291	818	194.25	28.2%	17.7
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	22,196	389	1,602	154.75	7.2%	3.6
ALL INDIVIDUALS BELOW:						
50 percent of poverty level	2,156	241	-----	-----	-----	-----
125 percent of poverty level	7,854	416	-----	-----	-----	-----
150 percent of poverty level	9,910	453	-----	-----	-----	-----
185 percent of poverty level	12,247	485	-----	-----	-----	-----
200 percent of poverty level	13,687	471	-----	-----	-----	-----
300 percent of poverty level	19,707	493	-----	-----	-----	-----
400 percent of poverty level	24,751	502	-----	-----	-----	-----
500 percent of poverty level	27,681	460	-----	-----	-----	-----

Household Income

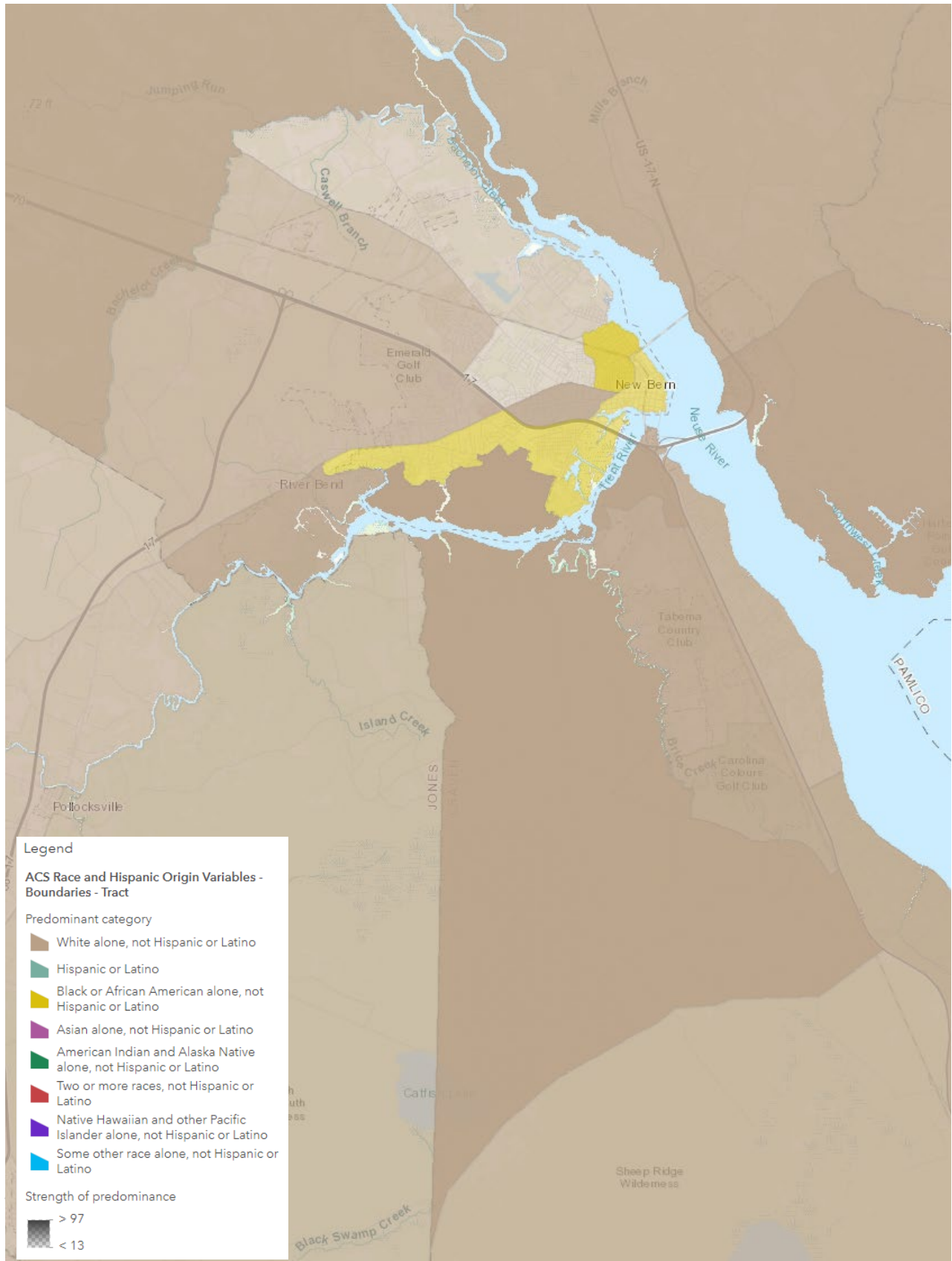
The following table was completed using data from "S1910 Income in the Past 12 Months (in 2021 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)" using the 2021: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subjected Tables" filtered using "New Bern city; North Carolina", "Trent Woods, town, North Carolina", Bridgeton town, North Carolina", and "River Bend town, North Carolina."

[S1901: INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS ... - Census Bureau Table](#)

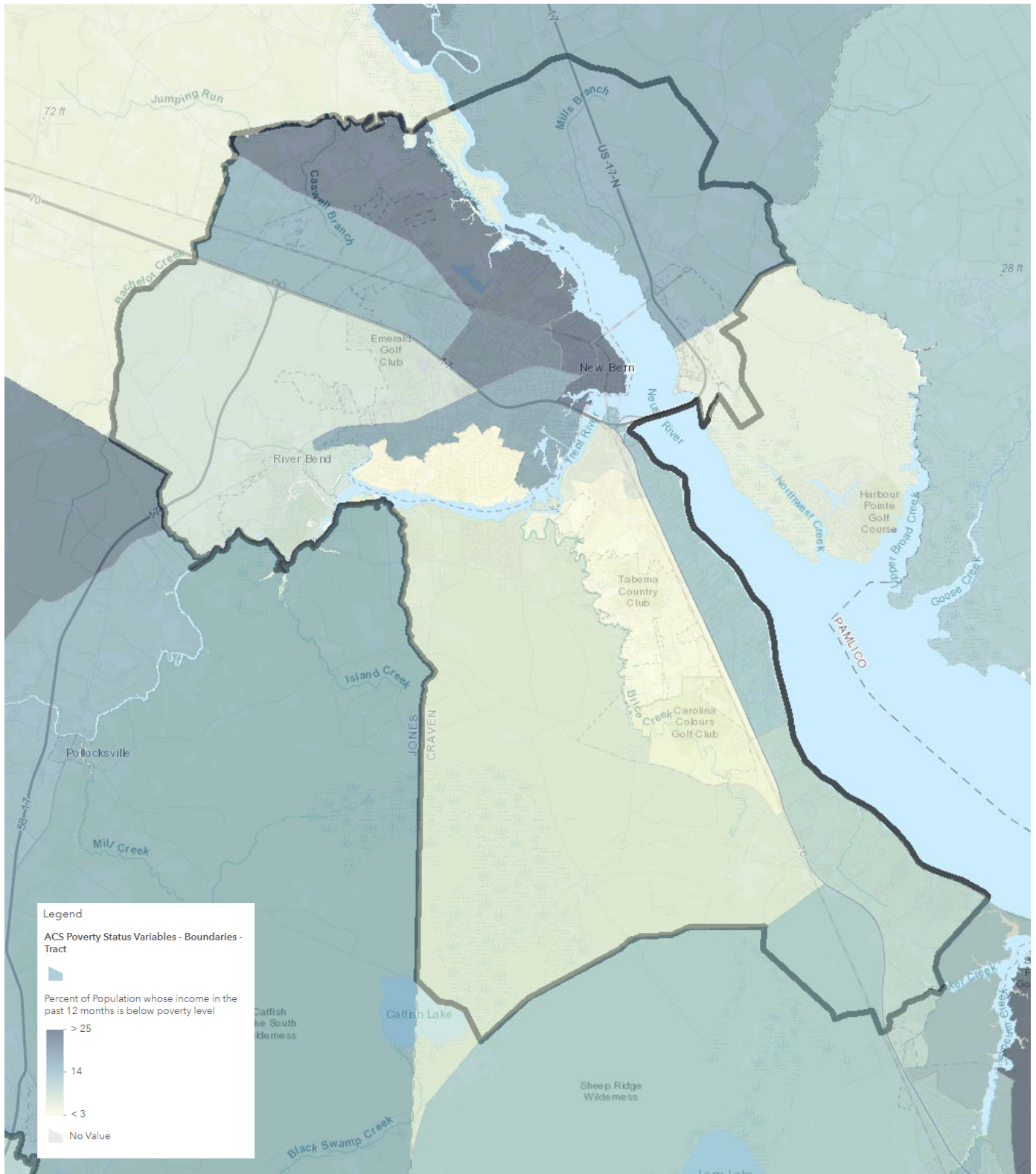
Subject	Households	
	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-
Total	17,135	202.3
Less than \$10,000	5.2%	6.1
\$10,000 to \$14,999	4.5%	3.8
\$15,000 to \$24,999	7.4%	5.1
\$25,000 to \$34,999	13.0%	7.5
\$35,000 to \$49,999	11.4%	5.7
\$50,000 to \$74,999	14.5%	6.3
\$75,000 to \$99,999	12.3%	5.1
\$100,000 to \$149,999	17.3%	6.5
\$150,000 to \$199,999	6.3%	4.4
\$200,000 or more	8.4%	7.8
Median income (dollars)	65,869	13,694
Mean income (dollars)	91,709	13,046

Appendix E -Demographic Maps (EJ)

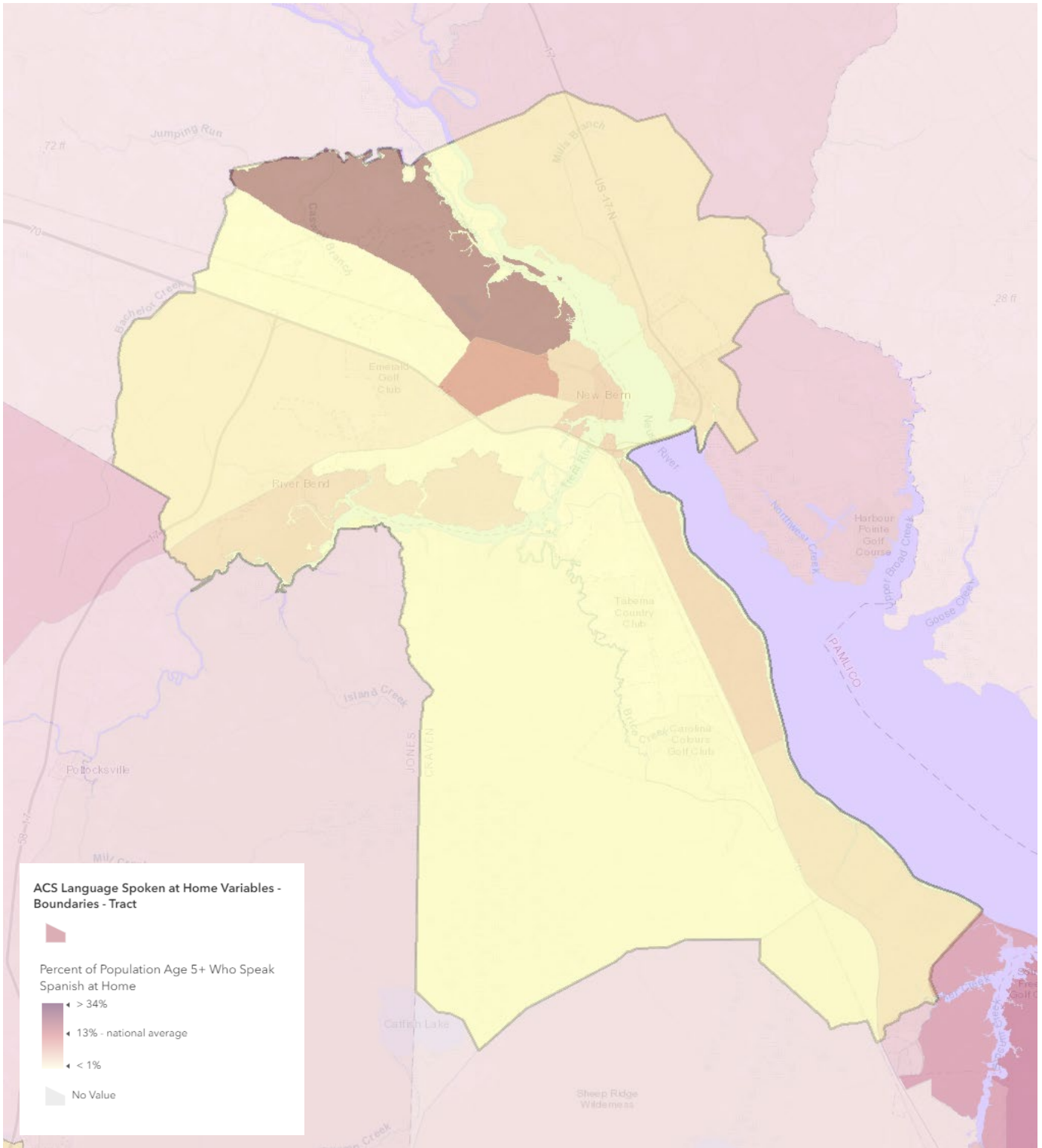
ACS Race and Ethnicity Origin Variables



ACS Poverty Status Variables - Boundaries



ACS Language Spoken at Home Variables – Boundaries – Tract



Appendix F – Investigative Guidance

Investigation Guidance, Discrimination Complaint Form and Log

- A. Scope of Investigation** – An investigation should be confined to the issues and facts relevant to the allegations in the complaint, unless evidence shows the need to extend the issues.
- B. Developing an Investigative Plan** – It is recommended that the investigator (i.e., Title VI Coordinator or other official trained to conduct Title VI investigations) prepares an Investigative Plan (IP) to define the issues and lay out the blueprint to complete the investigation. The IP should follow the outline below:
1. Complainant(s) Name and Address (Attorney name and address if applicable)
 2. Respondent(s) Name and Address (Attorney for the Respondent(s) name and address, if applicable)
 3. Applicable Law(s)
 4. Basis/(es)
 5. Allegation(s)/Issue(s)
 6. Background
 7. Name of Persons to be interviewed
 - a. Questions for the complainant(s)
 - b. Questions for the respondent(s)
 - c. Questions for witness(es)
 8. Evidence to be obtained during the investigation
 - a. Issue – e.g., Complainant alleges his predominantly African American community was excluded from a meeting concerning a future project which could affect the community.
 - i. Documents needed – e.g., mailing list which shows all physical addresses, P.O. Box numbers, property owner names, and dates when the meeting notification was mailed; other methods used to advertise the meeting.
- C. Request for Information** – The investigator should gather data and information pertinent to the issues raised in the complaint.
- D. Interviews** – Interviews should be conducted with the complainant, respondent, and appropriate witnesses during the investigative process. Interviews are conducted to gain a better understanding of the situation outlined in the complaint of discrimination. The main objective during the interview is to obtain information that will either support or refute the allegations.
- E. Preparing an Investigative Report** – The investigator should prepare an investigative report setting forth all relevant facts obtained during the investigation. The report should include a finding for each allegation. A sample outline for an investigative report is provided below.

Sample Investigative Report Template

I. COMPLAINANT(S) NAME

State complainant's name and/or attorney for the complainant(s) – name and address if applicable

II. RESPONDENT(S)

State respondent's name and/or attorney (or attorney for the respondent(s) – name and address if applicable)

III. APPLICABLE LAW/REGULATION

State applicable law or regulation. For example, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d); 49 CFR §21.11; 49 CFR §26.53).

IV. COMPLAINT BASIS/(ES)

For example, Race, Color, National Origin, Limited English Proficiency, Sex, Age, Disability).

V. ALLEGATIONS

Describe in logical sequence, each allegation including the prohibited basis for the alleged discriminatory conduct, (e.g., race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability) and the specific statutory or regulatory provision the allegation would violate, if proven to be true. Follow this process for each issue that is alleged.

VI. BACKGROUND

Provide detailed information regarding the complaint, including a historical overview of the case, including any activities or actions taken prior to accepting the complaint for investigation.

VII. INVESTIGATIVE PROCEDURE

Describe in detail, methods used to conduct the investigation, such as document requests, interviews and site visits. Include witnesses' names and addresses, documents received and/or reviewed, emails sent and received.

VIII. FINDINGS OF FACT

Provide a detailed description of the investigator's analysis of each allegation, based on clear and factual findings. Include specific evidence used to support your findings.

IX. CONCLUSION

State whether discrimination did or did not occur. Conclusions must be evidence-based and defensible. Test conclusions by considering all possible rebuttal arguments from the respondent and complainant. Both respondent and the complainant should be given an opportunity to confirm or rebut the assertions of the other party and your findings, but all the evidence you've presented should speak for itself.

X. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Outline what should be done to remedy the findings or, if necessary, provide justice for the complainant.

XI. APPENDIX

If needed, include in the Appendix any supplemental materials that support your findings and conclusion.

Discrimination Complaint Form

New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (NBAMPO)

Any person who believes that he/she has been subjected to discrimination based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability may file a written complaint with New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, within 180 days after the discrimination occurred.			
Last Name:	First Name:	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
Mailing Address:	City	State	Zip
Home Telephone:	Work Telephone:	E-mail Address	
Identify the Category of Discrimination:			
<input type="checkbox"/> RACE	<input type="checkbox"/> COLOR	<input type="checkbox"/> NATIONAL ORIGIN	<input type="checkbox"/> AGE
<input type="checkbox"/> SEX	<input type="checkbox"/> DISABILITY	<input type="checkbox"/> LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY	
Identify the Race of the Complainant			
<input type="checkbox"/> Black	<input type="checkbox"/> White	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian American
<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Alaskan Native	<input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Date and place of alleged discriminatory action(s). Please include earliest date of discrimination and most recent date of discrimination.			
Names of individuals responsible for the discriminatory action(s):			
How were you discriminated against? Describe the nature of the action, decision, or conditions of the alleged discrimination. Explain as clearly as possible what happened and why you believe your protected status (basis) was a factor in the discrimination. Include how other persons were treated differently from you. (Attach additional page(s), if necessary).			
The law prohibits intimidation or retaliation against anyone because he/she has either taken action, or participated in action, to secure rights protected by these laws. If you feel that you have been retaliated against, separate from the discrimination alleged above, please explain the circumstances below. Explain what action you took which you believe was the cause for the alleged retaliation.			
Names of persons (witnesses, fellow employees, supervisors, or others) whom we may contact for additional information to support or clarify your complaint: (Attached additional page(s), if necessary).			
<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	
1. _____	_____	_____	
2. _____	_____	_____	
3. _____	_____	_____	
4. _____	_____	_____	

Discrimination Complaint Form

Have you filed, or intend to file, a complaint regarding the matter raised with any of the following? If yes, please provide the filing dates. Check all that apply.

- NC Department of Transportation _____
- Federal Highway Administration _____
- US Department of Transportation _____
- Federal or State Court _____
- Other _____

Have you discussed the complaint with any NBAMPO representative? If yes, provide the name, position, and date of discussion.

Please provide any additional information that you believe would assist with an investigation.

Briefly explain what remedy, or action, are you seeking for the alleged discrimination.

****WE CANNOT ACCEPT AN UNSIGNED COMPLAINT. PLEASE SIGN AND DATE THE COMPLAINT FORM BELOW.**

COMPLAINANT'S SIGNATURE

DATE

MAIL COMPLAINT FORM TO:

New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
303 First Street
New Bern, NC 28560
(252) 639-7592

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Complaint Received: _____

Processed by: _____

Case #: _____

Referred to: NCDOT FHWA Date Referred: _____

DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS LOG

Log Year(s):

CASE NO.	COMPLAINANT NAME	RACE/GENDER	RESPONDENT NAME	BASIS	DATE FILED	DATE RECEIVED	ACTION TAKEN	DATE INVESTIG. COMPLETED	DISPOSITION

No Complaints or Lawsuits

I certify that to the best of my knowledge, the above described complaints or lawsuits alleging discrimination, or **no complaints or lawsuits** alleging discrimination, have been filed with or against **New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (NBAMPO)** since the previous Title VI Program submission to NCDOT.

Signature of Title VI Coordinator or Other Authorized Official

Date

Print Name and Title of Authorized Official

Appendix G -Compliance Review Checklist for FHWA Subrecipients

General Requirements	Completed
1. A copy of the recipient's signed USDOT Title VI Assurances	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Title VI Policy Statement (signed)	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Title VI Notice to Public, including a list of locations where the notice is posted	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Name and official title of Title VI Coordinator and a list of their Title VI duties	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Title VI Complaint Procedures (i.e., instructions to the public regarding how to file a Title VI discrimination complaint)	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Title VI Complaint Form	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. List of Title VI complaints, investigations, or lawsuits (i.e., Title VI Complaint Log)	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Public Participation Plan, including information about outreach methods to engage traditionally underserved constituencies (e.g., minorities, low-income, disabled), as well as a summary of outreach efforts	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Language Assistance Plan for providing language assistance to persons with limited English proficiency (LEP), based on the DOT LEP Guidance, which requires conducting four-factor analyses	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. A table depicting the membership of any non-elected committees and councils, broken down by race and gender, and a description of the process the MPO uses to encourage minorities and women to participate on such committees	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. A copy of board meeting minutes, resolution, or other appropriate documentation showing the board of directors or appropriate governing entity or official(s) responsible for policy decisions reviewed and approved the Title VI Program	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Compliance and enforcement procedures to ensure nondiscriminatory administration of programs and services	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. A demographic profile of your planning area that includes identification of the locations of minority, low-income, LEP, and/or other underserved populations	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Information regarding how consultants and/or subrecipients are monitored for compliance with Title VI	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Any environmental justice analysis conducted in the past three years and, if necessary, a description of the measures used to address any disproportionately high and adverse impacts to minority or low-income communities	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Documentation from any Title VI compliance reviews or investigations conducted by any agency other than NCDOT-OCR in the last three years.	<input type="checkbox"/>