Title VI Program & Limited English Proficiency Plan

MetroCOG Programs in Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Stratford & Trumbull

GBVMPO Programs in Ansonia, Bridgeport, Derby Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Seymour, Shelton, Stratford & Trumbull

Endorsement: March 30, 2023
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Greater Bridgeport Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GBVMPO) & Member Municipalities
Introduction

The Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Government’s ("MetroCOG") serves as the host agency of the Greater Bridgeport Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization ("GBVMPO"). This update of the MetroCOG’s and the GBVMPO’s Title VI Program has been prepared to ensure that the level and quality of MetroCOG’s and the GBVMPO’s planning services are provided in a nondiscriminatory manner and that the opportunity for full and fair participation is offered to the community. Through this program, MetroCOG has also examined the need for services and materials for persons for whom English is not their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English.

While it is a matter of principle that MetroCOG and the GBVMPO are committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination in the receipt of any of the MetroCOG’s or GBVMPO’s services on the basis of race, color or national origin, the contents of this program have been prepared in accordance with Section 601 of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
MetroCOG’s Title VI Policy

The Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG) is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation, denied benefits, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity, on the basis of race, color, or national origin.

As a recipient and sub-recipient of federal financial assistance, MetroCOG will ensure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended and related statutes and regulations in all MetroCOG programs and activities.

Any person who believes that he or she has been subjected to discrimination or retaliation based on their race, color, or national origin may file a Title VI complaint. Complaints must be filed within 180 days of the date of the alleged discriminatory act. Complaints may be filed directly to MetroCOG, CTDOT, FHWA or FTA. It is preferred that complaints are filed in writing and delivered, mailed or e-mailed in writing using the Title VI Complaint Form, which can be obtained online via www.ctmetro.org. All complaints must be signed by the complainant or a representative, and should include the complainant’s name, address, and telephone number or other means by with the complainant can be contacted. Signed allegations of discrimination received by facsimile or e-mail will be acknowledged and processed. Complaints received by telephone will be put in writing and provided to the Complainant for confirmation, revision, and signature before processing.

English and Spanish language version of the Complaint Form are available. Language assistance may be requested by contacting the Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments at (203) 366-5405. Language assistance is provided at no cost to the public. In cases where the Complainant will be assisted in converting an oral complaint into a written complaint, the Complainant is required to sign the written complaint.

MetroCOG’s Title VI Program and Limited English Proficiency Plan, including our Title VI Notice to the Public and all other applicable documents and forms can be found in Appendices A-E. Appendices A and B are posted at MetroCOG’s offices in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French Creole. Appendix B is posted at all public meetings and outreach events in these languages as well.

What is Title VI?

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in programs, activities and services receiving federal financial assistance (42 U.S.C. Section 2000d). Title VI requires that “No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”

As a recipient and sub-recipient of federal financial assistance, MetroCOG is committed to ensuring full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended and related statutes and regulations in all MetroCOG programs and activities.

Any person who believes that he or she has been subjected to discrimination under Title VI on the basis of race, color or national origin may file a Title VI complaint with MetroCOG within 180 days from the date of the alleged discrimination.
How do I file a complaint?

If you believe that you have received discriminatory treatment by MetroCOG on the basis of race, color, or national origin, you have the right to file a complaint with MetroCOG. The complaint must be filed within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory incident. Complaint forms can be obtained in Appendix C of this document or online via www.ctmetro.org.

Methods of filing a complaint:

The preferred method is to file your complaint in writing using the Title VI Complaint Form, and delivering, mailing or e-mailing it to the preferred recipient, listed in the box to the right.

In cases where the Complainant will be assisted in converting an oral complaint into a written complaint, the Complainant is required to sign the written complaint. Signed allegations of discrimination received by facsimile or e-mail will be acknowledged and processed. Complaints received by telephone will be put in writing and provided to the Complainant for confirmation, revision, and signature before processing. Language assistance may be requested by contacting the Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments at (203) 366-5405. Language assistance is provided at no cost to the public.

The Title VI designee or the individual receiving the written complaint will review the complaint to ensure that the required information is provided, the complaint is timely, and is within the appropriate jurisdiction. The complaint will be accepted unless it is withdrawn, is not filed within the allowed time period, or the Complainant fails to provide required informa-
What happens to my Title VI Complaint to MetroCOG?

Once a complaint is received, it will be reviewed for completeness by the Executive Director and then be filed with CTDOT within 10 days of receipt. In instances where additional information is needed, the complainant will be contacted by phone, email, or in writing. The Executive Director reserves the right to review the complaint with MetroCOG staff and members of MetroCOG, as necessary and appropriate.

MetroCOG will investigate a Title VI complaint within 90 days. Upon completion of the review, the Executive Director shall make a recommendation regarding the merit of the Complaint and whether remedial actions are available to provide redress. MetroCOG will inform CTDOT of the final outcome of the investigation within ten (10) days of the decision. Additionally the Executive Director may recommend improvements to MetroCOG’s processes relative to Title VI and environmental justice, as appropriate. The Executive Director shall forward their recommendations to the MetroCOG Board of Directors for concurrence. If MetroCOG concurs, a written response will be issued to the Complainant.

Appeal:

The Complainant may appeal MetroCOG’s response to the Complaint by submitting a written appeal to MetroCOG within 10 calendar days after receipt of MetroCOG’s written decision rejecting the complaint or by filing the complaint directly with the FHWA.
MetroCOG’s Title VI Program

Staff Training

Staff at the Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments will continue to attend Connecticut Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration (FTA)/Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) meetings and webinars that provide education and training related to Title VI. All education and training will be consistent with the state and federal policies and guidelines.

Monitoring Sub-Recipients

Should MetroCOG at some point in the future have formal subrecipients of Federal funding, we will ensure those subrecipients are in compliance with Title VI requirements.

Providing Technical Assistance

MetroCOG is a sub-recipient of Federal Assistance, with the Connecticut Department of Transportation serving as the primary recipient and passing through funding to the Greater Bridgeport region. MetroCOG enters into contracts with municipalities and private consulting firms involving Federal funding. In all cases these contracts incorporate standard Certifications and Assurances related to Title VI Civil Rights responsibilities.

List of Title VI Investigations, Complaints & Lawsuits

The Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments maintains a Log of all Title VI Investigations, Complaints and Lawsuits filed against the agency. To date, no investigations, complaints or lawsuits have been filed against the Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments. If an investigation, complaint or lawsuit arises the Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments will immediately notify the Connecticut Department of Transportation’s Office of Contract Compliance.

Minority Representation on Planning & Advisory Bodies

Each member municipality appoints representatives to serve as the governing body. Totaling six members, the Board is comprised of a CEO representing each city or town. See Appendix F for the most up to date list.

In addition, MetroCOG hosts several advisory committees and commissions to provide advice, leadership and solutions in the planning process. Currently, there are several active committees including the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC), the Conservation Technical Advisory Committee (CTAC) and the Geospatial Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC).

The Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Government’s Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) reviews transportation improvement projects and provides input into the development of all transportation plans and programs within the Region. The Committee also assists in identifying issues and developing strategies, as well as work towards developing a consensus on study recommendations and priorities. The Committee consists of Representatives that are drawn from elected officials, municipal staff, and community interest groups.

The Transportation Technical Advisory Committee provides a mechanism for information on the transportation planning process to flow from MetroCOG to the Public. However, the flow of information relies on committee representatives making contact with and informing the public. This has been an effective way to exchange ideas and opinions on transportation problems and needs, but we also understand it is equally important for MetroCOG to have face-to-face contact with the public, especially on major transportation actions. It is critical to proactively seek diver-
sity in membership and include persons from
groups traditionally under-served by transpor-
tation, including low income, minority, elderly
and disabled, and transit dependent residents.
This will achieve a balanced representation
and provide a forum for a full range of ideals
and perspectives to be considered and dis-
cussed. The Connecticut Metropolitan Council
of Governments will consult with social service
agencies and other non-traditional transporta-
tion groups, including bicycle and pedestrian,
environmental, resource and land use man-
agement and others to encourage Minority,
LEP and EJ populations to participate in the
Transportation Technical Advisory Committee.

Environmental Justice:

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act prohibits
discrimination on the basis of race, color or
national origin. According to Executive Order
12898 – Federal Actions to Address Environ-
mental Justice in Minority Populations and
Low-Income Populations “each Federal agency
shall make achieving environmental justice part
of its mission by identifying and addressing, as
appropriate, disproportionately high and ad-
verse human health or environmental effects of
its programs, policies, and activities on minority
populations and low-income populations.”

The Connecticut Metropolitan Council of
Governments seeks to improve social equity in
accordance with our organizational values, as
supported by Executive Order 12898. Met-
roCOG conducts all programs, policies and
activities in a manner that ensures such pro-
grams, policies and activities do not have the
effect of excluding persons (including popula-
tions) from participation in, denying persons
(including populations) the benefits of, or
subjecting persons (including populations) to
discrimination under, such programs, policies
and activities, because of their race, color or
national origin.

The guiding Environmental Justice principles
followed by MetroCOG are summarized as
follows:

• To avoid, minimize, or mitigate dispropor-
tionately high and adverse human health
and environmental effects, including social
and economic effects, on minority popula-
tions 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.

If MetroCOG identifies a program, policy or
activity and that could disproportionately im-
pact minority populations and/or low-income
populations., MetroCOG will employ the ap-
propriate measures to assure requirements are
met throughout the development of program,
policy or activity and to accommodate those
populations. These measures are determined
on a case-by-case basis and include assurance
that any public outreach conducted by Metro-
COG accommodates minority and low-income
populations.

MetroCOG has conducted an analysis of the
Region’s Minority and Low-Income popula-
tions utilizing GIS and U.S. Census Data. Please
see Appendix G for this analysis.
A Four Factor Analysis is a local assessment that considers:

1. The Number & Proportion of LEP Persons Served or Encountered in the Eligible Service Population;
2. The Frequency with which LEP Persons come into Contact with MetroCOG Services and Programs;
3. The Nature & Importance of the Program, Activity or Service Provided to People’s Lives; and
4. The Resources Available to MetroCOG for LEP Outreach, as well as Costs Associated with that Outreach.

MetroCOG’s Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan

The Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG) is committed to conducting outreach to traditionally underserved individuals and communities, which include but are not limited to low income, minority, and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) persons. MetroCOG also serves as the host agency for the Greater Bridgeport Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GBVMPO). As such, MetroCOG is committed to ensuring a transportation planning process that provides for “a proactive public involvement process that provides complete information, timely public notice, full public access to key decisions, and supports early and continuing involvement of the public in developing plans and Transportation Improvement Programs.”

To ensure meaningful access to programs and activities, MetroCOG uses the information obtained in a Four Factor Analysis to determine the specific language services that are appropriate. This analysis helps MetroCOG to determine if it communicates effectively with LEP persons and informs language access planning. The Region’s LEP population is assessed using the American Community Survey (ACS) and U.S. Census data on language spoken at home and linguistic isolation.

A four-factor analysis was conducted for MetroCOG’s member municipalities: the City of Bridgeport and the Towns of Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Stratford and Trumbull. A four-factor analysis was conducted for the municipalities of Ansonia, Derby, Seymour and Shelton through the NVCOG LEP Plan.

1. Number of LEP Persons in Service Region

The Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments serves as the Council of Governments for the Greater Bridgeport Region, which consists of the City of Bridgeport and the Towns of Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Stratford and Trumbull. The Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments serves as the Council of Governments for the Naugatuck Valley, which includes the municipalities of Ansonia, Derby, Seymour and Shelton. These ten communities comprise the Greater Bridgeport Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GBVMPO). The GBVMPO encompasses 196.4 square miles and is home to a diverse population of 388,565 residents, speaking more than thirteen (13) languages/language groups.

Of the total Regional population (388,565), 11.8% (45,749) of residents report speaking English “less than very well”.

The data reveals that at the Regional level, while there are numerous languages spoken at home, there is a significant Spanish speaking population which reports speaking English
Within the City of Bridgeport, 46% (60,793) of the 133,140 residents report speaking a language other than English. Of those 60,793 residents, 64% (40,948) speak Spanish with 19,185 of those speaking English less than very well.

MetroCOG has long been aware of the significant Spanish speaking population in our Region. The map indicates locations where this population is concentrated in the Region; most notably in the Downtown, East Side/East End, North End, Mill Hill, West End and Black Rock neighborhoods of Bridgeport. It is also noteworthy that there are “pockets” of residents reporting speaking English “Less than Well” in the South End and Center neighborhoods of Stratford.

**Several Conclusions:**

- Twelve percent (12%) of residents within the Greater Bridgeport and Valley Region report speaking English “less than well”;
- Of those reporting speaking English “less than well”, the largest population speaks Spanish;
- This pattern is also true when data is reviewed at the municipal level;
- This pattern also holds true in Metro-COG’s suburban communities;
- The LEP population (Spanish) is concentrated in the core of the MetroCOG Region.

Beyond those reporting speaking Spanish and speaking English “Less Than Very Well”, there are four other LEP populations including Other Indo European (Portuguese), Russian/Polish or Other Slavic (Polish), Chinese (incl. Mandarin Cantonese) and French (incl. Cajun) (populations are 7,991, 1,839, 1,146 and 2,474, respectively), which meet the “Safe Harbor” threshold for which MetroCOG will translate vital documents.

**Additionally:**

There is a need to translate documents and outreach materials in Spanish.

Additional language services would benefit other LEP populations, although the likely encounters with the Service/Outreach are significantly lower than the Spanish-speaking group.

This analysis was based on 2016-2020 five-year ACS data. Portuguese was not reported separately - this language was included under “Other Indo-European Languages.” Polish was not reported separately either; it was included under “Russian, Polish or other Slavic Languages.” Prior to the 2016-2020 ACS,
Portuguese was identified as a “Safe Harbor” language in the MetroCOG Region. Polish was identified as a Safe Harbor language due to statewide trends that we assume continue.

2. Frequency with which LEP Persons come into Contact with MetroCOG Services and Programs

There are a large number of places where the residents of the Greater Bridgeport Region can come into contact with MetroCOG services and programs, including public hearings, public informational meetings, printed outreach materials, web-based outreach materials, local news media (print and radio) and communication with MetroCOG staff.

3. The Nature & Importance of the Program, Activity or Service Provided to People’s Lives

The Services and Programs offered by the Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments are an important aspect as public participation provides the Region with a consensus on what the major transportation issues facing the region are and what the focus of possible improvements should be. If limited English is a barrier to using the services/programs provided by MetroCOG, then the consequences for the individual are the limited ability to provide review and comment regarding proposed transportation actions. Without translation and interpretation services, the intent to foster early and meaningful discussions so that the public is made a partner in the decision-making process will be hindered.

The Greater Bridgeport and Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is a consolidated policy board that oversees the regional transportation planning process and capital improvement program for the ten-town area comprised of the Greater Bridgeport Region and four municipalities in the Naugatuck Valley regions. GBVMPO is authorized by federal regulations and designated by the Governor to conduct transportation planning for the ten-town portion of the Bridgeport-Stamford Urbanized Area. The

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Spanish Translation*</th>
<th>Public Hearing/Meeting Interpretation*</th>
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<tr>
<td>Long Range Transportation Plan</td>
<td>Executive Summary</td>
<td>Upon Request</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Participation Plan</td>
<td>Entire Document</td>
<td>Upon Request</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title VI &amp; LEP Plan</td>
<td>Entire Document</td>
<td>Upon Request</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Plan of Conservation &amp; Development</td>
<td>Executive Summary</td>
<td>Upon Request</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation Improvement Program</td>
<td>Executive Summary</td>
<td>Upon Request</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning Studies</td>
<td>Community context determines translation &amp; interpretation.</td>
<td>Upon Request</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unified Planning Work Program</td>
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<td>Upon Request</td>
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*Additional languages upon request
MPO is primarily responsible for providing policy direction on all aspects of the transportation planning process, as specified in federal transportation acts, including the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act), and federal transportation policies, rules, and interim transportation planning guidelines. As the transportation policy board for the area, GBVMPO is responsible for adopting the long range transportation plans, endorsing and amending the TIP, and ensuring the TIP and Plans are consistent with air quality goals and objectives.

Neither the MetroCOG nor the GBVMPO provide Fixed Route/Demand Response services; therefore, providing real-time and ongoing language translation is not always needed. All of the fixed-route service providers in the Region, including, but not limited to Greater Bridgeport Transit, Valley Transit District and the Metro-North/Amtrak Railroad, conduct separate outreach activities.

4. Resources Available to MetroCOG for LEP Outreach, as well as Costs Associated with that Outreach

The Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Government’s outreach efforts ensure residents who are not proficient in English can effectively participate in the transportation planning process. MetroCOG ensures that all significant language groups are identified and incorporated into the public participation plan. MetroCOG continues to conduct outreach to traditionally under-served individuals and communities, which include but are not limited to low income, minority and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) persons. MetroCOG and GBVMPO use appropriate methods to notify the public of its activities and opportunities for public involvement. The determination of which methods to use must be done for each individual planning project or study.

At a minimum, all Board and MPO meetings actions,

**Spanish language translation of a legal notice**

Title VI and LEP Policies for Transit Service Providers:
Greater Bridgeport Transit: [https://gogbt.com/inside-gbt/your-civil-rights/](https://gogbt.com/inside-gbt/your-civil-rights/)
MTA: [http://web.mta.info/mta/title_vi.html](http://web.mta.info/mta/title_vi.html)
Valley Transit District: [https://nvcogct.gov/civil-rights/](https://nvcogct.gov/civil-rights/)
notifications, documents, summaries, reports, etc. shall include a statement that translator services may be requested in advance. If a predetermination is made that the meeting and/or action may affect a significant non-English speaking population, the Notification will include a statement, in that language, that translator services may be requested in advance.

The Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments continues to translate documents and outreach materials in languages where the need exists. These materials will also be translated to other languages, if requested. Information is also offered in a number of other mediums including:

- **Public Meeting Translation Services**: Interpreters for any language are available upon request – The request must be received within five (5) or more business days before the Public Meeting.
- **Public/Legal Notices in English & Spanish** (translation services).
- **Outreach Materials in English & Spanish** (translation services).
- **Increased use of Spanish Social Media Posts such as Twitter, Facebook** (translation services).
- **All documents identified as vital for our LEP languages will be translated via the procurement of an Interpreter and/or Translation services firm.**
- **For projects that could potentially impact LEP communities, translation services are utilized.**

**Monitoring, Evaluating & Updating the Limited English Proficiency Plan**

The Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments will continuously monitor, evaluate and update the Limited English Proficiency Plan to ensure consistency with Title VI requirements. The monitoring of the Limited English Proficiency Plan will include:

- **Annual monitoring of the United States Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) data (5 Year Estimates)** to ensure that any changing patterns of LEP Populations will be addressed in the Limited English Proficiency Plan.
- **Tracking Requests for Translated Documents via MetroCOG’s website, public meetings, etc.**
- **Collaborating with Community Stakeholders to ensure LEP Populations are aware of notices, meetings, events, etc.**
- **Ongoing review of Google Translate requests at MetroCOG’s website**

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**Current Language Assistance**

- **Public Meeting Translation Services**: Interpreters for any language are available upon request. The request must be received within five or more business days before the Public Meeting.
- **Public/Legal Notices in English & Spanish** (translation services).
- **Outreach Materials in English & Spanish** (translation services).
- **Increased use of Spanish Social Media Posts such as Twitter, Facebook** (translation services).
- **Website Translated via Google Translate**. For projects that could potentially impact LEP communities, translation services are utilized.
Appendices
Title VI Notice to the Public

The Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG), the host agency of the Greater Bridgeport Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GBVMPO), gives public notice of this policy to assure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and all related statutes. Title VI requires that no person in the United States of America shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which MetroCOG and the GBVMPO receive Federal financial assistance.

MetroCOG and the GBVMPO offers a variety of resources/services in Spanish and other languages FREE of charge. Services include but are not limited to the following: Oral Interpreters, Written Language Services and Translations of Vital Documents.

To request a copy of our Title VI Program documents or for additional information, including documents in alternative formats in accordance with ADA and LEP regulations, send a request to MetroCOG, in writing via the following methods:

Mail: Mr. Matt Fulda, Executive Director/Ms. Colleen Kelleher, Finance Director, Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments, 1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Suite 925, Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604.

E-mail: info@ctmetro.org

Any person who believes that he or she has, individually, or as a member of any specific class of persons, has been excluded from participation in, been denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments or Greater Bridgeport Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization service, program or activity, and believes the discrimination is based upon race, color or national origin has the right to file a formal complaint. Title VI complaints may be filed by completing and submitting the Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Government's Title VI Complaint Form which is available at our administrative offices or on our website at www.ctmetro.org.

Complaints will only be accepted in writing and may be filed with Mr. Matt Fulda, Executive Director Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments, 1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Suite 925, Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604, 203-366-5405 or mfulda@ctmetro.org.

Individuals may also file complaints directly with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and/or the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT)
Title VI complaints may be filed directly to:
Title VI Coordinator
Connecticut Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT 06131-7546

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
Title VI complaints may be filed directly to:
Title VI Program Coordinator
East Building, 5th Floor, TCR
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Title VI complaints may be filed directly to:
Investigations & Adjudication Team Director
FHWA Office of Civil Rights
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Suite E-81
Washington, DC 20590
Your Rights Under
Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

The Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG) and the Greater Bridgeport/Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GBVMPO) Prohibit Discrimination in its Programs and Activities

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in programs, activities and services receiving federal financial assistance (42 U.S.C. Section 2000d).

Any person who believes that he or she, has been subjected to discrimination prohibited under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, may file a discrimination complaint. To obtain additional information about MetroCOG and the GBVMPO Title VI Program or Title VI Complaint process, please go to the Agency’s website at www.ctmetro.org. If information is needed in another language, please contact MetroCOG at 203-366-5405. Language assistance is provided at no cost to the public.

Title VI complaints may be submitted in writing directly to MetroCOG:

Mr. Matt Fulda, Executive Director
Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments
1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Suite 925
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604
phone: 203-366-5405    e-mail: mfulda@ctmetro.org.

MetroCOG will provide the written complaint and form to CTDOT at the address below.

Individuals may also file complaints directly with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and/or the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT)
Title VI complaints may be filed directly to:

Title VI Coordinator
Connecticut Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT  06131-7546

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
Title VI complaints may be filed directly to:

Title VI Program Coordinator
East Building, 5th Floor, TCR
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Title VI complaints may be filed directly to:

Investigations & Adjudication Team Director
FHWA Office of Civil Rights
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Suite E-81
Washington, DC 20590

Language assistance may be requested by contacting the Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments at (203) 366-5405. Language assistance is provided at no cost to the public.
Title VI Complaint Form

Section I

Name: 
Street Address: 
City/State/Zip: 
Phone: 
E-mail: 

Section II

Are you filing this complaint on your own behalf?  
Yes*  No  
*If you answered “yes”, please skip ahead to Section III

If you answered “no”, please provide the name and relationship of the person for whom you are complaining:

Please explain why you have filed for a third party:

If you are filing on behalf of a third party, please confirm that you have obtained the permission of the aggrieved party:  Yes  No

Section III

I believe the discrimination I experienced was based on:  
(Race ☐  Color ☐  National Origin ☐) (please check all that apply)

Please provide the date(s) and location of the alleged discrimination and, if known, the name(s) of the individual(s) who allegedly discriminated against you, including their titles:

Please provide the names of any witnesses and contact information:

Appendix C
Please explain as briefly and as clearly as possible what happened, how you feel that you were discriminated against and who was involved. Please include how other persons were treated differently from you:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Section IV

Have you filed this complaint with any other Federal, State, or local agency, or with any Federal or State court? Yes* No

*If you answered “yes”, please check all that apply & the filing date

Federal Agency: _____________________________________________________________

State Agency: ______________________________________________________________

Local Agency: ______________________________________________________________

Federal Court: ______________________________________________________________

State Court: _______________________________________________________________

Please provide information for a contact person at the agency/court where the complaint was filed.

Name: ___________________________ Title: ___________________________

Street Address: ________________________________

City/State/Zip: ________________________________

Phone: __________________________ E-mail: ___________________________

Section V

I have reviewed the above charge and that it is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

Please print name: ___________________________

Please use additional sheets of paper if necessary and include any written materials pertaining to your complaint.

Deliver, mail or e-mail this form to: Mr. Matt Fulda, Executive Director
Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments
1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Suite 925
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604
E-mail: mfulda@ctmetro.org

MetroCOG will provide this form to: Title VI Coordinator,
Connecticut Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT 06131-7546

Language assistance may be requested by contacting the Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments at (203) 366-5405. Language assistance is provided at no cost to the public.
# Title VI Complaint Log

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Date of Complaint</th>
<th>Summary of Allegation</th>
<th>Status of Investigation</th>
<th>Lawsuit or Complaint</th>
<th>Action Taken</th>
<th>Final Disposition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>
Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires the Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG) to provide opportunity for everyone to comment on transportation planning and activities that may affect their community. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 specifically states 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 benefit of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program, service, or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”

You are not required to complete this survey. Submittal of information is voluntary. By completing this form, you are helping the MetroCOG comply with Title VI and related statutes, which require the collection of statistical data to aid in assessing MetroCOG’s outreach efforts among those who are affected or interested in this project. Staff from MetroCOG will handle all information confidentially. Please e-mail Matt Fulda, Executive Director at mfulda@ctmetro.org if you have any questions or concerns regarding this form.

1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Suite 925, Bridgeport, CT 06604   203-366-5405    www.ctmetro.org
Council & MPO Membership

Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG):
Each member municipality appoints representatives to serve as the governing body of the Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG). Totaling six members, the Board is comprised of a CEO representing each city or town. Each city or town’s Mayor or First Selectman acts as the CEO for that municipality. Current Members of the Board are:

- Mayor Joseph Ganim, Bridgeport
- First Selectman David Bindelglass, Easton
- First Selectwoman Brenda L. Kupchick, Fairfield
- First Selectman Ken Kellogg, Monroe
- Mayor Laura Hoydick, Stratford
- First Selectman Vicki A. Tesero, Trumbull

The Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments conducts the transportation planning for both the Greater Bridgeport and the Valley Regions of Connecticut through the consolidated Greater Bridgeport and Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GBVMPO). The remainder of the Valley Region governance remains autonomous from the Greater Bridgeport Region via the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG).

Greater Bridgeport and Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GBVMPO)
The membership of the GBVMPO consists of representatives from 14 municipalities and organizations, as follows:

**Chief Elected Officials of:**
- Ansonia
- Bridgeport
- Derby
- Easton
- Fairfield
- Monroe
- Seymour
- Shelton
- Stratford
- Trumbull

**Chairperson of:**
- Greater Bridgeport Transit (GBT)
- Valley Transit District (VTD)
Total Minority Population
Percent of All Minority Population by Census Tract

Demographic and Housing Estimates US Census, ACS 2020
Percent of Population in Poverty by Census Tract
Income in the past 12 months below the poverty level

Source: US Census, ACS 2020
Percent of Population Without Access to a Vehicle by Census Tract

- Monroe
- Easton
- Trumbull
- Fairfield
- Bridgeport
- Stratford

- 0.0% - 4.8%
- 4.9% - 12%
- 13% - 26%
- 27% - 47%

2020: American Community Survey 5 Year Estimate Subject Table B25045
Percent of Population Over 65 Years Old by Census Tract

- Monroe
- Easton
- Trumbull
- Fairfield
- Bridgeport
- Stratford

Legend:
- 0.0% - 5.2%
- 5.3% - 13%
- 14% - 21%
- 22% - 38%

2020: American Community Survey
5 Year Estimate Subject Tables: Age and Sex S0101
Organizations that assist with LEP in Ansonia, Derby, Seymour & Shelton

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ansonia Housing Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area Congregations Together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birmingham Group Health Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordinated Transportation Solutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derby Housing Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naugatuck Valley Health District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seymour Housing Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelton Housing Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Michael the Archangel Parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEAM, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The WorkPlace, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Arts Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley United Way</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Stakeholder & Contact Lists

Agencies, organizations and individuals from e-mail group lists maintained by MetroCOG. The list is periodically updated and subject to change.

### Local & State Stakeholders

#### Bicycle & Pedestrian Advocates
- Bike Walk Connecticut
- East Coast Greenway Alliance
- Fairfield Bicycle Pedestrian Committee Members
- Fairfield's Representative Town Meeting Members
- Stratford Planning Commission Members

#### Business Community
- Bridgeport Regional Business Council
- Bridgeport Economic Development Corporation
- Bridgeport Downtown Special Services District
- Fairfield County Business Council
- Fairfield Chamber of Commerce

#### Community-Based Organizations
- Big Brother Big Sisters of Southwestern Connecticut
- Bridgeport YMCA
- Bridgeport YMCA/Ralphoa Taylor Community Center
- Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust
- Capital for Change
- International Institute of Connecticut, Inc.
- Recovery Network of Programs-Prospect House Shelter & SRO Units

### Local & State Stakeholders

#### Conservation
- Beardsley Zoo
- Connecticut Fund for the Environment
- Groundwork Bridgeport
- The Nature Conservancy

#### Education*
- Housatonic Community College
- University of Bridgeport
- Fairfield University
- Sacred Heart University

#### Elderly & Disabled Organizations
- Access Independence
- Southwestern CT Agency on Aging
- The Kennedy Center

#### Employment
- The Workplace

#### Faith-Based Organizations
- Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
- The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport

#### Hospitals*
- Bridgeport Hospital
- St. Vincent's Hospital

#### Regional Policy & Planning
- Regional Plan Association

### Local & State Stakeholders

#### Transportation
- Bridgeport & Port Jefferson Steamboat Company
- CTRides
- Greater Bridgeport Transit
- Motor Transport Association of Connecticut
- Transit for Connecticut
- Tri-State Transportation Campaign
- Valley Transit District

### Media*

#### Daily
- CTPost

#### Weekly
- Easton Courier/Aspetuck News
- El Sol (Spanish)
- Fairfield Sun
- Fairfield Citizen
- Monroe Sun
- The Bridgeport News
- Trumbull Times

*pending email availability
Municipal Departments

City of Bridgeport
- Department on Aging
- Engineering Department
- Harbormaster
- Health & Social Services Department
- Neighborhood Revitalization Zones (NRZs)
- Office of Planning & Economic Development
- Sikorsky Memorial Airport

Town of Easton
- Easton Senior Center
- Engineering
- Town Planning

Town of Fairfield
- Conservation
- Economic Development
- Engineering
- Health Department
- Social Services (Senior Center)
- Town Plan & Zoning Department

Town of Monroe
- Community & Social Services (Senior Center)
- Engineering
- Health Department
- Planning & Zoning Department

Town of Stratford
- Conservation Department
- Economic Development
- Engineering
- Planning & Zoning
- Senior Center

Municipal Departments

Town of Trumbull
- Economic & Community Development
- Engineering
- Health Department
- Human Services (Senior Center)
- Planning & Zoning

Libraries*
- Bridgeport Public Library
- Easton Public Library
- Edith Wheeler Memorial Library (Monroe)
- Fairfield Public Library
- Stratford Library Association
- The Trumbull Library System

State & Regional Agencies

State of Connecticut
- Connecticut Port Authority
- Department of Transportation
- Office of Policy & Management, Office of Responsible Growth
- Office of Tourism
- State Historic Preservation Office

COGs & MPOs
- Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG)
- New York Metropolitan Transportation Commission (NYMTC)
- South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG)
- Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WestCOG)
## Language Groups by Population in the Greater Bridgeport Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Region’s Population</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speak only English</td>
<td>277094</td>
<td>71.31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>64671</td>
<td>16.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German or other West Germanic languages</td>
<td>974</td>
<td>0.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian Polish or other Slavic languages</td>
<td>4793</td>
<td>1.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Indo-European languages</td>
<td>20868</td>
<td>5.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>509</td>
<td>0.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese (incl. Mandarin Cantonese)</td>
<td>1855</td>
<td>0.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
<td>1429</td>
<td>0.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tagalog (incl. Filipino)</td>
<td>529</td>
<td>0.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Asian and Pacific Island languages</td>
<td>2364</td>
<td>0.61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>1647</td>
<td>0.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French (inc. Cajun)</td>
<td>7544</td>
<td>1.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other and unspecified languages</td>
<td>4288</td>
<td>1.10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Non-English Language Speakers** 111,471 **28.69%**
## “English Less than Very Well” in the Greater Bridgeport Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Speaks English “Less than Very Well”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>64671</td>
<td>28516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German or other West Germanic languages</td>
<td>974</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian Polish or other Slavic languages</td>
<td>4793</td>
<td>1839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Indo-European languages</td>
<td>20868</td>
<td>7991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>509</td>
<td>275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese (incl. Mandarin and Cantonese)</td>
<td>1855</td>
<td>1146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
<td>1429</td>
<td>814</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tagalog (incl. Filipino)</td>
<td>529</td>
<td>281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Asian and Pacific Island languages</td>
<td>2364</td>
<td>854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>1647</td>
<td>732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French (inc. Cajun)</td>
<td>7544</td>
<td>2474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other and unspecified languages</td>
<td>4288</td>
<td>786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>111471</td>
<td>45749</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of Residents Who Speak English “Less than Very Well” 11.77%
Limited English Proficiency: All Languages
Percent of all LEP Persons by Census Tract

Language spoken at home by ability to speak English for the population 5 and over. Limited English Proficiency is defined by speaking English less than very well. Source: US Census, ACS 2016-2020.
Limited English Proficiency: Spanish Language
Percent of LEP Spanish Speakers by Census Tract

Language spoken at home by ability to speak English for the population 5 and over. Limited English Proficiency is defined by speaking English less than very well.

Limited English Proficiency:
Chinese (includes Mandarin & Cantonese)

Percent of LEP Chinese (includes Mandarin & Cantonese) by Census Tract

Language spoken at home by ability to speak English for the population 5 and over. Limited English Proficiency is defined by speaking English less than very well.

Limited English Proficiency:
Russian, Polish, or other Slavic Languages

Percent of LEP Russian, Polish, or other Slavic Speakers by Census Tract

Language spoken at home by ability to speak English for the population 5 and over. Limited English Proficiency is defined by speaking English less than very well.

Limited English Proficiency: Vietnamese
Percent of LEP Vietnamese by Census Tract

Language spoken at home by ability to speak English for the population 5 and over. Limited English Proficiency is defined by speaking English less than very well. Source: US Census, ACS 2016-2020.
Limited English Proficiency: French, Haitian, or Cajun

Percent of LEP French, Haitian, or Cajun

Language spoken at home by ability to speak English for the population 5 and over. Limited English Proficiency is defined by speaking English less than very well.

Appendix L: Outreach Process

Public Outreach Process:

- Legal Notice: Posted in CTPost and ElSol on January 13th.
- Will present plans at March 30th meeting of the GBVMPO.
- E-mail notice to list of stakeholders on January 13th.
- Physical copies at MetroCOG and NVCOG
- Posted to MetroCOG and NVCOG’s website and social media accounts
- Public meeting: February 8th

Public Comments & MetroCOG Responses: No public comments were received.
# Order Confirmation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ad Order Number</th>
<th>Customer Account</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0002750041</td>
<td>109774</td>
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</table>

**Sales Rep.**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Customer Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CONNECTICT METROPOLITAN COUNCIL</td>
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<tr>
<td>1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Suite 925</td>
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</table>

**Order Taker**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BRIDGEPORT CT 06604</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
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**Ordered By**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colleen, email</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 2033665405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax: 2033668437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMail: <a href="mailto:ckelleyher@ctmetro.org">ckelleyher@ctmetro.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>Ad Cost</th>
<th>Payment Amt</th>
<th>Amount Due</th>
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</table>

**Blind Box**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Materials</th>
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</table>

**Order Notes**

**Ad Content Proof**

Note: Ad size does not reflect actual ad

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GREATER BRIDGEPORT AND VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LEGAL NOTICE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN AND TITLE VI PROGRAM &amp; LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTICE is hereby given that the Greater Bridgeport and Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GBV MO) has updated their Title VI Program, Limited English Proficiency Plan and Public Participation Plan for the Greater Bridgeport and Valley Planning Regions. The Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG) serves as the host agency of the GBVMO.

The Title VI Program and Limited English Proficiency Plan have been prepared in accordance with Section 601 of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 so as to ensure that the level and quality of MetroCOG’s and the GBVMO’s planning services are provided in a nondiscriminatory manner and that the opportunity for full and fair participation is offered to the community. Through this program, MetroCOG has also examined the need for services and materials for persons for whom English is not their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English.

The purpose of the Public Participation Plan is to actively involve all affected parties in an open, cooperative, and collaborative process that provides meaningful opportunities to influence transportation decisions and is consistent with 23 CFR §450.316.

A forty-five (45) day review and comment period has been established, beginning on January 13, 2023, and ending on February 27, 2023. The public is welcomed and encouraged to review and comment on the drafts of the Title VI Program, Limited English Proficiency and Public Participation Plans. Copies of both documents are available for review at the offices of Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments, 1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Suite 925 (Ninth Floor), Bridgeport, CT 06604 and the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments, 49 Linevitch Street, 3rd Floor, Waterbury, Connecticut 06702. Drafts can also be viewed on-line at www.ctmetro.org and www.nvcoct.org.

NOTICE is also given that MetroCOG will hold a public information meeting concerning the draft documents on February 8, 2023 at 5:00 PM in the conference room of the Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments, 1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Suite 925, Bridgeport, CT 06604. Agency staff will be available at 4:30 PM to informally discuss any aspects relating to the drafts and any other transportation issues and concerns.

The public is encouraged to attend this meeting to learn more about the Title VI Program and the Limited English Proficiency and Public Participation Plans and to express their support or concerns regarding these documents. Comments may be made orally at the information meeting, via e-mail or in writing. Written comments must be clearly legible, submitted on 8½ by 11 paper and include the person’s name and address. Any person wishing to comment may submit their comments in writing to Matt Fulda, Executive Director, MetroCOG, mfulda@ctmetro.org or Rick Dunne, Executive Director, NVCOG, rduune@nvcoct.org. Written comments must be received before 10 AM on February 7, 2023. The MPO will consider endorsement of the draft Public Participation Plan and the Title VI Program and Limited English Proficiency Plan at its regular meeting to be held on Thursday, March 23, 2023. The public is invited to attend this MPO meeting and will be afforded an opportunity to comment before the plans are approved by the MPO.

For more information, please call MetroCOG at (203) 566-5405 or NVCOG at (203) 735-8688. Language assistance may be requested within a reasonable timeframe and is provided at no cost to the public.

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**Run Dates**

1/13/2023

---

**Run Dates**

1/13/2023
GBVMPO: Title VI Program, Limited English Proficiency Plan and Public Participation Plan

The Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG) is committed to a continuous public involvement process that provides complete information, timely public notice, and full public access to MetroCOG and the Greater Bridgeport and Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization’s (GBVMPO) activities at all key stages in the decision-making process. Public involvement ensures that transportation decisions consider public needs and preferences, and that the public has ample opportunity to participate in the transportation planning process. To ensure a proactive and inclusive public involvement process, MetroCOG has developed drafts of the Title VI Program, Limited English Proficiency Plan and Public Participation Plan for the Greater Bridgeport and Valley Metropolitan Planning Region.

- [The 2022 Update of the Title VI Program, Limited English Proficiency Plan and Public Participation Plan can be accessed here](#)
- [En Espanol : Aviso Legal, Plan de Participación Pública y Programa de Título VI y Plan de Dominio Limitado del Inglés](#)

The forty-five day review and comment period began on January 13, 2023 and ends on February 27, 2023. The public is welcomed and encouraged to review and comment on the drafts of the Title VI Program, Limited English Proficiency and Public Participation Plans. Copies of the documents are available for review at the following locations:

Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments
1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Suite 925
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
49 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor
Waterbury, Connecticut 06702.

Drafts can also be viewed on-line at [www.ctmetro.org](http://www.ctmetro.org) and [www.nycogct.gov](http://www.nycogct.gov). MetroCOG will hold a public information meeting concerning the draft documents on February 8th, 2023 at 5:00 PM in the conference room of the Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments, 1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Suite 925, Bridgeport, CT 06604.
The public is encouraged to attend this meeting to learn more about the Title VI Program, Limited English Proficiency and Public Participation Plans and to express their support or concerns regarding these documents. Comments may be made orally at the information meetings, via e-mail or in writing. Written comments must be clearly legible, submitted on 8½" by 11" paper and include the person’s name and address. Any person wishing to comment may submit their comments in writing to Matt Fulda, Executive Director, MetroCOG, mfulda@ctmetro.org or Rick Dunne, Executive Director, NVCOG, contactus@nvcogct.gov. Written comments must be received before 10:00AM on February 27, 2023. The MPO will consider endorsement of the draft Public Participation Plan and the Title VI Program and Limited English Proficiency Plan at its regular meeting to be held on Thursday, March 30, 2023. The public is invited to attend this MPO meeting and will be afforded an opportunity to comment before the plans and programs are considered by the MPO. For more information, please call MetroCOG at (203) 366-5405 or NVCOG at (203) 735-8688. Language assistance may be requested within a reasonable timeframe and is provided at no cost to the public.

MetroCOG is the Council of Governments for the six municipalities of the Greater Bridgeport Region: Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Stratford and Trumbull. MetroCOG works closely with federal, state, and local agencies to facilitate a regional approach to transportation, conservation, economic development, natural hazard mitigation and land use planning, as well as municipal shared services. MetroCOG also serves as the host agency for the Greater Bridgeport and Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GBVMPO), which includes MetroCOG’s six members as well as Ansonia, Derby, Seymour and Shelton. GBVMPO oversees the regional transportation planning process and capital improvement program for this ten-town region. The membership of the GBVMPO consists of the Chief Elected Officials of the ten municipalities and the chairpersons of the region’s two transit districts: Greater Bridgeport Transit and the Valley Transit District.
Public Meeting: February 8th, 2023

Title VI Limited English Proficiency (LEP) & Public Participation Plans

February 8, 2023
Public Meeting

PUBLIC MEETING WAS HELD FROM 5:00PM TO 8:00PM

A Public Meeting was held on February 8, 2023, to discuss the Title VI Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and Public Participation Plans for the Greater Bridgeport and Valley Regional Planning Organization (BRV-RPO), in accordance with Section 206 of the Federal Housing Act, 42 U.S.C. 3609, as amended. The meeting was held at the BRV-RPO offices on February 8, 2023.

The meeting was open to the public, and the agenda included discussions on the Title VI Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and Public Participation Plans for the Greater Bridgeport and Valley Regional Planning Organization (BRV-RPO).

For more information, please visit the BRV-RPO website at https://www.brv-rpo.org/.
TITLE VI, LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) & PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

Public Meeting

Greater Bridgeport & Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization

February 8th, 2023

FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

MPOs must have up-to-date Title VI, Limited English Proficiency and Public Participation Plans

As a recipient and sub-recipient of federal financial assistance, MetroCOG must ensure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Executive Order 13166 (Limited English Proficiency).

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance. Specifically, Title VI provides that...

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


FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

MPOs must have up-to-date Title VI, Limited English Proficiency and Public Participation Plans

- Executive Order 13166, "Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency" requires that the Federal agencies work to ensure that recipients of Federal financial assistance provide meaningful access to their LEP applicants and beneficiaries. Recipients of Federal financial assistance must follow to ensure that their programs and activities normally provided in English are accessible to LEP persons and thus do not discriminate based on national origin in violation of Title VI's prohibition against national origin discrimination.

- Each MPO shall develop and use a documented participation plan that defines a process for providing interested parties with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the metropolitan transportation planning process.
GREATER BRIDGEPORT & VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

- A Title VI Program and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan have been developed as a single document.
- The GBVMPO Board of Directors last approved the Title VI, LEP and Public Participation Plans on October 25, 2018.
- The 2022 update has been completed. The Update has been submitted to CTDOT for review.
- A 45-day public noticing period is required prior to adoption. A Legal Notice was issued on January 13, 2023. GBVMPO is accepting comments on the Plan until February 27th, 2023.
- All documents have been translated into Spanish and the public review/outreach period will include the Title VI process and LEP Plan.

TITLE VI PROGRAM & LEP PLAN
Policies, analysis & supporting materials

Title VI Process:

Title VI Policy

Complaint Process & Procedures Program:
- Staff training
- Monitoring subrecipients
- Investigations, complaints & lawsuits.
- Minority Representation on Planning & Advisory Bodies
- Environmental Justice

Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan
4 Factor Analysis:
- Number & proportion of LEP Persons served or encountered in the Service Population.
- Frequency with which LEP Persons come into contact with MetroCOG services & programs.
- Nature & importance of the program, activity or service to people’s lives.
- Resources available for LEP outreach, as well as associated costs.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN
Goals & Objectives

- Adequate public notice of activities, time for review and comment, and reasonable access to information.
- Visualization techniques to describe plans.
- Making information available in electronically accessible formats and means.
- Holding public meetings at convenient and accessible locations and times.
- Demonstrating consideration and response to public input.
- Providing additional opportunities for public comment, if the document differs significantly from the original version for public review.
- Seeking out and considering the needs of those traditionally underserved by the existing transportation system.
- Coordinating with the statewide transportation planning public involvement and consultation processes.
- Periodically reviewing the effectiveness of the procedures and strategies contained in the plan to ensure a full and open participation process.
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

Strategies for day-to-day engagement & specific projects

Regular Business Operations:
- Office accessibility
- Stakeholder & contact lists
- Meetings
- Website & social media
- Distributing documents & materials
- Committees
- Legal notices

Projects, Plans & Studies
- Email lists
- Project Webpage
- Summary, FAQs & Brochure
- Technical & Advisory Committees
- Reaching the public
- Public feedback & comments
- Public hearings

2022 Update

- In 2018 MetroCOG only analyzed data for the six municipalities of Greater Bridgeport. In 2022, data analysis included Greater Bridgeport as well as the four valley towns of Ansonia, Derby, Seymour and Shelton that comprise the GBVMPO.
- The GBVMPO encompasses 196.4 square miles and is home to a diverse population of 388,565 residents, speaking more than thirteen (13) languages/language groups.
- Of the total regional population (388,565), 11.8% (45,749) of residents report speaking English “less than very well”.
- Of the 11.8% of residents’ who report speaking English “less than very well”, 7.3% speak Spanish, 2.1% speak Other Indo-European Languages, 0.6% speak French (Incl. Cajun), 0.5% speak Russian, Polish or other Slavic Languages, 0.3% speak Chinese (Incl. Mandarin) and 1% speak All Other Languages.

2022 Update

- The U.S. Census Bureau aggregated language groups differently in the 2016-2020 ACS Dataset, therefore language groups differ between the 2018 and 2022 Plans.
- For example, in the 2016-2020 ACS data Portuguese was not reported separately - this language was included under “Other Indo-European Languages.”
- Polish was not reported separately either, it was included under “Russian, Polish or other Slavic Languages.”
- Prior to the 2016-2020 ACS, Portuguese was identified as a “Safe Harbor” language in the GBVMPO Region.
- Polish was also identified as a Safe Harbor language due to statewide trends that we assume continue.

Thank you!

Public Comment Period
January 13, 2023 – February 27, 2023

Questions/Comments?
 pcarleton@ctmetro.org
RESOLUTION 2023-04

ENDORSEMENT

TITLE VI PROGRAM & LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN
FOR THE GREATER BRIDGEPORT AND VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

WHEREAS, the Greater Bridgeport and Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GBVMPO) is designated by the United States Department of Transportation as the transportation planning agency for the Greater Bridgeport and Valley Planning Region, and conducts the transportation planning process in accordance with Section 34 of Title 23 of the United States Code, as amended by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and related US Department of Transportation planning regulations;

WHEREAS, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, prohibits discrimination based upon race, color, and national origin;

WHEREAS, 23 CFR 450.316, requires that MPOs seek out and consider the needs of those “traditionally underserved” by existing transportation systems;

WHEREAS, Executive Order # 13166 (Limited-English-Proficiency) requires agencies to ensure that limited English proficiency persons are able to meaningfully access the services provided consistent with and without unduly burdening the fundamental mission of each federal agency;

WHEREAS, the GBVMPO has competed and prepared a draft Title VI Program & Limited English Proficiency Plan;

WHEREAS, the draft Title VI Program & Limited English Proficiency Plan is complementary to the Title VI Plan Update for the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments which adheres to the US Department of Transportation regulations for direct recipients of FTA financial assistance, as contained in 49 CFR 21.

WHEREAS, the draft Title VI Program & Limited English Proficiency Plan was made available for a 45-day public review and comment period from January 13, 2023 to February 27, 2023, and a public meeting was held on February 8, 2023;

WHEREAS, the draft Title VI Program & Limited English Proficiency Plan was revised to incorporate comments received during this period;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the GBVMPO adopts the Title VI Program & Limited English Proficiency Plan as its program for Civil Rights and engagement with Limited
English Proficiency Populations and will adhere to and implement its procedures in the metropolitan transportation planning process.

This resolution shall become effective as of March 30, 2023.

We, the undersigned co-secretaries of Greater Bridgeport and Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Connecticut, do hereby certify that the resolution adopted by the MPO at a public meeting held on March 30, 2023, at which a quorum was present and that the same is a correct and true transcript from the original thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Fulda, Executive Director
MetroCOG – MPO Co-Secretary

Richard T. Dunne, Executive Director
NVCOG – MPO Co-Secretary

Date: March 30, 2023
Acknowledgements

GREATER BRIDGEPORT & VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Mayor/Selectman</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ansonia</td>
<td>Mayor David Cassetti</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridgeport</td>
<td>Mayor Joseph P. Ganim</td>
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<tr>
<td>Derby</td>
<td>Mayor Richard Dziekan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easton</td>
<td>First Selectman David Bindelglass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fairfield</td>
<td>First Selectwoman Brenda L. Kupchick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greater Bridgeport Transit</td>
<td>Doug Sutherland</td>
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<td>Monroe</td>
<td>First Selectman Kenneth Kellogg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seymour</td>
<td>First Selectwoman Annmarie Drugonis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shelton</td>
<td>Mayor Mark Lauretti, Vice-Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stratford</td>
<td>Mayor Laura Hoydick, Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trumbull</td>
<td>First Selectman Vicky Tesoro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valley Transit District</td>
<td>Mayor Mark Lauretti</td>
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METRO COG
Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments

Patrick Carleton, AICP, Deputy Director
Lawrence Ciccarelli, Administrative Services Director
Devin Clarke, Senior Transportation Planner
Matthew Fulda, Executive Director
Mark Hoover, GIS Director
Colleen Kelleher, Finance Director
Robert F. Kulacz, P.E., Engineer
Lindsay Naughton, Regional Planner
Hannah Reichle, Regional Planner
Meghan A. Sloan, AICP, Planning Director

NAUGATUCK VALLEY COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS

Drew Baklik, Director of Municipal Affairs
Trish Bauer, Office/Financial Manager
Desira Blanchard, Communications & Community Engagement Manager
Aaron Budris, Senior Regional Planner
Arthur Bogen, Environmental Planner-Brownfields
Ken Byron, Communications & Community Engagement Associate
Richard Crowther Jr., GIS Planning Assistant
Jack DeOliveira, Transportation Planner

John DiCarlo, Municipal Shared Services Director
Richard Donovan, Director of Transportation Planning
Rick Dunne, Executive Director
Kevin Ellis, P.E., Transportation Engineer
Joshua Lecar, Director of Planning
Mark Nielsen, Assistant Director
Eyitayo Olaleye, Transportation Planner
Christine O’Neill, Regional Environmental Planner
Mark Pandolfi, Transit Capital Administrator
Steven Perry, Environmental Planner
Glenda Prentiss, GIS Program Coordinator
Lauren Rizzo, Administrative Services Coordinator
Ricardo Rodriguez, Brownfields Manager
Joanna Rogalski, Senior Regional Planner/Emergency Management
Keith Rosenfeld, Regional Municipal Planner
Katie Schlick, Environmental Planner
Karen Svetz, P.E., Regional Transportation Engineer
Michael Szpryngel, Finance Director
Faith Thurmond, Staff Accountant/Program Coordinator
Savannah-Nicole Villalba, AICP, Senior Regional Planner for Housing & Integrated Development
Elliot Wareham, Transportation Planner