

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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METROCOG
Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments

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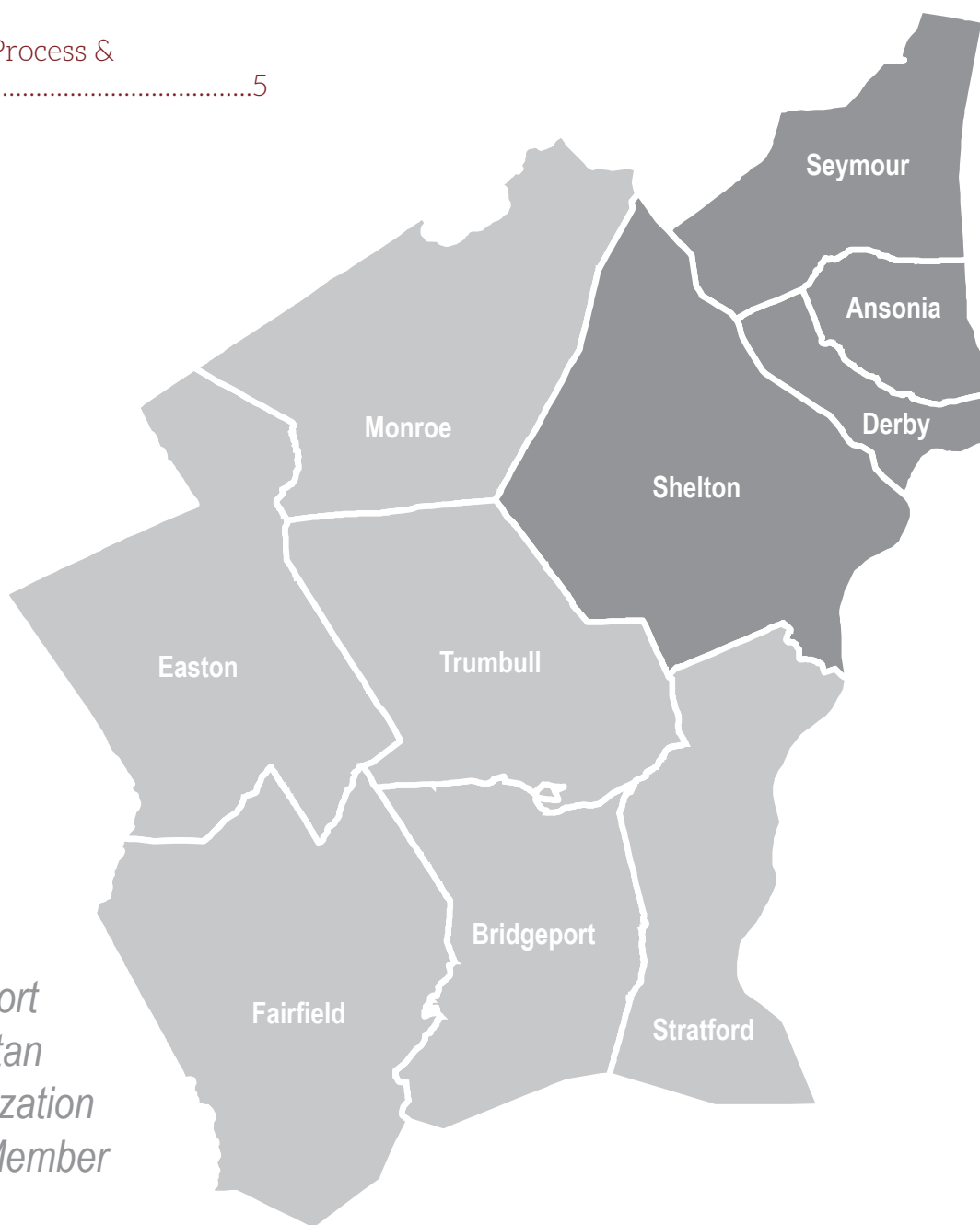
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*Greater Bridgeport
Valley Metropolitan
Planning Organization
(GBVMPO) & Member
Municipalities*

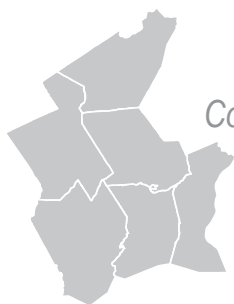
Introduction

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.



Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG)



Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG)

The Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG) in cooperation with the Region's stakeholders, developed the Title VI Program and Limited English Proficiency Plan..

MetroCOG staff are entirely responsible for the design and format of this report, using a style guide developed through SRMC (Susan Rubinsky Marketing Consulting). The opinions, findings and conclusions expressed in this publication are those of MetroCOG and do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the federal and state agencies through which MetroCOG is funded.

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 which 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.

Title VI Complaint Process & Procedures

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-

Submit all Title VI Requests & Complaints in Writing:

Information on MetroCOG's non-discrimination obligations:

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

A Complaint to MetroCOG:

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

Complaints to the Connecticut Department of Transportation:

Title VI Coordinator, CTDOT
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT 06131-7546

Complaints to the Federal Transit Administration:

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

Complaints to the Federal Highway Administration:

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

Required Title VI Materials:

Notice to the Public: Appendix A

Your Rights Under Title VI: Appendix B

Title VI Policy: Page 4

Title VI Process & Procedures: Pages 5-6

Complaint Form: Appendix C

Complaint Log: Appendix D

Title VI Complaint Form

Section I

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

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: _____

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 Fuld, Executive Director
Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments
1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Suite 925
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604
e-mail: mfuld@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.

tion after a written request for omitted/additional information.

Issues that do not involve discrimination or are not based upon a protected basis pursuant to Title VI will not be processed as a Title VI complaint. Individuals will not be discouraged from filing a written complaint.

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 will 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. Totalling 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 transportation, 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 discussed. The Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments will consult with social service agencies and other non-traditional transportation groups, including bicycle and pedestrian, environmental, resource and land use management 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 Environmental 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 adverse 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. MetroCOG conducts all programs, policies and activities in a manner that ensures such programs, policies and activities do not have the effect of excluding persons (including populations) 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 disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority populations 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 impact minority populations and/or low-income populations., MetroCOG will employ the appropriate 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 MetroCOG accommodates minority and low-income populations.

MetroCOG has conducted an analysis of the Region’s Minority and Low-Income populations utilizing GIS and U.S. Census Data. Please see Appendix G for this analysis.

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

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.

Language	Total Population (>5 yrs)	Speaks English "Less than Very Well"	Percent of Total Population
Spanish	64,671	28,516	7.3%
Russian, Polish or other Slavic Languages*	4,793	1,839	0.5%
Other Indo-European Languages**	20,868	7,991	2.1%
Chinese (incl. Mandarin Cantonese)	1,855	1,146	0.3%
French (incl. Cajun)	7,544	2,474	0.6%
All other languages	11,740	3,783	1%
All residents over 5 years who speak a language other than English.	111,471	45,749	11.8%

**Based on previous analysis, Polish is a significant component of this language group in Connecticut.*

***Based on previous analysis, Portuguese is a significant component of this language group in Connecticut.*

See Appendices I and J for a complete analysis.

"less than very well". 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 regard-



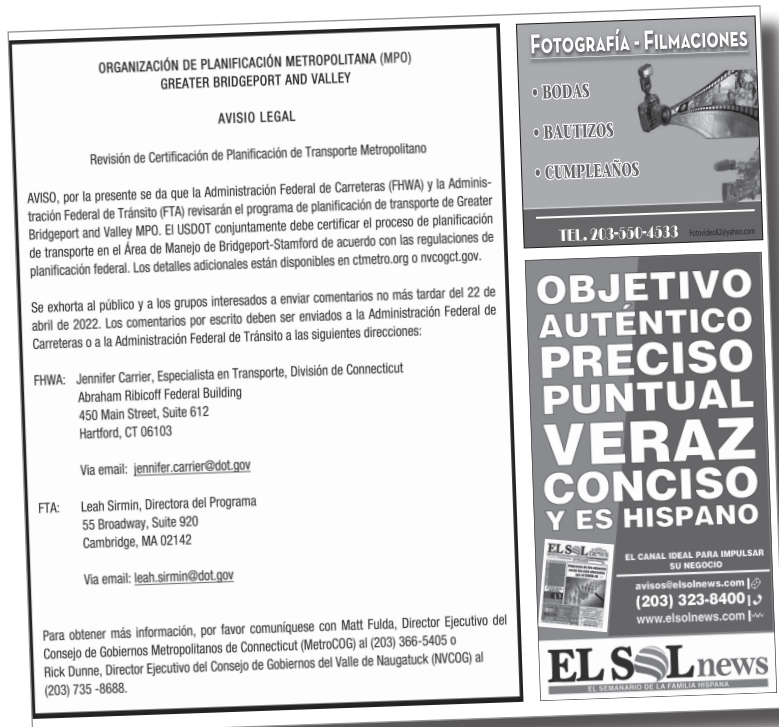
A seat drop for the 2023-2050 Metro-politan Transportation Plan Survey

ing 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

Product	Spanish Translation*	Public Hearing/Meeting Interpretation*
Long Range Transportation Plan	Executive Summary	Upon Request
Public Participation Plan	Entire Document	Upon Request
Title VI & LEP Plan	Entire Document	Upon Request
Regional Plan of Conservation & Development	Executive Summary	Upon Request
Transportation Improvement Program	Executive Summary	Upon Request
Planning Studies	Community context determines translation & interpretation.	
Unified Planning Work Program	Upon Request	

*Additional languages upon request



Spanish language translation of a legal notice

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 of 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,

Title VI and LEP Policies for Transit Service Providers:

Greater Bridgeport Transit: <https://gogbt.com/inside-gbt/your-civil-rights/>

MTA: http://web.mta.info/mta/title_vi.html

Valley Transit District: <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:

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.

- 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

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*

☐

***If you answered "yes", please skip ahead to Section III**

No

☐

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:
(*please check all that apply*)

Race

☐

Color

☐

National Origin

☐

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:

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

No.	Date of Complaint	Summary of Allegation	Status of Investigation	Lawsuit or Complaint	Action Taken	Final Disposition

Voluntary Title VI Public Involvement Survey

Completing this form is voluntary but encouraged. **You are not required to provide the information requested to participate in this meeting.**

Zip Code	Male or Female	White	African American	Hispanic/Latino	Asian	Native American	2 or More Races	Other

Meeting Purpose	Location of Meeting	Date

See other side for more information



Back



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

See other side for survey

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). Totalling 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:

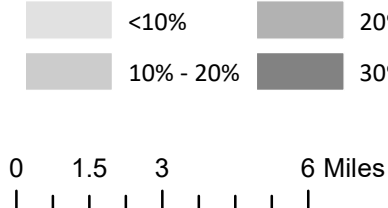
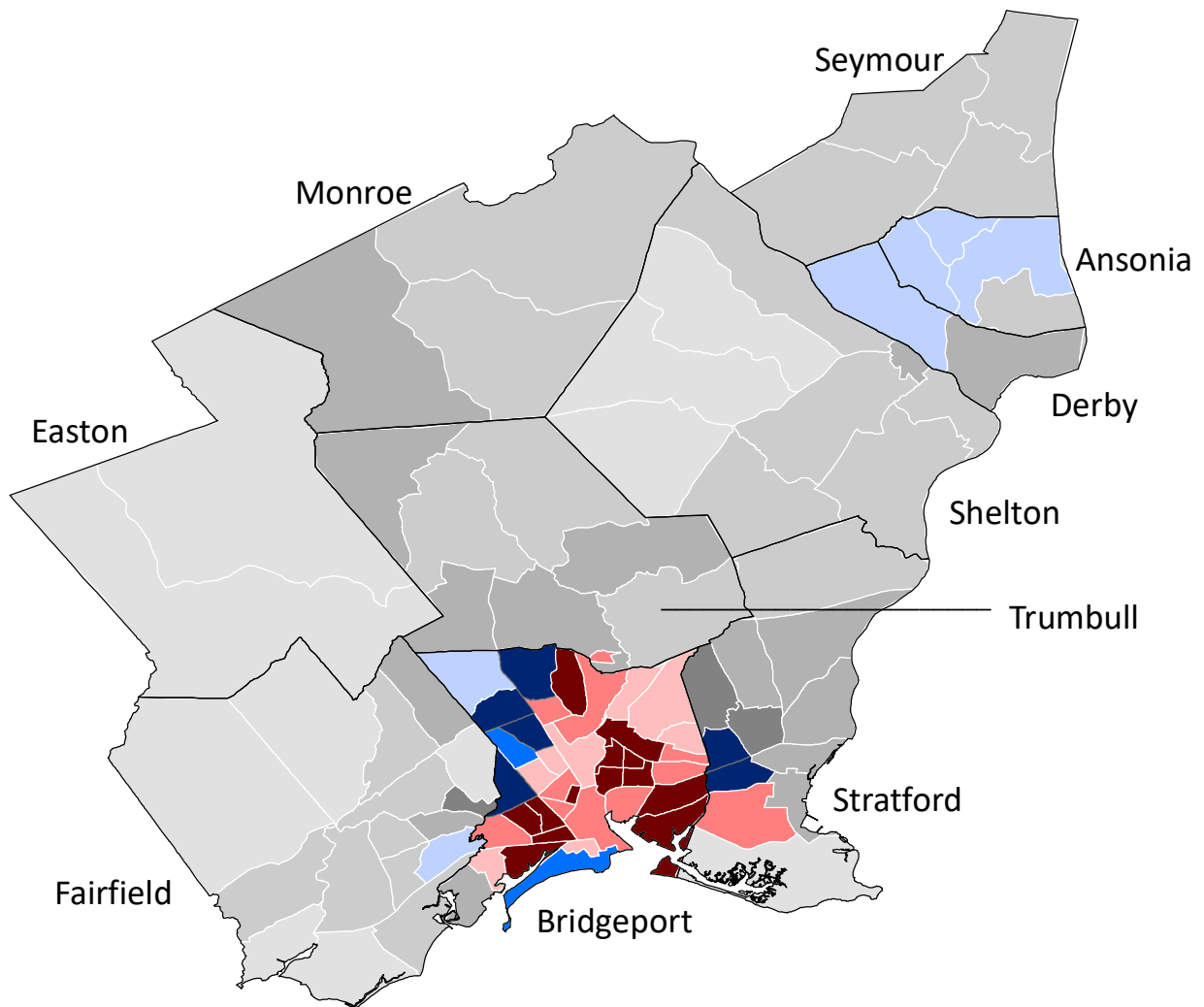
Chief Elected Officials of:

- 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

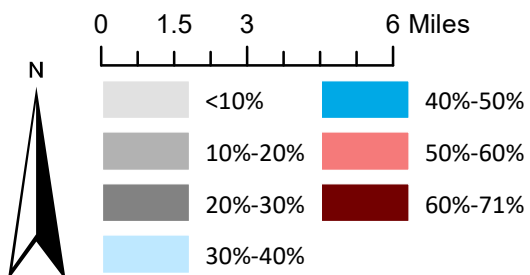
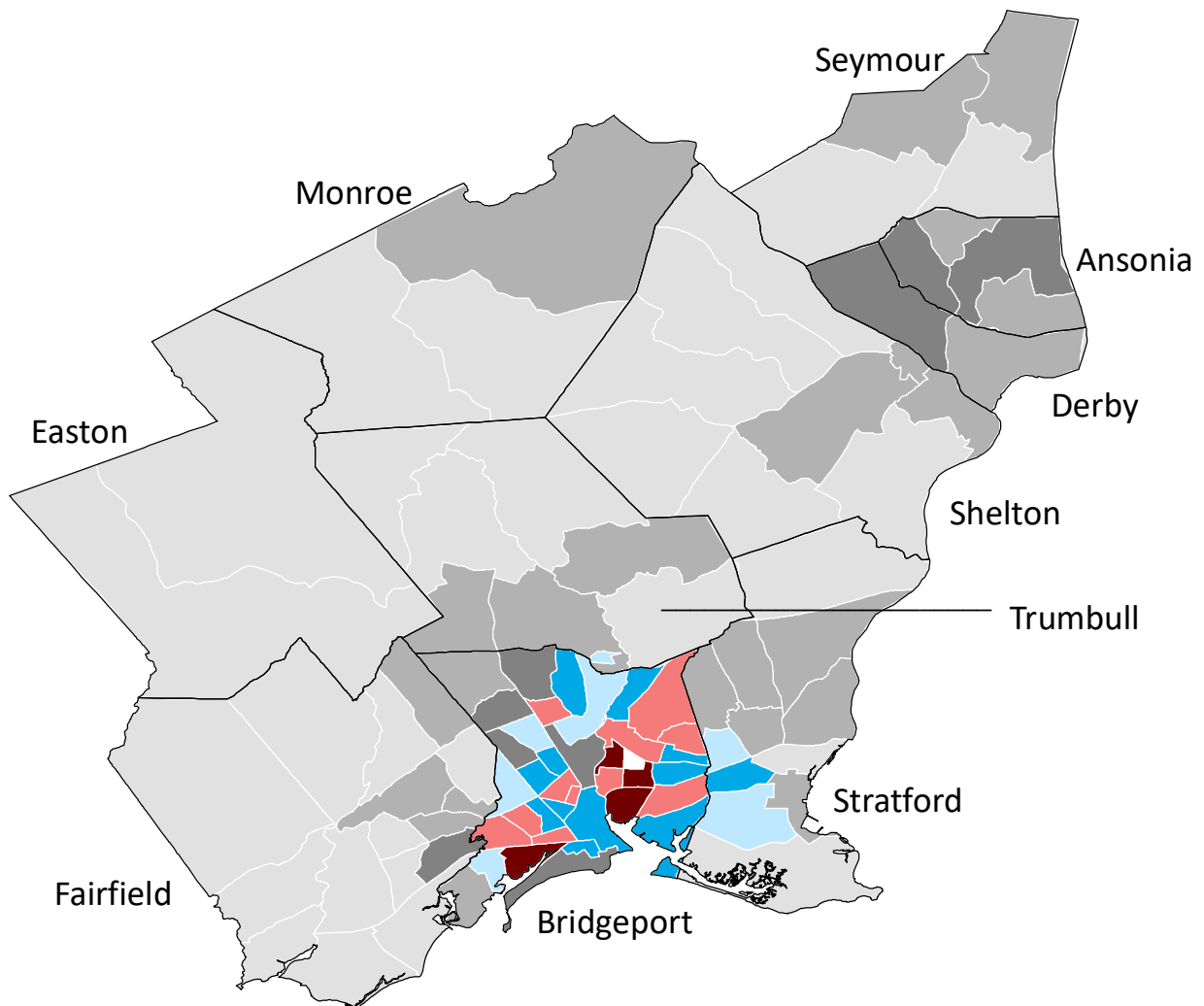


Demographic and Housing Estimates US Census, ACS 2020



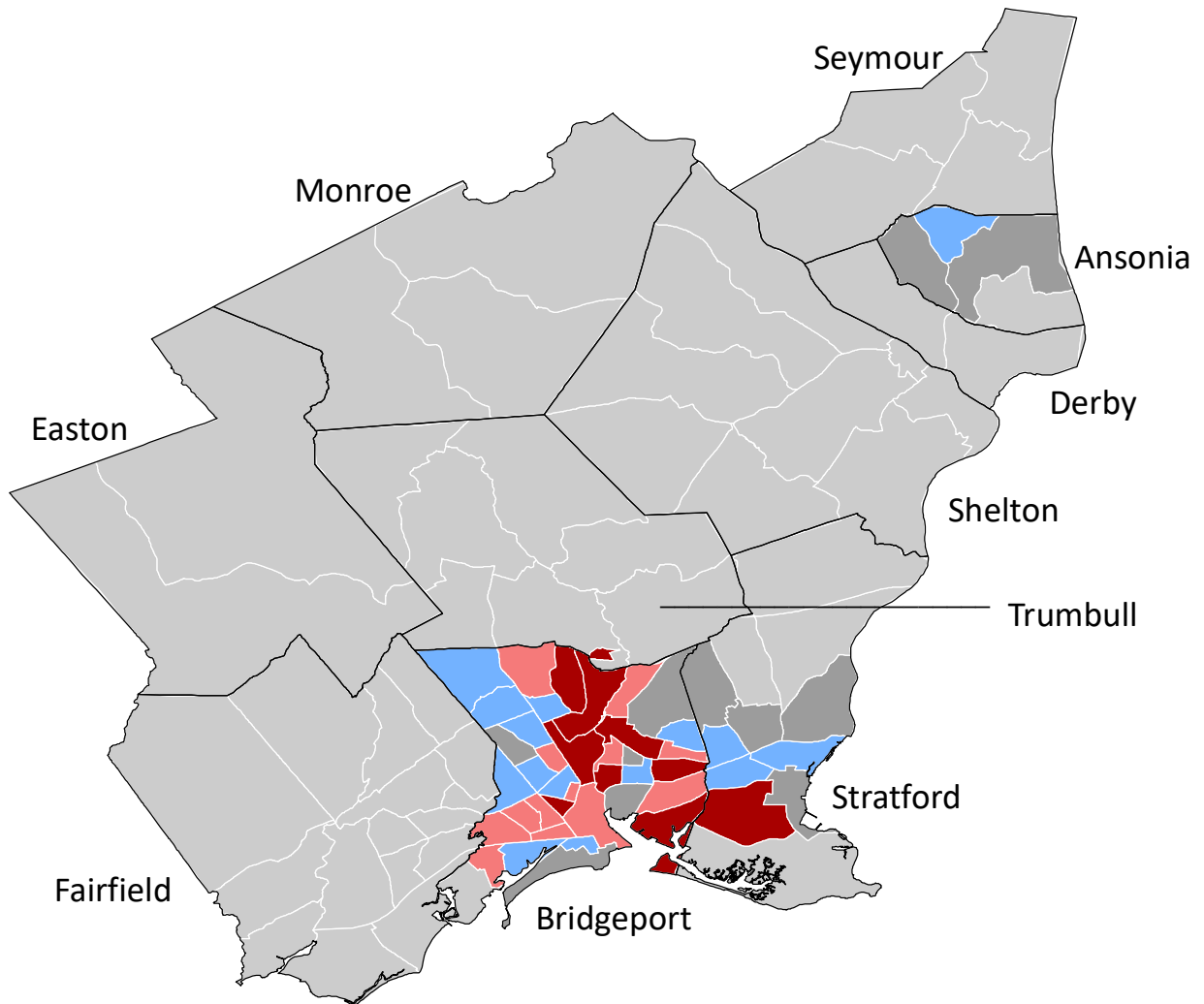
Hispanic/Latino Population

Percent of Hispanic/Latino Population by Census Tract



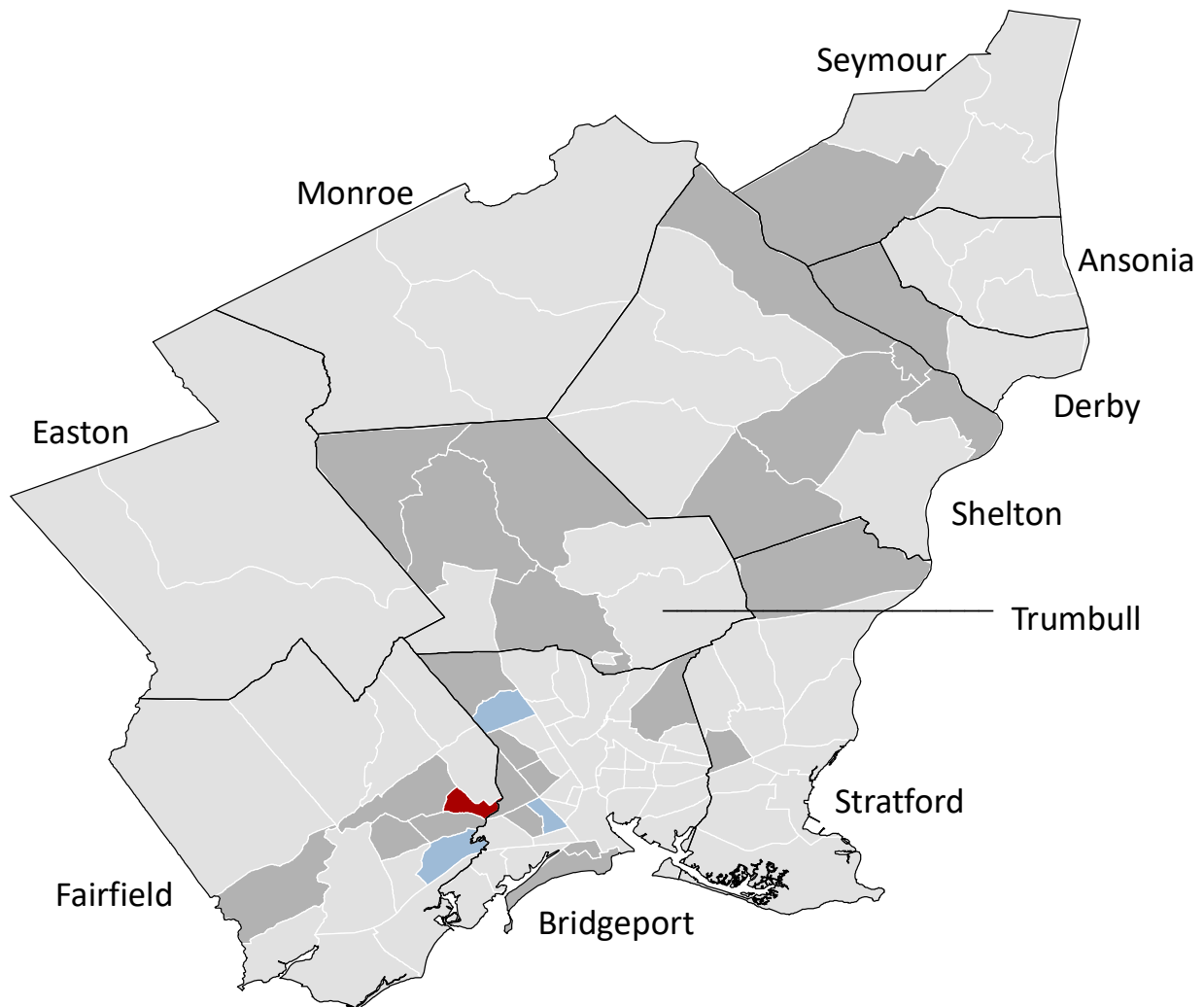
Demographic and Housing Estimates US Census, ACS 2020

African American Population Percent of African American Population by Census Tract

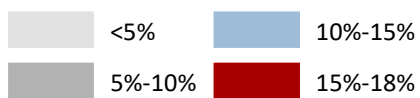


Demographic and Housing Estimates US Census, ACS 2020

Asian Population Percent of Asian Population by Census Tract



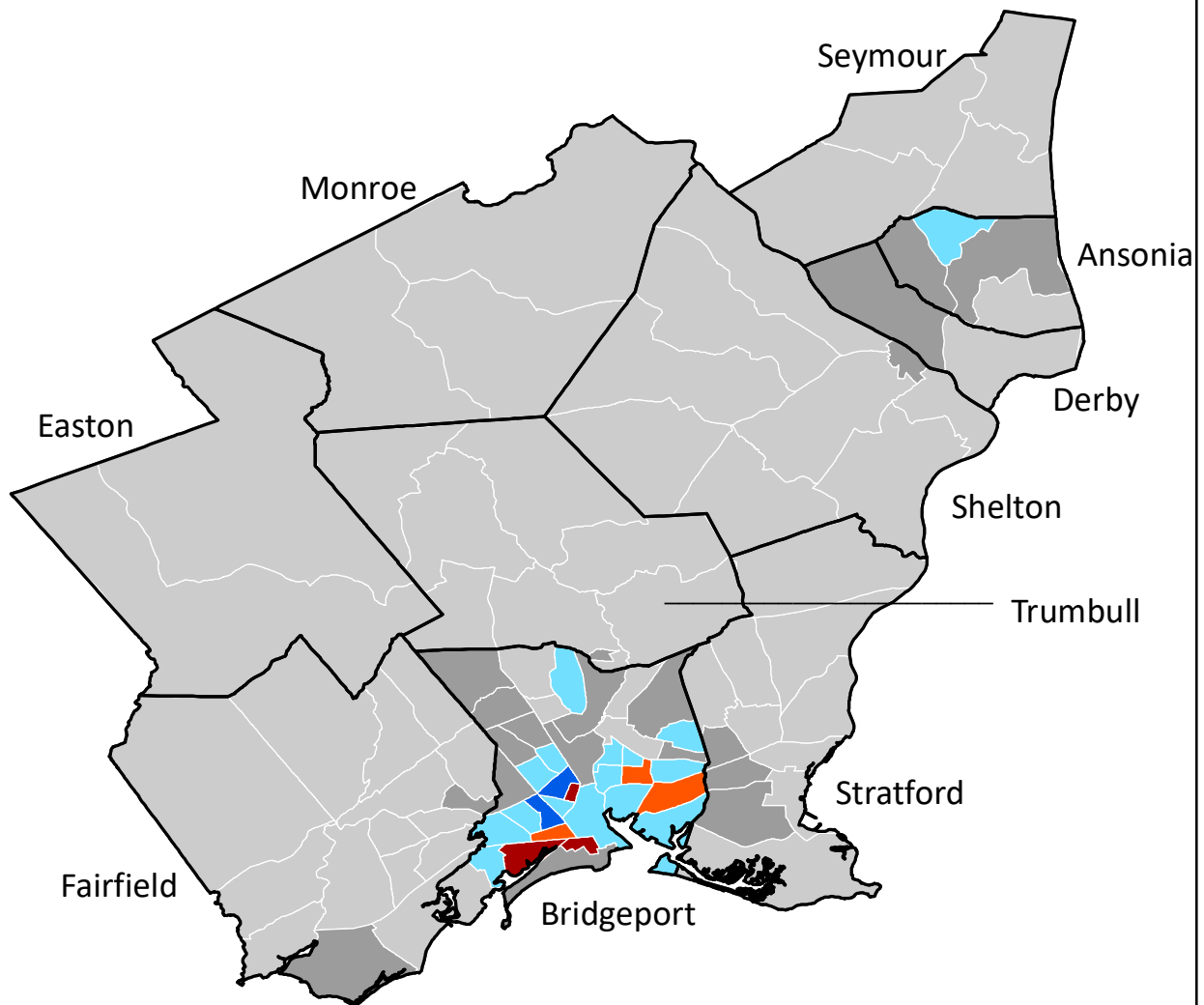
0 1.5 3 6 Miles



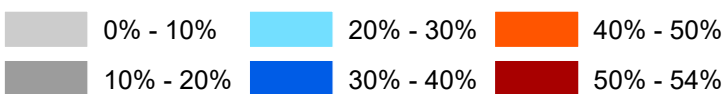
Demographic and Housing Estimates US Census, ACS 2020

Percent of Population in Poverty by Census Tract

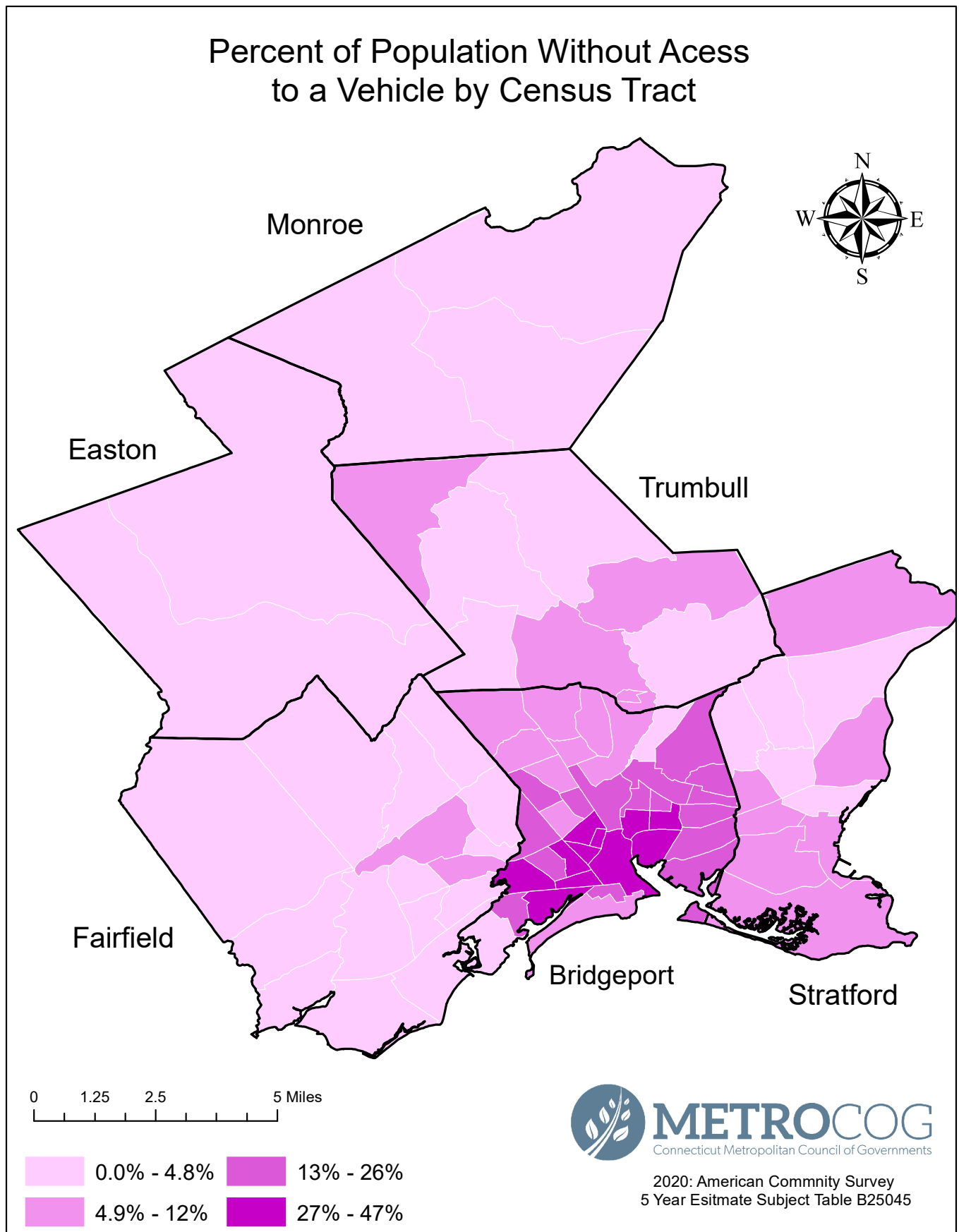
Income in the past 12 months below the poverty level



0 1.5 3 6 Miles

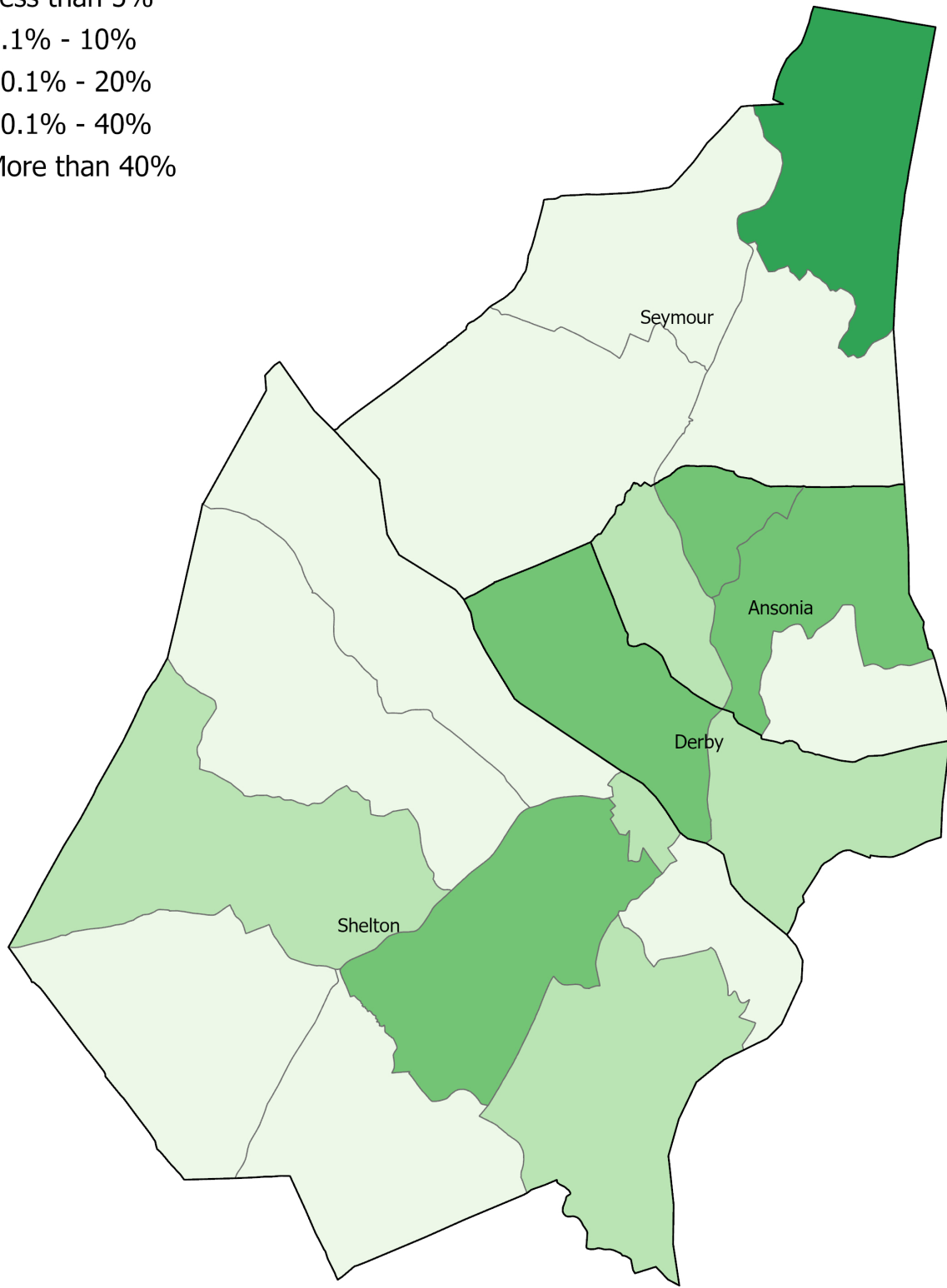


Source: US Census, ACS 2020

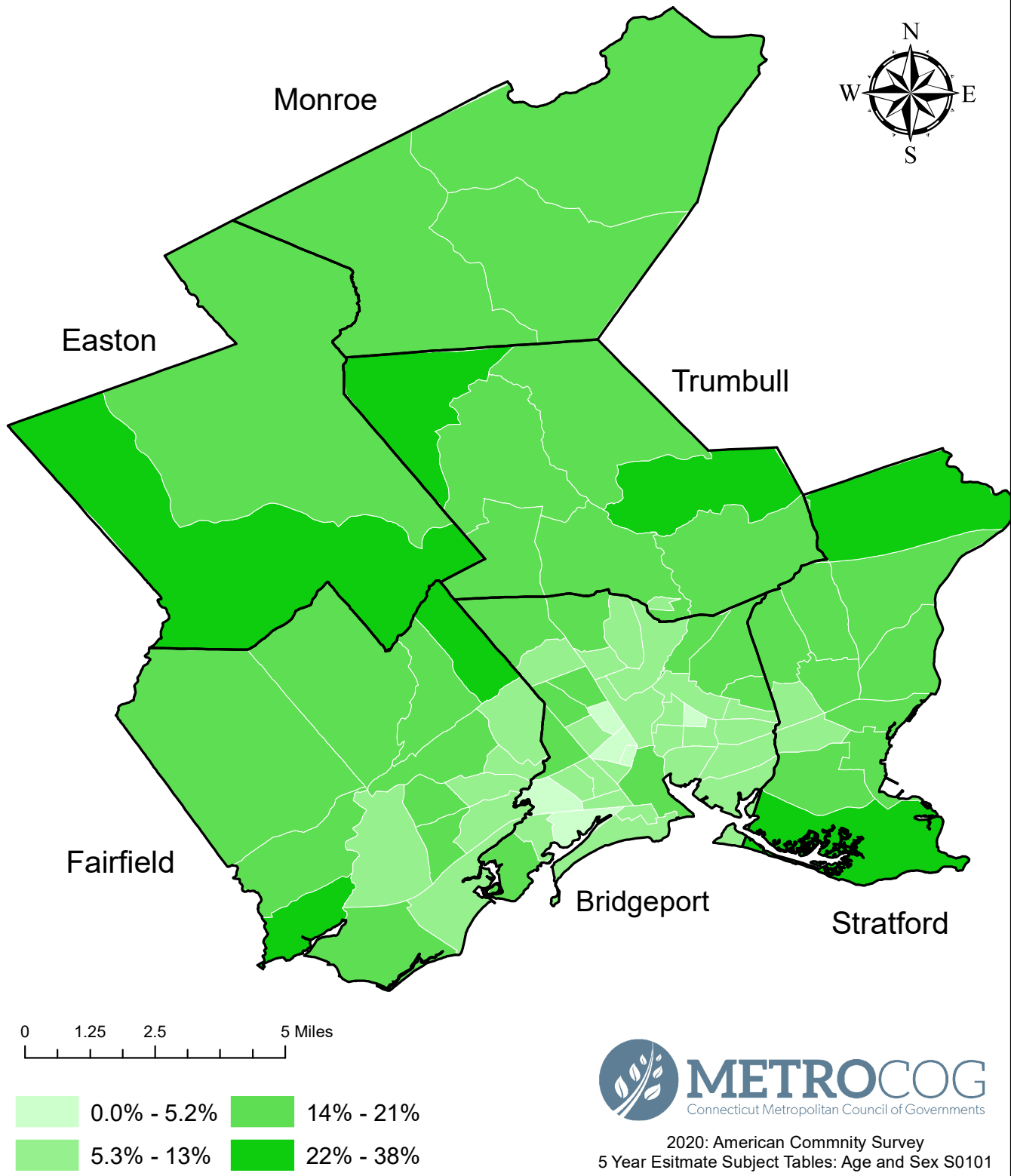


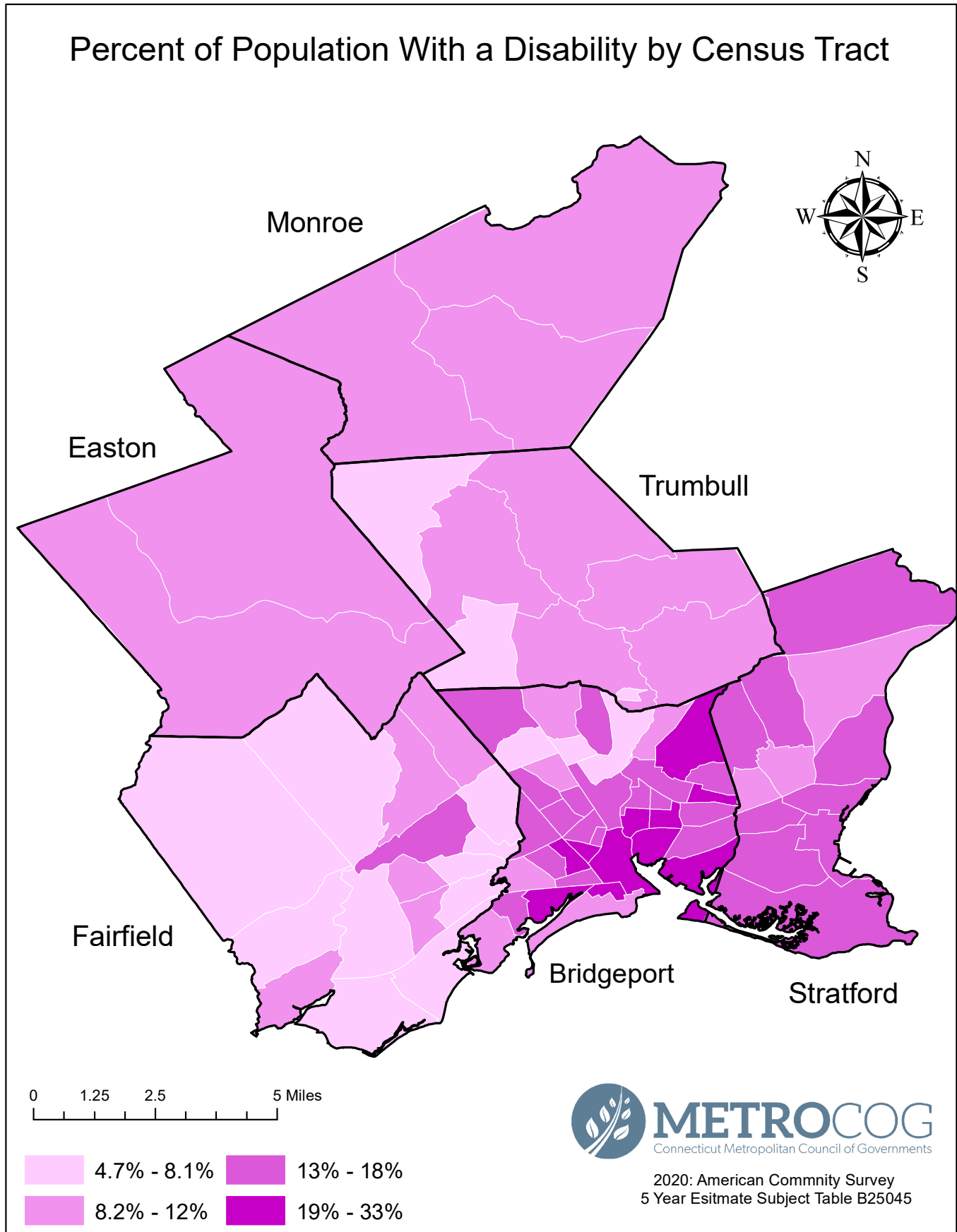
Households with No Vehicle Owned

- Less than 5%
- 5.1% - 10%
- 10.1% - 20%
- 20.1% - 40%
- More than 40%



Percent of Population Over 65 Years Old by Census Tract





Organizations that assist with LEP in Ansonia, Derby, Seymour & Shelton

Ansonia Housing Authority
Area Congregations Together
Birmingham Group Health Services
Coordinated Transportation Solutions
Derby Housing Authority
Naugatuck Valley Health District
Seymour Housing Authority
Shelton Housing Authority
St. Joseph Church
St. Michael the Archangel Parish
TEAM, Inc.
The WorkPlace, Inc.
Valley Arts Council
Valley United Way

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/Ralpho 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

COGs & MPOs

Naugatuck Valley Council of
Governments (NVCOG)

New York Metropolitan Transporta-
tion Commission (NYMTC)

South Central Regional Council of
Governments (SCRCOG)

Western Connecticut Council of
Governments (WestCOG)

State of Connecticut

Connecticut Port Authority

Department of Transportation

Office of Policy & Management,
Office of Responsible Growth

Office of Tourism

State Historic Preservation Office

Language Groups by Population in the Greater Bridgeport Region

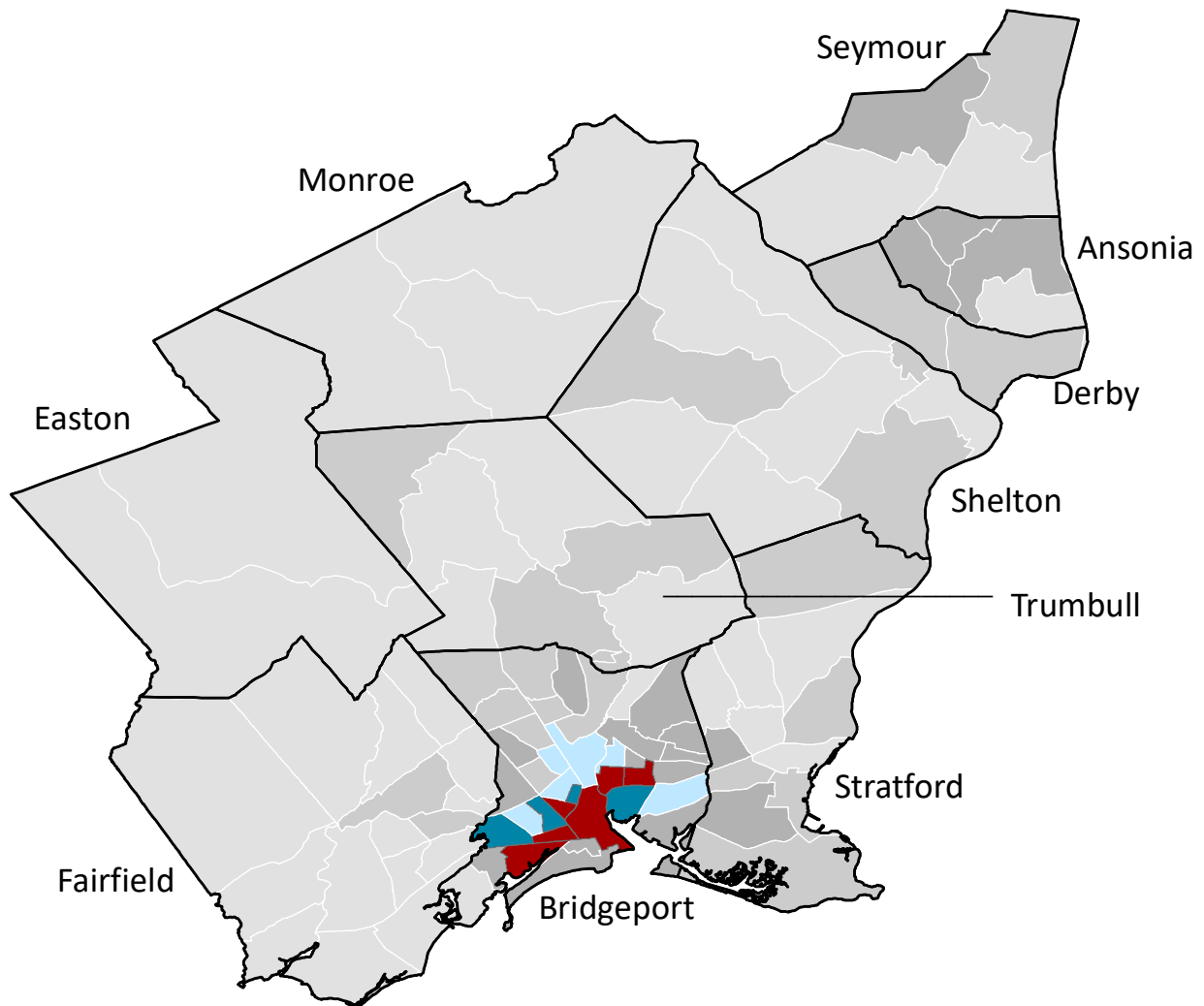
Language	Region's Population	Percent
Speak only English	277094	71.31
Spanish	64671	16.64
German or other West Germanic languages	974	0.25
Russian Polish or other Slavic languages	4793	1.23
Other Indo-European languages	20868	5.37
Korean	509	0.13
Chinese (incl. Mandarin Cantonese)	1855	0.48
Vietnamese	1429	0.37
Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	529	0.14
Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	2364	0.61
Arabic	1647	0.42
French (inc. Cajun)	7544	1.94
Other and unspecified languages	4288	1.10
Total Non-English Language Speakers	111,471	28.69%

“English Less than Very Well” in the Greater Bridgeport Region

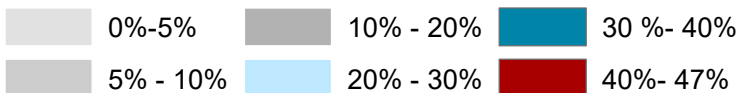
Language	Total Population	Speaks English “Less than Very Well”
Spanish	64671	28516
German or other West Germanic languages	974	41
Russian Polish or other Slavic languages	4793	1839
Other Indo-European languages	20868	7991
Korean	509	275
Chinese (incl. Mandarin and Cantonese)	1855	1146
Vietnamese	1429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



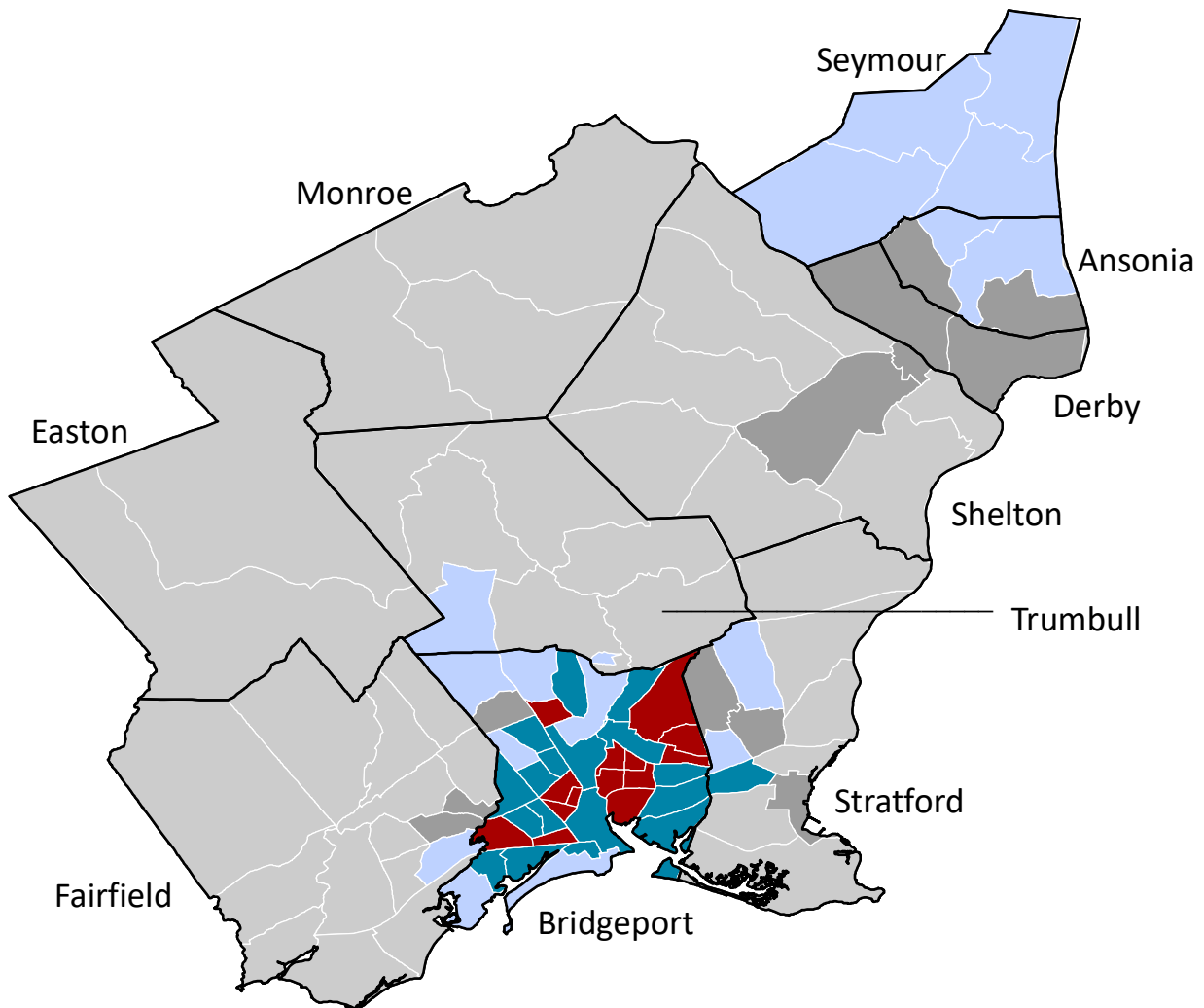
0 1.5 3 6 Miles



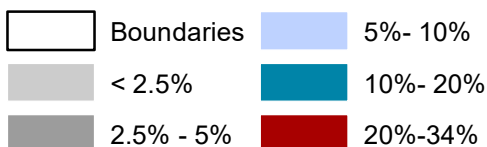
Language spoken at home by ability to speak English for the population 5 and over. Limited English Proficiency is defined by speaking English less than very well. Source: US Census, ACS 2016-2020.

Limited English Proficiency: Spanish Language

Percent of LEP Spanish Speakers by Census Tract



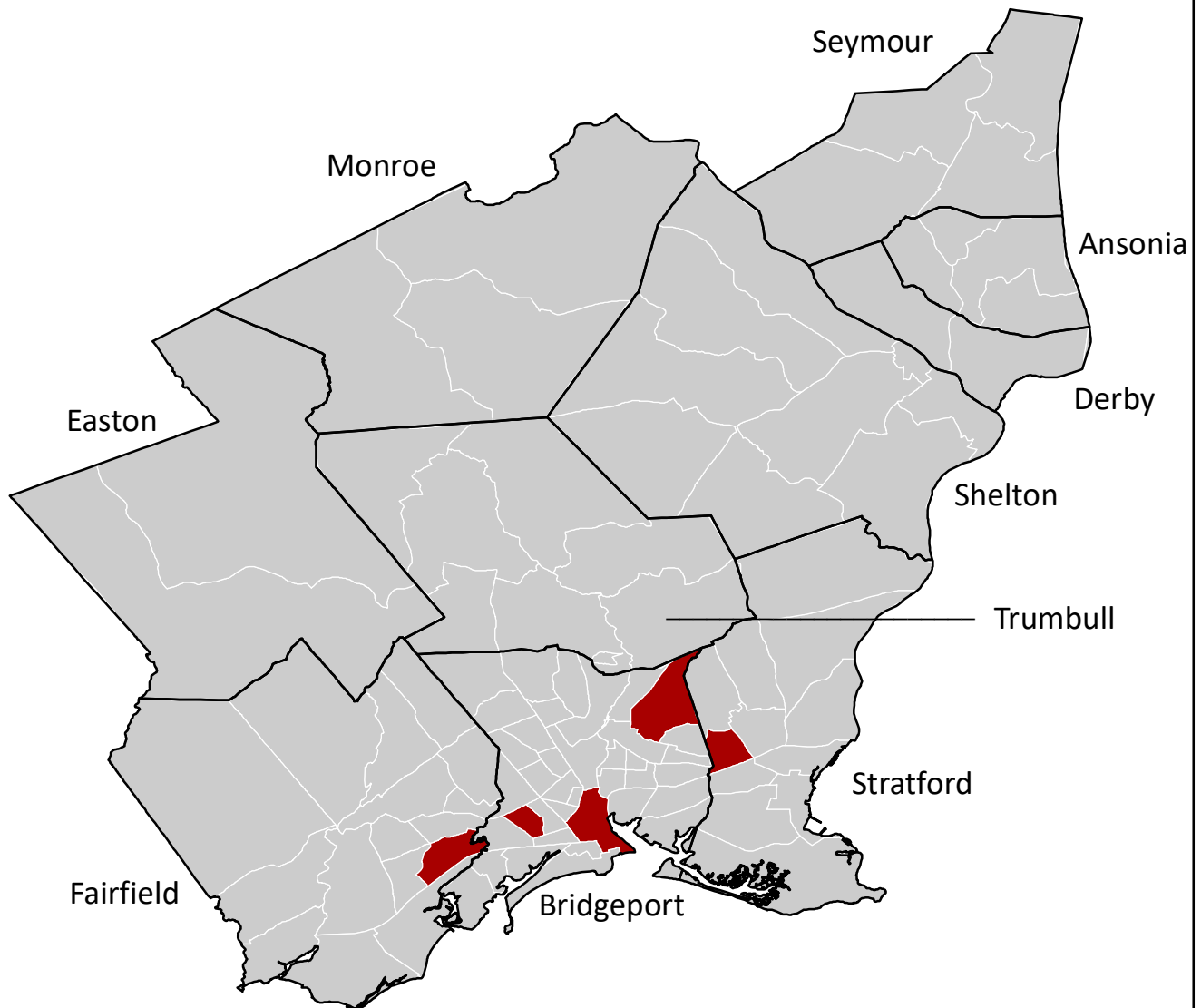
0 1.5 3 6 Miles



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: Chinese (includes Mandarin & Cantonese)

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



0 1.5 3 6 Miles

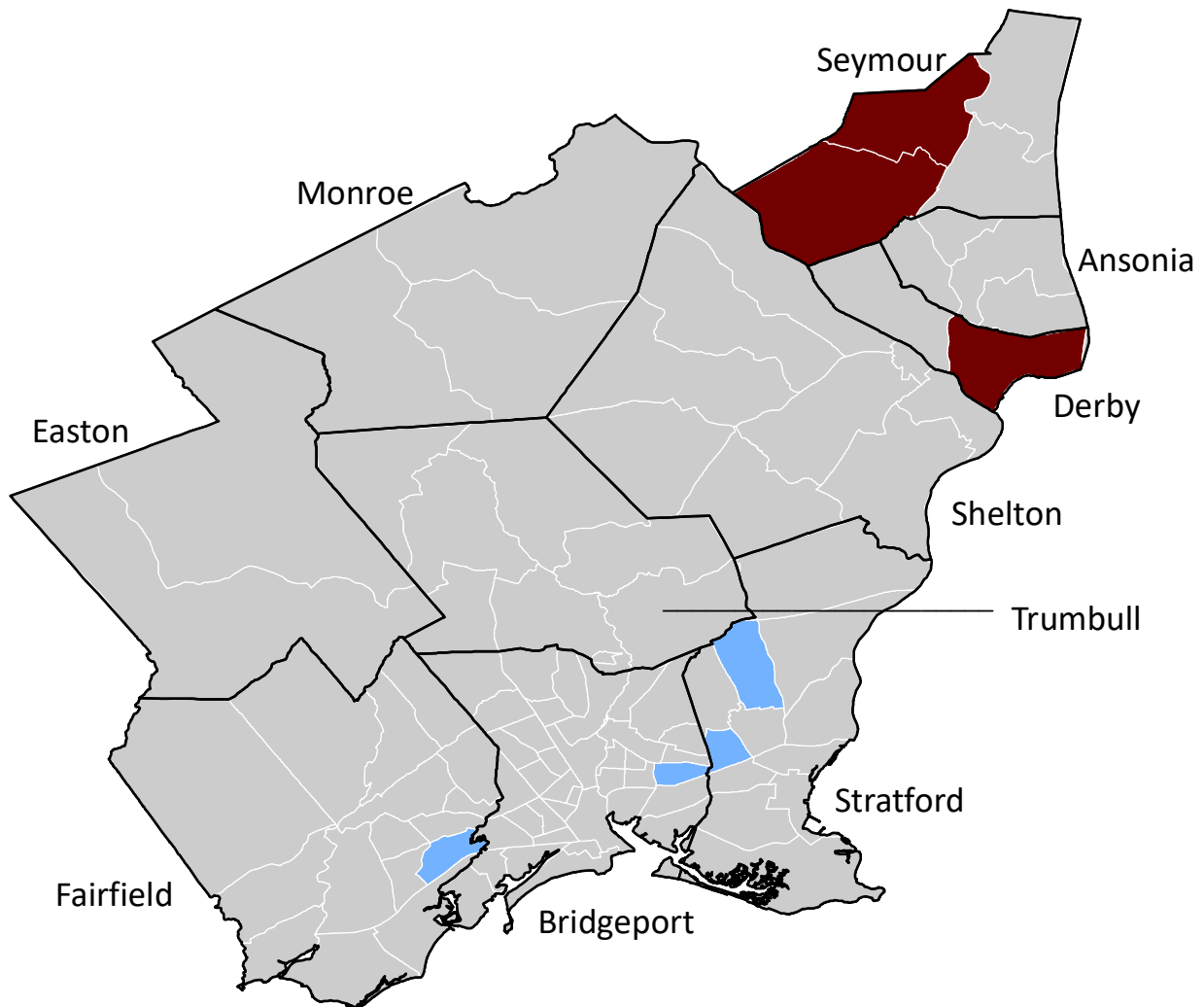
<2% 2% - 2.5% 2.5%-3.1%



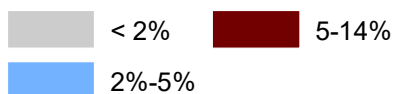
Language spoken at home by ability to speak English for the population 5 and over. Limited English Proficiency is defined by speaking English less than very well.
Source: US Census, ACS 2016-2020.

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

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



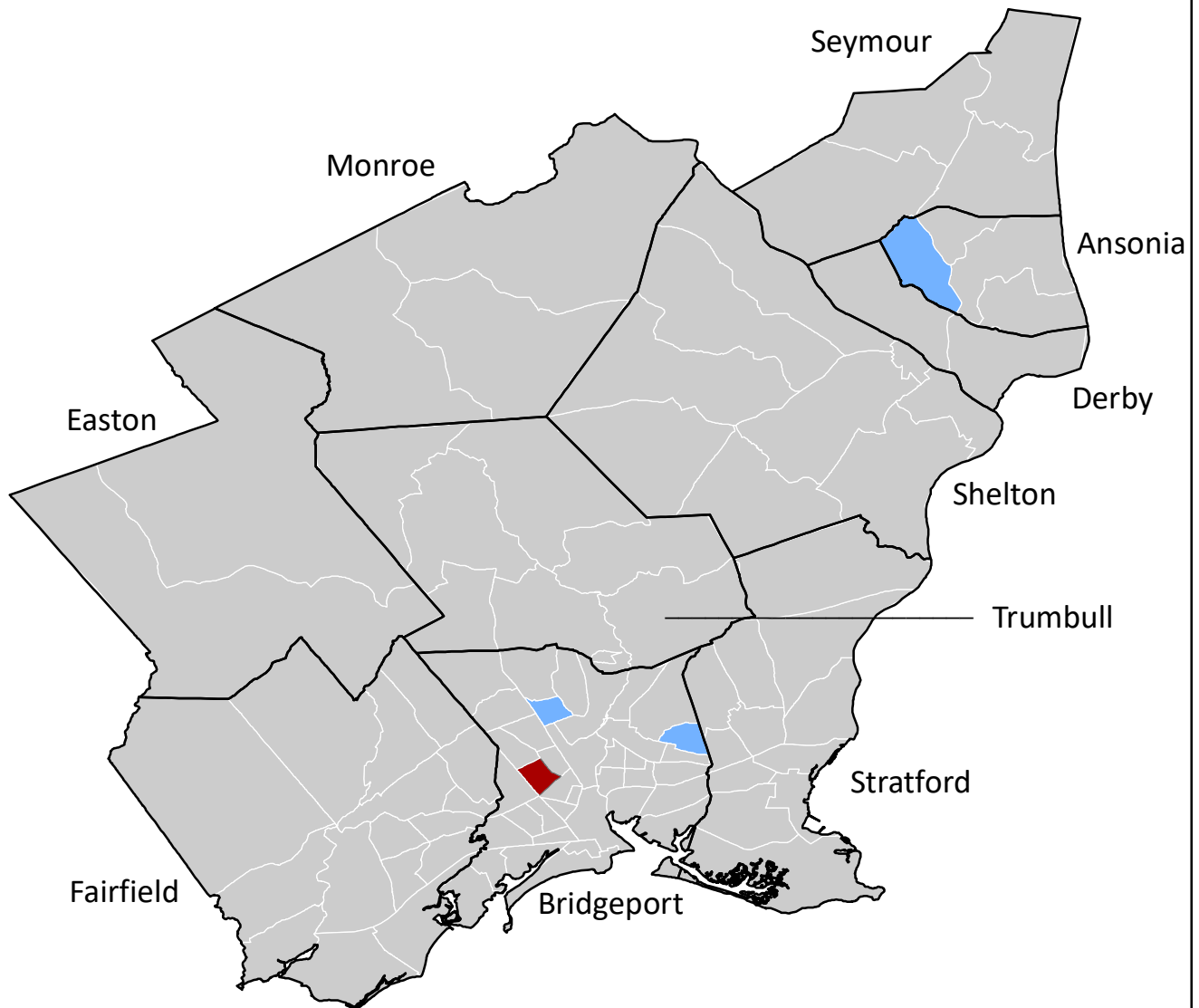
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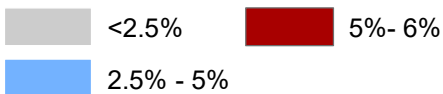
Language spoken at home by ability to speak English for the population 5 and over. Limited English Proficiency is defined by speaking English less than very well. Source: US Census, ACS 2016-2020.

Limited English Proficiency: Vietnamese

Percent of LEP Vietnamese by Census Tract



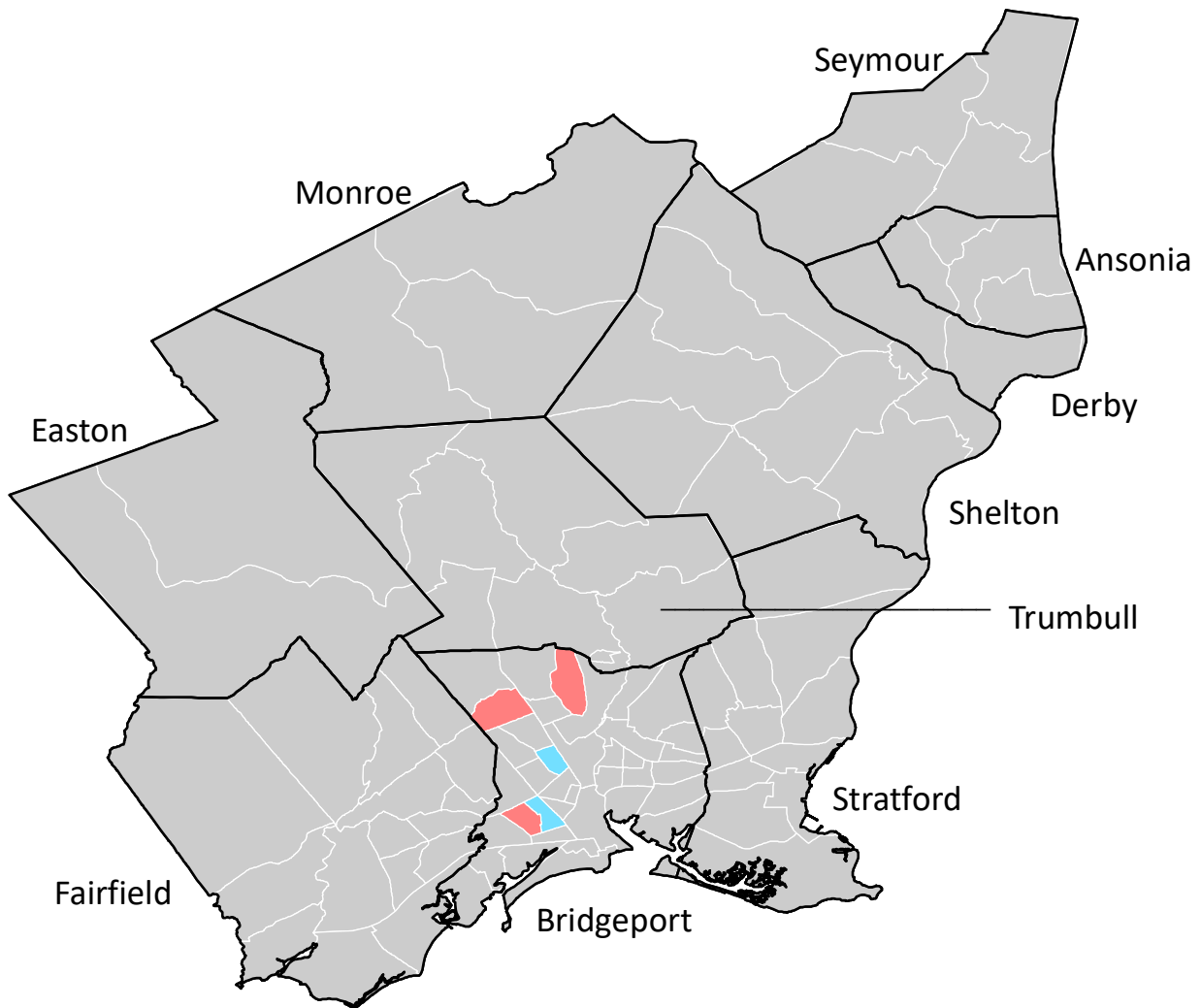
0 1.5 3 6 Miles



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



0 1.5 3 6 Miles

< 2.5%

2.5% - 3.5%

3.5% - 4.9%



METROCOG
Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments

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.

Public Outreach Process:

- Legal Notice: Posted in CTPost and *EISol* 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.

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GREATER BRIDGEPORT AND VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING

GREATER BRIDGEPORT AND VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION LEGAL NOTICE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN AND TITLE VI PROGRAM & LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN NOTICE is hereby given that the Greater Bridgeport and Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GBVMPO) 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 GBVMPO. 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 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. 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 §7450.316. 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 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor, Waterbury, Connecticut 06702. Drafts can also be viewed on-line at www.ctmetro.org and www.nvcogct.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 8 1/2 " 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 AM 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 23, 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.

Appeared in: **Connecticut Post** on Friday, 01/13/2023

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Home Friday, January 13, 2023

GREATER BRIDGEPORT AND VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING

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Order Confirmation

<u>Ad Order Number</u> 0002750041	<u>Customer Account</u> 109774
<u>Sales Rep.</u> sreed	<u>Customer Information</u> CONNECTICUT METROPOLITAN COUNCIL 1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Suite 925 BRIDGEPORT CT 06604 USA
<u>Order Taker</u> sreed	
<u>Ordered By</u> Colleen, email	<u>Phone:</u> 2033665405 <u>Fax:</u> 2033668437 <u>Email:</u> ckelleher@ctmetro.org
<u>Order Source</u> Phone	

Ad Content Proof

Note: Ad size does not reflect actual ad

**GREATER BRIDGEPORT AND VALLEY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION****LEGAL NOTICE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN AND TITLE VI
PROGRAM & LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Greater Bridgeport and Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GBVMPO) 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 GBVMPO.

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 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.

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 §7450.316.

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 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor, Waterbury, Connecticut 06702. Drafts can also be viewed on-line at www.ctmetro.org and www.nvcogct.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, rdunne@nvcogct.org. Written comments must be received before 10 AM 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 23, 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.

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Blind Box**Materials****Order Notes**

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<u>Color</u> \$0.00	<u>Color Requests</u>	

<u>Product and Zone</u> Connecticut Post	<u># Inserts</u> 1	<u>Placement</u> Public Notices
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Run Dates
1/13/2023

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Run Dates
1/13/2023

GBVMPO: Title VI Program, Limited English Proficiency Plan and Public Participation Plan

[Plan de Participación Pública y Programa del Título VI y Plan para Dominio Limitado del Inglés](#)
[en Espanol](#)

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

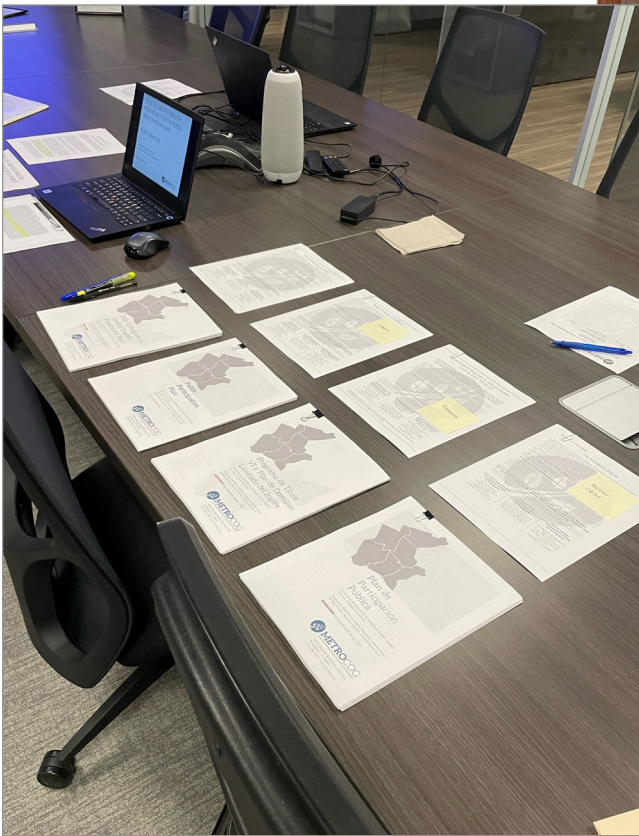
Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
49 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor
Waterbury, Connecticut 06702.

Drafts can also be viewed on-line at www.ctmetro.org and www.nvcogct.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



METROCOG
Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments

TITLE VI, LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY & PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLANS

February 8, 2023
Public Meeting

PUBLIC MEETING WAS HELD FROM 5:00PM TO 6:00PM

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 during normal business hours 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 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor, Waterbury, Connecticut 06702. Drafts can also be viewed on-line at www.ctmetro.org and www.nvcogct.org.

Any person wishing to comment may submit their comments in writing to Matt Poldo, Executive Director, MetroCOG, mpoldo@ctmetro.org or Rick Dunne, Executive Director, NVCOG, contacts@nvcogct.org. Written comments must be received before 10 AM 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.

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Bridgeport • East
1000 Lafayette Blvd.

GREATER BRIDGEPORT AND VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

LEGAL NOTICE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN AND TITLE VI PROGRAM & LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN

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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.

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NOTICE is also given that MetroCOG will hold a public information meeting concerning the draft documents on February 8, 2023, at 6:00 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.

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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."

(42 U.S.C. Section 2000d).

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, Debry, 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

GREATER BRIDGEPORT AND VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Ansonia●Bridgeport●Derby●Easton●Fairfield●Monroe●Seymour●Shelton●Stratford●Trumbull

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

Responsible Metropolitan Transportation Planning Agencies

CONNECTICUT METROPOLITAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Suite 925
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604-4902
Phone: (203) 366-5405 Fax: 366-8437
E-mail: mfulda@ctmetro.org

NAUGATUCK VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

49 Leavenworth Street, Suite 301
Waterbury, Connecticut 06702
Phone: (203) 757-0535 Fax: 756-7688
E-mail: rdunne@nvcogct.org

continued

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

Ansonia	Mayor David Cassetti	Monroe	First Selectman Kenneth Kellogg
Bridgeport	Mayor Joseph P. Ganim	Seymour	First Selectwoman Annmarie Drugonis
Derby	Mayor Richard Dziekan	Shelton	Mayor Mark Lauretti, Vice-Chair
Easton	First Selectman David Bindelglass	Stratford	Mayor Laura Hoydick, Chair
Fairfield	First Selectwoman Brenda L. Kupchick	Trumbull	First Selectman Vicky Tesoro
Greater Bridgeport Transit	Doug Sutherland	Valley Transit District	Mayor Mark Lauretti



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



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