

# FY 2019 BMPO Title VI Annual Accomplishment Report

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

## Title VI Program

*Summarize the key components of your Title VI Program:*

- The BMPO's Title VI program has three main components: data collection, public outreach and participation, and consideration of protected populations in all decision-making processes. Additionally, BMPO maintains a process for handling civil rights complaints.

*Describe any changes that were made to the approved Title VI Program during the reporting period:*

- [Mapping](#) was updated to reflect the most recent U.S. Census data. Andrea Napoli, was added as MPO staff and will be serving as the designated Title VI Coordinator for the BMPO.

## Organization/Staffing Changes

*Report any changes in organizational structure or staffing changes that are relevant to the Title VI program or Civil Rights Team (e.g. new Title VI Coordinator, planning or public works director etc.). If no changes occurred, indicate accordingly.*

- As of February 2019, a new staff member has been added to BMPO on a 0.6 FTE basis: Andrea Napoli, Senior Planner. Andrea will be serving as the BMPO Title VI Coordinator.

*Depict the relationship between the Title VI Coordinator and Director:*

- The Title VI Coordinator is a staff planner for the MPO who works under the MPO Manager. The MPO Manager works under the City of Bend Growth Management Director.

## Planning

*Summarize any transportation projects that identify potential impacts to minority and/or low-income Environmental Justice (EJ) populations (i.e., impacts such as displacements, increased noise, bisecting neighborhoods):*

- The projects below have been awarded 2018 BMPO STBG funds by the BMPO Policy Board on 9/18/18. Most projects awarded funds during this reporting period can be characterized as plan updates or studies, as opposed to roadway or modal projects (which this reporting topic refers to). As such, project-level impacts for those funded planning projects are not yet identified.
  - \$149,000 for Cascades East Transit Regional Transit Master Plan Update, Bend area component
  - \$50,000 for BMPO MTP Plan Update
  - \$40,000 for ODOT Parkway Study
  - \$23,000 for BMPO Transportation Safety Action Plan (areas for further study)

identified, see below)

- \$110,000 for Deschutes County ITS Plan Update
- \$110,000 for low cost ITS projects: Includes citywide traffic signal improvements to improve connectivity with ODOTs central signal system. No negative impacts foreseen.
- \$635,000 for city of Bend Street Preservation: Includes inlays, overlays, and surface seals throughout the city, and includes installing curb ramps where needed to meet ADA requirements (for overlays/inlays, only). A number of the overlay/inlay project locations fall within mapped high poverty and minority areas. No negative impacts found resultant of projects.
- \$70,811 for Wilson/3<sup>rd</sup> Street traffic signal design: Proposed to include new curb ramps and sidewalk approaches, and countdown timers. No negative impacts foreseen.

*Indicate how identified impacts were minimized/mitigated on projects that affected minority and/or low-income populations:*

- Development of the [BMPO Transportation Safety Action Plan](#) is currently underway. Intersections and roadway segments with the highest frequency and severity of crashes have been identified, some of which fall within identified higher poverty and/or minority areas. MPO staff met with other jurisdictional staff to confirm high crash areas that are already being addressed or will be through other projects. Sites needing further study have been identified and are currently being reviewed.

*Describe any projects that specifically benefit community cohesion such as: adding sidewalks, improving access to properties that improve access for EJ populations:*

- ADA curb ramp and surrounding sidewalk panel improvements from 2018 Street Preservation projects (for overlays/inlays). Many were located in mapped areas with higher than average minority and low-income populations.

### **Public Outreach/Involvement**

*Summarize public outreach efforts (e.g. public meetings, hearings, public announcements) used during planning to enhance citizen participation, focusing particularly on minority populations, women, older adults, people with disabilities and low-income populations:*

- An extensive, [joint public outreach effort](#) for both the BMPO MTP and Bend TSP updates began in May 2018 and extended thru FY 2019:
  - An MPO/City open house and a number of online events were held. Notification was provided thru social media, city website, email newsletters, and email blasts. Demographic information from willing participants was collected from the public comment questionnaires (online and in-person).
    - 4.5% respondents identified as Minority, 10.1% as Disabled, 13% as Senior
  - [Five neighborhood workshops](#) were held for five large geographic areas within the MPO boundary. The ‘Core Area’ being the most representative of EJ population

concentrations (see “Core Area Project” below). Notification was provided thru social media, city website, email newsletters, and email blasts. Demographic information from willing participants was collected from the public comment questionnaires (online and in-person).

- 9.4% of respondents identified as Minority, 3.3% as Disabled, 40.3% as Senior
- An [‘Equity Workshop’](#) was conducted on February 13, 2019 specifically for organizations that represent underserved populations to provide input on/identify transportation issues and needed improvements from their perspectives. Thirteen organizations were invited, representing minority, low-income, disabled, and senior populations. A survey for these organizations to distribute to their individual members was also provided with 91 responses received.
- Planning for the [Core Area Project](#) was active this FY. This is primarily an urban renewal project (with a focus on transportation) addressing areas that include low-income/higher minority areas of Bend. It is a city project with MPO staff having assisted in a public outreach event. Public outreach and participation pop-up events have been held outside of popular local businesses and grocery stores for the following EJ population neighborhood areas:
  - Wilson Ave (18%-30% Minority, 17%-25% Poverty), May 6
  - Division St (>30% Minority), May 9
  - Greenwood Ave (>25% Poverty), May 16
  - Central District (>25% Poverty), May 23
  - Main open house/community workshop event held at Bend High School, June 15 (located within >25% Poverty and 17%-30% Minority area).

Notification for these events were provided thru:

- City website (Spanish and English)
- Social media
- Stakeholder email list, including approximately ten EJ organizations (i.e.: Salvation Army, Boys and Girls Club, Latino Community Association, Central Oregon Disability Support Network, etc.). Emails to Hispanic/Latino organizations sent in Spanish.
- Mailers to all businesses within study area (Spanish and English)

*Provide data collection supporting public outreach decisions to assess special language needs and what services provided:*

- The BMPO collects American Community Survey data for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) individuals. According to 2013-2017 ACS data (Table B16004), 2% of individuals in the Bend Urbanized Area meet the definition of LEP. In an effort to establish “reasonable steps” (based on the USDOT four-factor analysis) to ensure that LEP persons have meaningful access to the programs, services, and information provided by the BMPO, the BMPO will upon request provide written and/or oral communications in Spanish. For targeted outreach, materials in Spanish will be provided (note: 87% of our LEP individuals speak Spanish).

Summarize public involvement metrics. What tools or methods were used to identify the communities represented and measure citizen participation at public meetings (e.g., Citizen Advisory Committee member and stakeholder committee lists or attendance sign-in sheets)?

- BMPO Technical Advisory Committee and TSP/MTP Citywide Transportation Advisory Committee make-up, public meeting sign in sheets, public comments received from identified interest representatives, and demographic questions included in in-person and online questionnaires for the MTP/TSP Neighborhood Workshops (held throughout Bend and online); stakeholder email lists and outreach to known local organizations representing EJ populations

Describe any effects Title VI public involvement activities had on planning outcomes:

- Input from the Equity Workshop (described on page 3) focused primarily on transit and bike/pedestrian improvements and programs. Key issues and needs identified are summarized in Table 1 below, including information on how the input would be addressed. Note that “Citywide Transportation Framework” is the project list for Bend’s Transportation System Plan.

**Table 1: Equity Workshop Summary and Outcomes, Key Projects and Programs Identified for Underrepresented Populations**

Project/Program	Description	Include in Citywide Transportation Framework?	Notes
Winter maintenance program, especially to transit stops	City program to improve snow and debris clearing along pedestrian and bicycle facilities	CTAC to consider addition	Consider as part of policy discussion.
Expand hours of transit service, add Sundays	People have difficulty getting to work, forces them to own cars	Increased transit headways on 3 <sup>rd</sup> and Greenwood is included	Forwarded to Cascades East Transit
Provide more intercity bus service	Busses are regularly overfull on intercity routes, esp. Warm Springs to Bend	No	Forwarded to Cascades East Transit
Reduce traffic congestion at north end of Parkway	Commuters have difficulty getting to jobs	In CTF (NFEIS projects)	
Need connected system of protected bicycle facilities	Many folks would like to ride a bike for short trips but are uncomfortable	In CTF (Low Stress Network)	
Consider micro-transit options, particularly for older people	Last mile traveled is difficult for many older people, Dial A Ride is challenging to use	Yes – Mobility Hubs and policy	.

Make intersection design more accessible	In particular, make sure that the audible signal timing is sufficient for a slow walker	Would be a Standards and Specifications issue	Suggestion was made to include a person who is blind in design review
Provide education and outreach to minority youth about using bicycles safely	Observation of children riding unsafely	No	City works with Commute Options on safety programs for school children
Schools need better access for biking and walking, particularly schools with low income students	Observation that some schools in more affluent areas have better sidewalks	Yes	Safe Routes to School policy
Bear Creek Elementary School is lacking safe pedestrian access	Particularly near Healey Heights because the trail is on the other side of the roadway	Bear Creek is identified as a Key Route	Project is part of Low Stress Network.
The intersection of Lava and Franklin is difficult, especially for left turns	The intersection of Harriman and Franklin is also difficult	Consider a Franklin Ave Corridor study?	Add corridor study to CTF
Greenwood and 4 <sup>th</sup> is an unsafe crossing for pedestrians		In Baseline	Median is under design as part of ODOT's 3 <sup>rd</sup> St project
Brosterhaus needs better bicycle and pedestrian facilities, especially since it serves lower income housing and a larger Latino population. Brosterhaus also needs better transit.	Add protected bicycle facilities and sidewalk infill.	Brosterhaus is identified on the Low Stress Network.	Include Brosterhaus when doing the Pedestrian Master Plan. Transit comment forwarded to Cascades East Transit.

*Summarize significant problem areas and any actions taken to improve Title VI process integration, documentation, and reporting for planning. If possible, include examples of public notices as an appendix.*

- The BMPO will be updating its Title VI Plan within the coming months.
- An example of a BMPO public hearing notice is shown below.

**NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING**

A meeting of the Bend Metropolitan Planning Organization (BMPO) Policy Board will be held on Tuesday April 16, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. in the DeArmond Room, Deschutes County Services Building, 1300 NW Wall Street. Bend.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the BMPO budget for the annual period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, as approved by the BMPO Budget Committee on April 2, 2019. A copy of the budget may be inspected or obtained at the City of Bend Administration Office in City Hall, 710 NW Wall St., Bend, OR between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. during regular hours or online at: [www.bendoregon.gov/mpobudget](http://www.bendoregon.gov/mpobudget)

This is a public meeting. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the BMPO Policy Board. This meeting event/location is accessible. Please contact Jovi Anderson at (541) 693-2122, janderson@bendoregon.gov and/or TTY (541) 389-2245. Providing at least 3 days notice prior to the event will help ensure availability of services requested.

This meeting is open to the public. All are welcome.

Bend Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Board Meetings are typically the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 12:00 - 1:30 PM. These meetings are typically held at the Deschutes County Building. Be sure to check the agenda for each meeting as locations and times may vary.

### **Accessible Meeting Information**

This meeting event/location is accessible. Sign language, interpreter service, assistive listening devices, materials in alternate format, such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, or any other accommodations are available upon advance request. Please contact Jovi Anderson at (541) 693-2122, janderson@bendoregon.gov and/or fax (541) 389-2245. Providing at least 3 days' notice prior to the event will help ensure availability.

### **Data Collection**

*Provide baseline demographic data used to describe the population demographics within your jurisdiction:*

- Percent of Population Living below the Poverty Level: 5-yr ACS data, Tables C17002 & S1701
- Percent of Population 65+: 5-yr ACS data, Tables S0101 & B01001
- Percent of Minority Population: 5-yr ACS data, Table B03002
- Percent of Population with Limited English Proficiency: 5-yr ACS data, Table B16004

*Summarize in an appendix or briefly describe the demographic profile of members of policy and advisory committees (e.g. job, title, race, gender):*

- In FY 2019, there were 13 voting members for the Technical Advisory Committee made up of staff from various agencies and organizations within the BMPO area, as well as public members. Gender and racial profile: 77% male and 23% female, 12 of the 13 members appearing to be White.
- Members of the Policy Board are comprised of representatives from Bend City Council, Deschutes County Board of Commissioners, and ODOT. In FY 2019, the Policy Committee gender ratio was 80% male and 20% female, with all members appearing to be White.

### **Education & Training**

*Describe any training or actions taken to promote staff awareness on Title VI compliance:*

USDOT Civil Rights Virtual Symposium (2018 and 2017) session recordings viewed by MPO staff:

- *Keeping Pace with Rapidly Changing EJ Populations in Transportation Planning*, viewed by Tyler Deke, MPO Manager, 6/4/19
- *Inclusion and Equity from the Perspective of State and Local Transportation Entities*, viewed by Andrea Napoli, Senior Planner, 5/1/19

- *Keeping Pace with Rapidly Changing EJ Populations in Transportation Planning*, viewed by Jovi Anderson, MPO Planning Tech, 5/2/19

Other Education/Training Related Activities in FY2019:

- ODOT/ToGo Statewide Transportation Options Meeting, Speaker: Andrea Napoli, RVCOG, Senior Planner, Title VI Coordinator (prior to position with BMPO), *Bike Share in the Rogue Valley*, August 2018, Ashland, OR
  - Presentation included explanation of coordination with DHS and Jackson County Housing Authority to develop free program for recipients of SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid; overview of successful (and unsuccessful) outreach efforts to low-income and senior populations.

**Complaints**

*List any Title VI complaints resulting from transportation projects:*

- None received in FY 2019.

*Provide a summary of the complaint basis, investigatory actions, and the outcome or resolution:*

- N/A

**Title VI Goals for Upcoming Year**

*Describe plans for the upcoming year, including any significant problem areas and plans to manage:*

- Update the BMPO Title VI Plan
- Annually update EJ population mapping to coincide with U.S. Census data release (every December), publish on MPO website and include in annual reporting