

# FY 2023 BMPO Title VI Annual Accomplishment Report

October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023

## **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 and traditionally underserved populations in 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:*

- We completed a data update to our online, interactive 'equity mapping tool' for the Bend MPO area. The tool is now updated with the most recent 5-year data released by the US Census Bureau. This mapping tool is available on the BMPO website on the "[Public Participation, Non-Discrimination & Equity](#)" webpage, or by using this direct link:  
<https://bendoregon.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d896e2e8b88743c29155c5ba60262a77>
- Last fiscal year, our Board approved the addition of a Title VI/equity-related criterion to our STBG competitive project application process. This reporting year, our Board awarded funding through this process. The mapping tool mentioned above was utilized by applicants to help demonstrate how their project supports this criterion.
- The current Bend MPO Title VI Plan underwent a comprehensive update in 2019. Staff reviewed the document in Sept. 2022 to determine if another update is needed and has concluded that at this time it is not. Staff will review the plan again in two years to determine if an update is needed (2024).

## **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.*

- The Bend MPO Program Coordinator, Jovi Anderson, left her position in March 2023. The Bend MPO was down to 1.8 FTE staff for half of this reporting period. A new program coordinator (Kelli Kennedy) came onboard on August 25, 2023. Andrea Napoli, the Senior Planner, continues to serve as the 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 Manager.

## **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):*

- During the reporting period, the MPO awarded funding for which they have discretion over to the following projects in December 2022:
  - Deschutes River Trail @ Archie Briggs: Grade Separation Feasibility Study
  - Stress Reduction for Bike Lanes: 3<sup>rd</sup> St, 9<sup>th</sup> St, & 15<sup>th</sup> St
  - Colorado Avenue Corridor Planning Study
  - Downtown Signal Upgrades & Bike/Ped Improvements
  - Low Stress Bikeway Network Implementation
  - Travel Options & Safe Routes to School Programs
  - Gilchrist Bike/Ped Bridge Replacement (Design)

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

- All geographically located projects were inserted into the [Bend MPO Equity Mapping Tool](#) and compared to areas of the Bend MPO that contain higher than area average equity-related populations (including EJ populations). Some of the projects are located within these areas, and due to their nature, will provide a benefit to such populations by improving existing facilities for those that may not drive for whatever reason. None of the funded projects have been determined to negatively impact such populations; only benefits can be seen.

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

- Low Stress Bikeway Network Implementation
- Stress Reduction for Bike Lanes: 3<sup>rd</sup> St, 9<sup>th</sup> St, & 15<sup>th</sup> St
- Low Stress Bikeway Network Implementation

## **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:*

- Staff use a “Title VI Email List” to provide community organizations that represent or work with equity-related populations notification of MPO planning and/or decisions that may be of interest to them. This list was developed during the 2019 comprehensive update to the Public Participation Plan, where staff met with a number of organizations and had asked how they would prefer to be involved. This list was updated during this reporting period.
- Ongoing outreach efforts we regularly use: email solicitation, press releases, website news

postings (both MPO and City), public meetings.

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

- All equity-related datasets have been updated in our [Bend MPO Equity Mapping Tool](#) to ACS 2021 5-year estimates.
- In September 2023, we began our initial MTP public outreach efforts. We have all outreach materials printed in both English and Spanish, and have a Spanish translator available.
- The BMPO collects American Community Survey data for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) individuals. Approximately, <2% of individuals in the Bend Urbanized Area meet the definition of LEP according to ACS 2021 5-year data. 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 (note: approximately 87% of our LEP individuals speak Spanish). Spanish versions of Title VI complaint forms are available on the BMPO website.

*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)?*

- TAC public member application information; BMPO public meeting minutes identifying public attendance/participation; tracking all public/organization input related to major planning efforts.

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

- MPO staff better informed on issues facing our underserved populations and relaying input to our TAC and Board.

*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.*

- While engagement and feedback from a number of community organizations representing underserved populations was successful during our last PPP update, keeping this group engaged since that time has been challenging.
- Development of meaningful public involvement metrics.

## **Data Collection**

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

- Percent of Population Living below the Federal Poverty Level: 5-yr ACS data, Table C17002
- Percent of Population Living below 200% of FPL: 5-yr ACS data, Table C17002
- Percent of Population Age 65+: 5-yr ACS data, Table B01001

- Percent of Non-White/Not Hispanic Population: 5-yr ACS data, Table B03002
- Percent of Population with Limited English Proficiency: 5-yr ACS data, Table B16004
- Percent of Population with (one or more) Disabilities: 5-yr ACS data, Table DP02
- Percent of Households without Access to a Vehicle: 5-yr ACS data, Table B25044
- Percent of Households with Children: 5-yr ACS data, Table B11005
- ODOT Transportation Disadvantaged Population Index

The [Public Participation, Non-Discrimination & Equity | City of Bend \(bendoregon.gov\)](https://www.bendoregon.gov/2017/01/17/public-participation-non-discrimination-equity-city-of-bend) Bend MPO webpage includes the [Bend MPO Equity Mapping Tool](#).

*Summarize in an appendix or briefly describe the demographic profile of members of policy and advisory committees:*

- During FY2023, the Technical Advisory Committee consisted of 12 members made up of staff from various agencies and organizations within the BMPO area, as well as 2 public members. This group is primarily men and most, but not all, appear to be white/non-Hispanic.
- During FY2023, the Policy Board included five members, comprised of representatives from Bend City Council, Deschutes County Board of Commissioners, and ODOT. This group is primarily men and most, but not all, appear to be white/non-Hispanic.

### **Education & Training**

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

Training topics completed by MPO Manager:

- City-led DEIA lunch and learn session
- Anti-harassment training
- Diversity training (Am I Biased?)
- Government Alliance on Race and Equity webinar
- Accessible Virtual Public Involvement webinar
- FHWA webinar about the Justice 40 ETC Tool
- City-led training on religious identity in Central Oregon
- Webinar about equity in roadway safety
- Webinar about LGBTQ inclusion in the planning process

Training topics and efforts undertaken by MPO Senior Planner/Title VI Coordinator:

- Continued participation in the City of Bend Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Task Force: Community Outreach and Engagement Subgroup (has since disbanded)
- Measuring Accessibility, Planning for Success (WFRC, SACOG, SANDAG)
- DOT Justice40 ETC Explorer Tool Updates
- Equity in Roadway Safety: Tools to Conduct Equitable Safety Data
- City of Bend Lunch and Learn: Moving Equity Forward

Training topics completed by MPO Program Coordinator:

- Diversity training (Am I Biased?)
- City-led training on religious identity in Central Oregon
- City-led DEIA lunch and learn session
- Public Sector: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion – Be Fearless, Enhance Your Workplace Culture (COCC Course)

### **Complaints**

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

- None received during this reporting period.

*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:*

- Revisit possibility of use of stipends for TAC community member seats.
- Equity-related population input on development of MTP update.