

## **FY 2024 BMPO Title VI Annual Accomplishment Report**

October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024

### **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 second 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>
- Additionally added to the equity mapping tool is the MTP Financially Constrained Project List, in association with our MTP update completed in September 2024. MTP projects can now be viewed relative to areas of Bend containing above average percentages of traditionally underserved populations.
- Bend MPO now offers stipends to our Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) community member seats.

### **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.*

- No changes to report.

*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 Covid funds to the following projects:

- \$105k for bus stop improvements (citywide)
- \$60k for sidewalk infill at Cooley Road (contains higher than average population living below the federal poverty level)
- \$125k for multi-use trail planning and construction near High Desert Middle School

All projects are seen as a benefit to Title VI populations.

- MTP project lists were overlayed to demographic data in our equity mapping tool. This was for informational purposes, however. Project-level impact analyses for partner jurisdiction (City of Bend, Deschutes County, Cascade East Transit, or Bend Park and Recreation District) projects were not completed by the MPO. Projects abutting/within areas containing 20%+ population living below Federal Poverty Level include: bike and pedestrian improvement projects, new multi-use trail project, road widen and overlay project, urban upgrade project, roadway extension project. Projects abutting/within areas containing 20%+ non-white and Hispanic populations include: a safety project, roadway extension projects, a widen and overlay project, a rail crossing project, multiple bike and pedestrian improvement projects.

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

- N/A

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

- The majority of the MTP projects mapped within or abutting areas of 20%+ Title VI-related populations are bike and pedestrian improvement projects.

### **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:*

- We implemented our MTP Public Engagement Plan over this past reporting period during the development of our MTP. A summary of those efforts is attached. Note that the “Public Input on Transportation Goals” section of the summary document was shared with our Policy Board and was used in prioritizing the MTP Project List.
- 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 publicly available [Bend MPO Equity Mapping Tool](#) to ACS 2022 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 2022 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; data available from survey results; estimated percentage/# of public outreach event attendees that were Latino.

*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. Public input received during MTP update used to prioritize project list.

*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.*

- No significant problem areas this reporting period.

### **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 (2021)

The [Public Participation, Non-Discrimination & Equity | City of Bend \(bendoregon.gov\)](https://www.bendoregon.gov/Community-Engagement/Pages/Public-Participation,-Non-Discrimination-&Equity.aspx) 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 FY2024, 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 FY2024, 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: Disability Inclusion in our Workplace, Oct. 2023
- Incorporating Equity into Planning for Operations and Transportation System Management, Oct. 2023
- City-led DEIA Lunch and Learn: Native American Heritage Month, Nov. 2023
- City-led DEIA Lunch and Learn: Asian and Pacific Islander History in Central Oregon, Jan. 2024
- Empathy, Equity and You: Stories, Skills and Practice, webinar, Jan 2024
- City-led DEIA Lunch and Learn: Fair Housing & Protected Housing Classes, March 2024
- FHWA Equity in Roadway Safety Webinar Series, May 2024
- City-led DEIA Lunch and Learn: Accessibility Around our City, July 2024

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

- ODOT Tribal Relations Training: Early and Often, Jan. 2024
- City-led DEIA Lunch and Learn: Experiences of Black Business Owners in Bend, Feb. 2024
- City-led DEIA Lunch and Learn: Fair Housing and Protected Classes, March 2024
- FHWA Equity in Roadway Safety Webinar Series, March 2024
- FHWA Equity in Roadway Safety Webinar Series, May 2024
- City of Bend DEIA Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting, July 2024

Training topics completed by MPO Program Coordinator:

- City-led DEIA Lunch and Learn: Native American Heritage Month, Nov. 2023
- Equity in Roadway Safety Webinar Series: Elevating Equity and Safety in Project Prioritization, Nov. 2023
- Equity in Roadway Safety Webinar Series: Elevating Equity and Safety in Project Prioritization, Nov. 2023
- ODOT Tribal Relations Training: Early and Often, Jan. 2024
- APA Webinar: Empathy & Equity, Jan. 2024
- City-led DEIA Lunch and Learn: Experiences of Black Business Owners in Bend, Feb. 2024
- City of Bend Equity Action Plan Public Webinar, Feb. 2024
- FHWA Equity in Roadway Safety Webinar Series, March 2024
- FHWA Equity in Roadway Safety Webinar Series, May 2024
- Innovations in Accessibility Webinar, June 2024
- When Driving is Not an Option: Designing Transportation for Involuntary Non-drivers Improves Accessibility Webinar, June 2024
- Uncovering Resiliency and Equity in Disaster Recovery Webinar, June 2024
- FHWA Equity in Roadway Safety Webinar Series, July 2024

## **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:*

- Both the Title VI Plan and Public Participation Plan had comprehensive updates in 2019 and 2021, respectively. The Title VI Plan was reviewed in 2022 to determine if another update was needed (it was determined that it was not). Staff will again be reviewing the Title VI Plan for any needed minor edits, amendments, or full update in FY2025, as well as for the Public Participation Plan.