


DATE: *May 31, 2017*
TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Troy Besseche, Assistant City Manager 
SUBJECT: GDOT Title VI Non-Discrimination Agreement



RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve the non-discrimination agreement drafted by the Georgia Department of Transportation and designate the City Clerk to function as the Title VI Coordinator.

DISCUSSION

As we prepare to seek funding from state and federal transportation sources, we will need to assure those agencies that we are in compliance with a number of federal regulations tied to these sources. One such requirement is found in Title VI of the Civil Rights Act as currently amended, which requires recipients of federal funds to adopt a plan and program designed to address non-discrimination policies and practices. The attached agreement assures the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) that we will actively protect civil rights within the organization and within all of its functions of those participating or serving. According to the proposed agreement, a process for managing the program, monitoring compliance, receiving and processing complaints, and reporting progress shall be established and completed by the recipient.

Recipients whose populations are less than 100,000 can use the standard, GDOT-approved agreement format and structure to comply with the overall requirement. The foundation for the compliance program is already located in some of the recent changes to the personnel policy with the establishment of the EEO process managed by the City Clerk's office. This section may need to be reviewed to determine if changes or updates are required, but will satisfy the intent related to due process mandated by the Title VI requirements.

Some of the additional activities required by the Agreement are for the City to begin tracking statistical participation data based on protected classes in various programs, reviewing policies, procedures, and contracts to include such Title VI requirements; and to conduct training programs.

Staff recommends approval of the agreement.

Attachment



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NONDISCRIMINATION AGREEMENT

The Georgia Department of Transportation

And

(City or County Name)

The _____, (hereinafter referred to as the "Recipient") hereby agrees to comply with the following Federal Statutes, U.S. Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration Regulations, and the policies and procedures promulgated by the Georgia Department of Transportation, as a condition to receipt of Federal funds.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, provides that no person shall on the ground of race, color, national origin, sex, age, and handicap/disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 amended Title VI to specify that entire institutions receiving Federal funds—whether schools and colleges, government entities, or private employers—must comply with Federal civil rights laws, rather than just the particular programs or activities that receive the funds.

Nondiscrimination programs require that Federal-aid recipients, sub-recipient, and contractors prevent discrimination and ensure nondiscrimination in all of their programs and activities, whether those programs and activities are federally-funded or not. If a unit of a State or local government is extended Federal-aid and distributes such aid to another governmental entity, all of the operations of the recipient and sub-recipient are covered. Corporations, partnerships, or other private organizations or sole proprietorships are covered in their entirety if such entity received Federal financial assistance (FHWA Notice N 4720.6, September 2, 1992).

Assurances 49 CFR Part 21.7

The _____, HEREBY GIVES ASSURANCES:

That no person shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, and handicap/disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity conducted by the recipient regardless

of whether those programs and activities are federally-funded or not. Activities and programs which the recipient hereby agrees to carry out in compliance with Title VI and related statutes include but are not limited to:

LIST ALL MAJOR PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE RECIPIENT

1. That it will promptly take any measures necessary to effectuate this agreement.
2. That each program, activity, and facility as defined at 49 CFR 21.23(b) and (e), and the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 will be (with regard to a program or activity) conducted, or will be (with regard to a facility) operated in compliance with the nondiscriminatory requirements imposed by, or pursuant to, this agreement.
3. That these assurances are given in consideration of and for the purpose of obtaining any and all Federal grants, loans, contracts, property, discounts or other Federal financial assistance extended after the date hereof to the recipient by the Federal Highway Administration and is binding on it, other recipients, sub-grantees, contractors, subcontractors, transferees, and successors in interest. The person or persons whose signatures appear below are authorized to sign these assurances on behalf of the Recipient.
4. That the Recipient shall insert the following notification in all solicitations for bids for work or material subject to the Regulations and in adapted form all proposals for negotiated agreements.
5. The Recipient, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4 and Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the Department of Transportation issued pursuant to such Act, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises as defined at 49 CFR Part 23 will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, handicap/disabled in consideration for an award.
6. That the Recipient shall insert the clauses of Appendix A of this agreement in every contract subject to the Act and the Regulations.
7. The Recipient agrees that the United States has a right to seek judicial enforcement with regard to any matter arising under the Act, the Regulations, and this agreement.

IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES 23 CFR PART 200

This agreement shall serve as the recipient's Title VI plan pursuant to 23 CFR 200 and the Title VI Implementation Guide.

For the purpose of this agreement, "Federal Assistance" shall include:

1. Grants and loans of Federal funds;
2. The grant or donation of Federal property and interest in property;
3. The detail of Federal personnel;
4. The sale and lease of, and the permission to use (on other than a casual or transient basis), Federal property or any interest in such property without consideration or at a nominal consideration, or at a consideration which is reduced for the purpose of assisting the recipient, or in recognition of the public interest to be served by such sale or lease to the recipient; and
5. Any Federal agreement, arrangement, or other contract which has, as one of its purposes, the provision of assistance.

The recipient shall:

1. Issue a policy statement, signed by the head of the recipient, which expresses its commitment to the nondiscrimination provisions of Title VI. The policy statement shall be circulated throughout the recipient's organization and to the general public. Such information shall be published where appropriate in languages other than English.
2. Take affirmative action to correct any deficiencies found by the Federal Highway Administration within a reasonable time period, not to exceed 90 days, in order to implement Title VI compliance in accordance with this agreement. The head of the recipient shall be held responsible for implementing Title VI requirements.
3. Establish a civil rights unit and designate a coordinator who has a responsible position in the organization and easy access to the head of the recipient. This unit shall contain a Title VI Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinator or a Title VI Specialist, who shall be responsible for initiating and monitoring Title VI activities and preparing required reports.
4. Adequately staff the civil rights unit to effectively implement the civil rights requirements.
5. Process complaints of discrimination consistent with the provisions contained in this agreement, investigations shall be conducted by civil rights personnel training in discrimination complaint investigations. Identify each complainant by race, color, national origin, sex, age, handicap/disability; the nature of the complaint, the date the complaint was filed, the date the investigation was completed, the disposition, the date of the disposition, and other pertinent information. A copy of the complaint, together with a copy of the recipient's report of investigation, will be forwarded to the Division Office of Civil Rights within 60 days of the date the complaint was received by the recipient.
6. Collect statistical data (race, color, national origin, sex, age, handicap/disability) of participation in, and beneficiaries of the programs and activities conducted by the recipient.
7. Conduct Title VI reviews of the recipient and sub-recipient contractor program areas and activities. Revise where applicable, policies, procedures and directives to include Title VI requirements.
8. Conduct training programs on Title VI and related statutes.

9. Prepare a yearly report of Title VI accomplishments for the past year and goals for the next year.

a. Accomplishment Report

List major accomplishments made regarding Title VI activities, include instances where Title VI issues were identified and discrimination was prevented. Indicate activities and efforts the Title VI Specialist and program area personnel have undertaken in monitoring Title VI. Include a description of the scope and conclusions of any special reviews conducted by the Title VI Specialist. List any major problem(s) identified and corrected action taken. Include a summary and status report on any Title VI complaints filed with the recipient.

b. Annual Work Plan

Outline Title VI monitoring and review activities planned for the coming year; state by which each activity will be accomplished and target date for completion.

DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

1. Any person who believes that he or she, individually, as a member of any specific class, or in connection with any disadvantaged business enterprise, has been subjected to discrimination prohibited by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, may file a complaint with the recipient. A complaint may also be filed by a representative on behalf of such a person. All complaints will be referred to the recipient's Title VI Specialist for review and action.
2. In order to have the complaint considered under this procedure, the complainant must file the complaint no later than 180 days:
 - The date of the alleged act of discrimination; or
 - Where there has been a continuing course of conduct, the date on which that conduct was discontinued.

In either case, the recipient or his/her designee may extend the time for filing or waive the time limit in the interest of justice, specifying in writing the reason for so doing.

3. Complaints shall be in writing and shall be signed by the complainant and/or the complainant's representative. Complaints shall set forth as fully as possible the facts and circumstances surrounding the claimed discrimination. In the event that a person makes a verbal complaint of discrimination to any officer or employee of the recipient, the person shall be interviewed by the Title VI Specialist. If necessary, the Title VI Specialist will assist the person in reducing the complaint to writing and submit the written version of the complaint to the person for signature. The complaint shall then be handled in the usual manner.
4. Within 10 days, the Title VI Specialist will acknowledge receipt of the allegation, inform the complainant of action taken or proposed action to process the allegation, and advise the

complainant of other avenues of redress available, such as the Federal Highway Administration and the Department of Transportation.

5. Generally, the following information will be included in every notification to the Office of Civil Rights:
 - (a) Name, address, and phone number of the complainant
 - (b) Names and address(es) of alleged discriminating official(s)
 - (c) Basis of complaint (i.e., race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability/handicap).
 - (d) Date of alleged discriminatory act(s).
 - (e) Date of complaint received by the recipient
 - (f) A statement of complaint.
 - (g) Other agencies (state, local or Federal) where the complaint has been filed.
 - (h) An explanation of the actions the recipient has taken or proposed to resolve the issue raised in the complaint.
6. Within 60 days, the Title VI Specialist will conduct and complete an investigation of the allegation and based on the information obtained, will render a recommendation for action in a report of findings to the head of the recipient. The complaint should be resolved by informal means whenever possible. Such informal attempts and their results will be summarized in the report findings.
7. Within 90 days of receipt of the complaint, the head of the recipient will notify the complainant in writing of the final decision reached, including the proposed disposition of the matter. The notification will advise the complainant of his/her appeal rights with the Department of Transportation, or the Federal Highway Administration, if they are dissatisfied with final decision rendered by the State.

SANCTIONS

In the event the recipient fails or refuses to comply with the terms of this agreement, the Federal Highway Administration may take any or all of the following sanction:

- a. Cancel, terminate, or suspend this agreement in whole or in part.
- b. Refrain from extending any further assistance to the recipient under the program with respect to which the failure or refusal occurred until satisfactory assurance of future compliance has been received from the recipient.
- c. Take such other action that may be deemed appropriate under the circumstances, until compliance or remedial action has been accomplished by the recipient.
- d. Refer the case to the Department of Justice for appropriate legal proceedings.

SIGNED FOR THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:

ADDENDUM

APPENDIX A

The text below, in its entirety, is in all contracts entered into by GDOT and ITS SPONSOR. All of the text except the final section, entitled "Incorporation of Provisions," should be included in any contract entered into by any GDOT contractor.

During the performance of this contract, the contractor, for itself, its assignees, and successors in interest (hereinafter referred to as the "Contractor"), agree as follows:

1. Compliance with Regulations

The Contractor shall comply with the Regulations relative to nondiscrimination in federally-assisted programs of the Department of Transportation (hereinafter referred to as DOT), Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, part 21, as they may be amended from time to time, (hereinafter referred to as the Regulations), which are herein incorporated by reference and made a part of this contract.

2. Nondiscrimination

The Contractor, with regard to the work performed by it during the contract, shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in the selection and retention of subcontractors, including procurement of materials and leases of equipment. The Contractor shall not participate either directly or indirectly in discrimination prohibited by Section 21.5 of the Regulations, including employment practices when the contract covers a program set forth in Appendix B of the Regulations.

3. Solicitations for Subcontracts, Including Procurement of Materials and Equipment

In all solicitations either by competitive bidding or negotiations made by the Contractor for work to be performed under a subcontract, including procurement of materials or leases of equipment, each potential subcontractor or supplier shall be notified by the Contractor of the Contractor's obligations under this contract and the Regulations relative to nondiscrimination on the ground of race, color, or national origin.

4. Information and Reports

The Contractor shall provide all information and reports required by the Regulations or directives issued pursuant thereto, and shall permit access to its books, records, accounts, other sources of information and its facilities as may be determined by the Georgia Department of Transportation or the Federal Highway Administration to be pertinent to ascertain compliance with such Regulations, orders, and instructions. Where any information required of a contractor is in the exclusive possession of another who fails or refuses to furnish this information, the Contractor shall so certify to the Georgia Department of Transportation, or the Federal Highway Administration as appropriate, and shall set forth what efforts it has made to obtain the information.

5. Sanctions for Noncompliance

In the event of the Contractor's noncompliance with the nondiscrimination provisions of this contract, the Georgia Department of Transportation shall impose such contract sanctions as it or the Federal Highway Administration may determine to be appropriate, including, but not limited to:

- a. Withholding of payments to the Contractor under the contract until the Contractor complies; and/or
- b. Cancellation, termination, or suspension of the contract, in whole or in part.

6. Incorporation of Provisions

The Contractor shall include the provisions of paragraphs (1) through (5) in every subcontract, including procurement of materials and leases of equipment, unless exempt by the Regulations, or directives issued pursuant thereto.

The Contractor shall take such action with respect to any subcontract or procurement as the Georgia Department of Transportation or the Federal Highway Administration may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance: Provided, however, that in the event a Contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or supplier as a result of such direction, the Contractor may request the Georgia Department of Transportation to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the Georgia Department of Transportation and, in addition, the Contractor may request the United States to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the United States.