IOWADOT
Form 131024 (02-20)

Title VI Non-Discrimination Agreement
Iowa Department of Transportation
and
Emmet County

Agency Information

Name and title of adminstrative head:

Name: Lisa Hansen Title: Chairperson, Emmet County Board of Supervisors

Address: 609 1st Ave N

City: Estherville State: Iow ZIP Code: 51334 County: Iowa

Phone/FAX: 5635809513 Email: wdavis-oeth@emmetcountyia.gov

Name and title of designated Title VI coordinator:

Name: Walter Davis-Oeth Title: Emmet County Engineer

Address: 609 1st Ave N

City: Estherville State: Iow ZIP Code: 51334 County: Iowa

Phone/FAX: 5635809513 Email: wdavis-oeth@emmetcountyia.gov

***If the Title VI coordinator changes, please contact the Iowa DOT Title VI specialist.**

Title VI Program

I. **Organization and staffing**

Pursuant to 23 C.F.R. § 200, Emmet County has appointed a Title VI coordinator identified above, who is responsible for implementing and monitoring the local public agency's (LPA's) Title VI program per this agreement, and is the representative for issues and actions pertaining to this agreement. The LPA will provide the Iowa Department of Transportation with a copy of the LPA's organizational chart that illustrates the level and placement of the Title VI coordinator.

The LPA will notify the Iowa DOT in writing of any changes to the LPA's organization chart, Title VI coordinator or Title VI coordinator contact information.

II. **Assurances required**

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 21.7, every application for federal financial assistance or continuing federal financial assistance must provide a statement of assurance and give reasonable guarantee that the program is (or, in the case of a new program, will be) conducted in compliance with all requirements imposed by or pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 21 (Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs of the Department of Transportation – Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964). Fully executed standard DOT Assurances (including Appendices A, B and C) are attached to this agreement.

III. Implementation procedures

This agreement shall serve as the LPA's Title VI plan pursuant to 23 C.F.R. § 200 and 49 C.F.R. § 21. For the purpose of this agreement, "federal assistance" shall include all of the following.

- Grants and loans of federal funds.
- The grant or donation of federal property and/or interest in property.
- The detail of federal personnel.
- The sale and lease of, and 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 that is reduced for the purpose of assisting the LPA, or in recognition of the public interest to be served by such sale or lease to the LPA.
- Any federal agreement, arrangement or other contract that has as one of its purposes the provision of assistance.

The LPA shall:

1. Issue a policy statement, signed by the head of the LPA, which expresses its commitment to the nondiscrimination provisions of Title VI. The policy statement shall be circulated throughout the LPA's organization and to the public. Such information shall be published where appropriate in languages other than English.
2. Take affirmative action to correct any deficiencies found by the Iowa DOT, Federal Highway Administration or U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) within a reasonable time period, not to exceed 90 days, to implement Title VI compliance in accordance with this agreement. The head of the LPA shall be held responsible for implementing Title VI requirements.
3. Designate a Title VI coordinator who has a responsible position in the organization and easy access to the head of the LPA. The coordinator shall be responsible for implementing and monitoring Title VI activities and preparing required reports.
4. Develop and implement a public involvement plan that includes low-income and minority community outreach and ensures those persons who are limited-English proficient (LEP) can access services.
5. Process complaints of discrimination consistent with the provisions contained in this agreement. Investigations shall be conducted by civil rights personnel trained in discrimination complaint investigations. Identify each complainant by race, color, national origin or gender, the nature of the complaint, date the complaint was filed, date the investigation was completed, disposition, date of disposition, and other pertinent information. A copy of the complaint, together with a copy of the LPA's report of investigation, shall be forwarded to the Iowa DOT's civil rights coordinator within 60 days of the date the complaint was received by the LPA..
6. Collect statistical data (race, color, national origin, age, gender, disability, LEP and income of populations in service area) of participants in, and beneficiaries of, the programs and activities conducted by the LPA.
7. Conduct Title VI self-assessment of the LPA's program areas and activities, and of second-tier sub-recipients, contractor/consultant program areas and activities. Where applicable, revise policies, procedures and directives to include Title VI requirements. Ensure that programs, policies, and other activities do not have disproportionate adverse effects on minority and low-income populations.
8. Conduct training programs on Title VI and related statutes.
9. Prepare a yearly report of Title VI accomplishments and changes to the program covering the prior year, and identify goals and objectives for the coming year.
    - **Annual work plan:** Outline Title VI monitoring and review activities planned for the coming year; and indicate a target date for completion.
    - **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 coordinator and program area personnel have undertaken in monitoring Title VI. Include a description of the scope and conclusions of any special internal and external reviews conducted by the Title VI coordinator. List any major problem(s) identified and corrective action(s) taken. Include a summary and status report on any Title VI complaints filed with the LPA. Include a listing of complaints received against second-tier sub-recipients, if any, as well as a summary of complaints and actions taken.
10. Include Title VI compliant language in all contracts to second-tier sub-recipients.

IV. **Discrimination complaint procedures – allegations of discrimination in federally assisted programs or activities**
The LPA adopts the following discrimination complaint procedures for complaints relating to federally assisted transportation-related programs or activities.

1. **Filing a discrimination complaint:** Any person who believes that he or she, or any class of individuals, or in connection with any disadvantaged business enterprise, has been or is being subjected to discrimination prohibited by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d; the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq.; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. §§ 701 et seq.; and the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Pub. L. No. 100-259, 102 Stat. 28, has the right to file a complaint.

   Any individual wishing to file a discrimination complaint must be given the option to file the complaint with the LPA, or directly with the Iowa DOT, FHWA, USDOT and U.S. Department of Justice . Complaints may be filed with all agencies simultaneously.

   No individual or agency shall refuse service, discharge or retaliate in any manner against any persons because that individual has filed a discrimination complaint, instituted any proceeding related to a discrimination complaint, testified, or is about to testify, in any proceeding or investigation related to a discrimination complaint, or has provided information or assisted in an investigation.

2. **Complaint filing time-frame:** A discrimination complaint must be filed within 180 calendar days of one of the following.
   (a) The alleged act of discrimination.
   (b) Date when the person(s) became aware of the alleged discrimination
   (c) Date on which the conduct was discontinued, if there has been a continuing course of conduct.

   The LPA or their 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. **Contents of a complaint:** A discrimination complaint must be written. The document must contain the following information.
   a) The complainant's name and address, or other means by which the complainant may be contacted.
   b) Identification of individual(s) or organization(s) responsible for the alleged discrimination.
   c) A description of the complainant's allegations, which must include enough detail to determine if the LPA has jurisdiction over the complaint and if the complaint was filed timely.
   d) Specific prohibited bases of alleged discrimination (i.e., race, color, gender, etc.)
   e) Apparent merit of the complaint.
   f) The complainant's signature or signature of his/her authorized representative.

   In the event that a person makes a verbal complaint of discrimination to an officer or employee of the LPA, the complainant shall be interviewed by the LPA's Title VI coordinator. If necessary, the Title VI coordinator will assist the complainant in reducing the complaint to writing and then submit the written version of the complaint to the person for signature.

4. **Complaints against the LPA:** Any complaints received against the LPA should immediately be forwarded to the Iowa DOT for investigation. The LPA shall not investigate any complaint in which it has been named in the complaint. The contact information for the Iowa DOT's Title VI program is:

   Iowa Department of Transportation
   Civil Rights Bureau
   800 Lincoln Way
   Ames, Iowa 50010
   515-233-7970
   515-232-6739 (FAX)
   civil.rights@iowadot.us

5. **Notice of Receipt:** All complaints shall be referred to the LPA's Title VI coordinator for review and action. Within 10 days of receipt of the discrimination complaint, the coordinator shall issue an initial written Notice of Receipt that:
    a) Acknowledges receipt of the discrimination complaint.
    b) Advises the complainant of his/her right to seek representation by an attorney or other individual of his or her choice in the discrimination complaint process.
    c) Contains a list of each issue raised in the discrimination complaint.
    d) Advises the complainant of the timeframes for processing the discrimination complaint and providing a determination.
    e) Advises the complainant of other avenues of redress of their complaint, including the Iowa DOT, FHWA, USDOT and USDOJ.

6. **Notification of the Iowa DOT of a complaint:** The LPA shall advise the Iowa DOT within 10 business days of receipt of the complaint. Generally, the following information will be included in every notification to the Iowa DOT.
    a) Name, address and phone number of the complainant.
    b) Name(s) and address(es) of alleged discriminating official(s).
    c) Basis of complaint (i.e., race, color, national origin, gender).
    d) Date of alleged discriminatory act(s).
    e) Date of complaint received by the LPA.
    f) A statement of the complaint.
    g) Other agencies (state, local or federal) where the complaint has been filed.
    h) An explanation of the actions the LPA has taken or proposed to resolve the issue identified in the complaint.

7. **Processing a complaint and time-frame:** The total time allowed for processing the discrimination complaint is 90 calendar days from the date the complaint was filed. There is no extension available at this level. This time-frame includes 60 calendar days at the LPA level and 30 days for review at the state level, if needed.

    If the complainant elects to file a complaint with both the LPA and Iowa DOT, the complainant shall be informed that the LPA has 90 calendar days to process the discrimination complaint and the Iowa DOT shall not investigate the complaint until the 90 calendar-day period has expired.

    Immediately after issuance of the Notice of Receipt to the complainant (step four), the LPA's Title VI coordinator shall either begin the fact-finding or investigation of the discrimination complaint, or arrange to have an investigation conducted.

    Based on the information obtained during that investigation, the coordinator shall render a recommendation for action in a Report of Findings to the head of the LPA.

8. **Alternative dispute resolution/mediation process:** The complainant must be given an invitation to participate in mediation to resolve the complaint by informal means. The LPA's Title VI coordinator shall include an invitation to mediation with the Notice of Receipt, offering the opportunity to use the alternative dispute resolution/mediation process.

    If the complaint selects mediation, it allows disputes to be resolved in a less adversarial manner. With mediation, a neutral party assists two opposing parties in a dispute come to an agreement to resolve their issue. The mediator does not function as a judge or arbiter, but simply helps the parties resolve the dispute themselves.

    Upon receiving a request to mediate, the LPA's Title VI coordinator shall identify or designate a mediator who must be a neutral and impartial third party. The mediator must be a person acceptable to all parties and who will assist the parties in resolving their disputes.

    If the complainant chooses to participate in mediation, she or he or the designee must respond in writing within 10 calendar days of the date of the invitation. This written acceptance must be dated and signed by the complainant and must also include the relief sought.

After mediation is arranged, a written confirmation identifying the date, time and location of the mediation conference shall be sent to both parties. If possible, the mediation process should be completed within 30 calendar days of receipt of the discrimination complaint. This will assist in keeping within the 90 calendar-day time-frame of the written Notice of Final Action if the mediation is not successful.

If resolution is reached under mediation, the agreement shall be in writing. A copy of the signed agreement shall be sent to the Iowa DOT's Title VI program coordinator. If an agreement is reached, but a party to it believes his/her agreement has been breached, the non-breaching party may file another complaint. If the parties do not reach resolution under mediation, the LPA's Title VI coordinator shall continue with the investigation.

9. **Notice of Final Action:** A written Notice of Final Action shall be provided to the complainant within 60 days of the date the discrimination complaint was filed. It shall contain:
    a) A statement regarding the disposition of each issue identified in the discrimination complaint and reason for the determination.
    b) A copy of the mediation agreement, if the discrimination complaint was resolved by mediation.
    c) A notice that the complainant has the right to file a complaint with the Iowa DOT, FHWA, USDOT or USDOJ within 30 calendar days after the Notice of Final Action, if she or he is dissatisfied with the final action on the discrimination complaint.

The LPA's Title VI coordinator shall provide the Iowa DOT's Title VI program coordinator with a copy of this decision, as well as a summary of findings upon completion of the investigation. Should deficiencies be noted in the implementation of these discrimination complaint procedures by the LPA, the Iowa DOT's Title VI program coordinator will work in conjunction with the LPA's Title VI coordinator to review the information and/or provide technical assistance in the discrimination complaint process, mediation process, and/or investigation.

10. **Corrective action:** If discrimination is found through the process of a complaint investigation, the respondent shall be requested to voluntarily comply with corrective action(s) or a conciliation agreement to correct the discrimination.

11. **Confidentiality:** LPA and Iowa DOT Title VI program coordinators are required to keep the following information confidential to the maximum extent possible, consistent with applicable law and fair determination of the discrimination complaint.
    a) The fact that the discrimination complaint has been filed.
    b) The identity of the complainant(s).
    c) The identity of individual respondents to the allegations.
    d) The identity of any person(s) who furnished information relative to, or assisting in, a complaint investigation.

12. **Record keeping:** The LPA's Title VI coordinator shall maintain a log of complaints filed that alleged discrimination. The log must include:
    a) The name and address of the complainant.
    b) Basis of discrimination complaint.
    c) Description of complaint.
    d) Date filed.
    e) Disposition and date.
    f) Any other pertinent information.

All records regarding discrimination complaints and actions taken on discrimination complaints must be maintained for a period of not less than three years from the final date of resolution of the complaint.

V. Sanctions

In the event the LPA fails or refuses to comply with the terms of this agreement, the Iowa DOT may take any or all of the following actions.

a) Cancel, terminate or suspend this agreement in whole or in part.

b) Refrain from extending any further assistance to the LPA under the program from which the failure or refusal occurred, until satisfactory assurance of future compliance has been received from the LPA.

c) Take such other action that may be deemed appropriate under the circumstances, until compliance or remedial action has been accomplished by the LPA.

d) Refer the case to the USDOJ for appropriate legal proceedings.

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Signature

Printed Name and Title

Date

Emmet County

Lisa Hansen

Signature

Lisa Hansen, Chairperson

Printed Name and Title

Jan 2, 2026

Date

Title VI Non-discrimination Policy Statement

The Emmet County , hereinafter referred to as the LPA, hereby assures that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, gender, age or disability, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §2000d, and the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Pub. L. No. 100-259, 102 Stat. 28, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. The LPA further assures every effort will be made to ensure nondiscrimination in all of its programs and activities, regardless of whether those programs and activities are federally funded.

It is the policy of the LPA to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e; Age Discrimination Act of 1975, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6101-6107; Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4601-4655; 1973 Federal Aid Highway Act, 23 U.S.C. § 324; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Pub. L. No. 92-318, 86 Stat. 235; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. §§ 701 *et seq*; Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Pub. L. No. 100-259, 102 Stat. 28; Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 *et seq.*; Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act 1968, 42 U.S.C. §§ 3601-3631; Exec. Order No. 12898, 59 Fed. Reg. 7629 (1994) (Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations); and Exec. Order No. 13166, 65 Fed. Reg. 50121 (2000) (Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency).

The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Pub. L. No. 100-259, 102 Stat. 28, broadened the scope of Title VI coverage by expanding the definition of terms "programs or activities" to include all programs or activities of federal-aid recipients, subrecipients and contractors/consultants, regardless of whether such programs and activities are federally assisted.

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Pub. L. No. 93-112, 87 Stat. 355, the LPA hereby gives assurance that no qualified disabled person shall, solely by reason of disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or otherwise be subjected to discrimination, including discrimination in employment, under any program or activity that receives or benefits from this federal financial assistance.

The LPA also assures that every effort will be made to prevent discrimination through the impacts of its programs, policies and activities on minority and low-income populations. In addition, the LPA will take reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to services for persons with LEP. The LPA will, where necessary and appropriate, revise, update and incorporate nondiscrimination requirements into appropriate manuals, directives and regulations.

In the event the LPA distributes federal-aid funds to a second-tier subrecipient, the LPA will include Title VI language in all written agreements.

The LPA's Emmet County , is responsible for initiating and monitoring Title VI activities, preparing reports and performing other responsibilities, as required by 23 C.F.R. § 200 and 49 C.F.R. § 21.

Lisa Hansen

Signature

Lisa Hansen, Chairperson

Printed Name and Title

Jan 2, 2026

Date