

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Adopting the Columbia County       )  
Rider Transit System Title VI Program               )       Order No. 44-2014

WHEREAS, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; and

WHEREAS, under Title VI and the Federal Transit Administration's implementing regulations (49 CFR part 21), all programs receiving financial assistance from the FTA, either directly or indirectly, must:

- Provide public transit service at a level and quality that is nondiscriminatory;
- Encourage participation in public transit decision making without regard to race, color or national origin;
- Ensure meaningful access to the transit program by persons with limited English proficiency; and
- Prepare and submit a Title VI Program.

WHEREAS, CC Rider receives financial assistance from the FTA indirectly through the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), and therefore, must comply with the Title VI requirements; and

WHEREAS, Title VI programs must be re-adopted every three years, and although the County's current program was adopted only two years ago in 2012 (Order No. 43-2012), the FTA revised its requirements shortly thereafter in 2012 (*see* FTA Circular 4702.1 B) and set a new schedule for the submission of Title VI programs; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the FTA's new Title VI regulations, ODOT required counties to submit a new Title VI programs to ODOT by June 30, 2014, which was extended to August 29, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the County submitted its draft Title VI program to ODOT for review and comment on August 1, 2014, and has received and incorporated ODOT's comments; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was then scheduled and notice was published in local newspapers and on the CC Rider website; sent to all senior centers and assisted living centers; and posted in all CC Rider buses and at the County Courthouse; and

WHEREAS, on September 24, 2014, the Columbia County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on the Title VI program, deliberated, and voted unanimously to tentatively approve the proposed Title VI program.

///

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that the Columbia County Rider Transit System Title VI Program, attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by this reference, is hereby adopted.

Dated this 1<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2014.

Approved as to form

By: 

Office of County Counsel

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: 

Anthony Hyde, Chair

By: 

Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

By: 

Earl Fisher, Commissioner



# Columbia County Rider Transit System

## Title VI Program October 1, 2014

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## Introduction

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, this Plan reflects Columbia County Rider Transit System's commitment to ensuring that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity provided by the Columbia County Rider Transit System (CCR).

## Signed Policy Statement

A policy statement signed by the Transit Director and the Board of County Commissioners assuring CCR's compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is attached hereto as **Attachment A** and incorporated herein by this reference.

## Title VI Notice to the Public

The Columbia County Title VI Notice to the Public, attached hereto as **Attachment E** and incorporated herein by this reference, shall be posted at the following locations:

Columbia County Website  
CCR Transit Offices  
Columbia County Courthouse  
On board buses operated by CCR System

## Title VI Complaint Procedures

The County has a standard process for investigating all complaints. **Members of the public may file a signed, written complaint up to one hundred eighty (180) days from the date of alleged discrimination.** Full procedures for filing a complaint and CCR's procedures for investigating complaints are described in **Attachment B**, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

A sample Title VI Complaint Form can be found as **Attachment C**.

Complaint forms can be obtained by contacting:

Columbia County Rider Transportation  
Physical address: 1155 Deer Island Road  
Or mailing address: 230 Strand Street  
St. Helens, OR 97051

Or calling 503-366-8504.

## Record of Title VI Investigations, Complaints, or Lawsuits

CCR will maintain a list of any and all transit related Title VI investigations, complaints, and lawsuits at its administrative office at 1155 Deer Island Road, St. Helens, Oregon. This list will include: the date that the investigation, complaint or lawsuit was filed; a summary of the allegation(s); the status of the investigation, complaint or lawsuit; and any actions taken by CC Rider. The list will be available to the public on request.

## Minority Representation on Non-elected Bodies

CCR has a Citizens Transit Advisory Committee (CTAC) that is appointed by the County Board of Commissioners. The Transit Advisory Committee is composed of nine members who have self-identified their race as white.

Columbia County encourages the participation of minorities on the CTAC in the following ways:

- Information on participating on the Columbia County Citizen Transit Advisory Committee is published in the local newspapers in all areas of the county.
- Information is available on our website at [www.Columbiacountyrider.com](http://www.Columbiacountyrider.com); and
- We post information on our buses informing riders of the Transit Advisory Committee meetings.
- All of our publications seeking Transit Committee Members includes a statement that we encourage all minority participation.

## Title VI Public Participation Plan

The CCR Transit system shall strive to include minority and LEP (Limited English Proficiency) individuals in its decision making processes. This includes outreach to minority groups in Columbia County. See also **Attachment D**.

## Summary of Ongoing Public Participation Efforts and Outreach

Columbia County has a very small minority and LEP population. The largest minority population, which is also the largest LEP population, are Hispanics. Yet, Hispanics represent just 2.6% of the county's population. Since the last Title VI reporting submission, CCR Transit conducted the following public outreach and involvement activities:

- In accordance with Oregon public meeting law, all public meetings including transportation planning meetings were advertised in the local papers and open to the general public.

Accommodations are available for those with limited English proficiency if requested in advance of the meeting.

- CCR also promotes inclusive public participation through the following:
  - Residents needing interpreter assistance can call the AT&T Language Line at 1-800-874-9426. This service provides interpreter service for riders needing trip planning and ride scheduling assistance, or who want to know about the Transit Advisory Committee meetings. Riders can contact the CCRider Dispatch using this service during the hours of 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday to schedule rides and travel planning.
  - Our website allows riders to download and print CCRider schedules and route information in any language.
  - We also use our Twitter feed and Facebook.
  - Actively seeking to present and provide information at senior centers, city councils, social service group gatherings, Oregon State social service agencies, etc., regarding public transit services in Columbia County.
  - Providing flexibility in scheduling meetings at times and locations that are convenient and accessible to minority communities, such as:
    - Holding meetings at various times, including after working hours and on weekends;
    - Holding meetings at locations with access to transit, such as at the Transit Center; and
    - Holding meetings in the community, such as at senior centers, churches, and other community centers.
  - Using social media, such as Facebook and Twitter Feeds to post information and provide opportunities for public input and comment.
  - Employing different meeting formats, such as open format meetings and question-and-answer sessions; and
  - Providing information booths at community events, such as fairs and festivals.
  - Employing different meeting formats, such as open format meetings and question-and-answer sessions; and
  - Providing information booths at community events, such as fairs and festivals.

## Language Assistance Plan

CCR has applied FTA's four-factor analysis to determine who is entitled to language assistance and what specific services are available. The four-factor analysis evaluates: (1) the number of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Persons served; (2) how often LEP persons come into contact with the program; (3) the importance of the program to LEP communities; and (4) the resources available for and costs associated with LEP outreach. CCR's LEP analysis is attached as **Attachment D**.

The Department of Transportation's LEP Safe Harbor Provision provides that written translation of vital documents for LEP language groups that constitute five percent (5%) or 1,000 persons, whichever is less, is strong evidence of compliance with written translation obligations. Columbia County is well under the numbers identified as triggering the Safe Harbor provisions. As shown in Attachment D, Columbia County's biggest Limited English Proficient population, which is Spanish, constitutes 0.9% of the population or 397 people. However, in order to assist any who have limited english proficiency we have added a statement in Spanish that interpretation of written materials is available at no cost. We have also updated our website to allow for all language translations by clicking the tab.

## Primary recipients and monitoring sub recipients

CCR is not a primary recipient of FTA funds and does not have any sub-recipients.

## Title VI equity analysis

There are no current planned facilities or construction projects that require a Title VI equity analysis.

**Attachment A**

**COLUMBIA COUNTY  
TITLE VI  
NON-DISCRIMINATION  
POLICY STATEMENT**

The following policy statement was adopted by Board Order 43-2012 on September 19, 2012:

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states:

“No person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

Columbia County is committed to complying with the requirements of Title VI in all of its federally funded programs and activities.

Janet Wright  
CCR Transit Administrator

## **Attachment B**

### **Discrimination Complaint Procedure**

Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against on the basis of race, color, or national origin by Columbia County Rider Transit (CCR) may file a Title VI complaint by completing and submitting the Columbia County Rider Title VI complaint form to: Transit Administrator, CCR Transportation, 230 Strand Street, St. Helens, Oregon 97051. CCR will process complaints that are complete and submitted no more than 180 days after the alleged incident, in accordance with the following procedure:

1. 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 alleged discrimination. In the event a person makes a verbal complaint of discrimination to an officer or employee of CCR, the person shall be interviewed by the Transit Administrator. If necessary, the Transit Administrator 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 according to CCR's investigative procedures.
2. Within 10 days of receiving the signed, written complaint, the Transit Administrator will send the complainant a letter that acknowledges receipt of the complaint, determines whether the CCR has jurisdiction over the complaint, informs the complainant of CCR's investigation procedure, and advises the complainant of other avenues of redress available, such as through the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT).
3. If more information is needed to resolve the case, the Transit Administrator may contact the complainant. Unless the Transit Administrator determines more time is needed, the complainant will have 10 days to submit the requested information to CCR. If CCR does not receive the requested information on or before the 10th day (or the time granted by the Transit Administrator, if different), CCR may administratively close the case. The case may also be closed at the complainant's written request.
4. The Transit Administrator will advise ODOT and/or USDOT within 10 days of receipt of the allegations. Generally, the following information will be included in every notification to ODOT and/or USDOT:
  - 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, or national origin)
  - d) Date of alleged discriminatory act(s).
  - e) Date complaint received by the recipient.
  - f) A statement of the complaint.

- g) Other agencies (local, state, or Federal) where the complaint has been filed.
  - h) An explanation of the actions CCR has taken or proposed to resolve the issue in the complaint.
6. Within 90 days of receipt of the complaint (not including time granted to the complainant to submit additional information), the Transit Administrator will investigate the complaint and issue a Report of Findings. The Report of Findings will summarize the allegations and information obtained, inform the complainant of the Transit Administrator's final decision, including any action taken or proposed to resolve the matter, and notify the complainant of his or her appeal rights. The complaint should be resolved by informal means whenever possible. Such informal attempts and their results will be summarized in the Report of Findings.
7. The Report of Findings will advise the complainant of his/her appeal rights with ODOT, or USDOT, if they are dissatisfied with the final decision rendered by CCR. The Transit Administrator will also provide ODOT and/or USDOT with a copy of this decision and summary of findings upon completion of the investigation.
8. Contact information for the state and federal Title VI administrative jurisdiction is as follows:

Oregon Department of Transportation  
Office of Civil Rights, MS 31  
355 Capitol St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301-3871  
503-986-4305  
503-986-4189 fax

Federal Transit Administration Office of Civil Rights  
Attention: Title VI Program Coordinator  
East Building, 5th Floor - TCR  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Attachment C**

**CCR Title VI Complaint Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Were you discriminated against because of your:

☐ Race

☐ National Origin

☐ Color

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Time of Alleged Incident: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain as clearly as possible what happened and how you were discriminated against. Indicate who was involved and if applicable, the transit route and vehicle. Be sure to include the names and contact information of any witnesses. If more space is needed, please use additional pages.

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Have you filed this complaint with any other federal, state or local agency or with any court?      ☐ Yes      ☐ No

If yes, check and identify all that apply:

☐ Federal Agency \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Federal Court \_\_\_\_\_

☐ State Agency \_\_\_\_\_

☐ State Court \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Local Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide information for a contact person at the Agency or Court where the complaint was filed.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, & Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please sign below. You may attach any additional written materials or other information you believe is relevant to your complaint.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Please mail this form to:**

Transit Administrator  
CCR Transportation  
230 Strand Street  
St. Helens, Oregon 97051

## **Attachment D**

### **CCR TRANSIT SERVICES LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE PLAN**

CCR Transit is required to take responsible steps to ensure meaningful access to the benefits, services, information and other important portions of our programs and activities of individuals who are Limited English Proficient (LEP). CCR Transit consulted the USDOT's LEP Guidance and performed a four factor analysis of our contact with the public to determine the appropriate mix of LEP services to offer.

#### **Four Factor Analysis:**

##### **Factor 1: The number or proportion of LEP persons in the service area.**

Columbia County's total population is 46,534 residents over 5 years of age. Of that total population number, 2.6% or 1,209 people speak Spanish at home. Of those who speak Spanish at home there is 0.9% or 397 people who have difficulty speaking and understanding english.

**Step 1:** Prior experience with LEP individuals. Over the past year, our dispatchers have not taken any phone calls from LEP persons which have required the use of an interpreter.

**Step 2:** Data was gathered from the following sources to identify information on persons who speak languages other than English at home and those who speak English less than well or not at all and would be classified as Limited English Proficient or "LEP":

a. 2010 Census Data

b. Census Bureau's American Community Survey and Fact Finder Surveys, Language Spoken at Home, 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates.

**Step 3:** In Columbia County, the most common language other than English spoken at home was Spanish, with 2.6% of the total population over age 5 years, recorded as speaking Spanish or Spanish Creole (Source: American Community Survey, 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, S1601, Columbia County, Oregon, 2012 American Community Survey data (<http://factfinder.census.gov>). Of the 2.6% who speak Spanish or Spanish Creole, the data shows that 0.9% or 397 people in Columbia County's population who speaks English less than "very well."

(Source: [http://www.doleta.gov/reports/censusdata/LWIA\\_by\\_State.cfm?state=OR](http://www.doleta.gov/reports/censusdata/LWIA_by_State.cfm?state=OR)).

##### **Factor 2: The frequency with which LEP individuals come into contact with the service.**

CCR Transit serves LEP persons daily through the public transit service we provide. Over the past year, our dispatchers have taken NO phone calls from LEP persons which has required the use of an interpreter.

**Factor 3: The importance of the service to LEP persons.**

CCR Transit provides important transit services to the public through its fixed route and Dial-A-Ride service(s). CCR Transit is the only major public transportation provider in Columbia County and provides a link between residential areas, commercial centers, healthcare facilities, educational campuses, and social service offices. Riders experiencing issues with language barriers would be those using the Dial-A-Ride and Fixed Route systems as information, travel planning and trip scheduling is provided by our dispatch system.

**Factor 4: The resources available to the recipient of the federal funds to assure meaningful access to the service by LEP persons.**

CCR currently provides information in Spanish and other languages on our website at [www.columbiacountyrider.com](http://www.columbiacountyrider.com). We also post information on our buses. The Columbia County maintains a list of employees who are fluent in Spanish and other languages, and professional translation services are available when requested or if our dispatch needs such interpreter service. CCR also uses the AT&T Language Line to assist LEP individuals with phone inquiries. All riders can use the line at no charge to them at 1-800-874-9426.

**Processes for providing language assistance services by language**

Based on the four factor analysis, CCR recognizes the need to provide language interpretation services to those who may need that service. A review of CCR relevant programs, activities and services that are being offered by CCR as of July 2014 include:

- The inclusion of the AT & T Language Line contact information in our schedules, brochures and on our website.
- Route and schedule information are available in Spanish and other languages are on the CCR Transit website

Based on the demand for alternate language services, and considering the limited budget of the CCRider Transit programs, other activities and services that will continue to be provided over the next three years include:

- The AT & T language Line will continue to be provided.
- Route and schedule information will continue to be provided in Spanish and other languages on the CCR Transit Website.
- Monitoring and updating the need to provide additional LEP Services will be reviewed annually.

CCR Transit's outreach and marketing initiatives have provided us with a list of community organizations that are most apt to serve populations with limited English proficiency. The following list of community organizations will be contacted to assist in gathering information and see what services are most frequently sought by the LEP population:

- Public School District
- Area Chambers of Commerce
- Community Action Team (CAT)
- Oregon Department of Health & Human Services
- Oregon Employment Department
- Aging and Disability Services
- Commission on Children and Families

#### **Providing notice to LEP's of language assistance**

Notice will be placed on the transit buses, transit website, and on the bus schedules, and brochures announcing the availability of Language assistance. The CCR Website has been updated to allow for instant language translations by the click of a tab. A new page will be added that provides instruction and information on route and schedule information that can be translated into any language, downloaded and printed by the rider.

#### **Monitoring, evaluating and updating LAP**

CCR Transit staff will contact the community organizations that serve LEP persons and perform a four factor analysis every three years to identify what, if any, additional information or activities might better improve transit services to assure non-discriminatory service to LEP persons. CCR will then evaluate the projected financial and personnel needed to provide the requested services and assess which of these can be provided cost-effectively.

#### **Training Employees**

CCR Transit will require its operations contractor to provide training and information in the driver manual for all employees, staff and volunteers regarding the language assistance services available to riders. Employees will be encouraged to use the services provided when contact with LEP individuals prevents or hinders communication. This training will be provided as a refresher course at least annually and when all new drivers are hired.

## **Attachment E**

### **Notice to the Public**

#### **NOTIFYING THE PUBLIC OF RIGHTS UNDER TITLE VI COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON**

- Columbia County operates its programs and services without regard to race, color, and national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Any person who believes he or she has been aggrieved by any unlawful discriminatory practice under Title VI may file a complaint with Columbia County.
- For more information on Columbia County's civil rights program, and the procedures to file a complaint, contact 503-366-8504 or email [janet.wright@co.columbia.or.us](mailto:janet.wright@co.columbia.or.us) ; or visit our office at 1155 Deer Island Road, St. Helens, OR 97051. For more information visit [www.columbiacountyrider.com](http://www.columbiacountyrider.com)
- A complainant may file a complaint directly with the:
  - Federal Transit Administration
  - Office of Civil Rights
  - Attn: Title VI Program Coordinator
  - East Building, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor TGR
  - 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
  - Washington, DC 20590
- If information is needed in another language, contact 503-366-8504.
- Si se necesita informacion en otro idioma de contracto 503-366-8504