

Mount Rogers Planning District Commission
TITLE VI PROGRAM PLAN

Agency Director

Aaron Sizemore, Executive Director

Prepared by: **Mount Rogers PDC**

FISCAL YEAR: FY26

Title VI Implementation Plan

Mount Rogers Planning District Commission (PDC)
August 2025

TITLE VI STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

The Mount Rogers Planning District Commission , hereinafter also referred to as the "PDC", will effectuate the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 49 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) Part 21, 23 CFR Part 200 and other applicable directives. These

authorities provide that 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 otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which PDC receives federal assistance.

Further, as a recipient of federal-aid funding, the Mount Rogers PDC strives to achieve nondiscrimination in all its programs and activities whether or not those programs and activities are federally funded. These efforts to prevent discrimination will address, but not be limited to, a program's impact upon access, benefits, participation, treatment, services, contracting opportunities, training opportunities, investigation of complaints, allocation of funds, prioritization of projects, and the functions of right-of-way, research, planning, design, construction, and project development.

The Mount Rogers PDC will ensure that every manager, supervisor, employee, and sub-recipient of federal-aid funds administered by the PDC is aware of and applies the intent and spirit of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other nondiscrimination authorities in performing assigned duties.

Every employee and representative of the Mount Rogers PDC shall perform all official duties and actions in full accord with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, applicable statutes, executive orders, regulations, and policies enunciated there under.

The PDC Executive Director has been designated as the PDC's Title VI Coordinator and is responsible for ensuring that all matters relating to nondiscrimination are administered effectively.

Employees of the PDC, contractors or applicants with questions, problems or complaints regarding this statement, and the implementation of the stated provisions, should contact Mr. Aaron Sizemore, Executive Director, at asizemore@mrpdc.org.

I. Introduction

The Mount Rogers Planning District Commission (PDC), as a recipient of federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) and other federal agencies, is committed 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 conducted or funded by the agency, as protected by **Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964** and related statutes and regulations.

II. Standard USDOT Title VI Assurances

Mount Rogers PDC agrees to the **USDOT Standard Title VI Assurances**, which include:

- Compliance with Title VI and related Nondiscrimination authorities;
- Assurance that work performed under federally-assisted contracts will be conducted without discrimination;
- Agreement to insert nondiscrimination clauses in all contracts and subcontracts;
- Assurances applicable to real property and facilities.

* *Attached as Appendices are all pertinent current Mount Rogers Title VI Assurances.*

III. Organization and Staffing

The **Title VI Coordinator** is appointed by the Executive Director and is responsible for the management and implementation of the Title VI program.

Title VI Coordinator Duties:

As authorized by the Mount Rogers PDC Administrator, the Title VI Coordinator is responsible for initiating, monitoring, and ensuring PDC compliance with Title VI requirements as follows:

Program Administration

- Administer the Title VI Program and coordinate implementation of the plan
- Ensure compliance with the assurances, policy, and program objectives
- Perform Title VI Program reviews to assess administrative procedures, staffing, and resources
- Provide recommendations as required to the Mount Rogers PDC Administrator

Complaints

- Review written Title VI complaints that may be received by the Mount Rogers PDC following the adopted procedural guidelines.

Data Collection.

- Review the statistical data gathering process periodically to ensure sufficiency of data for meeting the requirements of Title VI program administration.

Training Programs

- Conduct or facilitate training programs on Title VI issues and regulations for the agency's employees; and facilitate Title VI training for appropriate staff, contractors, and sub-recipients.

Title VI Plan Update

- Review and update the Agency's Title VI Implementation Plan as needed or required
- Present updated plan to the Mount Rogers PDC Administrator for approval.
- Publish/post the Title VI Implementation Plan.

Annual Accomplishment Report

- Prepare an annual report of Title VI accomplishments and changes to the program in the preceding Federal fiscal year
- Identify goals and objectives for the upcoming year as required; and submit to VDOT.

Public Dissemination

- Work with Mount Rogers PDC staff to develop and disseminate Title VI program information to employees and sub-recipients, including contractors, subcontractors, consultants, and sub-consultants and beneficiaries, as well as the general public.
- Ensure public service announcements or notices are posted of proposed projects, hearings, meetings, or formation of public advisory boards, in newspapers or other media reaching the affected community.
- Ensure the full utilization of available minority publications or media
- Ensure written or verbal information in languages other than English is being provided, where appropriate.

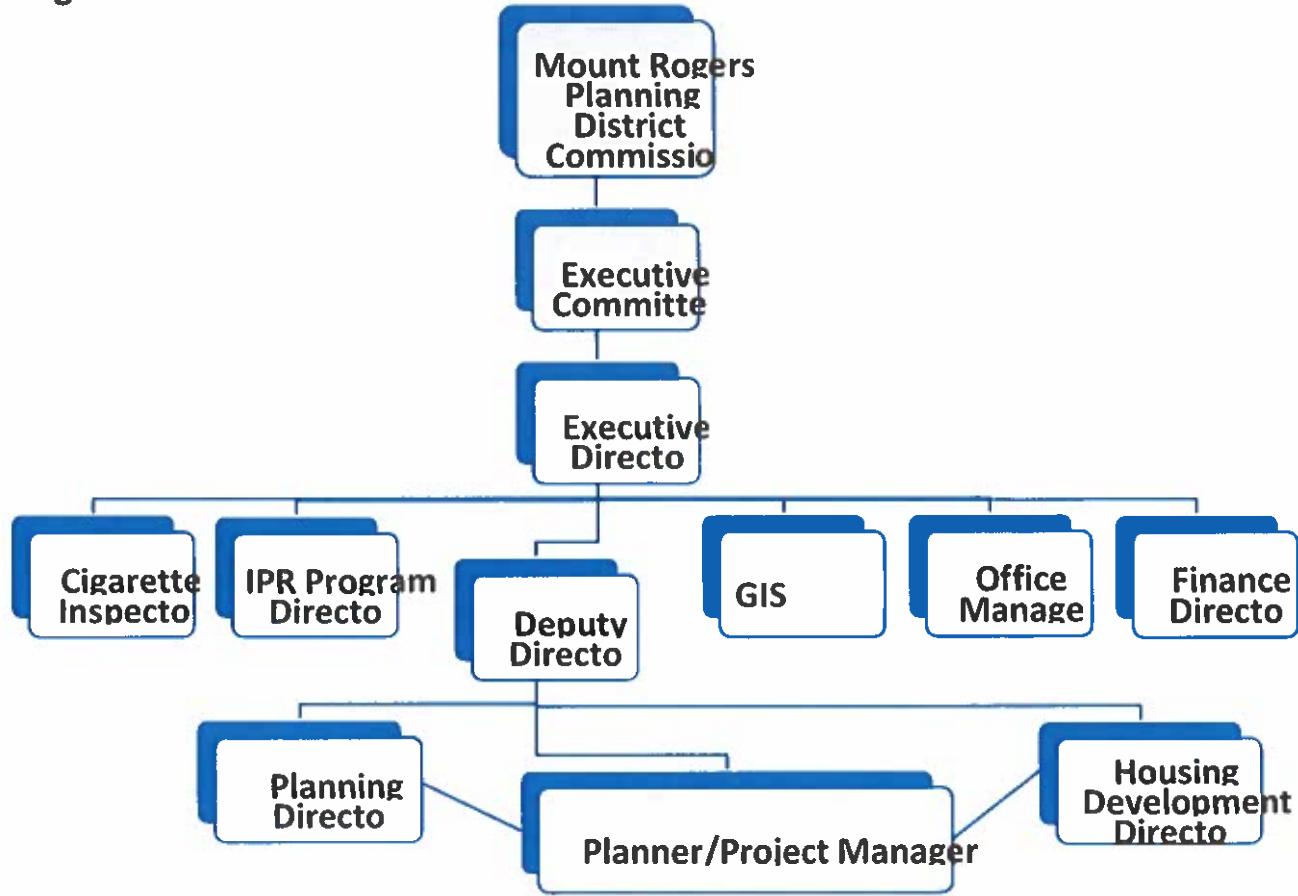
Elimination of Discrimination

- Work with Agency's program areas to establish procedures for promptly resolving deficiencies, as needed
- Recommend procedures to identify and eliminate discrimination that may be discovered in any of the Agency's processes

Maintain Legislative and Procedural Information.

- Keep informed about Federal laws, rules, and regulations, FHWA or VDOT guidelines that may affect the current Agency Title VI Plan and administration of the Agency's Title VI Program.
- Ensure information is made available to the public as requested or required.

Organizational Chart:



IV. Program Area Review Procedures

Each program area of Mount Rogers PDC will undergo periodic reviews to:

- Ensure nondiscrimination in the delivery of services
- Assess whether programs are equitably accessible
- Identify disparate impacts on protected populations

Review Components Include:

A. Program Areas – Review and Monitoring Procedures

Planning

- **Planning Process**

Describe the planning process/ Program Area's functions. Include responsibilities for providing long-range planning, program development, and capital programming, six-year plan.

- **Public involvement in planning activities**

Describe/Include:

- How minority members of the community are invited to participate in public hearings
- Locations, time, translation services, etc.

Location

- **Public involvement**

Describe the process to ensure representation of minorities and women on boards and committees involved in highway location decisions.

Describe/Include:

- How minority members of the community are invited to participate in public hearings
- Locations, time, translation services, etc.
- Location manuals, directives, guidelines and policies.

Right of Way

- **Right of Way Process**

Describe the Right of Way process/Program Area's functions

- **Right of Way Process and Title VI**

Describe/include all of the applicable activities in relation to Title VI

- Equal opportunity is being provided in hiring real estate appraisers
- Title VI language is incorporated into all acquisition, negotiation, property management communication and contracts
- Title VI language and assurance statements included in all surveys for property owners and tenants after the conclusion of business
- Values and communications associated with appraisals conducted in an equitable fashion
- Deeds, permits, and leases contain Title VI compliance clauses
- Statistical data is being collected on demographics of relocates.

Construction/Maintenance

- **Construction/Maintenance Section**

Describe this Program Area's functions & responsibilities

- Construction/Maintenance Section activities and Title VI

Describe/include all of these applicable activities in relation to Title VI

 - Contractor selection procedures reviewed to determine uniformity in their application to minority and nonminority contractors
 - Minority contractors and subcontractors are being informed about contracting opportunities with the local agency
 - Construction rules and regulations are being applied in an equitable fashion
 - Title VI assurances are included in all contracts, subcontracts, and material supply agreements.

Education/Training

- Education/ Training Section

Describe this Program Area's functions
- Education / Training Section activities and Title VI

Describe/include all of these applicable activities in relation to Title VI

 - Diversification in the selection of supportive services
 - Minority consultants and sub-consultants are being informed about contracting opportunities with the local agency
 - Title VI assurances are included in all consultant & sub-consultant agreements.

Consultant Contracts Administration

- Describe the Consultant Contracts Administration. Description will include the division responsible for recommending consultant firms to the Agency for final selection, negotiation and award, and the division that administers awarded consultant contracts.
- Describe the Consultant Selection Process. Include the staff or name of division responsible for this task.
- Describe how the Agency ensures the inclusion of Title VI assurances and provision language in all federally funded consultant contracts.

V. Sub-recipient Review Procedures

Mount Rogers PDC oversees sub-recipients to ensure compliance with Title VI requirements:

- All sub-recipients must sign Title VI Assurances
- Annual Title VI self-certification required
- Desk audits and on-site reviews conducted as necessary
- Technical assistance provided to correct deficiencies.

- **Sub-recipients - Reviews and Monitoring Procedures**

The Mount Rogers PDC will conduct Title VI compliance reviews and monitoring of its sub-recipients of Federal-aid highway or other Federal funds, to ensure adherence to Title VI requirements. The Mount Rogers PDC's staff will periodically review operational guidelines provided to consultants, contractors, and sub-recipients, including Title VI language, provisions, and related requirements, as applicable.

The Mount Rogers PDC will also conduct periodic post grant reviews of select recipients of Federal highway funds or other Federal funds, for roads, sidewalks, bridges, municipal construction, etc. to ensure adherence to Title VI requirements.

When irregularities occur in the administration of Federal-aid highway programs at sub-recipient levels, corrective action will be taken to resolve identified Title VI issues. The Mount Rogers PDC will seek the cooperation of the consultant, contractor or other sub-recipient in correcting deficiencies found during periodic reviews. The Mount Rogers PDC will provide technical assistance and guidance, upon request, to support voluntary compliance by the sub-recipient.

When a sub-recipient fails or refuses to voluntarily comply with requirements, the Mount Rogers PDC will submit to VDOT's Civil Rights Administrator -Title VI Coordinator copies of the case file and a recommendation that the sub-recipient be found in noncompliance.

A follow-up review will be conducted to ascertain if the sub-recipient has complied with the Title VI Program requirements in correcting deficiencies previously identified. If the sub-recipient refuses to comply, The Mount Rogers PDC and VDOT may, with FHWA's concurrence, initiate sanctions per 49 CFR 21.

VI. Data Collection

Mount Rogers PDC collects and analyzes demographic data to monitor compliance:

- Maintain records on race, color, national origin, sex, and age status of program beneficiaries (where appropriate)
- Use GIS mapping and census data for equity analysis
- Collect participation data from meetings, surveys, and public involvement efforts.

Data is used to:

- Identify disparate impacts
- Inform planning and service delivery
- Improve outreach and inclusion efforts.

VII. Training

Annual Title VI training is provided to all staff and sub-recipients. Training covers:

- Civil Rights requirements
- How to handle complaints
- How to identify and prevent discrimination

VIII. Complaint Procedures

Any individual who believes they have been subjected to discrimination may file a Title VI complaint.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Title VI Program is governed by several authorities. [Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 \(42 U.S.C. 2000d\)](#) provides that “[n]o person in the United States shall, on the ground 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.”

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) implemented its Title VI program in [49 CFR Part 21](#). Specific provisions regarding the investigation of complaints are found at 49 CFR §21.11. The FHWA follows the USDOT regulations. Further, FHWA's regulations at 23 CFR §200.9(b)(3) direct State Departments of Transportation (State DOTs) to develop procedures for processing Title VI complaints filed with State DOTs against their Federal-aid highway Subrecipients.

Any person who believes they—or a specific class of persons—were subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in the programs and activities of a primary Recipient of Federal financial assistance (e.g. State DOT) or Subrecipient (e.g., a city, county, Metropolitan Planning Organization, etc., that receives Federal financial assistance through a primary Recipient) may file a Title VI complaint.

Complaints related to the Federal-aid highway program may be filed with a Recipient State DOT, FHWA Division Office, the FHWA Headquarters Office of Civil Rights (HCR), the USDOT Departmental Office of Civil Rights, or the USDOJ.

According to USDOT regulations, 49 CFR §21.11(b), a complaint must be filed not later than 180 days after the date of the last instance of alleged discrimination, unless the time for filing is extended by the processing agency.

Complaints should be in writing and signed and may be filed by mail, fax, in person, or e-mail. However, the complainant may call the receiving agency and provide the allegations by telephone, and the agency should transcribe the allegations of the complaint as provided over the telephone and send a written complaint to the complainant for correction and signature. A complaint should contain the following information:

- A written explanation of the alleged discriminatory actions;
- The complainant's contact information, including, if available: full name, postal address, phone number, and email address;
- The basis of the complaint (e.g., race, color, national origin);
- The names of specific persons and respondents (e.g., agencies/organizations) alleged to have discriminated;
- Sufficient information to understand the facts that led the complainant to believe that discrimination occurred in a program or activity that receives Federal financial assistance; and
- The date(s) of the alleged discriminatory act(s) and whether the alleged discrimination is on-going.

First, FHWA notes that FHWA Division Offices do not investigate Title VI complaints. Likewise, Recipients, such as State DOTs, and Subrecipients do not investigate complaints filed against themselves. Finally, FHWA is responsible for all decisions regarding whether a complaint should be accepted, dismissed, or referred to another agency.

With this understanding, complaints should be routed in the following ways:

- All complaints should be routed to the FHWA Headquarters Office of Civil Rights (HCR) for processing. HCR is responsible for all determinations regarding whether to accept, dismiss, or transfer Title VI complaints filed against State DOTs or Subrecipients of Federal financial assistance.
- Complaints should be forwarded from the initial receiving agency through the Federal-aid highway oversight hierarchy until the complaint reaches HCR. For example, if a complaint is filed with a Subrecipient City, that receiving agency should forward the complaint to the State DOT, which should forward the complaint to the State's FHWA Division Office, which should forward the complaint to HCR. If a complaint is filed with a State DOT, then the State DOT should forward the complaint to the State's FHWA Division Office, which should forward the complaint to HCR.
- State DOTs and Subrecipients must log all complaints received.
- When HCR decides on whether to accept, dismiss, or transfer the complaint, HCR will notify the Complainant, the FHWA Division Office, State DOT, and Subrecipient (where applicable).

Complaints may also be sent to HCR directly at:

Postal Mail	Federal Highway Administration U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Civil Rights 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE 8th Floor E81-105 Washington, DC 20590
Email	CivilRights.FHWA@dot.gov , FHWA.TitleVIcomplaints@dot.gov
Fax	202-366-1599
Questions?	202-366-0693

There are four potential outcomes for processing complaints:

- Accept: if a complaint is timely filed (see Question 2c, above), contains sufficient information to support a claim under Title VI, and concerns matters under FHWA's jurisdiction, then HCR will send to the complainant, the respondent agency, and the FHWA Division Office a written notice that it has accepted the complaint for investigation.
- Preliminary review: if it is unclear whether the complaint allegations are sufficient to support a claim under Title VI, then HCR may (1) dismiss it or (2) engage in a preliminary review to acquire additional information from the complainant and/or respondent before deciding whether to accept, dismiss, or refer the complaint.
- Procedural Dismissal: if a complaint is not timely filed (see Question 2c, above), is not in writing and signed, or features other procedural/practical defects, then HCR will send the complainant, respondent, and FHWA Division Office a written notice that it is dismissing the complaint.
- Referral\Dismissal: if the complaint is procedurally sufficient but FHWA (1) lacks jurisdiction over the subject matter or (2) lacks jurisdiction over the respondent entity, then HCR will either dismiss the complaint or refer it to another agency that does have jurisdiction. If HCR dismisses the complaint, it will send the complainant, respondent, and FHWA Division Office a copy of the written dismissal notice. For referrals, FHWA will send a written referral notice with a copy of the complaint to the proper Federal agency and a copy to the USDOT Departmental Office of Civil Rights.

The HCR is responsible for conducting all investigations of State DOTs and other primary Recipients. In the case of a complaint filed against a Subrecipient, HCR may either conduct the investigation itself, or it may delegate the investigation to the primary Recipient State DOT. If HCR chooses to delegate the investigation of a Subrecipient, HCR will communicate its acceptance of the complaint to the complainant and respondent, but the State DOT will conduct all data requests, interviews, and analysis.

The State DOT will then create a Report of Investigation (ROI), which it will send to HCR. Finally, HCR will review the ROI and compose a Letter of Finding based on the ROI

For FHWA, there is no regulatory timeframe for completing investigations. However, FHWA strives to complete all tasks within 180 days from the date of acceptance.

For State DOTs that have been delegated an investigation from FHWA, 23 CFR §200.9(b)(3) provides that State DOTs must complete investigations within 60 days of receipt (meaning the date it receives the delegated complaint from FHWA).

There are no regulatory requirements for how information is gathered, but State DOTs and Subrecipients are required to keep detailed records on how they comply with Title VI and to provide USDOT with access to documents and persons with relevant information. 49 CFR §21.9. Typically, the respondent will receive at least one Request for Information and Position Statement (RFI) to gather documents, and additional requests if necessary. Concurrently, the HCR or State DOT investigator will schedule interviews with relevant parties and conduct site visits as necessary.

First, at any time during the investigation, either FHWA or the respondent may initiate informal negotiations to resolve the issues. The FHWA always strives to resolve Title VI complaints informally, if possible.

In the absence of such negotiations, HCR (or an investigator State DOT) will draft a Report of Investigation, which should contain all relevant data and findings, with legal conclusions and potentially include recommendations for action. FHWA is responsible for the final disposition of all complaints, including initiation and conduct of informal negotiations and the issuance of Letters of Finding (LOFs).

There are five potential outcomes for concluding an investigation:

1. The FHWA makes a finding of no violation and the case will be closed with no further action. The FHWA will issue an LOF stating in sufficient detail the reasons for the determination of no violation.
2. If, by a preponderance of the evidence, FHWA determines the respondent has failed to comply with its Title VI requirements or threatens to fail to comply by action or inaction, then FHWA will inform the respondent and the matter will be resolved by informal means whenever possible.
 - o If FHWA informally resolves the matter with the respondent by agreement, then FHWA will hold the complaint in abeyance until the respondent completes its corrective actions. If the corrective actions are completed to the FHWA's satisfaction, then the complaint will be dismissed with no further action.
 - o If FHWA cannot informally resolve the matter or the respondent does not complete agreed upon corrective actions, then FHWA may issue a LOF stating that the Recipient is in noncompliance with its Title VI obligations.
3. If FHWA issues a LOF of noncompliance to the respondent, the LOF will request that the respondent provide to FHWA, within 90 days, an action plan that implements the recommendations in the LOF.
4. If FHWA approves the action plan, then the respondent will be given a reasonable amount of time to implement the plan. At the end of the implementation period, FHWA will assess whether the respondent has sufficiently corrected the deficiencies.
5. If FHWA does not approve the action plan, or the respondent is nonresponsive/uncooperative, then FHWA may seek administrative sanctions, including,

but not limited to, suspension or termination of Federal funds or any other means authorized by law such as referral to USDOJ for enforcement.

- If USDOT seeks to suspend or terminate funds, it must provide the respondent with an opportunity for a hearing on the record. If the Secretary of Transportation determines that the respondent has not complied with Title VI and voluntary compliance cannot be secured, USDOT must notify Congress before that finding goes into effect. 49 CFR §21.13(c).

All LOFs issued by FHWA are administratively final.

Complaint Forms are available:

- In-person at Mount Rogers PDC offices
- On the agency's website
- In alternative formats upon request.

* Complaint form is included as Attachment

IX. Dissemination of Title VI Information

Mount Rogers PDC ensures public awareness of its Title VI obligations by:

- Posting Title VI notices in all public areas and on the website
- Including nondiscrimination statements in publications and outreach materials
- Providing materials in alternative formats and languages as needed.

Public involvement activities include proactive outreach to Title VI-protected populations.

X. Language Access

Mount Rogers PDC provides language access upon request.

Vital documents are translated as needed, and interpreter services are made available upon request.

XI. Review of VDOT Directives

The Title VI Coordinator monitors all Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and other STA directives:

- Ensures relevant policies, procedures, and guidelines are free of discriminatory language or effect.
- Coordinates with VDOT civil rights office to review updates.
- Integrates applicable changes into Mount Rogers policies and practices.

The Title VI Staff employs the following process (or several processes) to review the Agency directives, policies and practices:

- The Title VI Staff is included in the review process when Agency directives are drafted and policies implemented. This process affords the Title VI Staff an opportunity to review for any possible Title VI issues.
- The Director serves on decision-making committees as a Civil Rights Advisor to ensure the Agency directives are in accordance with the federal and state nondiscrimination laws, rules, and regulations; and,
- The Title VI Staff works cooperatively with FHWA Division Civil Rights staff to implement federal nondiscrimination directives.

XII. Compliance & Enforcement Procedures

To ensure ongoing compliance:

- Routine monitoring of internal operations and external partners
- Periodic reports to funding agencies
- Corrective action plans developed for noncompliance
- Documentation of investigations, outcomes, and resolutions.

Noncompliance may result in:

Remedial Action

- The goal for Title VI and regulatory enforcement is to achieve voluntary compliance. If deficiencies are found during a Title VI review, the Compliance Review Report will include a draft corrective action plan (CAP) with projected due dates. The program area staff/Title VI Liaison or the Subrecipient will be able to propose remedial actions to correct the deficiencies. Program areas and Subrecipients are expected to correct all deficiencies according to their CAP and provide periodic updates to the Title VI Officer/ Coordinator/ Specialist assigned to the review. The Title VI Officer/Coordinator/Specialist will provide technical assistance, as needed, and work with the (program area's) Title VI Liaison or Subrecipient's Title VI Coordinator to ensure implementation of the CAP. When the Title VI

Officer/Coordinator/Specialist has determined that a sub- recipient's deficiencies are sufficiently corrected, the program area Title VI Liaison or the Subrecipient will be notified that the review process is complete and no further progress reporting is needed. The Subrecipient will receive an official Closeout Letter signed by the Agency's Title VI Coordinator.

Affecting Compliance

- When an internal program area refuses to cooperate or comply with Title VI, the Title VI Specialist will elevate the matter to the Director, after which, the matter may be referred to the State DOT Civil Rights Manager or responsible USDOT Operating Administration (OA).
- When a Subrecipient fails to take appropriate corrective action in response to the findings of deficiencies in the compliance report, the Subrecipient moves from a "deficiency status" to noncompliance; the Mount Rogers PDC will submit two copies of the case file to the State DOT or FHWA with a recommendation that the sub- recipient be found in noncompliance; and/or, may, with the concurrence of the State DOT or FHWA (or other USDOT OA), initiate proceedings to impose sanctions for noncompliance.

Sanctions

- In the event that a Subrecipient or contractor ("recipient") fails or refuses to comply with Title VI, the first step taken by the internal program area with oversight of the recipient will be the Mount Rogers PDC attempts to resolve the issue using the program area's normal administrative solutions. However, the Mount Rogers PDC may take any or all of the following steps, with the concurrence of VDOT or USDOT(i.e., FHWA), if the recipient is uncooperative or nonresponsive during attempts by the Mount Rogers PDC to voluntarily resolve the compliance issue:
 - Cancel, terminate, or suspend the contract or agreement in whole or in part;
 - 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;
 - Take such other action that may be deemed appropriate under the circumstances, until compliance or remedial action has been accomplished by the recipient; and/or,
 - Refer the case to the appropriate federal agency for appropriate administrative or legal proceedings. Other means authorized by law.

XIII. Contact Information

Mr. Aaron Sizemore, Executive Director
Mount Rogers Planning District Commission
1021 Terrace Drive, Marion VA, 24236
Phone: (276) 783-5103
Email: asizemore@mrpdc.org
Website: www.mrpdc.org

XIV. Authorities

This section is a reference source of the applicable authorities related to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended.

Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act (42 USC 2000d et seq) requires that "No person in the United States shall, on the ground 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."

The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, P.L. 100-209 further clarified the intent of Title VI to include all programs and activities of entities whether those programs and activities are federally funded or not.

49 CFR Part 21, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Implementing Regulations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, the Federal Highway Administration's Title VI Program Implementation and Review Procedures.

USDOT Order 1050.2A

Section 162(a) of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973 (Section 324, Title 23 U.S.C.) prohibits discrimination based on sex (gender).

XIV. Appendix

- Complaint Form
- Statement of Commitment
- Title VI Assurances
- Appendix A, B, C, D and E

Mount Rogers Planning District Commission

Title VI Complaint Form

The Mount Rogers Planning District Commission (PDC) is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability.

If you believe you have been subjected to discrimination under Title VI, please complete the form below.

Section I – Complainant Information

Full Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

Phone Number:

Email Address (optional):

Section II – Complaint Details

1. Are you filing this complaint on your own behalf?

Yes No

If no, please provide the name and relationship of the person for whom you are filing the complaint:

2. Please identify the person(s) or organization(s) you believe discriminated against you:

3. Date(s) of the alleged discrimination:

4. Alleged basis of discrimination (check all that apply):

- Race Color National Origin
 Sex Age Disability
 Language Access Other (please specify):
-

5. Please describe the alleged discriminatory incident(s). Include as much detail as possible (what happened, who was involved, names, dates, times, witnesses, etc.). Attach additional pages if necessary.

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otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which PDC receives federal assistance.

Further, as a recipient of federal-aid funding, the Mount Rogers PDC strives to achieve nondiscrimination in all its programs and activities whether or not those programs and activities are federally funded. These efforts to prevent discrimination will address, but not be limited to, a program's impact upon access, benefits, participation, treatment, services, contracting opportunities, training opportunities, investigation of complaints, allocation of funds, prioritization of projects, and the functions of right-of-way, research, planning, design, construction, and project development. Mount Rogers will ensure that every manager, supervisor, employee, and sub-recipient of federal-aid funds administered by the PDC is aware of and applies the intent and spirit of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other nondiscrimination authorities in performing assigned duties.

Every employee and representative of Mount Rogers shall perform all official duties and actions in full accord with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, applicable statutes, executive orders, regulations, and policies enunciated there under.

The Executive Director has been designated as the PDC's Title VI Coordinator and is responsible for ensuring that all matters relating to nondiscrimination are administered effectively.

Employees of the PDC, contractors or applicants with questions, problems or complaints regarding this statement, and the implementation of the stated provisions, should contact Mr. Aaron Sizemore, at asizemore@MRPDC.org



Mr. Aaron Sizemore, Executive Director

1/20/26

Date

TITLE VI/NONDISCRIMINATION ASSURANCES

DOT Order No.1050.2A

The *Mount Rogers Planning District Commission*, (herein referred to as the "Recipient"), HEREBY AGREES THAT, as a condition to receiving any Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), through the *Federal Highway Administration*, is subject to and will comply with the following:

Statutory/Regulatory Authorities

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d *et seq.*, 78 stat. 252), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin);
- 49 C.F.R. Part 21 (entitled *Nondiscrimination In Federally-Assisted Programs Of The Department Of Transportation – Effectuation Of Title VI Of The Civil Rights Act Of 1964*);
- 28 C.F.R. section 50.3 (U.S. Department of Justice Guidelines for Enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964);

The preceding statutory and regulatory cites hereinafter are referred to as the "Acts" and "Regulations," respectively.

General Assurances

In accordance with the Acts, the Regulations, and other pertinent directives, circulars, policy, memoranda, and/or guidance, the Recipient hereby gives assurance that it will promptly take any measures necessary to ensure that:

"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 otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity," for which the Recipient receives Federal financial assistance from DOT, including the Federal Highway Administration.

The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 clarified the original intent of Congress, with respect to Title VI and other Nondiscrimination requirements (The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973), by restoring the broad, institutional-wide scope and coverage of these nondiscrimination statutes and requirements to include all programs and activities of the Recipient, so long as any portion of the program is Federally assisted.

Specific Assurances

More specifically, and without limiting the above general Assurance, the Recipient agrees with and gives the following Assurances with respect to its federally assisted Highway Program:

1. The Recipient agrees that each "activity," "facility," or "program," as defined in §§ 21.23 (b) and 21.23 (e) of 49 C.F.R. § 21 will be (with regard to an "activity") facilitated, or will be (with regard to a "facility") operated, or will be (with regard to a "program") conducted in compliance with all requirements imposed by, or pursuant to the Acts and the Regulations.
2. The Recipient will insert the following notification in all solicitations for bids, Requests for Proposals for work, or material subject to the Acts and the Regulations made in connection with all Federal-Aid Highway Program and, in adapted form, in all proposals for negotiated agreements regardless of funding source:

"The Mount Rogers PDC in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair

opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award."

3. The Recipient will insert the clauses of Appendix A and E of this Assurance in every contract or agreement subject to the Acts and the Regulations.
4. The Recipient will insert the clauses of Appendix B of this Assurance, as a covenant running with the land, in any deed from the United States effecting or recording a transfer of real property, structures, use, or improvements thereon or interest therein to a Recipient.
5. That where the Recipient receives Federal financial assistance to construct a facility, or part of a facility, the Assurance will extend to the entire facility and facilities operated in connection therewith.
6. That where the Recipient receives Federal financial assistance in the form, or for the acquisition of real property or an interest in real property, the Assurance will extend to rights to space on, over, or under such property.
7. That the Recipient will include the clauses set forth in Appendix C and Appendix D of this Assurance, as a covenant running with the land, in any future deeds, leases, licenses, permits, or similar instruments entered into by the Recipient with other parties:
 - a. for the subsequent transfer of real property acquired or improved under the applicable activity, project, or program; and
 - b. for the construction or use of, or access to, space on, over, or under real property acquired or improved under the applicable activity, project, or program.
8. That this Assurance obligates the Recipient for the period during which Federal financial assistance is extended to the program, except where the Federal financial assistance is to provide, or is in the form of, personal property, or real property, or interest therein, or structures or improvements thereon, in which case the Assurance obligates the Recipient, or any transferee for the longer of the following periods:
 - a. the period during which the property is used for a purpose for which the Federal financial assistance is extended, or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits; or
 - b. the period during which the Recipient retains ownership or possession of the property.
9. The Recipient will provide for such methods of administration for the program as are found by the Secretary of Transportation or the official to whom he/she delegates specific authority to give reasonable guarantee that it, other recipients, sub-recipients, sub-grantees, contractors, subcontractors, consultants, transferees, successors in interest, and other participants of Federal financial assistance under such program will comply with all requirements imposed or pursuant to the Acts, the Regulations, and this Assurance.
10. The Recipient agrees that the United States has a right to seek judicial enforcement with regard to any matter arising under the Acts, the Regulations, and this Assurance.

By signing this ASSURANCE, the *Mount Rogers PDC* also agrees to comply (and require any sub-recipients, sub-grantees, contractors, successors, transferees, and/or assignees to comply) with all applicable

provisions governing the *USDOT* access to records, accounts, documents, information, facilities, and staff. You also recognize that you must comply with any program or compliance reviews, and/or complaint investigations conducted by the *USDOT*. You must keep records, reports, and submit the material for review upon request to *USDOT*, or its designee in a timely, complete, and accurate way. Additionally, you must comply with all other reporting, data collection, and evaluation requirements, as prescribed by law or detailed in program guidance.

The *Mount Rogers PDC* gives this ASSURANCE in consideration of and for obtaining any Federal grants, loans, contracts, agreements, property, and/or discounts, or other Federal-aid and Federal financial assistance extended after the date hereof to the recipients by the U.S. Department of Transportation under the *Federal-Aid Highway Program*. This ASSURANCE is binding on the *Commonwealth of Virginia*, other recipients, sub-recipients, sub-grantees, contractors, subcontractors and their subcontractors, transferees, successors in interest, and any other participants in the *Federal-Aid Highway Program*. The person(s) signing below is authorized to sign this ASSURANCE on behalf of the Recipient.

MOUNT ROGERS PDC

by 

Aaron Sizemore, Executive Director

DATED 1/21/26

APPENDIX A

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

1. **Compliance with Regulations:** The contractor (hereinafter includes consultants) will comply with the Acts and the Regulations relative to Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, as they may be amended from time to time, 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, will not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in the selection and retention of subcontractors, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment. The contractor will not participate directly or indirectly in the discrimination prohibited by the Acts and the Regulations, including employment practices when the contract covers any activity, project, or program set forth in Appendix B of 49 CFR Part 21.
3. **Solicitations for Subcontracts, Including Procurements of Materials and Equipment:** In all solicitations, either by competitive bidding, or negotiation made by the contractor for work to be performed under a subcontract, including procurements of materials, or leases of equipment, each potential subcontractor or supplier will be notified by the contractor of the contractor's obligations under this contract and the Acts and the Regulations relative to Nondiscrimination on the grounds of race, color, or national origin.
4. **Information and Reports:** The contractor will provide all information and reports required by the Acts, the Regulations, and directives issued pursuant thereto and will permit access to its books, records, accounts, other sources of information, and its facilities as may be determined by the Recipient or the Federal Highway Administration to be pertinent to ascertain compliance with such Acts, Regulations, and instructions. Where any information required of a contractor is in the exclusive possession of another who fails or refuses to furnish the information, the contractor will so certify to the Recipient or the Federal Highway Administration, as appropriate, and will set forth what efforts it has made to obtain the information.
5. **Sanctions for Noncompliance:** In the event of a contractor's noncompliance with the Non-discrimination provisions of this contract, the Recipient will impose such contract sanctions as it or the Federal Highway Administration may determine to be appropriate, including, but not limited to:
 - a. withholding payments to the contractor under the contract until the contractor complies; and/or
 - b. cancelling, terminating, or suspending a contract, in whole or in part.
6. **Incorporation of Provisions:** The contractor will include the provisions of paragraphs one through six in every subcontract, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment, unless exempt by the Acts, the Regulations and directives issued pursuant thereto. The contractor will take action with respect to any subcontract or procurement as the Recipient or the Federal Highway Administration may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance. Provided, that if the contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with litigation by a subcontractor, or supplier because of such direction, the contractor may request the Recipient to enter into any litigation to protect the interests of the Recipient. In addition, the contractor may request the United States to enter into the litigation to protect the interests of the United States.

APPENDIX B

CLAUSES FOR DEEDS TRANSFERRING UNITED STATES PROPERTY

The following clauses will be included in deeds effecting or recording the transfer of real property, structures, or improvements thereon, or granting interest therein from the United States pursuant to the provisions of Assurance 4:

NOW, THEREFORE, the U.S. Department of Transportation as authorized by law and upon the condition that the *Mount Rogers PDC* will accept title to the lands and maintain the project constructed thereon in accordance with the Virginia General Assembly, the Regulations for the Administration of the Federal-Aid Highway Program and the policies and procedures prescribed by the *Federal Highway Administration* of the U.S. Department of Transportation in accordance and in compliance with all requirements imposed by Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, U.S. Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation pertaining to and effectuating the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252; 42 U.S.C. § 2000d to 2000d-4), does hereby remise, release, quitclaim and convey unto the *Mount Rogers PDC* all the right, title and interest of the U.S. Department of Transportation in and to said lands described in Exhibit A attached hereto and made a part hereof.

(HABENDUM CLAUSE)

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said lands and interests therein unto the *Mount Rogers PDC* and its successors forever, subject, however, to the covenants, conditions, restrictions and reservations herein contained as follows, which will remain in effect for the period during which the real property or structures are used for a purpose for which Federal financial assistance is extended or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits and will be binding on the *Mount Rogers PDC*, its successors and assigns.

The *Mount Rogers PDC* in consideration of the conveyance of said lands and interests in lands, does hereby covenant and agree as a covenant running with the land for itself, its successors and assigns, that (1) no person will on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination with regard to any facility located wholly or in part on, over, or under such lands hereby conveyed [,] [and]* (2) that the *Mount Rogers PDC* will use the lands and interests in lands and interests in lands so conveyed, in compliance with all requirements imposed by or pursuant to Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, U.S. Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and as said Regulations and Acts may be amended[, and (3) that in the event of breach of any of the above-mentioned non-discrimination conditions, the Department will have a right to enter or re-enter said lands and facilities on said land, and that above described land and facilities will thereon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of the U.S. Department of Transportation and its assigns as such interest existed prior to this instruction].*

(*Reverter clause and related language to be used only when it is determined that such a clause is necessary in order to make clear the purpose of Title VI.)

APPENDIX C

CLAUSES FOR TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY ACQUIRED OR IMPROVED UNDER THE ACTIVITY, FACILITY, OR PROGRAM

The following clauses will be included in deeds, licenses, leases, permits, or similar instruments entered into by the Mount Rogers PDC pursuant to the provisions of Assurance 7(a):

- A. The (grantee, lessee, permittee, etc. as appropriate) for himself/herself, his/her heirs, personal representatives, successors in interest, and assigns, as a part of the consideration hereof, does hereby covenant and agree [in the case of deeds and leases add "as a covenant running with the land"] that:
 1. In the event facilities are constructed, maintained, or otherwise operated on the property described in this (deed, license, lease, permit, etc.) for a purpose for which a U.S. Department of Transportation activity, facility, or program is extended or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits, the (grantee, licensee, lessee, permittee, etc.) will maintain and operate such facilities and services in compliance with all requirements imposed by the Acts and Regulations (as may be amended) such that no person on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the use of said facilities.
- B. With respect to licenses, leases, permits, etc., in the event of breach of any of the above Nondiscrimination covenants, the Mount Rogers PDC will have the right to terminate the (lease, license, permit, etc.) and to enter, re-enter, and repossess said lands and facilities thereon, and hold the same as if the (lease, license, permit, etc.) had never been made or issued.*
- C. With respect to a deed, in the event of breach of any of the above Nondiscrimination covenants, the Mount Rogers PDC will have the right to enter or re-enter the lands and facilities thereon, and the above described lands and facilities will there upon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of the Mount Rogers PDC and its assigns.*

(*Reverter clause and related language to be used only when it is determined that such a clause is necessary to make clear the purpose of Title VI.)

APPENDIX D

CLAUSES FOR CONSTRUCTION/USE/ACCESS TO REAL PROPERTY ACQUIRED UNDER THE ACTIVITY, FACILITY OR PROGRAM

The following clauses will be included in deeds, licenses, permits, or similar instruments/agreements entered into by the Mount Rogers PDC pursuant to the provisions of Assurance 7(b):

- A. The (grantee, licensee, permittee, etc., as appropriate) for himself/herself, his/her heirs, personal representatives, successors in interest, and assigns, as a part of the consideration hereof, does hereby covenant and agree (in the case of deeds and leases add, "as a covenant running with the land") that (1) no person on the ground of race, color, or national origin, will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the use of said facilities, (2) that in the construction of any improvements on, over, or under such land, and the furnishing of services thereon, no person on the ground of race, color, or national origin, will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination, (3) that the (grantee, licensee, lessee, permittee, etc.) will use the premises in compliance with all other requirements imposed by or pursuant to the Acts and Regulations, as amended, set forth in this Assurance.
- B. With respect to (licenses, leases, permits, etc.), in the event of breach of any of the above Nondiscrimination covenants, the *Mount Rogers PDC* will have the right to terminate the (license, permit, etc., as appropriate) and to enter or re-enter and repossess said land and the facilities thereon, and hold the same as if said (license, permit, etc., as appropriate) had never been made or issued.*
- C. With respect to deeds, in the event of breach of any of the above Non-discrimination covenants, the *Mount Rogers PDC* will there upon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of the *Mount Rogers PDC* and its assigns.*

(*Reverter clause and related language to be used only when it is determined that such a clause is necessary to make clear the purpose of Title VI.)

APPENDIX E

During the performance of this contract, the contractor, for itself, its assignees, and successors in interest (hereinafter referred to as the "contractor") agrees to comply with the following nondiscrimination statutes and authorities; including but not limited to:

Pertinent Nondiscrimination Authorities:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d *et seq.*, 78 stat. 252), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin); and 49 CFR Part 21.
- The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, (42 U.S.C. § 4601), (prohibits unfair treatment of persons displaced or whose property has been acquired because of Federal or Federal-aid programs and projects);
- Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973, (23 U.S.C. § 324 *et seq.*), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex);
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, (29 U.S.C. § 794 *et seq.*), as amended, (prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability); and 49 CFR Part 27;
- The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, (42 U.S.C. § 6101 *et seq.*), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of age);
- Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982, (49 USC § 471, Section 47123), as amended, (prohibits discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, or sex);
- The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, (PL 100-209), (Broadened the scope, coverage and applicability of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, The Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, by expanding the definition of the terms "programs or activities" to include all of the programs or activities of the Federal-aid recipients, sub-recipients and contractors, whether such programs or activities are Federally funded or not);
- Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in the operation of public entities, public and private transportation systems, places of public accommodation, and certain testing entities (42 U.S.C. §§ 12131-12189) as implemented by Department of Transportation regulations at 49 C.F.R. parts 37 and 38;
- The Federal Aviation Administration's Non-discrimination statute (49 U.S.C. § 47123) (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, and sex);
- Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, which ensures discrimination against minority populations by discouraging programs, policies, and activities with disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations;
- Executive Order 13166, Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency,
And resulting agency guidance, national origin discrimination includes discrimination because of Limited English Proficiency (LEP). To ensure compliance with Title VI, you must take reasonable steps to ensure that LEP persons have meaningful access to your programs (70 Fed. Reg. at 74087 to 74100);
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, which prohibits you from discriminating because of sex in education programs or activities (20 U.S.C. 1681 *et seq.*).