

Title VI Report

September 2022

WTA



Pursuant to Federal Transit Administration Circular 4702.1B

Date of Public Hearing: September 15, 2022

The Board of Directors held a public hearing and approved the
2022 Title VI Report on September 15, 2022.

WHATCOM TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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chapter 1:

Whatcom Transportation Authority

Study Area

Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA) is located in Whatcom County, Washington. Whatcom County is situated in the extreme northwest corner of Washington State. The county is bounded on the north by Canada, to the east by the Cascade Mountain Range, on the south by Skagit County, and to the west by Bellingham Bay and the Strait of Georgia. The eastern two-thirds of the county is sparsely populated, mountainous terrain, most of which is in the Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest and North Cascades National Park. Interstate 5 bisects western Whatcom County and connects the area with Seattle to the south and Vancouver, British Columbia, to the north. A large portion of WTA service is oriented to students at Western Washington University, located in Bellingham.

Background

In 1983, Whatcom County elected officials established a Public Transportation Benefit Area (PTBA) which included Bellingham. Voters in the expanded area of the PTBA approved a 0.3 percent sales tax to subsidize services. This amount was matched by the state Motor Vehicle Excise tax. WTA contracted with the City of Bellingham for fixed route transit service and started contracting with the Whatcom County Council on Aging for paratransit services.

- In 1992 paratransit services were brought in house.
- By 1995 virtually all remaining populated areas of the county had voted to join the PTBA.
- In 2002 voters approved an increase in the sales tax rate for WTA to 0.6 percent to offset lost Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes.
- In 2005, WTA introduced major changes to its service, including the introduction of high frequency corridors (Go Lines) and expanded service to a number of areas.
- In 2010, a 14% service cut was necessitated by reduced revenues due to the recession. Approximately half of that was restored less than a year later due to funding from the City of Bellingham.
- In 2017, WTA introduced major changes in service. This included Sunday and later evening service to the county routes, and later evening trips on 2 of the GO Lines (high frequency corridors).
- In June 2019, WTA added additional service to provide additional access to grocery stores, direct service to Bellingham International Airport, and other changes to improve route performance.
- In March of 2020 service was reduced due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Summer of 2021 we resumed full service and fare collection. We also introduced our Youth Ride Free Program and our federally funded On-Demand pilot project called the Lynden Hop.
- The 2021 population of the PTBA was 225,928 (Washington State Office of Financial Management).

chapter 2:

Title VI

Purpose of the Title VI Report

Section 601 of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states the following:

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

This Title VI report of WTA is conducted in compliance with FTA Circular 4702.1B (10/1/12), to ensure that benefits and services provided by WTA are distributed consistent with the provisions of Title VI.

Objectives

The following are the objectives of Title VI:

- a.** Ensure that the level and quality of public transportation service is provided in a nondiscriminatory manner;
- b.** Promote full and fair participation in public transportation decision-making without regard to race, color, or national origin;
- c.** Ensure meaningful access to transit-related programs and activities by persons with limited English proficiency.

The Title VI review of WTA requires several separate processes to occur. First is the submission of the compliance report completed by WTA. Second is the Federal Transit Administration's evaluation of WTA's compliance with the requirements of Title VI. Last is FTA's subsequent notification of findings, and the remedial actions which WTA may be required to undertake.

As a recipient of Federal transportation capital funding, WTA has prepared this report in compliance with requirements of Title VI.

chapter 3:

Outreach Activities & Public Participation Plan

Overview

WTA works to ensure all populations are included in the agency's decision making process including minority, low-income and LEP populations. WTA solicits broad participation through a variety of means. Included in this chapter is a summary of public outreach and involvement activities, both those that are ongoing and those that have been undertaken since the last submission of the Title VI Report.

Limited English Proficient (LEP)

LEP refers to persons for whom English is not their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English. It includes people who reported to the U.S. Census that they speak English less than very well, not well, or not at all.

Outreach Activities

WTA provides press releases about upcoming activities and meetings to the major media outlets serving the service area. The Bellingham Herald is designated as the official newspaper of WTA for the purpose of publication of legal notices and dissemination of public information announcements. WTA makes a special effort to contact special populations that may be affected by WTA activities.

WTA keeps a list of interested and relevant persons and organizations, including those that serve

minority, low income and LEP populations, and contacts them periodically regarding issues which may affect people that they serve. WTA provides information about meetings and service changes in rider alerts which are available on the buses, website, at the information booth at both transit stations and the administrative offices. WTA also creates posters to be displayed in buses, at transit centers, at bus stops and at locations relevant to the issue being presented.

WTA maintains a website, www.ridewta.com. The website includes information on services provided, board meetings, rider alerts, contact information, and the Title VI compliance notice and complaint procedures. The website also allows riders to submit comments pertaining to rider alerts as well as general complaints or suggestions.

WTA collects and tracks customer comments though a designated telephone number and email address.

WTA distributes rating cards to passengers to help determine customer satisfaction for WTA services and reviews the results annually. This was suspended due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

In February 2022, WTA 2040, our Long Range Transit Plan, was adopted. We conducted virtual open houses and targeted specific groups to gain feedback on the service and direction of WTA for the next 20 years.

Board & Committee Meetings

WTA is governed by a ten-member Board of Directors. Board roles include providing oversight, setting policies, developing strategies, reviewing agency performance, monitoring the budget, establishing resolutions, and evaluating the General Manager. Within the Board of Directors, an Executive Committee reviews and makes recommendations on agenda items pursuant to full Board consideration. Both a Board and a Committee meeting are scheduled every month and are open to the public except to the extent that executive sessions are authorized by law. A portion of the agenda at each meeting is allotted for citizen communication.

Public Hearings

At public hearings, WTA provides opportunity for interested persons or agencies to give comments. Any interested persons may submit orally, or in writing, comments with respect to the issue being presented. If persons are not able to attend the public hearing they may submit comments via mail, comment phone line or email. WTA also provides special assistance or materials in an accessible format. Meeting locations are usually served by transit routes, and if not WTA offers to provide transportation to the event.

According to WTA Bylaws public hearings shall be held by the WTA board in regard to the following:

a. When there is a proposed change in transit fares to include any fare charge increase or decrease outside of policy interpretation to ensure equity or clarification of fares in light of board intent.

b. When there is a substantial change in service. Proposed modification of transportation service that require a public hearing include:

- A change in span of service or more than ten minutes of the published start and end times;
- A change in frequency of service, either an increase or decrease;
- A change that results in a decrease of service coverage (change in service coverage for fixed routes shall be based on whether the change is within the ¼ mile corridor for walking or whether the change will significantly impact customers);
- A change in the days of service;
- When a new transit route is established

c. Presentation of the annual budget of WTA or substantial changes thereto, including modifications involving funding under the Federal Transit Administration Act.

d. Establishment of civil or criminal penalties related to the operation of WTA.

WTA Bylaws also require that notice of changes in the time or place or regular meetings or the call for a special meeting will be provided to each local newspaper of general circulation and to each local radio or television station which has on file with WTA a written request to be so notified. Such a notice or call shall be given at least 24 hours in advance and shall specify the time and place of the meeting and the business to be transacted, provided that notice shall be given at least ten days in advance of public hearings.

Soliciting Feedback

WTA solicits feedback from the public by means of public hearings, comment cards on buses, a telephone comment line, a website comment line, and with periodic community surveys. In addition, whenever a potential change in policy or service might affect known social and health service providers, the organizations are contacted directly and encouraged to comment. WTA also periodically conducts online surveys and on board surveys. For meetings and outreach in communities with a high percentage of non-english speakers, WTA hires interpreters to ensure communication with all participants.

Public Participation Plan

Key Principles

WTA's Public Participation Plan (PPP) has been prepared to ensure that no one is precluded from participating in WTA's service planning and development process. It ensures that:

- Potentially affected community members will have an appropriate opportunity to participate in decisions about a proposed activity that will affect their environment and/or health;
- The public's suggestions can and will influence WTA's decision making;

- The concerns of all participants involved will be considered in the decision-making process; and;
- WTA will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

Goals

- **Clarity in Potential for Influence** – The process clearly identifies and communicates where and how participants can have influence and direct impact on decision making.
- **Consistent Commitment** – WTA communicates regularly, develops trust with riders and our community and builds community capacity to provide public input.
- **Diversity** – Participants represent a range of socioeconomic, ethnic and cultural perspectives, which include residents from low income neighborhoods, ethnic communities and residents from Limited English Proficiency.
- **Accessibility** – Every reasonable effort is made to ensure that opportunities to participate are physically, geographically, temporally, linguistically, and culturally accessible.
- **Relevance** – Issues are framed in such a way that the significance and potential effect is understood by participants.
- **Partnerships** – WTA develops and maintains partnerships with stakeholder communities.

Objectives

- **Inclusiveness** – WTA will proactively reach out to and engage low income, minority and LEP populations in the WTA service area.
- **Respect** – All feedback will be given careful and respectful consideration.
- **Proactive and Timeliness** – Participation methods will allow for early involvement and be ongoing.
- **Clear, Focused and Understandable** – Participation methods will have a clear purpose and use for the input, and will be described in language that is easy to understand.
- **Honest and Transparent** – Information provided will be accurate, trustworthy and complete.
- **Responsiveness** – WTA will respond and incorporate appropriate public comments into transportation decisions.
- **Accessibility** – Meetings will be held in locations which are fully accessible and welcoming to all area residents and in locations relevant to the topics being presented and discussed.

WTA will use its public participation plan when considering fare changes, significant modifications to routes and schedules and other transit planning projects when:

- A fare increase or significant change in the method of fare payment is being considered;
- A new route is established;
- An existing route is proposed for elimination;
- Considering the total discontinuance of service on any route or group of routes on any given day when service is currently offered;
- Any system-wide change in service hours that exceeds (plus or minus) 10% of current total service hours;
- Routing on any given route or group of routes that affects more than 25% of the riders using the affected route(s); or
- Schedules are changed on any given route or group of routes that reduces the total number of one-way bus trips by more than 25% of the current number of bus trips.
- For minor schedule and service changes not rising to the level of those above, WTA will post service change notices on appropriate buses and stops fifteen days in advance of the change date.

Regional Partnership/Capital Programming

For its capital programming, including major facility and bus procurements, WTA uses the Whatcom County Council of Governments adopted public participation plan, dated October 13, 2021. This plan clearly indicates that the MPO’s public participation process satisfies the WTA’s public participation requirements for its Program of Projects. The notices for the regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) also state that the notice of public involvement activities and time established for public review of and comments on the TIP will satisfy FTA’s program of projects requirement.

Public Participation Process

LEP Threshold

At the time of this report, 2020 census data was not yet available. Therefore, WTA used the census data from 2010, showing that Spanish was the only language meeting the LEP minimum of 1,000 speakers or 5% of the population, whichever is lowest. In reviewing the most current American Community Survey, though less detailed than the 2010 census, there was no compelling evidence that any language other than Spanish has reached the 1,000 speakers threshold. Based on this data, WTA translates all of its primary public information materials in Spanish. As noted on page 7, when hosting meetings in communities with a high percentage of non-english speakers, we hire interpreters and have location specific documents translated mainly into Russian and Punjabi in addition to Spanish.

Whatcom County Residents who Speak English less than “very well”

2010 Census

Language	# of people	% of County Total
<i>Spanish or Spanish Creole</i>	4,043	2.2%
<i>Russian</i>	657	0.3%
<i>Other Indic languages</i>	427	0.2%
<i>Other Slavic languages</i>	372	0.2%
<i>Vietnamese</i>	362	0.2%
<i>Chinese</i>	357	0.2%
<i>Tagalog</i>	334	0.2%
<i>Korean</i>	307	0.2%
<i>German</i>	278	0.1%

General Outreach Efforts

(Alerting Riders and Encouraging Engagement)

WTA's Public Participation Plan includes the following outreach efforts.

While there may be minor variation in the outreach process from time-to-time, the outline below provides the general steps for engaging riders in the decision making process using a service change as an example.

1. A service change proposal is developed based on internal factors or as a result of public comment;
2. An internal review by the appropriate committees is conducted (for example WTA's Service Review Committee will review all service change proposals);
3. The proposal, if significant, is reviewed by WCOG/WTA's Community Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG);
4. A Title VI review of the proposal is conducted to see whether minority or LEP persons might be disproportionately affected;
5. Authorization from the WTA Board of Directors is sought to proceed to a public comment period to be followed by a public hearing;
6. Public outreach avenues, dates and times are determined with consideration of the proposed changes and their impact on specific locations/ populations within the WTA service area;
7. Bilingual (English and Spanish) public outreach materials are developed and distributed by mail, e-mail and online;
8. The public comment period ends;
9. WTA's Service Review Committee reviews comments received and decides whether to modify the service change recommendation as a result;
10. The WTA Board of Directors reviews the outcome of the public participation process along with staff recommendations and makes a decision;
11. If approved then planning for the implementation of the service change begins;
12. Outreach is conducted in advance of the implementation of service changes via bilingual onboard rider alerts and on the website.

Bi-Lingual Outreach Efforts (Spanish and English)

- Web-Based Comment Line;
- On-Board flyers to provide riders with details of service changes and schedules of public meetings and hearing;
- Direct Mail and/or email to groups or agencies representing citizens with limited English capabilities.
- WTA website, www.ridewta.com and Spanish website, www.ridewta.com/espanol is now more mobile friendly as that is a much higher usage than a desktop computer. The desktop version is very user friendly as well.
- WTA also provides Spanish language versions of:
 - ◆ WTA's primary printed public information piece, the Transit Guide
 - ◆ All Rider Alerts
 - ◆ Paratransit Riders Guide
 - ◆ Paratransit application form
 - ◆ Paratransit Eligibility Determination letters
 - ◆ Title VI non-discrimination notices (to be posted in public places)
 - ◆ Title VI complaint form (available at transit stations, the administrative building and on the website)
- For certain locations of public meetings, materials are translated into Russian and/or Punjabi. Interpreters are hired to attend the meetings in the language appropriate for the expected audience.
- We will continue to monitor the growth and need of materials translated to these languages.

Minority Representation in the Decision Making Process

Minority Representation on Non-elected Planning Boards, Advisory Councils, Committees:

WCOG/WTA's Community Transportation Advisory Group is made up of approximately 46 community members, representing a broad group of transportation stakeholders. Membership is open to anyone age 16 or older who lives, works, or owns a business located in Whatcom County. A CTAG membership application is required to participate fully. CTAG has an open application process thus the race of members may vary from meeting to meeting.

The **Service Review Committee (SRC)** is an internal staff planning group responsible for giving direction on routes, schedules and service related policies. No particular effort is made to insure diversity on this committee. Rather, the diversity of the agency is naturally reflected in its membership

Community Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG)

Race	Number of People	% of CAP	% in Community
White	34	74%	85%
Native American	1	2%	3%
African American	1	2%	1%
Asian	1	2%	4%
Hispanic	0	0%	9%
Other	4	8%	3%

Service Review Committee (SRC)

Race	Number of People	% of SRC	% in Community
White	17	89%	80%
Native American	1	5%	3%
African American	0	0%	1%
Asian	0	0%	4%
Hispanic	1	5%	9%
Other	0	0%	3%

chapter 4:

Four Factor Analysis & Language Implementation Plan

Overview

The purpose of WTA's Four Factor Analysis is to determine if Whatcom County has a significant population of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) residents. It includes LEP threshold data from the 2010 census. The Language Implementation Plan describes how WTA will ensure meaningful access to benefits, services, information, and other important portions of programs and activities for LEP individuals.

Four Factor Analysis

1. Number or proportion of LEP persons eligible or likely to be encountered by a program.

WTA conducted a survey of all staff members in February 2022. Those who have significant interaction with the general public were the ones who tended to respond, including Customer Service Representatives, Operators, and Bus station Expeditors. 36 responses were submitted.

Survey

What languages (other than English) do you encounter in your day-to-day work? How often do you encounter them?

Language Encountered	Number of Respondents	How often Encountered:					
		Daily	Weekly	Monthly	1-2 Times	Rarely	Never
Spanish	36	6	9	3	3	12	3
Russian/Ukrainian	35	0	1	5	4	13	12
Punjabi	35	1	3	9	1	9	12
Chinese	35	0	1	2	1	11	20
Vietnamese	36	0	2	2	0	14	18
Korean	35	0	0	2	1	12	20
Japanese	36	0	1	2	2	11	20
Other (not mentioned)	26	0	0	0	3	12	11

Are there any tools that WTA could provide that would assist you in offering better service to riders who don't speak English?

- Laminated card of common questions with the short answers
- Business card with language line phone number
- Tuition reimbursement for foreign language classes
- Offer premium pay for workers who are fluent in a second language
- Print items in Japanese and Chinese as there are lots of exchange students
- Roseta Stone for learning different languages or another tool
- Sign Language training
- A tool through the tablet for translation

Questionnaire

In April 2019, WTA sent out a questionnaire to about thirty local organizations that serve LEP people, asking what their transportation needs were and how well WTA was meeting those needs. Nine agencies responded. The LEP clients are between 2% and 25% of their total clients.

Spanish, Russian, and Punjabi are the top three non-English languages.

Do you feel language barriers prevent people from using WTA services?

- Yes 1
- No 1
- I don't know 7

All but one agency has a newsletter or another way to communicate with the people they serve and all are willing to share WTA updates with their clients.

2. The frequency with which LEP persons come into contact with the program

Though the number of LEP persons who have trouble riding WTA does not seem high, there is daily interaction with Spanish speaking communities. Also there are common interactions between WTA staff and members of the Russian, Punjabi, Chinese and Vietnamese speaking communities.

3. The nature and importance of programs provided by WTA to LEP persons

WTA's most critical services are, naturally, the service on the street (both fixed route and paratransit). In order to use WTA's services people must have access to the fixed route routes and schedules and to paratransit eligibility and application procedures.

Most of WTA's bus routes are timed with a 5-10 minute window for transfers. If an LEP person is unable to understand what bus they need, and help from a staff member takes inordinately long or is not adequate, then missing the transfer is highly likely. This could cause an individual to be late for any number of important activities (work, school, meetings, etc.) which in turn could hurt their ability to successfully integrate into society.

For paratransit, where policies and procedures are more complicated than fixed route, the need for adequate access to information is equally important. Delays in the provision of LEP service can affect access to medical services, which can be of critical importance.

Through our community outreach efforts we have found that there is not a significant problem in the availability of WTA information for LEP persons. In the future we may need to print rider alerts, transit guides, and other information in Russian and Punjabi as those are the next most common languages found in Whatcom County.

4. The resources available and cost to your organization

The following page lists existing LEP resources and services, and those in the process of being implemented by WTA.

Language Implementation Plan

- Train frontline and other key staff on:
 - ◆ Awareness of type of language services available
 - ◆ How staff and/or LEP customers can obtain these services
 - ◆ How to respond to LEP callers, in person, and correspondence from LEPs
 - ◆ How to document LEP needs
- Title VI information is posted in all public locations, including Cordata Station, Downtown Station, Maintenance and Operations Base, paratransit and fixed route buses.
- Have Spanish and English Complaint forms available on the website.
- Continue to print the Transit Guide in Spanish and English.
- Continue to provide telephone interpretation for basic transit questions and trip planning assistance using Language Line Services.
- Continue to provide access to a public videophone at WTA's Bellingham Station. The videophone service provides free interpretation between a non-signing and a signing deaf person.
- Identify routes serving areas with high concentrations of LEP individuals using outreach feedback.
- Continue to provide education, training, and tools for social service providers.
- Continue to provide diversity awareness training to employees every five years.
- Continue partnerships and work closely with community organizations that serve LEP populations.
- Ensure that "Language Flag Identifiers" are available for Transit Station Expeditors, Customer Service Representatives and Supervisors.
- Provide use of in-person interpreter services, as determined by WTA, for public meetings and important events.
- Continue to track and record use of language services.
- Routinely assess whether existing language services are meeting the needs of LEP customers.
- Seek feedback from LEP organizations and customers on WTA's Language Implementation Plan.
- Maintain list of WTA bilingual staff.
- Provide copies of the most commonly asked transit questions in Spanish, Russian and Punjabi for Customer Service Representatives and Station Expeditors.
- Routinely inform the entire WTA employee group of both existing and new LEP services at all-employee meetings.
- Put language line link and hearing impaired services on WTA's website.
- Create signage in multiple languages informing LEP clients about the telephone language line and post in key locations.
- Maintain Spanish language website.
- Maintain Spanish phone tree.

chapter 5:

Tracking & Investigating Complaints

Overview

In order to comply with 49 CFR Section 21.9(b) WTA needs to have procedures for investigating and tracking Title VI complaints filed against them and have the procedures for filing a complaint available to members of the public.

Procedures

WTA Policy # 405-13 Complaint and Grievance Procedure under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlines WTA's procedure for tracking and investigating Title VI complaints.

Title VI Complaint Procedures

Any person who believes she or he has been discriminated against on the basis of race, color, or national origin by Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA) may file a Title VI complaint by completing and submitting WTA's Title VI Complaint Form. WTA investigates complaints received no more than 180 days after the alleged incident. WTA will process complaints that are complete.

Once the complaint is received, WTA will review it to determine if our office has jurisdiction. The complainant will receive an acknowledgement letter informing her/him whether the complaint will be investigated by our office.

WTA has 30 days to investigate the complaint. If more information is needed to resolve the case, WTA may contact the complainant.

The complainant has 15 business days from the date of the letter to send requested information to the investigator assigned to the case. If the investigator is not contacted by the complainant or does not receive the additional information within 15 business days, WTA can administratively close the case. A case can be administratively closed also if the complainant no longer wished to pursue their case.

After the investigator reviews the complaint, she/he will issue one of two letters to the complainant: a closure letter or a letter of finding (LOF). A closure letter summarizes the allegations and states that there was not a Title VI violation and the case will be closed. An LOF summarizes the allegations and the interviews regarding the alleged incident, and explains whether any disciplinary action, additional training of the staff member, or other action will occur. If the complainant wished to appeal the decision, she/he has 30 days after the date of the letter or the LOF to do so.

A person may also file a complaint directly with Federal Transit Administration, at

FTA Office of Civil Rights
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

If information is needed in another language, please contact (360) 676-7433.

TITLE VI COMPLAINT FORM

SECTION A

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE (Home) _____ TELEPHONE (Work) _____

E-MAIL _____

ACCESSIBLE
FORMAT
REQUIREMENTS

LARGE PRINT

AUDIO TAPE

TDD

OTHER _____

SECTION B

1. ARE YOU FILING THIS COMPLAINT ON YOUR OWN BEHALF?

YES NO IF YES, SKIP TO SECTION C

2. WHAT IS THE NAME AND RELATIONSHIP OF THE PERSON FOR WHOM YOU ARE COMPLAINING? _____

3. PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY YOU HAVE FILED FOR A THIRD PARTY:

4. HAVE YOU OBTAINED THE PERMISSION OF THE AGGRIEVED PARTY FOR WHO YOU ARE FILING THIS COMPLAINT? YES NO

SECTION C

I BELIEVE THE DISCRIMINATION I EXPERIENCED WAS BASED ON (check all that apply):

RACE

NATIONAL ORIGIN

COLOR

OTHER _____

SECTION G

PLEASE PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT A CONTACT PERSON AT THE AGENCY/COURT WHERE THE COMPLAINT WAS FILED:

CONTACT NAME _____

TITLE _____

NAME OF AGENCY _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

SECTION H

PLEASE PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE AGENCY THE COMPLAINT IS AGAINST:

CONTACT NAME _____

TITLE _____

NAME OF AGENCY _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

SECTION I

YOU MAY ATTACH ANY WRITTEN MATERIALS OR OTHER INFORMATION THAT YOU THINK IS RELEVANT TO YOUR COMPLAINT.

SIGNATURE AND DATE REQUIRED BELOW

SIGNATURE

DATE

SECTION J

PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM IN PERSON AT THE ADDRESS BELOW, OR MAIL THIS FORM TO:

TITLE VI COORDINATOR
WHATCOM TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (WTA)
4011 BAKERVIEW SPUR
BELLINGHAM, WA 98226

TÍTULO VI FORMULARIO DE QUEJAS

SECCIÓN A

Nombre _____

Dirección _____

Teléfono (casa) _____ Teléfono (trabajo) _____

Correo electrónico _____

Requisitos del formato accesible Caracteres grandes Grabación

TDD Otro _____

SECCIÓN B

1. ¿Presenta esta queja a nombre propio?

Sí No Si afirmativo, salte a la sección C.

2. ¿Cómo se llama y qué parentesco tiene con la persona a nombre de la cual pone la queja? _____

3. Explique por qué llena esto para otra persona: _____

4. ¿Tiene permiso de la parte perjudicada para quien presenta esta queja? Sí No

SECCIÓN C

Considero que la discriminación que sufrí se basó en (marque todas las que correspondan):

Raza Nacionalidad

Color Otro _____

SECCIÓN G

Indique la información de la persona de contacto en la agencia/tribunal donde se presentó la queja:

Nombre de contacto _____

Título _____

Nombre de la agencia _____

Dirección _____

Teléfono _____

SECCIÓN H

Indique la información de la agencia contra la que se presenta la queja:

Nombre de contacto _____

Título _____

Nombre de la agencia _____

Dirección _____

Teléfono _____

SECCIÓN I

Debe adjuntar cualquier material escrito o cualquier información que considere relevante para su queja.

Se requiere abajo la firma y fecha

Firma

Fecha

SECCIÓN J

Presente este formulario en persona en la siguiente dirección o envíelo por correo a:

Title VI Coordinator
Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA)
4011 Bakerview Spur
Bellingham, WA 98226

chapter 6:

Investigations, Lawsuits, or Complaints

Overview

In order to comply with 49 CFR Section 21.9 (b), WTA shall prepare and maintain a list of any active investigations conducted by entities other than FTA, lawsuits, or complaints naming WTA that allege discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin. The list shall include the date of the investigation, lawsuit, or complaint was filed; a summary of the allegation(s); the status of the investigation, lawsuit, or complaint; and actions taken by WTA in response to the investigation, lawsuit, or complaint

List of Investigations, Lawsuits, or Complaints

Title VI List of Active Investigations (as of June 2022):

There have been no Title VI investigations, complaints, or lawsuits to report since our Title VI report submitted in October 2019.

chapter 7:

Notice to the Public

Overview

In order to comply with Title VI 49 CFR Section 21.9(d), WTA shall provide information to the public regarding the agencies Title VI obligations and apprise members of the public of the protections against discrimination afforded to them by Title VI.

Transit Guide

Included in the transit guide under Accessibility and Non-Discrimination is the following statement:

The Whatcom Transportation Authority provides services and employment on a non-discriminatory basis, and complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

WTA complies with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which states:

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

If you believe that you have been discriminated against by WTA on the basis of your race, color, or national origin, you have the right to file a complaint with WTA. For more information on WTA’s Civil Rights Program, and the procedures to file a complaint, contact (360) 676-7433. A complete description of the complaint procedure is available on our website, at Bellingham station or by calling (360) 676-7433.

Website

WTA’s website, www.ridewta.com, states the following:

WTA complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which states:

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

If you believe you have been discriminated against by WTA on the basis of your race, color, or national origin, you have the right to file a complaint with WTA.

This is followed by a copy of WTA’s Title VI Complaint Procedures, as shown on page 18 in this document.

chapter 8:

List of Recent Construction Projects (2019 – 2022)

The Midway lot, which is adjacent to WTA's Maintenance, Operations and Administrative Base (MOAB) was developed in 2019-2020. The land has been owned by WTA since 1999. The primary need for this additional lot is to park and charge e-buses.

The North lot was purchased by WTA in 2021. An equity analysis was done in 2020. This lot is currently undeveloped with plans to construct more bus parking and e-bus charging capabilities.

chapter 9:

Vehicle Assignment

Whatcom Transportation Authority has eight 40-foot Gillig Hybrid buses, forty one 40-foot Gillig diesel buses, two 40-foot Gillig Electric buses and eleven 35-foot Gillig diesel buses for fixed route. The paratransit fleet consists of six Chevy Arboc gas buses with 16 seats and 3 wheel chair securement areas, nineteen Ford Eldorado National gas buses with 15 seats and 4 wheel chair securement areas, twenty two Ford Eldorado National propane buses with 15 seats and 4 wheel chair securement areas in thirteen of them and the remaining nine have 9 seats and 2 wheel chair securement areas.

Bus assignment for fixed route is based on maximum daily passenger loads. Routes with lower ridership may be assigned a 35-foot bus rather than a 40-foot bus. Some routes requiring tight turns on narrow streets may be operated with a 35-foot bus rather than a 40-foot bus. The paratransit bus assignments are assigned to different operators each day though.

The Lynden Hop, WTA's mobility-on-demand service, uses two Ford Transit Vans equipped with a wheelchair lift. Both vans are deployed Monday - Saturday and one van is deployed on Sunday. If a Hop van is out of service a paratransit bus is used.

chapter 10:

Fixed Route Service Standards

Vehicle Load Standards

(max. passengers on board / # of seats)

Service Type	Adequate	Optimal
High ridership urban service on segments of <10 mins.	<=1.75	<=1.75
Other Urban Service	<=1.4	<=1.25
Rural Intercity (trips 10> mins.)	<=1.25	<=1.0

Service Headway Minimum Standards

(minutes between buses)

Service Type	Peak Hour	Non-Peak	Evening	Saturday	Sunday
High Frequency Corridors	15	15	30	30	30
Other Urban Service	60	60	...	60	...
Rural Service	90

'n/a' indicates that there is no service provided

'...' indicates that service levels are determined on a case by case basis

On-Time Performance Standard

(% of buses arriving at a transit station within 5 mins. of posted schedule)

Time of Day	Min. %
AM Peak	95%
Mid-Day	95%
PM Peak	90%

Service Availability

(maximum average distance between stops)

Route Type	Distance Between Stops
Urban	1/4 mile
Rural	1 mile

chapter 11:

Transit Amenities by Census Tract

Census Tract	Minority/ Non-Minority	Total Shelters	Total Benches	Census Tract	Minority/ Non-Minority	Total Shelters	Total Benches
1	Minority	8	8	103.02	Non-Minority	4	8
2	Minority	16	23	103.03	Non-Minority	0	0
3	Minority	14	19	103.04	Non-Minority	0	2
4	Non-Minority	9	18	104.01	Minority	2	2
5.01	Non-Minority	10	11	104.03	Non-Minority	0	0
5.02	Minority	6	7	104.04	Non-Minority	0	2
6	Minority	5	7	105.01	Non-Minority	4	6
7	Minority	7	7	105.02	Minority	1	4
8.03	Non-Minority	9	11	106	Minority	3	7
8.04	Non-Minority	3	4	107.01	Minority	0	3
8.05	Non-Minority	2	5	107.02	Minority	1	1
8.06	Non-Minority	2	2	109	Non-Minority	0	0
9.01	Minority	12	15	110	Non-Minority	0	0
9.02	Non-Minority	2	5	9400	Minority	8	10
10	Non-Minority	10	14		Total Minority	96	135
11	Non-Minority	8	14		Total Non-Minority	71	113
12.01	Minority	10	17		TOTAL	167	248
12.02	Non-Minority	1	2				
101	Non-Minority	5	6				
102	Minority	3	5				
103.01	Non-Minority	2	4				

