



SIERRA VISTA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION FY 2022 TITLE VI/EJ ANNUAL REPORT

July 19, 2022

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For More Information about SVMPO Title VI and Environmental Justice activities, please contact the SVMPO Title VI Coordinator/SVMPO Director, Karen L. Lamberton, AICP. She can be reached at 520-515-8525 or Karen.Lamberton@SierraVistaAZ.gov

The current SVMPO Title VI Plan is available on the SVMPO website at www.svmpto.org

INTRODUCTION

The Sierra Vista Metropolitan Planning Organization, known as the SVMPO, is the Federal and State designated Regional Transportation Planning Organization for the southwestern portion of Cochise County, located in southeast Arizona. The SVMPO receives both Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration funds through agreements with Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT).

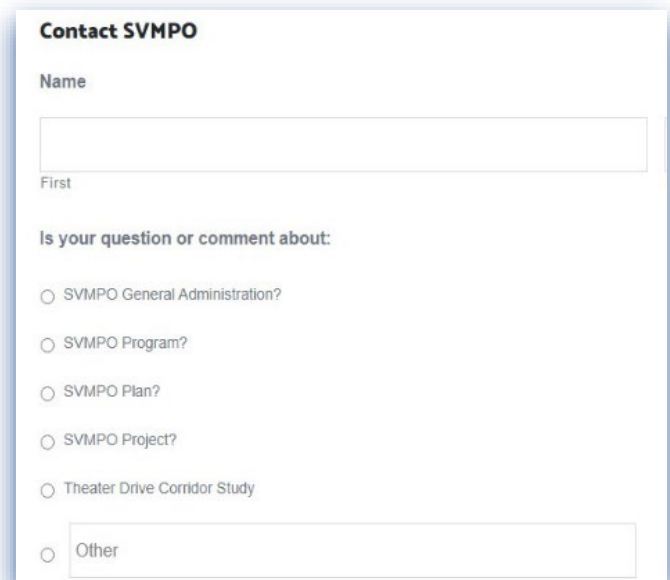
The SVMPO is committed to ensuring the full participation in regional planning activities by all area residents. This agency has a nondiscrimination policy that addresses Title VI, Environmental Justice and other relevant federal and state statutes. No person, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, income status or limited English Proficiency, shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits or, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any SVMPO sponsored program of activity. Public outreach and data analysis are two tools used to provide equal opportunity to participate and ensure that equal benefits and disproportionate burdens are assessed during project development.

This report sets out the SVMPO activities for Fiscal Year 2022 and goals for Fiscal Year 2023 to ensure that policies and projects are in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the 1994 Presidential Executive Order 12898 in accordance with 23 CFR § 200.9(b)(7)(11) and FTA C 4702.1B.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Program Areas

Since the last annual report SVMPO has completed the following FY22 accomplishments:

- ✚ Updated the FY23 Title VI and Environmental Justice Plan; adopted by the SVMPO Board on April 27, 2022.
- ✚ Maintained a website presence that provided information regarding any public meetings and provided access to information about Title VI and the Rights of the Public under Title VI, Environmental Justice and Americans with Disabilities Act.
- ✚ Provided access to Title VI Complaint Forms along with contacts for submitting complaints to the SVMPO, Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT); Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).
- ✚ Held twelve Board and Committee meetings, one Joint TAC/Board Work Session and one Joint City/County Forum and ensured that

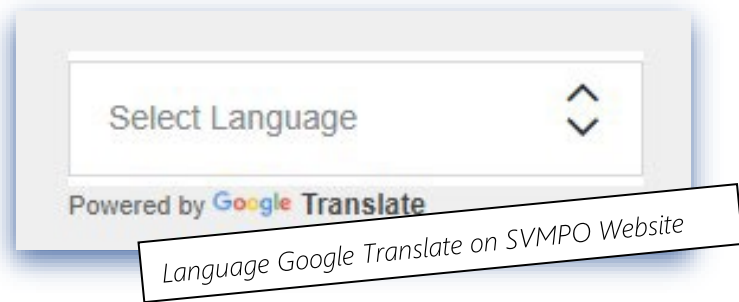


The screenshot shows a contact form titled "Contact SVMPO". It includes a "Name" field with a sub-label "First" and a text input box. Below this is a section titled "Is your question or comment about:" with five radio button options: "SVMPO General Administration?", "SVMPO Program?", "SVMPO Plan?", "SVMPO Project?", and "Theater Drive Corridor Study". There is also an "Other" option with a corresponding text input box.

Snip from SVMPO Website Contact Us Link

meetings rooms were accessible, and the opportunity made available for translation or other accommodations, if needed.

- ✚ Posted the official Title VI Notice to the Public at every scheduled meeting.
- ✚ The FY22 Transportation Improvement Plan was released for public comment during the 4th quarter. A publicly noticed Open House was held at the Sierra Vista Library on June 15, 2022 and advertised with a Press Release. Although only five attendees showed up and one public comment was received, this was not unexpected as no new construction projects had been added to the updated TIP (funds for three fiscal years programmed into design phases). Given the small amount of regional construction funding it is anticipated that it will be several years before another project can be initiated.
- ✚ Provided Spanish language materials related to Title VI Rights and provided Spanish language Complaint Forms on the SVMPO website.
- ✚ Provided language translator option on the SVMPO website.
- ✚ Identified meeting spaces fully accessible to those with mobility impairments.
- ✚ Updated the Title VI demographic maps to reflect the more recently released American Community Survey data for 2016-2020.
- ✚ It was acknowledged that FY22 continued to experience unique challenges in outreach due to an ongoing global health crisis that resulted in national, state and local declarations of emergency. The limitations necessary to protect the public posed unique challenges to typical outreach and the SVMPO continued to deploy innovative solutions for safe and socially distanced public outreach strategies with consultant teams working on both the Long-Range Transportation Plan and Short-Range Transit Plan during this time. Additional emphasis was placed on directing the public to virtual platforms for communicating and providing for real-time comments to be submitted as well as moving to a broader variety of virtual meeting formats.



SUB-RECIPIENT REVIEWS

Each program area and sub-recipient is reviewed by the City of Sierra Vista's (SVMPO's fiscal agent) staff, the SVMPO Director, and the SVMPO contract attorney as contracts and planning agreements are developed. This includes a review of Title VI provisions to ensure strict adherence.

In FY22, there were no direct recipient of MPO funds. Both professional service contracts met or exceeded the DBE goals of Zero during the performance of their duties. In FY23 a review of all On-Call consultant team Assurances and DBE status will be conducted in advance of potential extensions of the On-Call contract as per the issued Request for Qualifications.

PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES

Of selected firms for a reciprocal On-Call professional planning services contract, 78 percent provided demographic information and 22 percent declined to include this information. Of these firms' 80 percent are owned by males; 20 percent by females; three (3) firms indicated that they were registered as a DBE company. Consultant firm ownership is 93 percent white, five (5) percent black, and two (2)

percent Asian. (Note: some companies have multiple owners and/or are employee owned). The ADOT DBE goal for the SVMPO Planning On-Call List was Zero.

Issued FY22 Cost Proposals resulted in two professional service contracts: of these consulting firms 100 percent were male, white owned companies. However, one of the three firms that were selected for a SVMPO contract did also sub-contract with a female, white owned DBE firm.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURES/FY22 Complaints

During Fiscal Year 2022, no formal Title VI or Environmental Justice complaints were filed with the SVMPO. A Title VI Complaint, Investigation and Lawsuit Log is maintained for each Fiscal Year.

TITLE VI TRAINING

Title VI Complaints, Investigations and Lawsuits: FY 22 Log					
Description/Name	Date Month, Day & Year	Funding Source (FHWA or FTA)	Summary (Basis of Complaint) *	Status	Actions / Final Findings
Complaints					
1)					
2)					
Investigations					
1)					
2)					
Lawsuits					
1)					
2)					

*Specific category, i.e. Race, Color or National Origin

Report to be Submitted Annually to ADOT Title VI Department; a NIL Report is Required

ADOT Title VI Liaisons notify SVMPO staff of various Title VI training opportunities as they become available. These opportunities are then made known to staff of the member jurisdictions and, when appropriate, to members of the public. The SVMPO Director attended national and state workshops on Environmental Justice and Title VI issues and attended a webinar held on June 2nd that was conducted by ADOT’s Civil Rights Office and led by ADOT’s Civil Rights Team for MPO’s related to the update to FHWA and FTA Title VI/ADA Non-Discrimination Complaint Procedures.

The SVMPO Director provided Title VI education and training presentations to the SVMPO TAC and Board in February and April of 2022. Other minor references to elements within the Title VI Plan were made in context of the development of the FY23-FY27 Transportation Improvement Program Project Selection and in reporting demographic data for planning activities that were underway in FY22.

FY22 TRAINING LOG: July 2021-June 2022

Title VI TRAINING					
Name/Title	Month, Day & Year	Type of Training	Provided By	Cost	Comments
Staff					
Karen Lamberton/SVMPO Director	August 24, 2021	Planning with an Eye Towards Equitable Outcomes & Equity	Arizona Planning Association (AZPA)	\$390	AZPA: Total 3 Continuing Education Credits
Karen Lamberton/SVMPO Director	April 30, 2022	Keynote: Michael Ford speaking on Hip-Hop Architecture	American Planning Association (APA) Conference: BrandNu Design Studio	\$25.00	Rate carry-forward from cancelled FY21 Conference
Karen Lamberton/SVMPO Director	April 30, 2022	Inclusive, Healthy Places: A Framework for Action	APA Conference Urban Health Planning/Design	"	
Karen Lamberton/SVMPO Director	May 1, 2022	Forging Justice and Joy: Planning Cities with Youth & Bridging the Digital Divide & No Person Left Behind: Truly Inclusive Design; Shaping Ecosystems of Equity, Health and Affordability	APA Conference	"	
Karen Lamberton/SVMPO Director	May 2, 2022	Happy & Inclusive: Planning for Joy and Healing	APA Conference NY Parks/Rec & Happy Cities	"	APA: Total 6 Continuing Education Credits
Karen Lamberton/SVMPO Director	June 2, 2022	Annual FHWA Title VI Training (Webinar)	ADOT Civil Rights Division	0	Sara (Hernandez) Martinez
SVMPO Staff: Benny Young P.E.; Dennis Donovan P.E.; Caterina Porter	February 14, 2022	SVMPO Title VI Informational Briefing and Procedure Training	K. Lamberton, SVMPO Director	0	New Staff Onboarding and Existing Staff Update
Boards & Committees					
Technical Advisory Committee: FY23 Title VI Plan DRAFT	April 13, 2022	Discussion of DRAFT FY23 Title VI Plan	K. Lamberton SVMPO Director	-	10 attendees
SVMPO Board of Directors: FY 22 Title VI Plan DRAFT	April 27, 2022	Discussion of DRAFT FY23 Title VI Plan; Changes from the prior year data.	K. Lamberton SVMPO Director	-	14 attendees
Technical Advisory Committee: FY23 Title VI Plan	June 8, 2022	Review of Finalized FY 22 Title VI Plan with draft Title VI Maps; shared highlights on Equity Criteria and Title VI APA Sessions	K. Lamberton SVMPO Director	-	11 attendees
SVMPO Board of Directors: FY23 Title VI Plan	June 22, 2022	Adoption of FY23 Title VI Plan and review with Board Members final Title VI Maps: discussion of implications of Title VI issues in region.	K. Lamberton SVMPO Director	-	Adoption of the FY23 Title VI Plan 11 attendees
Others					
1)					

Report to be Submitted Annually to ADOT Title VI Department

GOALS FOR FY 2023

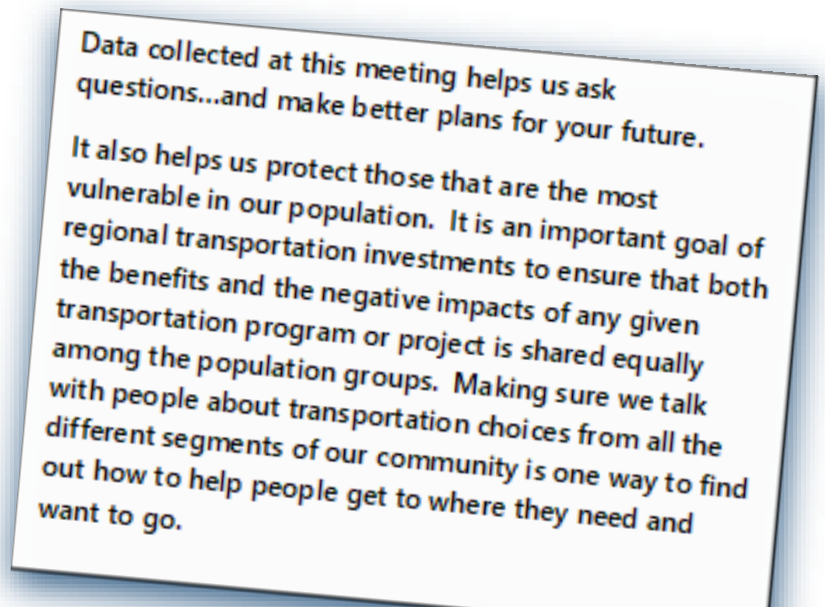
The SVMPO has identified the following goals to ensure full compliance with Title VI, Environmental Justice and related authorities. These goals were developed by the Title VI Coordinator/SVMPO

Director and reviewed by ADOT's Civil Rights Office.

- ✦ Document and address any submitted complaints received and promptly notify ADOT, and as appropriate, FHWA and FTA Civil Rights Offices, of the received complaint and any resolution reached.
- ✦ Fully and effectively respond to any requests for Limited English Proficiency services, translation requests, and special accommodations needed to engage communities of concern in the SVMPO's regional planning area.
- ✦ Conduct outreach, such as surveys and formal and informal focus groups, to identify issues of concern for Title VI vulnerable population groups and include these observations in the deliberations of SVMPO committee deliberations and decisions regarding funding investments.
- ✦ The SVMPO Director will attend Title VI, Environmental Justice and ADA subject matter trainings and share those opportunities with member jurisdiction staff and committee members.
- ✦ A minimum of twice annually specific Title VI training will be conducted with SVMPO staff, SVMPO Board and Committee members.
- ✦ Incorporate appropriate activities to enhance outreach to identified vulnerable population groups and limited English populations during the Theater Drive Inventory & Assessment Study and the Moson Rd. Cross-Section Pre-Scoping Study and any other regional planning activities.
- ✦ Update the demographic public outreach profile board when the full Census 2020 data is released.

✦ The FY22 challenges for outreach due to the health crisis experienced in the last year (and still ongoing) highlighted the challenges inherent in the lack of broadband access within the SVMPO region. According to the ACS 2016-2020 data, in some areas of the SVMPO region up to 20 percent of households did not have any form of internet access. Addressing this challenge has social justice implications as well as improving the opportunity for a enhancing a more diverse outreach into the SVMPO

region for future planning efforts. The SVMPO is working with MAG and a private vender, Ookla, to obtain broadband access data for use in grant applications to fund enhancements in this critical virtual link in this small urbanizing area.



Data collected at this meeting helps us ask questions...and make better plans for your future.

It also helps us protect those that are the most vulnerable in our population. It is an important goal of regional transportation investments to ensure that both the benefits and the negative impacts of any given transportation program or project is shared equally among the population groups. Making sure we talk with people about transportation choices from all the different segments of our community is one way to find out how to help people get to where they need and want to go.

Narrative Text on SVMPO Public Outreach Demographic Request Handout

- ✚ Review and Update all On-Call consultant data and forms related to Title VI compliance and conduct compliance reviews of any sub-recipients, if any agreements for direct payments are executed. Ensure that new Title VI Assurance Language as per USDOT Order No 1050.2A are incorporated where required.
- ✚ Continue to improve and enhance the SVMPO website materials to expand potential virtual public involvement with vulnerable or isolated population groups.
- ✚ Proactively develop the FY24 Title VI Plan with interactive participation of the SVMPO Board, Technical Advisory Committee and Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Subcommittee.



Preliminary Assessment of ADA Access Needs along Theater Drive Corridor: a collector roadway serving a lower income neighborhood with a higher percentage of bicycles and pedestrians than other areas of the region. This intersection serves the Len Roberts Park.

May 2022

This FY22 Title VI Annual Report for the SVMPO region was supported by funding from the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, the Arizona Department of Transportation and the SVMPO Member Jurisdictions. The contents reflect the views and opinions of the MPO who is responsible for the facts and accuracy of the data presented herein. The contents do not necessarily state or reflect the official view or policies of the U.S. Dept. of Transportation, the AZ Dept. of Transportation or any other State or Federal Agency. This report does not constitute a standard, specification or regulation.