

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 25, 2024

SUBJECT: Lake-Sumter MPO 2024 Updates to the Title VI Program & Limited English Proficiency Plan

BACKGROUND

All agencies that receive federal funds are required to incorporate Title VI, Environmental Justice, Justice40, and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) considerations into their missions. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin. Environmental Justice identifies and addresses the effects of programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations. Justice40 (J40) is an opportunity to address gaps in infrastructure and public services by working toward the goal that at least 40 percent of the benefits from grants, programs, and initiatives flow to disadvantaged communities. LEP relates to the development of systems to ensure meaningful participation by persons who are limited in their ability to understand English.

The purpose of a Title VI Program is to establish guidelines to effectively monitor and ensure that an agency follows all Title VI, Environmental Justice, Justice40, and LEP access requirements.

ANALYSIS

The MPO is committed to ensure non-discrimination, Environmental Justice, Justice40, and access for LEP persons in the transportation decision-making process. The MPO's Public Participation Plan (PPP) is designed to provide equal opportunities for the public to express its views and to become active participants in the planning process regardless of race, color, religion, income status, national origin, age, family status, gender, or disability.

The MPO's Title VI Program is reviewed by staff at least annually and updated as needed. The last update occurred in 2020. The draft updated Title VI Program includes analyses based on the most recent U.S. Census data.

After adoption by the MPO Board, the MPO's updated Title VI Program will be reviewed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Civil Rights, Florida Division; Federal Transit Administration Regional Civil Rights Office; and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Equal Opportunity Office, Civil Rights Programs Division. The agencies will review and concur with the MPO Board's adoption or request additional information.

RECOMMENDATION

Because the Title VI Program supports nondiscrimination in the MPO's plans, programs, and activities, it is recommended for adoption by the MPO Board.