

# **Public Participation Plan for the Mississippi Gulf Coast Metropolitan Planning Organization**

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2026

# Public Participation Plan

The MPO uses a documented participation plan that defines a process for providing the general public, affected public agencies, representatives of public transportation employees, public ports, freight shippers, providers of freight transportation services, private providers of, representatives of users of public transportation, representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, Representatives of minority, low income, and traditionally underserved groups, representatives of the disabled, and other interested parties with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the metropolitan transportation planning process.

## MS Gulf Coast MPO

MPOs are federally mandated transportation planning organizations comprised of representatives from local governments and transportation authorities. The MPO's role is to develop and maintain the required transportation plans for a metropolitan area to ensure that Federal funds support local priorities. Congress mandated the designation of MPOs for urbanized areas with populations greater than 50,000 people to ensure that existing and future expenditures of governmental funds for transportation projects and programs are based on a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive ("3-C") planning process.

Federal law requires all U.S. Census Bureau defined urbanized areas (UZA) of 50,000 or more in population to be part of an MPO to access federal transportation funds. GRPC is the designated MPO for the two urbanized areas within these counties, which include the Gulfport-Biloxi, MS, and Pascagoula-Gautier, MS urbanized areas. Once an urbanized area reaches a population of 200,000 or more, it becomes a Transportation Management Area (TMA). The Gulfport-Biloxi, MS urbanized area is considered a TMA consisting of the cities of Waveland, Bay St. Louis, Diamondhead, Pass Christian, Long Beach, Gulfport, Biloxi, D'Iberville, and Ocean Springs. The Pascagoula-Gautier urbanized area consists of the cities of Gautier, Pascagoula, and Moss Point.

The MPO Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) assumes the responsibility of policy guidance and decision-making by adopting the plans, policies, and practices by which the MPO transportation planning process is executed. The TPC develops and maintains the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and administers the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds attributed to the Metropolitan Planning Area.

The MPO Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) is comprised of representatives appointed by the TPC, the transportation sector, and other public and non-profit organizations. The TCC reviews the technical aspects of plans related to transportation and makes recommendations to the MPO staff and TPC members on planning and project matters.

## MPO Planning Documents

The MPO conducts many planning studies. Most are to address specific transportation problems or needs. Some of these studies result in the identification of major needed projects, but the majority address specific localized problems, such as how to improve operations along a particular corridor. The MPO involves the public and other interested parties in these studies to the extent that they have expertise and knowledge that would be helpful in identifying viable solutions to the identified transportation problems.

### **Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)**

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan is the featured product in the MPO planning process required for the recipient of federal funds. The MTP is developed and maintained by GRPC and approved by the TPC. The MTP coordinates and provides a vision and direction for the investment of transportation resources to meet future transportation needs for the region. A transportation demand model is used to predict traffic volumes and evaluate projects to improve mobility in the region. The Plan includes recommendations for all modes of transportation, including transit, bikes, pedestrians, and freight. It is a long term, financially feasible strategy showing the improvements for at least 20 years. The MTP is updated every five years and may be amended as a result of changes in anticipated federal, state, and local funding, major investment studies, congestion management plans, interstate access studies, or environmental impact studies.

#### *Public Review:*

- *Full Update – 30-day review period and at least one public meeting*
- *Amendment – 10-day review period*

### **Congestion Management Process**

A Congestion Management Process (CMP) is required in metropolitan areas with populations exceeding 200,000, known as Transportation Management Areas (TMAs). The CMP is a systematic approach for managing congestion that provides information on transportation system performance and assesses strategies for mitigation.

#### *Public Review:*

- *Full Update – 30-day review period and at least one public meeting*
- *Amendment – 10-day review period*

### **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

The TIP is the short-range element of the MTP. The TIP is a four-year program of project implementation. The TIP is incorporated into MDOT's State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which addresses all the transportation needs of the State of Mississippi. The TIP must be financially constrained, meaning that the amount of funds programmed cannot exceed the anticipated amount of funding available. A new TIP is developed every two years through a cooperative effort by local leadership, state officials, transit operators, and federal agencies, including participation by the general public. GRPC will notify local public agencies within the MPO planning area to submit projects to be considered for funding allocation. The project application must be completed with the required information on the proposed project and returned to GRPC before the stated submission deadline.

#### *Public Review:*

- *Full Update – 30-day review period and at least one public meeting*
- *Amendment – 10-day review period*

### **Public Participation Plan (PPP)**

GRPC must prepare a Public Participation Plan (PPP), which describes how the MPO involves the public and stakeholder communities in transportation planning. All MPO programs, services, and activities are conducted per the agency's Public Participation Plan (PPP). The plan identifies who should participate in the transportation planning process and provides specific guidance on when MPO public engagement activities should occur and how those outreach activities will be conducted.

The PPP is reviewed regularly and must be approved by the Mississippi Department of Transportation, as well as the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration. The Civil Rights Program is included in the PPP. It describes the MPO's compliance program for the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, as well as other rules, regulations, and policies. The MPO also must periodically evaluate whether its public involvement process continues to be effective.

*Public Review:*

- *Full Update – 45-day review period*
- *Amendment – 45-day review period*

### **Unified Planning Work Program**

The UPWP documents the work that the GRPC intends to undertake throughout the next two fiscal years. It is updated annually and is developed in cooperation with MPO committee members, the public, partner agencies, community stakeholders, and other interested parties. It explicitly identifies planning work by task, provides a task description, identifies the person responsible for completion, and lists the schedule and type of deliverable expected. The UPWP identifies the funding sources associated with each work task and includes a financial summary of federal and matching fund estimates. GRPC administers the UPWP in compliance with 23 CFR 420 and FTA Circular C8100.18. GRPC submits a progress report to MDOT, which summarizes the work performed under the UPWP each quarter.

*Public Review: None*

### **Annual Listing of Obligated Projects**

No later than 90 days following the end of the fiscal year, a listing of projects for which funds under 23 USC or 49 USC Chapter 53 were obligated in the preceding year is published. The list is developed in cooperation with state and local public transportation providers, in accordance with section 450.314(a). It will include all federally funded projects authorized or revised to increase obligations in the preceding program year. The listing will consist of, at a minimum, the TIP information and the amount of federal funds allocated and obligated during the previous year, and the remaining federal funds available for subsequent years. The listing will be published and made available for public review in accordance with the PPP.

*Public Review: None*

### **MPO Studies**

Studies funded through the MPO TIP process include traffic circulation, feasibility studies, corridor and intersection assessments, as well as various areas of transportation research and analysis.

*Public Review:*

*21-day public review period*

# MPO TIP and MTP Changes

Changes to the TIP or MTP may be required. Requests for general amendments and modifications within the existing program are made by MDOT or LPAs. Changes to an existing project that are considered major will be processed as amendments and will require TPC approval and public review. Revisions that qualify as administrative modification are minor in nature, and there is no distortion of fiscal constraint, and the availability of funds is assured. Administrative modifications are processed by GRPC, and no public review or TPC action is required. Once complete, GRPC will submit a letter to MDOT showing the amendments or modifications made to the TIP or MTP and request that it be included in the STIP.

## **Amendments**

- Addition or deletion of a project
- Major changes in design or scope, such as changes that impact travel demand models or an approved air quality conformity analysis (i.e., travel lanes, etc.)
- Termini changes

## **Modifications**

- Correcting obvious minor data entry errors
- Splitting or combining projects without modifying the original project design, concept, and scope, or creating project segmentation
- Changing or clarifying elements of a project description. This change would not alter the original project design, concept, and scope. It also must be consistent with the approved environmental document.
- Moving a project from one federal funding category to another federal funding category
- Moving a project from federal funding to state funding
- Shifting the schedule of a project or phase within the years covered by the TIP (only the first two years for nonattainment and maintenance areas)
- Moving any identified project phase programmed for the previous year into a new TIP (rollover provision)
- Adding agency to a group
- Adding projects with grouped projects within the TIP, provided fiscal constraint is maintained
- Removing a project reported as obligated or completed
- Redemonstration of fiscal constraint is not required

## **Cost Increases**

For project cost changes, a sliding scale is used to determine the appropriate category of revision. All cost evaluations are based on the most recently approved TIP or its corresponding amendment or administrative adjustment, ensuring that incremental changes are accurately accounted for.

<b>Total project cost of all phases shown within the approved TIP</b>	<b>Amendment</b>	<b>Administrative Adjustment</b>
Up to \$2 million	≥75%	< 75%
\$2 million to \$15 million	≥50%	< 50%
\$15 million to \$75 million	≥40%	<40%
\$75 million and above	≥30%	<30%

\*The Gulf Coast MPO allows TIP project cost increases up to 20%. If a cost increase above 20% is needed, it must wait until the next “call for projects”.

### **Transit Project Changes**

If the TIP change includes transit projects, then the amendment or modification will need to be approved by both the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Staff will submit a letter to both agencies, as well as MDOT, showing the proposed changes and alerting them of any related public review periods. At the end of the review period, a final copy will be sent to each agency.

### **MDOT Project Changes**

MDOT will provide a written request for changes to be made to the MTP or TIP that advises the MPO if the change should be processed as a modification or amendment. In the event the change is to be processed as an amendment, an MDOT representative should provide explanation of the need and impact of the change for MPO member consideration prior to submitting the change for public review and inclusion in MPO documents.

## **Providing Public Notice and Review**

MPO planning documents must be developed in consultation with affected public agencies, transportation providers, user representatives, advocates, and interested parties. Below is a guide for how the MPO establishes early and continuous public involvement opportunities.

<b>Guidance</b>	<b>Strategy</b>
Providing adequate public notice of public participation activities and time for public review and comment at key decision points, including a reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed metropolitan transportation plan and the TIP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All plan and program updates, new documents and amendments are announced to the public through a legal notice in the local newspaper(s)</li> <li>• Additional notice is made at MPO meetings, on the GRPC website and Facebook page</li> <li>• Targeted outreach to specific groups and populations is conducted when appropriate</li> </ul>
Providing timely notice and reasonable access to information about transportation issues and processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notices include the dates of the review period and/or meeting dates, methods to submit questions and comments, and an ADA accommodations policy statement.</li> <li>• Comments can be submitted through a variety of means, published in public notices.</li> <li>• Length of review periods varies based on the type of planning update.</li> </ul>

Employ visualization techniques to describe metropolitan transportation plans and TIPs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whether online or in person, maps, posters, and other display materials are produced and provided for public review and comment.</li> <li>• Each TIP page includes a map and description of the project location</li> </ul>
Making public information (technical information and meeting notices) available in electronically accessible formats and means, such as the World Wide Web.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All public notices, drafts, supporting documents, maps and other materials are made available through the GRPC webpage.</li> <li>• Links to materials and notices of opportunity to participate are provided through the GRPC social media page(s)</li> <li>• Stakeholder notification and links to materials are sent through email communications.</li> </ul>
Hold any public meetings at convenient and accessible locations and times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings for plan updates are scheduled to allow access for people with varied work schedules.</li> <li>• At least one meeting is held on a fixed bus route and the location will comply with all mandates established in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).</li> <li>• Whenever possible, public meetings are held in conjunction with existing events where transportation stakeholders and community members are already convening.</li> <li>• Public involvement events or opportunities will be held for review and comment on draft Long-Range Transportation Plans and the draft TIP, and other plans or programs as deemed necessary by GRPC.</li> <li>• Individuals with questions or special needs may GRPC at 228-864-1167 at least five days prior to the meeting.</li> </ul>
Demonstrating explicit consideration and response to public input received during the development of the metropolitan transportation plan and the TIP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All public comments received are recorded, considered by the MPO and staff, and documented in the appendix of the corresponding document.</li> <li>• MPO staff will talk with any community member with questions, comments or concerns.</li> <li>• The draft document will be edited, as appropriate, based on received public input</li> </ul>
Seeking out and considering the needs of those traditionally underserved by existing transportation systems, such as low-income and minority households, who may face challenges accessing employment and other services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted outreach to engage underserved populations and/or their representatives is conducted as needed.</li> <li>• Each project is evaluated to determine if it will have a direct impact on an underserved population area.</li> <li>• Community members, agencies, and organizations representing the underserved are included on MPO mailing lists.</li> </ul>
Providing an additional opportunity for public comment, if the final metropolitan transportation plan or TIP differs significantly from the version that was made available for public comment by the MPO and raises new material issues that interested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MPO will coordinate an additional review and comment period whenever a final varies significantly from the original draft</li> </ul>

parties could not reasonably have foreseen from the public involvement efforts.	
Coordinate with the statewide public involvement and consultation processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates to the MTP and TIP are coordinated closely with the statewide update process.</li> <li>• All amendments and modifications are provided to the state before final approval from FTA or FHWA.</li> </ul>
Periodically reviewing the effectiveness of the procedures and strategies contained in the participation plan to ensure a full and open participation process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The PPP is reviewed biannually and updated or amended as needed.</li> </ul>
When significant written and oral comments are received on the draft metropolitan transportation plan and TIP (including the financial plans) as a result of the participation process in this section or the interagency consultation process required under the EPA transportation conformity regulations ( <u>40 CFR part 93, subpart A</u> ), a summary, analysis, and report on the disposition of comments shall be made as part of the final metropolitan transportation plan and TIP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copies of responses to comments received, notices, sign-in sheets, and pictures are documented in the appendix of the corresponding document.</li> </ul>
A minimum public comment period of 45 calendar days shall be provided before the initial or revised participation plan is adopted by the MPO. Copies of the approved participation plan shall be provided to the FHWA and the FTA for informational purposes and shall be posted on the World Wide Web, to the maximum extent practicable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The PPP has a 45-day review period for updates and amendments.</li> </ul>
<p>In developing metropolitan transportation plans and TIPs, the MPO should consult with agencies and officials responsible for other planning activities within the MPA that are affected by transportation (including State and local planned growth, economic development, tourism, natural disaster risk reduction, environmental protection, airport operations, or freight movements) or coordinate its planning process (to the maximum extent practicable) with such planning activities. In addition, the MPO shall develop the metropolitan transportation plans and TIPs with due consideration of other related planning activities within the metropolitan area, and the process shall provide for the design and delivery of transportation services within the area that are provided by:</p> <p>(1) Recipients of assistance under title 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53;</p> <p>(2) Governmental agencies and non-profit organizations that receive Federal assistance from a source other than the U.S. Department of Transportation to provide non-emergency transportation services; and</p> <p>(3) Recipients of assistance under <u>23 U.S.C. 201-204</u>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MPO staff maintain relationships with a wide variety of public agencies and private organizations active in various planning and development efforts, some are members of the MPO or regularly attend meetings, and others are engaged by email and newsletter.</li> </ul>



If MPA includes Tribal lands...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not applicable in our planning region</li> </ul>
When the MPA includes Federal public lands, the MPO shall appropriately involve the Federal land management agencies in the development of the metropolitan transportation plan and the TIP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MPO lists Eastern Federal Lands Highway Projects in the TIP</li> </ul>
MPOs shall, to the extent practicable, develop a documented process(es) that outlines roles, responsibilities, and key decision points for consulting with other governments and agencies, as defined in paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this section, which may be included in the agreement(s) developed under § 450.314.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The PPP outlines these.</li> <li>• A Memorandum of Agreement is entered into by and between the Gulf Regional Planning Commission (GRPC), the Mississippi Transportation Commission (MTC), acting by and through the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT), and the Coast Transit Authority (CTA),</li> </ul>

## Engagement Strategies

Public involvement in the transportation planning process is critical to the development of a system that meets the current needs and future development goals of the local citizens. Early, effective, and meaningful public participation brings unique insight, observations, and opinions into the planning process. The MPO uses a wide variety of engagement methods, typically several at a time, to ensure that interested individuals have equal access and opportunity to participate in the MPO decision-making process.

**Agency Website:** Maintain an agency website ([www.grpc.com](http://www.grpc.com)) which provides easy access to MPO final reports, event notices, survey and opinion opportunities, maps, study reports, information on other GRPC projects, news, and more.

**Surveys/Polls:** Conduct surveys and polls to solicit public input via the internet, email, or in-person activities, and to gather community feedback for the planning process.

**Community Events:** Participate in existing events to disseminate MPO information, increase agency awareness in the community, and gather public input on planning objectives.

**Public Meetings:** Coordinate public meetings at convenient times and at accessible locations to allow community members to participate in the planning process.

**Committee Meetings:** Each meeting starts with an opportunity for public comment. In addition, we communicate MPO performance, planning information and program status to the GRPC Board, TCC and TPC meetings.

**Email Communications:** Meeting invitations, important news, event notices, voting opportunities, program announcements, project updates and other critical MPO information is disseminated via email. We encourage participation in MPO events and activities through our email efforts. A comprehensive contact roster is kept for each MPO Committee as well as other critical local contacts.

**Newsletters:** The MPO works uses a regular newsletter to educate and inform the public and stakeholders of upcoming events, updated planning documents, federal grant opportunities, etc.

**Social Media:** Facebook is the main social media platform utilized by the MPO in its outreach efforts. Notices, news, reminders, invitations and requests for feedback are all posted for public consumption. The MPO also developed a Twitter page and is incorporating it into its larger outreach program.

**Yard Signs.** GRPC uses yard signs to provide targeted public involvement. Yard signs are placed near areas of a proposed project, study, or program.

# Regional Transit Planning

## Coast Transit Authority Overview

In 1970, the Mississippi State Legislature created the Mississippi Coast Transportation Authority (MCTA) and tasked the agency to provide public transportation services within the Gulf Coast region. CTA must also fully comply with federal participation guidelines to "... provide complete information, timely public notice, full public access to key decisions, and support early and continuing involvement of the public in developing plans and Transportation Improvement Programs..." Similarly, under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, they may not discriminate in the commission of their programs, activities and services. Per FTA Circular 4702.1B, CTA is not required to conduct a formal equity analysis for proposed service and fare changes, but they must follow US DOT guidance to avoid or mitigate disparate impacts on protected populations.

- **Fixed Route Service:** Consists of transportation service provided on a "hub and spoke" routing system that radiates out from transfer facilities. It is a system of designated routes, with designated stops and a fixed schedule. Various types of facilities are provided for passenger comfort and convenience. Passenger waiting facilities range from a simple bench with a bus stop sign to covered shelters to purpose built waiting and transfer facilities with public restrooms, phones and vending machines.
- **ADA/Paratransit Service:** A curb-to-curb transportation service provided for persons with disabilities that are unable to access or use the Fixed Route Service. This service is provided for persons that are within a  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile corridor of a Fixed Route. Access is provided on an appointment basis.
- **Special Services:** These contracted services include programs that provide transportation for senior citizens to attend Senior Citizen Centers, grocery shopping, medical appointments and field trips, transportation for area nursing homes and transportation for persons with disabilities to attend work centers and field trips.

## Participation Guidelines for Service Changes

CTA continuously evaluates its programs and services to ensure alignment with goals, objectives, new priorities available funding and other variables. Each year, they complete a comprehensive evaluation resulting in the Service Review Plan. The Plan identifies new transit services and significant changes to existing services for the following year; identifies changes that are designed to achieve specific service goals and opportunities for service expansion and improvement, as well as defining a process with which to measure and evaluate system performance on a year-to-year basis. When planning for transit service expansion or reduction, an evaluation process is completed to determine if service reduction or expansion is warranted.

CTA and MPO staff review all proposed changes to identify whether one or more traditionally underserved groups will be impacted by a proposed change. The review process reveals the percentage of impact expected for those populations. The percentage of impact helps staff determine if the change is minor and major, which in turn, defines the length of public review required.

## Participation Guidelines for CTA Planning Documents

Coast Transit Authority (CTA) maintains several planning documents that provide a vision for future service, establishes guidelines and lists activities for the use of federal funding. When updates and changes to these documents are required, an opportunity for public review is provided.

<b>CTA Planning Document Change Descriptions</b>	
<b><i>FULL UPDATE</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required document update</li> </ul>
<b><i>AMENDMENT</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addition or deletion of a project</li> <li>• Major changes scope</li> <li>• Change in system service standard measure or threshold</li> <li>• Financial changes in a project's programmed amount of federal funds greater than 20% of the original cost</li> </ul>
<b><i>MODIFICATION</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Correcting obvious minor data entry errors</li> <li>• Splitting or combining projects without modifying the original project design, concept and scope or creating project segmentation</li> <li>• Changing or clarifying elements of a project description. This change would not alter the original project design, concept and scope. It also must be consistent with the approved environmental document.</li> <li>• Moving a project from one federal funding category to another federal funding category</li> <li>• Moving a project from federal funding to state funding</li> <li>• Shifting the schedule of a project or phase within the years covered by the TIP</li> <li>• Updating project cost estimates (within the original project scope and intent) less than 20% of the original cost estimate</li> <li>• Moving any identified project phase programmed for previous year into a new TIP (rollover provision)</li> <li>• Adding an additional agency to a group</li> <li>• Adding projects with grouped projects within the TIP, provided fiscal constrain is maintained</li> <li>• Removing a project reported as obligated or completed</li> <li>• Re-demonstration of fiscal constraint is not required</li> </ul>

<b>Planning Documents Public Review</b>	
<b><i>FULL UPDATE</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CTA Board of Commissioners approval</li> <li>• 30-day public comment period</li> <li>• Public meeting/open-house</li> <li>• Public comment report</li> <li>• Public meeting notice on the agency's website and Facebook page the week before and day of the scheduled event(s)</li> <li>• Review Period notice on the agency's website and Facebook page on day 1 and 15 of the scheduled review period</li> </ul>
<b><i>AMENDMENTS</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10-day public comment period</li> <li>• Review Period notice on the agency's website and Facebook page on day 1 and 5 of the scheduled review period</li> </ul>
<b><i>MODIFICATIONS</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>

Types of Transit System Changes	
<b>MAJOR CHANGE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adding a new service route (25% or greater)</li> <li>• Revenue route miles reduction to a route (25% or greater)</li> <li>• Service area reduction to a route (25% or greater)</li> <li>• Span of service changes to a route (25% or greater)</li> <li>• All system fare increases</li> <li>• System-wide changes to process and/or standards</li> <li>• Route elimination</li> <li>• All headway changes</li> <li>• If the change impacts an underserved community, an impact analysis should be completed.</li> </ul>
<b>MINOR CHANGE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenue route miles reduction to a route (less than 25%)</li> <li>• Service area reduction to a route (less than 25%)</li> <li>• Span of service changes to a route (less than 25%)</li> <li>• Administrative changes to service standards</li> <li>• Load factor changes</li> <li>• Vehicle type change</li> </ul>

Transit System Changes Public Review	
<b>MAJOR CHANGE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CTA Board of Commissioners approval</li> <li>• 30-day public comment period</li> <li>• Public meeting/open-house</li> <li>• Targeted outreach to affected low-income, minority and LEP areas</li> <li>• Targeted outreach to other vulnerable populations</li> <li>• Public comment report</li> <li>• Customer impact analysis</li> <li>• Public meeting notice on the agency's website and Facebook page the week before and day of the scheduled event(s)</li> <li>• Review Period notice on the agency's website and Facebook page on day 1 and 15 of the scheduled review period</li> </ul>
<b>MINOR CHANGE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CTA Board of Commissioners approval</li> <li>• Informational meeting</li> <li>• Customer impact analysis</li> <li>• Notice of change with link to any appropriate materials posted on the agency website and Facebook page</li> </ul>

*\*Temporary services/demonstration projects of less than 12 months are exempt from these requirements.*

## CTA and GRPC

CTA has elected to follow the GRPC maintained Public Participation Plan (PPP) instead of managing a separate document. CTA staff work closely with the MPO in developing several regional transportation planning documents including the FTA chapter within the MS Gulf Coast TIP, GRPC submission of transit survey data, allocations of funding to support transit focused work in the MPO's work program, the Transportation Development Plan and the partnered execution of outreach programs for proposed route and fare changes. CTA and GRPC coordinate to ensure that CTA public engagement activities meet applicable FHWA and FTA standards as well as non-discrimination regulations.

GRPC regularly coordinates improvement studies to support CTA development efforts. Common outputs include route and stop enhancements, service expansion planning, headway reduction analysis, equity analysis reports, and encouraging the incorporation of transit in regional roadway improvement projects.

# Target Populations

## Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

The purpose of LEP is to ensure accessibility to programs and services for persons who are not proficient in the English language. This executive order states that individuals who do not speak English well and who have a limited ability to read, write, or understand English are entitled to language assistance under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Each agency shall prepare a plan to improve access to its federally conducted programs and activities by eligible LEP persons. Each plan shall be consistent with the standards set forth in the LEP Guidance and shall include the steps the agency will take to ensure that eligible LEP persons can meaningfully access the agency's programs and activities.

The United States Census Bureau defines an LEP person as someone who does not speak English as their first language AND who has an ability level of "not well" or "not at all" in reading, writing, speaking or understanding the English language.

County	Hispanic or Latino	Asian
Hancock County	4.3%	1.0%
Harrison County	7.4%	3.0%
Jackson County	8.2%	2.3%

*\*U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) July 1, 2024.*

GRPC's LEP priority is to reach the Spanish-speaking population; however, GRPC staff have, in their community analysis, still considered the needs of the Vietnamese-speaking individuals.

## LEP Four Factor Analysis

As a recipient of federal funding, the MPO must take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to the information and services it provides. As noticed in the Federal Register Volume 70, Number 239 (12.14.2005), there are four factors to consider in determining "reasonable steps." Below we have listed the four factors and the conclusions found by the GRPC in assessing the MS Gulf Coast community. This data will be updated every 10 years with the release of new census data.

- ***Factor 1: The number and proportion of LEP persons in the eligible service area***

The number and proportion of LEP populations in the MPO planning area warrants consideration in the public participation plan. The primary language, other than English, spoken in our region is Spanish. According to the 2010 Census, there is a very small percentage of Vietnamese speaking residents that would require language accommodations to participate in the planning process. These numbers fall below the "substantial number" threshold where the MPO would be required to translate public outreach documentation as a rule. The Spanish population, however, does meet the threshold, therefore general public notices and agency fliers meant for general public dissemination will be translated and made available in Spanish without request.

- ***Factor 2: The frequency with which LEP persons encounter MPO programs***

LEP populations do not regularly, nor actively participate in the transportation planning process. Agency staff do not encounter non-English speaking individuals with great frequency. On the rare occasion we do have the opportunity to interact with an LEP individual, they most often arrive in a familial or other group which provides its own language support services. (GRPC has never had a formal request for language services prior to a scheduled event or activity.) Recent program

changes including; translation service on the GRPC website, targeted outreach in LEP project areas, and bi-lingual publication of informational materials is expected to increase LEP levels of participation and the agency will continue to adopt to community needs.

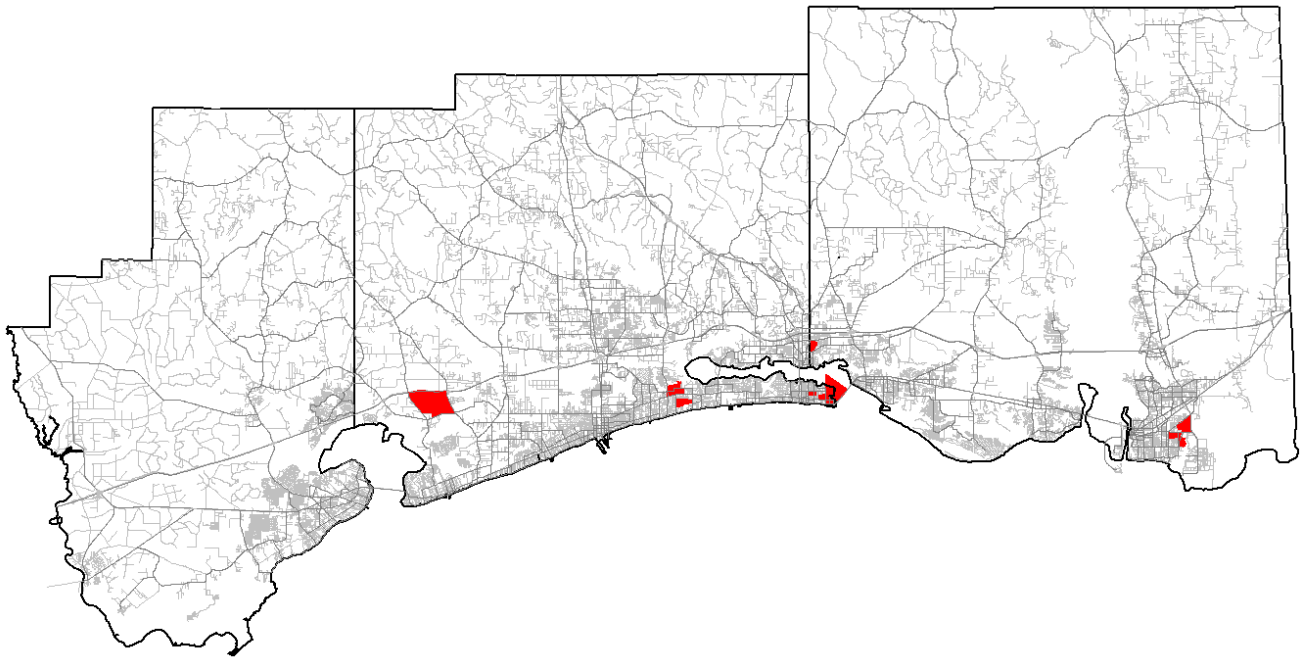
- ***Factor 3: The importance of the service provided by MPO programs***

Each MPO program directly impacts the well-being of its constituents, including LEP populations. The identification of resources and costs to the MPO to provide communication and interaction with LEP populations is warranted. MPO projects and programs may affect the quality of life of LEP individuals as they may alter how they move in and out of the community.

- ***Factor 4: The resources available and overall cost to the MPO***

Hiring out all translation and interpreter services could be financially unfeasible for the MS Gulf Coast MPO; however, GRPC staff is compiling a resource roster of potential reduced cost or no cost service providers as they build partnerships in the community. System upgrades to both the phone and website will encounter some cost, but GRPC will make the necessary upgrades even if in stages. GRPC staff will also develop generic messaging for translation that will not have to be interpreted more than once for print media and other publications, thus saving costs.

## **2020 Census LEP Concentrations**

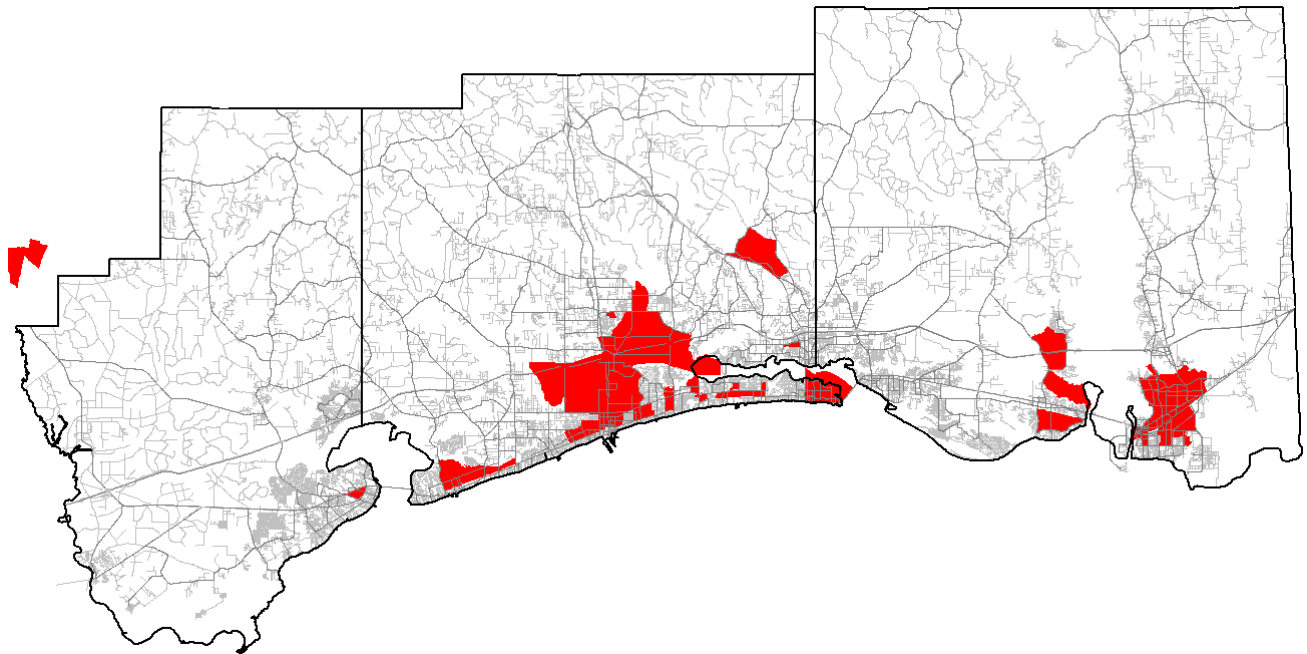


## Underserved Populations

Throughout the planning process, planners must determine benefits to and potential negative impacts on minority and low-income populations from proposed investments or actions. GRPC determines expected effects (positive and negative) and (3) determines the appropriate course of action (avoidance, minimization, or mitigation) in response to findings.

- **Minority:** The FHWA and USDOT define a “minority” individual as a person who is: (1) Black: a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa; (2) Hispanic or Latino: a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race; (3) Asian American: a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent; (4) American Indian and Alaskan Native: a person having origins in any of the original people of North America, South America (including Central America), and who maintains cultural identification through Tribal affiliation or community recognition; or (5) Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander: a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

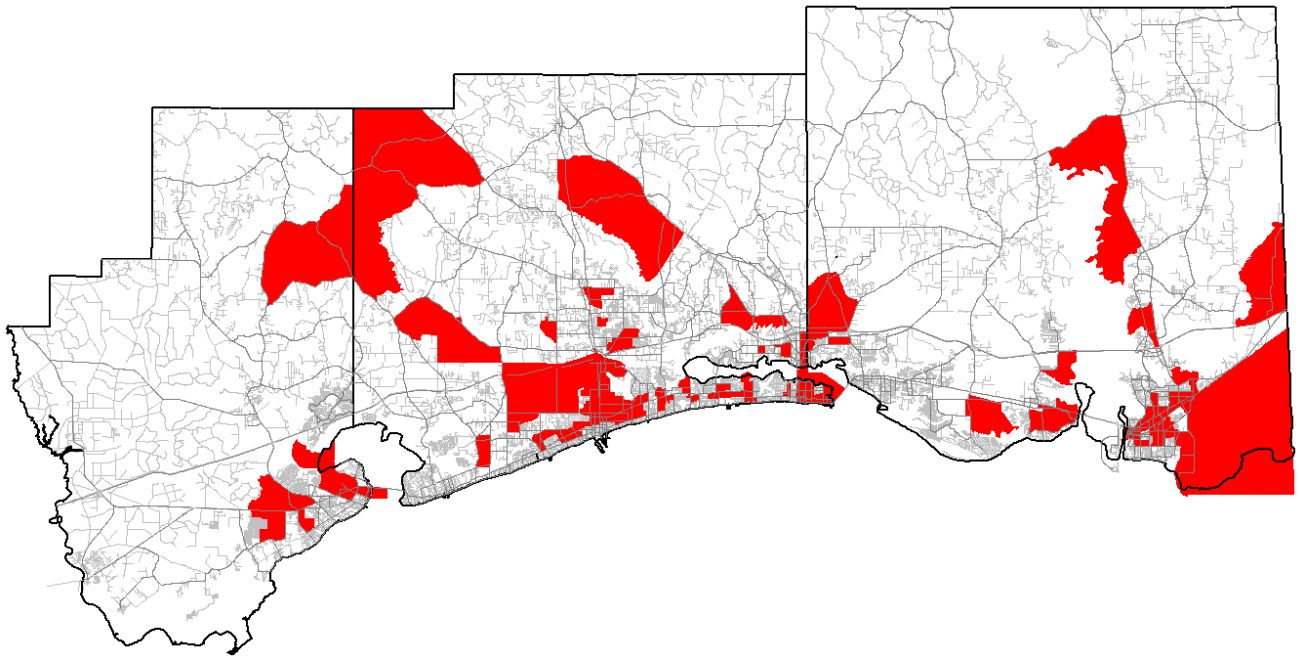
## 2020 Census Minority Concentrations





- **Low-income:** The FHWA and USDOT EJ define a “low-income” individual as a person whose median household income is at or below the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) poverty guidelines. This differs from CEQ guidance on EJ, which suggests the use of U.S. Census Bureau poverty thresholds. The [HHS website](#) outlines key differences between HHS guidelines and Census guidelines. For more information, please refer to the “Identifying Populations” section on page 14 of this document.

### 2020 Census Low Income Concentrations





# Notice and Document Language

## **TIP amendment**

In compliance with federal regulations 23 CFR 450, the Mississippi Gulf Coast Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is seeking the public's input on proposed amendments to the FY \_\_\_\_ Transportation Improvement Program [TIP]. The TIP is a document that provides a list of projects to be initiated within a four-year period. The TIP only includes projects for which funding has been identified using currently available or anticipated revenues. Public comments on the proposed amendment can be emailed to [kyarrow@grpc.com](mailto:kyarrow@grpc.com) or mailed to 1635 Popps Ferry Road, Suite G, Biloxi MS, 39532 before \_\_\_\_\_. GRPC prohibits discrimination in all of its programs, services, and activities. Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, sexual orientation, national origin, age, religion, disability or other protected status. Persons who require assistance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should contact GRPC at least 5 business days prior to end of the comment period at 228-864-1167 or [kyarrow@grpc.com](mailto:kyarrow@grpc.com)

## **TIP amendment for transit**

“The TIP includes the FTA Program of Projects (POP) that are funded by the Federal Transit Administration. The public meetings/comment period will satisfy the public participation requirements for the FTA Section 5307 and 5309 Program of Projects (POP) notice. The proposed POP will be final unless revised as a result of public comment.”

## **Notation of Financial Assistance**

The preparation of this document has been financed in part through grants from the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, and the Mississippi Department of Transportation. It was prepared as tasked in the Mississippi Gulf Coast MPO’s FY \_\_\_\_\_ Unified Planning Work Program Task \_\_\_\_.

## **Non-Discrimination Assurance**

As provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (P.L. 100.259) and related statutes, executive orders and regulations, the Gulf Regional Planning Commission (GRPC) assures that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, or disability be excluded from participating in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity from GRPC.

## **TPC Meeting Notice**

Gulf Regional Planning Commission is providing public notice that the Gulf Coast Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) will meet on \_\_\_\_\_ at GRPC’s offices at 1635 Popps Ferry Road, Suite G, Biloxi, MS 39532. The agenda includes MPO business related to the planning and activities of improving the mobility, accessibility, and safety of the Gulf Coast transportation system. GRPC prohibits discrimination

in all of its programs, services, and activities. Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, sexual orientation, national origin, age, religion, disability or other protected status. Persons who require assistance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should contact GRPC at least 5 business days prior to the meeting at 228-864-1167 or [kyarrow@grpc.com](mailto:kyarrow@grpc.com).

#### **CTA Public Review – Major Change**

The Coast Transit Authority (CTA) is considering a proposed fare rate increase specifically for its fixed route bus service. The proposed fare increase for the fixed route system for regular fares is from \$1.50 to \$1.75 and for special rates from \$.75 to \$.85. As part of our ongoing commitment to transparency and public engagement, we are opening a public comment period to seek feedback from our riders, stakeholders, and the general public. As required by 49 U.S.C. 5307(c)(1)(I), Coast Transit Authority has a locally developed process to solicit and consider public comment before raising a fare or implementing a major reduction of public transportation service. All interested parties are invited to share their opinions and concerns regarding the proposed fare rate increase. The comment period will run from \_\_\_\_\_. Send your written comments to: Coast Transit Authority, Marketing/Mobility Coordinator, 333 DeBuys Road, Gulfport, MS 39507. Attend one of two in-person public meetings: at the Biloxi Transit Center, located at 820 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Biloxi, MS. Or at the Gulfport Transit Center, located at 1401 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Gulfport, MS.

# MPO Certification



**Federal Highway Administration**  
Mississippi Division Office  
100 West Capitol St., Suite 1062  
Jackson, Mississippi 39269  
(601) 965-4215

**Federal Transit Administration**  
Region 4 Office  
230 Peachtree St, NW, Suite 1400  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
(404) 865-5600

July 30, 2025

Mr. Bobby Weaver, City of D'Iberville  
Metropolitan Planning Policy Committee Chairman  
Mississippi Gulf Coast Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)  
P.O. Box 1842  
Gulfport, MS 39502

Dear Mr. Weaver:

Federal law requires the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to jointly certify the transportation planning processes of Transportation Management Areas (TMAs) at least every four years; a TMA is an urbanized area, as defined by the US Census, with a population over 200,000. The Federal Review Team conducted a virtual site visit of the Mississippi Gulf Coast MPO on May 6, 2025.

The certification review process is only one of several methods used to assess the quality of a regional metropolitan transportation planning process, compliance with applicable regulations, and the type of technical assistance needed to enhance the effectiveness of the planning process. This certification review was conducted to highlight best practices, identify opportunities for improvement, and ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

Enclosed is the final *TMA Certification Review Report* for the Gulf Coast TMA, which includes documentation on various components of the joint certification review. The Federal Review Team has identified five (5) noteworthy practices and four (4) recommendations to further strengthen the current planning process of the Mississippi Gulf Coast MPO. There were no corrective actions.

Based on this review, the FHWA and FTA jointly certify that the transportation planning process for the Gulf Coast TMA substantially meets the federal requirements in 23 CFR 450 Subpart C. This certification will remain in effect until July 2029.

If you have questions regarding the certification review process or the *TMA Certification Review Report*, please contact Mrs. Necole Baker at (601) 965-7340 or Mr. Andres Ramirez at (404) 865-5611.

Sincerely,

**JEFFREY A SCHMIDT** Digitally signed by  
JEFFREY A SCHMIDT  
Date: 2025.08.06  
15:45:38 -05'00'

Jeffrey A. Schmidt, P.E.  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration

*Yvette G. Taylor*  
Yvette G. Taylor, PhD  
Regional Administrator  
Federal Transit Administration

cc: Mr. Kenneth Yarrow, GRPC  
Mr. Jeff Loftus, GRPC  
Mr. Brad White, MDOT  
Mr. Jeff Ely, MDOT  
Mr. Evan Wright, MDOT  
Mr. Perry Brown, MDOT  
Mr. Andres Ramirez, FTA - Region IV  
Ms. Tameka Macon-Ryan, FHWA-HQ  
Mr. Eric Griffith, FHWA  
Ms. Kim Thurman, FHWA-MS  
Mr. Randy Jansen, FHWA-MS  
Mr. Dan Gaillet, FHWA-MS  
Ms. Carolyn Bell, FHWA-MS

# Public Notices

The Gulf Coast MPO Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) approved the update to the MPO Public Participation Plan on \_\_\_\_\_.

## Notation of Financial Assistance

The preparation of this document has been financed in part through grants from the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, and the Mississippi Department of Transportation. It was prepared as tasked in the Mississippi Gulf Coast MPO's FY 2025 – 2026 Unified Planning Work Program Task A-1.

## GRPC/MPO Contacts

Gulf Regional Planning Commission

1635-G Popps Ferry Road,  
Biloxi MS 39532  
228-864-1167

Staff Person	Position Title	Phone Extension	Email
Jeff Loftus	Title VI Coordinator	211	JOL@grpc.com
Kenneth Yarrow	Executive Director	207	Kyarrow@grpc.com



### Non-Discrimination Title VI Policy Statement

The Gulf Regional Planning Commission's non-discrimination Title VI Policy Statement is listed below. The policy covers the programs and activities of the Gulf Regional Planning Commission

(GRPC) which is the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the three coastal counties of Mississippi. The GRPC provides the required assurances to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) that the MPO's transportation planning processes will comply with Title VI, as required by Title 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, and Title 49 CFP Part 21.

#### Policy Statement

The Gulf Regional Planning Commission, the Mississippi Gulf Coast Metropolitan Planning Organization, "Agency" assures that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, or other protected class, as provided by the Federal Highway Act of 1973, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any Agency program or activity.

The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 expanded the scope of Title VI by requiring that all programs, services, or activities of a federal aid recipient, sub-recipient, contractor, or consultant comply with applicable non-discrimination authorities, whether such programs receive direct federal financial assistance or not.

In the event the Agency distributes federal aid funds to a sub-recipient, Title VI language will be included in all executed written agreements and will be monitored for compliance.

The Agency's Title VI/Civil Rights Coordinator initiates and monitors the Agency's non-discrimination program and activities, including preparing reports, reviewing and updating the Public participation and Civil rights Plan, as well as completing other responsibilities as described in the Coordinator position description and as required by 23 CFR 200 and 49 CFR 21.

The Agency's Executive Director is responsible for overall compliance of the Agency in meeting its various non-discrimination Title VI obligations.

Executive Director – Kenneth Yarrow

1-14-2026

Date

Title VI Coordinator – Jeff Loftus

1-14-2026

Date



## Title VI/ADA Statement of Policy

Effective 1/2026

Gulf Regional Planning Commission (GRPC), the Mississippi Gulf Coast Metropolitan Planning Organization is a federal grant recipient, is required by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to conform with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and its amendments.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires that no person in the United States, shall, on the grounds of race, color or national origin, be excluded from, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination, under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. Presidential Executive Order 12898 addresses environmental justice in minority and low-income populations. Presidential Executive Order 13166 addresses services to those individuals with Limited English proficiency. The rights of women, the elderly and the disabled are protected under related statutes. These Presidential Executive Orders and the related statutes fall under the umbrella of Title VI.

Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 provide that no entity shall discriminate against an individual with a disability in connection with the provision of transportation service. The law sets forth specific requirements for vehicle and facility accessibility and the provision of service, including complementary paratransit service.

GRPC is committed to enforcing the provisions of Title VI and the ADA Act and protecting the rights and opportunities of all persons associated with GRPC or affected by its programs. This commitment includes vigorously enforcing all applicable laws and regulations that affect GRPC, individuals and those organizations, both public and private, which participate and benefit through GRPC's programs. GRPC will take positive and realistic affirmative steps to ensure that all persons and/or firms wishing to participate in its programs are given an equal and equitable chance to participate. All sub-recipients and contractors are required to prevent discrimination and ensure nondiscrimination in all of their programs, activities and services.

GRPC's Executive Director is responsible for providing leadership, direction and policy to ensure compliance with Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Any person(s) or firm(s) who feels that they have been discriminated against is encouraged to report such violations to GRPC at:

Gulf Regional Planning Commission  
1635-G Popps Ferry Road  
Biloxi, MS 39532  
JOL@grpc.com



# Title VI/ADA Complaint Procedures

Effective 1/2026

This procedure outlines the Title VI and ADA complaint procedures related to providing programs, services, and benefits. It does not deny the complainant the right to file formal complaints with the Secretary of the US Department of Transportation, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), or to seek private counsel for complaints alleging discrimination, intimidation, or retaliation of any kind that is prohibited by law.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 requires that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of disability, race, color or national origin, be excluded from, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

1. Any person who believes that they have been subjected to discrimination may file a written complaint with Gulf Regional Planning Commission (GRPC). Complaints must be filed within 180 calendar days of the alleged incident.
2. The complainant may download the complaint form from the GRPC website ([www.grpc.com](http://www.grpc.com)) or request the complaint form from the GRPC at 228-864-1167 or JOL@grpc.com.
3. The complaint will include the following information:
  - a. Name, address, and telephone number of the complainant.
  - b. The basis of the complaint i.e., race, color, national origin, sex, elderly or disabled.
  - c. The date or dates on which the alleged discriminatory event or events occurred.
  - d. The nature of the incident that led the complainant to feel discrimination was a factor.
  - e. Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of persons who may have knowledge of the event.
  - f. Other agencies or courts where complaint may have been filed and a contact name.
  - g. Complainant's signature and date.
  - h. If the complainant is unable to write a complaint, GRPC staff will assist the complainant.
  - i. The complaint may be mailed to the following address:  
Gulf Regional Planning Commission  
1635-G Popps Ferry Road  
Biloxi, MS 39532  
[JOL@grpc.com](mailto:JOL@grpc.com)
4. The complainant also has the right to file a Title VI or ADA claim with the US Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, Office of Civil Rights, Region IV. 230 Peachtree, NW, Suite 800, Atlanta, GA 30303, **within** the 180-day timeframe.
5. GRPC will begin an investigation within fifteen (15) working days of receipt of a complaint.
6. GRPC will contact the complainant in writing no later than thirty (30) working days after receipt of complaint for additional information, if needed to investigate the complaint. If the complainant fails to provide the requested information in a timely basis, GRPC may administratively close the complaint.
7. GRPC will use its best effort to complete the investigation of Title VI and ADA complaints within sixty (60) calendar days of receipt of the complaint. A written investigation report will be prepared by the investigator and sent to the complainant filing the complaint. The report shall include a summary description of the incident, findings, and recommendations for disposition.





## TITLE VI COMPLAINT FORM – GULF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Individuals or organizations who believe they have been denied the benefits of, excluded from participation in, or subject to discrimination on the grounds of race, color, or national origin by a recipient of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding can file an administrative complaint under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states “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 assistance”.

This protection and same opportunity to file a complaint extends to the public through Executive Order 12898, “Federal Actions To Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations,” and the Department of Transportation’s Guidance to Recipients on Special Language Services to Limited English Proficient (LEP) Beneficiaries.

Individuals and organizations may file a complaint by completing and submitting the following Title VI complaint form. Assistance is available upon request. Complaints must be signed and include contact information and should be sent via mail or delivered to: GRPC 1635-G, Popps Ferry Road, Biloxi, MS 39532 or emailed to JOL@grpc.com.

- 
1. Complainant’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Address: \_\_\_\_\_
  3. City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Telephone No. (Home): \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Business: \_\_\_\_\_
  5. Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ TDD/Other: \_\_\_\_\_
  6. Are you filing this complaint on your own behalf? *(check the appropriate box)*  
[ ] Yes *(go to question 10)* [ ] No
  7. If No, please give us the following information on the person discriminated against:  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to Complainant: \_\_\_\_\_
-

8. Which of the following best describes why you think the discrimination took place? Was it because of your:

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Race/Color  
National Origin  
Low Income  
Limited English Proficiency

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Sex  
Disability  
Age

9. What date did the alleged discrimination take place? : \_\_\_\_\_

10. In your own words, describe the alleged discrimination. Explain what happened and whom you believe was responsible. Please attach additional sheets of paper if more space is required.


11. Have you filed this complaint with any other federal, state or local agency, or with any federal or state court? *(check appropriate box)*    [ ] Yes    [ ] No

If answer is yes, check each box that applies:

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Federal Agency  
Federal Court  
State Agency  
State Court

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Local Agency (Other than Coast Transit Authority)  
Other:


Please provide contact person information for the agency or court you also filed the complaint with *(attach more sheets if necessary)*:

Name/Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Filed: \_\_\_\_\_

12. Please sign below. You may attach any written materials or other information that you think is relevant to your complaint.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Note, we cannot accept your complaint without a signature, Thank You!)*

## **Declaración de la política del Título VI/ADA de la Autoridad de Tránsito de la Costa**

**Vigente a partir de 2026**

La Administración de Tránsito Federal (FTA, por sus siglas en inglés) le requiere a la Autoridad de Tránsito de la Costa (GRPC, por sus siglas en inglés), beneficiario de subvención federal, que cumpla con el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964 y la Ley para Discapacitados (ACA, por sus siglas en inglés) de 1990 y sus enmiendas.

El Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964 requiere que no se excluya, niegue beneficios o discrimine a ninguna persona en los Estados Unidos, basado en su raza, color o nacionalidad, bajo cualquier programa o actividad que recibe ayuda financiera federal. La Orden Ejecutiva Presidencial 12898 aborda la justicia ambiental en poblaciones de minorías y bajos-recursos. La Orden Ejecutiva Presidencial 13166 aborda servicios a esos individuos con Dominio limitado de Inglés. Los derechos de las mujeres, personas de tercera edad y discapacitados están protegidos conforme a estatutos relacionados a estas Ordenes Ejecutivas Presidenciales y los estatutos relacionados competen bajo la protección del Título VI.

Los Títulos II y III de la Ley Americana para Discapacidades de 1990 estipulan que ninguna entidad discriminará contra un individuo con una discapacidad relacionado a la provisión de servicios de transporte. La ley dispone los requisitos específicos para la accesibilidad de vehículos e instalaciones y la provisión de servicio, incluyendo servicio complementario de transporte para discapacitados.

GRPC se compromete a hacer cumplir las disposiciones del Título VI y ADA y a proteger los derechos y oportunidades de todas las personas asociadas con GRPC o afectadas por sus programas. Este compromiso incluye hacer cumplir vigorosamente todas las leyes y regulaciones aplicables que afecten a GRPC, individuos y esas organizaciones, públicas y privadas, que participan y se benefician por medio de los programas de GRPC. GRPC tomará medidas afirmativas, positivas y realistas para asegurarse que se le dé una oportunidad igual y equitativa a todas las personas y/o grupos que deseen participar. Se le requiere a todos los sub-beneficiarios y contratistas prevenir la discriminación y asegurar la no discriminación en todos sus programas, actividades y servicios.

El Director Ejecutivo de GRPC es responsable de proporcionar liderazgo, dirección y políticas para asegurar conformidad con el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964 y los Títulos II y III de la Ley Americana para Discapacidades. Se incentiva a toda persona(s) o firma(s) quien(es) siente(n) que ha(n) sido discriminada(s) a denunciar dichas violaciones a GRPC a:

Gulf Regional Planning Commission  
1635-G Popps Ferry Road  
Biloxi, MS 39532  
[JOL@grpc.com](mailto:JOL@grpc.com)

## Procedimiento para reclamos por Título VI/ADA

Vigente a partir de 2026

Este procedimiento describe el proceso para reclamos de Título VI y ADA relacionados a la provisión de programas, servicios, y beneficios. No se le niega al reclamante el derecho a presentar un reclamo oficial con el Ministro del Departamento de Transporte de E.E.U.U., con la Junta de Igualdad de Oportunidad de Empleo (EEOC, por sus siglas en inglés), la Administración Federal de Carreteras (FHWA, por sus siglas en inglés), la Administración Federal de Tránsito (FTA, por sus siglas en inglés), o procurar abogado privado para reclamos que alegan discriminación, intimidación, o venganza de cualquier tipo prohibida por la ley.

El Título VI y la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964 y los títulos II y III de la Ley Americana para Discapacidades de 1990 requieren que a ninguna persona en los Estados Unidos, basado en discapacidad, raza, color o nacionalidad, se le excluya, niegue beneficios o discrimine bajo cualquier programa o actividad que recibe ayuda financiera federal.

1. Toda persona que crea que se ha sido sometida a discriminación puede presentar un reclamo por escrito con la Autoridad de Tránsito de la Costa (GRPC, por sus siglas en inglés). Los reclamos deben presentarse dentro de los siguientes 180 días calendario del supuesto incidente.
2. El reclamante puede descargar el formulario de reclamos de la página web de GRPC ([www.coasttransit.com](http://www.coasttransit.com)) o solicitarle al Director Ejecutivo el formulario de reclamos. El reclamante puede también presentar una declaración por escrito que contenga toda la información identificada en las secciones 3, a-j.
3. El reclamo debe incluir la siguiente información:
  - a. Nombre completo, dirección, y número de teléfono del reclamante.
  - b. La base del reclamo, por ejemplo: raza, color, nacionalidad, sexo, ancianos o discapacidad.
  - c. La fecha o fechas en las que el supuesto evento o eventos discriminatorios ocurrieron.
  - d. La naturaleza del incidente que condujo al reclamante a sentir que discriminación era un factor.
  - e. Nombres completos, direcciones, y números de teléfono de las personas que pueden tener conocimiento del evento.
  - f. Otras agencias o tribunales donde se puede haber presentado el reclamo y un nombre de contacto.
  - g. Firma del reclamante y fecha.
  - h. Si el reclamante no puede escribir un reclamo, el personal de CTA lo ayudará.
  - i. Se puede enviar el reclamo por correo o enviar por fax a la siguiente dirección: Gulf Regional Planning Commission, 1635-G, Popps Ferry Rd, Biloxi, MS 39532, 228-864-1167
  - j. Se puede enviar el reclamo por correo electrónico a: [JOL@grpc.com](mailto:JOL@grpc.com)
4. El reclamante también tiene el derecho de presentar un reclamo de Título VI o ADA con el Departamento de Transporte de E.E.U.U., la Administración Federal de Tránsito, la Oficina de Derechos Civiles, Region IV. 230 Peachtree, NW, Suite 800, Atlanta, GA 30303, dentro del periodo de los siguientes 180 días.

5. GRPC comenzará una investigación dentro de los siguientes quince (15) días laborables de haber recibido el reclamo.
6. GRPC se contactará con el reclamante por escrito a más tardar treinta (30) días laborables luego de haber recibido el reclamo para pedir información adicional, si fuese necesario para investigar el reclamo. Si el reclamante no puede proporcionar la información solicitada oportunamente, GRPC podrá cerrar el reclamo administrativamente .
7. GRPC se esforzará de la mejor manera para terminar la investigación del Título VI y reclamos ADA dentro de los siguientes sesenta (60) días calendario de haber recibido el reclamo. El investigador preparará un informe por escrito de la investigación y se lo enviará al reclamante que presentó el reclamo. El informe deberá incluir un resumen describiendo el incidente, los resultados, y las recomendaciones para la resolución.

GRPC procesará e investigará todos los reclamos que reúnan los requisitos para Título VI o discriminación de ADA. Si el reclamante no proporciona la información requerida dentro del periodo requerido, se cerrará el reclamo.

## Título VI Formulario para Quejas- Gulf Regional Planning Commission

Las personas u organizaciones que creen que se les ha negado los beneficios de, excluidos de participar en, ó sujetos a discriminación por motivos de raza, color u origen nacional de un recipiente de la Administración Federal de Tránsito (FTA) de financiación puede presentar una queja administrativa con respecto al Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964. Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964 establece que "Ninguna persona en los Estados Unidos, por motivos de raza, color u origen nacional, sea excluida de participar en, sea negado los beneficios de, o sea sujeto a discriminación bajo cualquier programa ó actividad que reciba asistencia federal".

Esta protección y oportunidad igual para presentar una queja se extiende al público a través de la Orden Ejecutiva 12898, "Acciones federales para abordar la justicia ambiental en poblaciones minoritarias y de bajos ingresos", y el Departamento de Orientación de Transporte a los recipientes de Servicios especiales sobre el lenguaje para Dominio Limitado del Inglés (LEP) Beneficiarios.

Los individuos y las organizaciones pueden presentar una queja llenando y enviando el siguiente formulario de queja Título VI. La ayuda está disponible a petición. Las quejas deben ser firmadas é incluyendo información de contacto y deben ser enviados por correo o entregados a: GRPC, 1635-G Popps Ferry Rd, Biloxi, MS 39501.

Alternativamente, se puede enviar por fax al 228/896-8081 ó por correo electrónico a [JOL@grpc.com](mailto:JOL@grpc.com).

1. Nombre del Querellante: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Dirección: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Pueblo \_\_\_\_\_ Estado: \_\_\_\_\_ Código:: \_\_\_\_\_
4. No. de Teléfono (Casa): \_\_\_\_\_ Cel.: \_\_\_\_\_ Trabajo:: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Correo Electrónico: \_\_\_\_\_ Otro: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Se está quejando por sí mismo? *(Marque el apropiado)*  
[ ] Si *(vaya a la pregunta #10)* [ ] No
7. Si No, denos la información a quien discriminaron en contra:  
Nombre: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dirección: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pueblo: \_\_\_\_\_ Estado: \_\_\_\_\_ Código: \_\_\_\_\_  
Teléfono: \_\_\_\_\_ Correo Electrónico: \_\_\_\_\_  
Relación al Querellante: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Cuál de las siguientes mejor describe como discriminaron en contra del querellante y porque piensa que discriminaron en contra del querellante? Fue por?

☐  
☐  
☐  
☐

Raza/Color  
Origen de Nacionalidad  
Bajos Ingresos  
Limite del Ingles

☐  
☐  
☐

Sexo  
Disabilidad  
Edad

9. Fecha en que discriminaron? : \_\_\_\_\_

10. En sus propias palabras describa la alegación de discriminación. Explique qué paso, y quien usted piensa que fue responsable. Por favor una más hojas de papel si el espacio no es bastante si lo requiere.

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11. A usted apelado dicha querella con cualquier otra agencia federal, estado local ó cortes federales ó estatales? *(Marque el apropiado)* [ ] Si [ ] No

Si es Si, marque las cajas que le corresponda:

☐  
☐  
☐  
☐

Agencia Federal  
Corte Federal  
Agencia del Estado  
Corte del Estado

☐  
☐

Agencia Local (edemas de GRPC)  
Otro:

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Sírvanse proporcionar información sobre la persona de la agencia ó tribunal en donde usted también presentó la queja. (Una más hojas si es necesario):

Nombre de Agencia: \_\_\_\_\_

Dirección: \_\_\_\_\_

Pueblo: \_\_\_\_\_ Estado: \_\_\_\_\_ Código: \_\_\_\_\_

Teléfono.: \_\_\_\_\_ Fecha de queja: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Por Favor firme. Usted puede unir más hojas ó cualquier otra información si le es necesario para su queja.

Firme: \_\_\_\_\_ Fecha: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Nota No Podemos aceptar su queja sin la firma. Muchas Gracias!)*