



HUMBOLDT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
Regional Transportation Planning Agency
Humboldt County Local Transportation Authority
Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies
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AGENDA ITEM 5b
TAC Meeting
April 7, 2022

DATE: March 28, 2022
TO: Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
FROM: Stevie Luther, Associate Planner
SUBJECT: **Title VI, Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and Public Participation Plan (PPP) 2022 Update**

STAFF REPORT

Contents:

- Staff's Recommended Action
- Staff Summary
- Draft Title VI and LEP Plan
- Draft Public Participation Plan
- Resolution 22-11 and Resolution 22-12

Staff's Recommended Action:

Motion to be approved by consent:
"The TAC recommends the HCAOG Board adopt Resolution 22-11 approving the 2022 Public Participation Plan and Resolution 22-12 approving the Title VI and LEP Plan."

Staff Summary:

The Public Participation Plan has been prepared in accordance with Caltrans The 2022 Title VI Program and LEP Plan is provided to the SSTAC for review and consideration of a recommendation to the HCAOG Board for adoption.

The HCAOG PPP is developed to inform the public and other stakeholders about HCAOG's public participation process. The PPP describes how HCAOG disseminates information and solicits public comment and input pertaining to regional transportation.

Updates to the PPP include:

- Additional or revised language emphasizing current diversity, equity and inclusion practices
- Administrative corrections including population update and removing mention of Service Coordination Committee (SCC) that
- Revised description of public meeting practices to include virtual and hybrid meetings
- Added language to policies to meet public participation goals:
 - Policy 1.2: Include alternate text description for images. Spell out acronyms and explain technical terms in common language.
 - Policy 1.3 we'll come to you" approach
 - Policy 2.3: Foster relationships by participating in the planning and organizing processes of groups representing the above list, including attending meetings and actively engaging in events.
 - Policy 3.1: HCAOG will explore partnerships with community-based organizations (CBOs) to help ensure diverse and direct input from stakeholders in specific communities who traditionally may not have been involved in regional public policy planning processes.

Title VI is a federal statute that provides that no person shall, on grounds of race, color, or national origin, including matters relating to language access for Limited English Proficiency (LEP), be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. Title VI allows persons alleging discrimination by recipients of federal funds to file administrative complaints with federal agencies that provide financial assistance.

The Title VI Program and LEP Plan demonstrates how the recipient is complying with Title VI requirements. As a subrecipient of federal funds, HCAOG must submit a Title VI Program update every three years to the primary recipient, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), from whom HCAOG receives funding. Caltrans includes this document in their Title VI Program submission to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

HCAOG has monitored and updated the Title VI Program and complied with the LEP Plan components as follows:

- How many LEP persons were encountered annually? - None
- Were the needs of these LEP persons met? – Not applicable
- What is the current LEP population in HCAOG's service area? - 14,102
- Is a change needed in the types of language translation services provided? - No
- Is there still a need for continued language assistance for previously identified HCAOG programs? – Yes
- Are there other programs that should be included? - Not at this time
- Have HCAOG's available resources, such as technology, staff, financial costs changed? - No
- Has HCAOG filled the goals of the LEP? - Yes
- Were any complaints received? - No

The 2022 Title VI Program and LEP Plan is provided to the TAC for review and consideration of a recommendation to the HCAOG Board for adoption.