

Title VI



OKI REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2006 TITLE VI PROGRAM ODOT COMPLIANCE REVIEW RESPONSE

I. Metropolitan Planning Organization Handling Agency Compliance

A. To what extent does the MPO Handling Agency employ minority staff personnel in the program area under review?

Please refer to Attachment "A", Staff Profile Report – Transportation Section, which provides a profile of the staff assigned to transportation planning at OKI. This "transportation planning profile" is maintained in addition to the annual inventory of the entire OKI staff which is conducted as part of the agency's "Affirmative Action Program for Equal Employment Opportunities."

B. Has the Agency adopted a formal Title VI complaint process?

OKI has not formally adopted a Title VI Complaint Process but does have plans in this FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program to create and formally adopt a Title VI Complaint Process to address complaints, protests or allegations of discrimination levied against OKI studies or projects. Since the OKI region consists of an 8-county service area the development of this document will include a review of the Title VI Complaint Process utilized by ODOT, KYTC and INDOT.

C. Has the agency received any specific Title VI complaints in the program area under review? If so, what corrective action has been taken?

OKI has not received any specific Title VI complaints directly nor to our knowledge have any been received by the funding agencies in regard to OKI.

II. Consultant Contracts

A. What considerations are given to minority contractors in the selection of consultants for transportation planning work?

1. Does the Agency establish and monitor annual Title VI contracting goals?

Yes. OKI's DBE Liaison Officer (DBELO) is responsible for the implementation and compliance of all aspects of its DBE Program including the establishment of OKI's annual DBE goal as well as the attainment thereof.

2. Does the consultant selection process include maintenance of records of qualified minority consultants?

The DBELO maintains an updated directory of certified DBEs.

3. What other methods or procedures are utilized to encourage use of qualified minority consultants?

It is the policy of OKI to utilize minority-owned and operated businesses to a reasonable and equitable extent in all aspects of the procurement of supplies and services purchased and utilized within the framework of applicable state law. To this end an "Affirmative Action Program for Minority Business Enterprise" has been prepared to detail the actions to be taken by OKI in the consideration of minority contractors. This documentation includes various listings of minority firms in the area for use in procurements. In addition to the use of the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) listing, specific and separate notices are placed in minority focused newspapers in the area to solicit minority participation.

4. Are Title VI assurances and provisions included on consultant contracts?

Yes. OKI ensures that every DOT-assisted contract and subcontract it executes includes the required contract clause from document 49 CFR Part 26 Section 13 of the Legislation & Regulations of the Federal Highway Administration.

B. Have consultants made positive efforts to employ qualified minority subcontractors? If so, to what extent?

All consultants and contractors to OKI, by contractual conditions, are required to "comply with the regulations relative to non-discrimination in federally-assisted programs of the Department of Transportation Title 49, Code of Federal Regulation, Part 21, as they may be amended from time to time" and the contractor, with regard to the work performed by it during the contract, shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin in the selection and retention of subcontractors, including the procurement of materials and leases of equipment. The contractor shall not participate either directly or indirectly in the discrimination prohibited by Section 21.5 of the Regulations, including employment practices when the contract covers a program set forth in Appendix B of the regulations."

C. What are the MPO Handling Agency's procedures for monitoring consultant compliance with Title VI contract provisions?

As such, procedures have not been developed for auditing consultant compliance with Title VI contract provisions. This is due in part to the fact that few of the consultant contractors require a sub-contractor and in those cases where one is required it is included in the initial response to the RFQ. If a minority subcontractor is used, OKI will monitor progress through year-to-date invoices submitted by the primary consultant.

III. Urban Transportation Planning Process

A. What techniques and procedures are employed to provide data relative to minority populations, neighborhoods, income levels, physical environment, travel habits, etc?

The techniques employed by OKI to maintain data files relative to minorities are basically those required by the Federal Transit Administration and defined in Circular UMTA C 4702.1.

B. To what extent is the data considered in determining that a proposed transportation system will be capable of responding favorably to minority group requirements? What techniques are used?

From a technical standpoint, OKI utilizes procedures that respond to the total population broken down by traffic analysis zones. The ethnic, income and employment data is then utilized to determine specific effects on these identified groups and appropriate mitigations are made in the planning recommendations.

From a process perspective, OKI has made special efforts to reach the elderly, disabled, low income, minority, and zero-car populations through organizations, radio and newspapers that are targetted to these population groups to seek their involvement and input in both the planning process and the solicitation of recommendations.

Additionally, in 2000 the OKI policy board took steps to establish an Environmental Justice Advisory Committee. The main charge to this committee is to assist and guide staff in identifying and involving minority viewpoints in the OKI region, and conducting such activities within the scope of the evolving federal environmental justice guidelines.

C. Do the MPO Transportation Plan and TIP include assessments of the impacts that planned transportation system investments will have on both minority and non-minority areas? Discuss the assessment methodology and resulting documentation.

The assessment of the impact of a planned transportation system and/or route is completed as part of the evaluation of OKI recommendations and is undertaken in conjunction with civic participation efforts to assure that both the technical evaluation itself and the results are responsive to the citizenry as a whole. Relative to the assessment methodology used, all TIP applications to apply for funding include a section on Environmental Justice that must be completed by the applicant. During the course of the review of that section of the application by OKI's Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (EJAC), the information provided by the applicant is reviewed and scored and then all applications are referred to OKI's Intermodal Coordinating Committee with EJAC's funding recommendations. This process results in documentation that is incorporated into the respective Committee and Board minutes.

D. To what extent has the MPO developed a formalized procedure (organization, responsibilities, etc.) to provide for citizen participation in the transportation planning process?

In 1984 the OKI Citizen Participation Committee reached consensus that the format for its usefulness had been expended and that it was now time for a more mainstream approach to civic engagement through public-private partnerships. With the support of OKI's Executive Committee, which acknowledged that there is still a need to incorporate public involvement into the decision making process, in 2000 the OKI policy board took steps to establish an Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (EJAC). The objective of this Committee is to ensure that the general public has access to regional transportation information; to ensure that all segments of the population are included in the decision making process and, to provide a mechanism for equity.

E. Are minorities, both individually and through their organizations, represented in the citizen participation effort? If so, how many and in what capacities?

To ensure that minorities are represented in the citizen participation effort, representation on OKI's 21-member Environmental Justice Advisory Committee includes the Hispanic Resource Center, the Cincinnati NAACP Branch, The AMOS Project (a faith-based group), the Center for Independent Living Options, The Inclusion Network and the Urban Appalachian Council. The Committee Chair position is held by a representative from the local NAACP Branch where that individual holds a similar position.

F. Are there any further affirmative actions taken by the MPO to enlist the involvement and support of minority populations in the transportation planning process?

OKI maintains an awareness, sensitivity and willingness to respond to appropriate issues that involve minorities, low income, elderly, disabled and zero-car populations. OKI also ensures that information is readily supplied to all persons; that the needs and interests of all persons within the OKI region are fully considered in the planning process and, that all recommendations received are incorporated at appropriate measures.

ATTACHMENT "A"
STAFF PROFILE REPORT - TRANSPORTATION SECTION
EFFECTIVE DATE FEBRUARY 15, 2006

TABLE 1:

<u>TOTAL PERMANENT EMPLOYEES</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	
MINORITY	3	1	4	(17%)
MAJORITY	9	11	20	(83%)
TOTAL	12 (50%)	12 (50%)	24	(100%)

TABLE 2:

<u>PROFESSIONAL LEVEL EMPLOYEES</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	
MINORITY	3	1	4	(20%)
MAJORITY	6	10	16	(80%)
TOTAL	9 (45%)	11 (55%)	20	(100%)

TABLE 3:

<u>SUPPORT LEVEL EMPLOYEES</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	
MINORITY	0	0	0	(0%)
MAJORITY	3	1	4	(100%)
TOTAL	3 (75%)	1 (25%)	4	(100%)

TABLE 4:

<u>TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	
MINORITY	0	0	0	(0%)
MAJORITY	1	1	2	(100%)
TOTAL	1 (50%)	1 (50%)	2	(100%)