



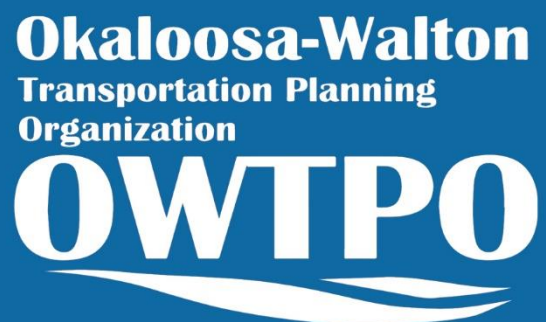
# TITLE VI PROGRAM

## NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT & PROCEDURE

OKALOOSA-WALTON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION



ADOPTED: AUGUST 17, 2023





ADOPTED: AUGUST 17, 2023



# Title VI Program

**Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization**

Staffed by: Emerald Coast Regional Council

4081 East Olive Road, Suite A  
Pensacola, FL 32514

Title VI Coordinator:  
[TitleVI@ecrc.org](mailto:TitleVI@ecrc.org)



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# INTRODUCTION

Section 601 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination “on the basis of race, color or national origin” in any “program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.” Other federal and state authorities prohibit discrimination on the basis of age, disability, religion, family status and income. The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 established that Title VI applies to all programs and activities of federal-aid recipients, sub-recipients and contractors whether those programs and activities are federally funded or not.

Title 49 CFR Section 21.9(b) requires recipients of federal financial assistance to submit reports to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in order for FTA to ascertain whether the recipient is in compliance with the DOT Title VI regulations, and recipients must have available “racial and ethnic data showing the extent to which members of minority groups are beneficiaries of programs receiving Federal financial assistance.” As stated in Chapter III of this Circular, FTA requires that all direct and primary recipients document their compliance by submitting a Title VI Program to their FTA regional civil rights officer once every three years, or as otherwise directed by FTA.

All Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) or Transportation Planning Organizations (TPO) are responsible for conducting planning activities that comply with 49 U.S.C. Section 5303, Metropolitan Transportation Planning, as well as subpart C of 23 CFR part 450, Metropolitan Transportation Planning and Programming, for a specified metropolitan planning area. Since States “pass through” planning funds to the MPO, MPOs are subrecipients of the State and must submit Title VI compliance reports for planning activities to the State in order to assist the State in demonstrating compliance with Title VI.



# OKALOOSA-WALTON TPO

## COOPERATIVE - COMPREHENSIVE - CONTINUING

The Okaloosa-Walton TPO is the local, intergovernmental transportation policy board for Okaloosa and Walton counties in Florida. In November 1976, the Pensacola MPO was created, under the authority of Chapter 163 of the Florida Statutes, as a mechanism to conduct a cooperative, comprehensive, and continuing planning process for the transportation needs of the Pensacola urbanized area. The MPO was a governing board of elected officials representing Escambia and Santa Rosa counties and the cities of Pensacola, Gulf Breeze, and Milton.

The transportation planning process blends technical analysis and input from public and private transportation partners to identify priorities, choices, and risks to the transportation system within the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) study area. It is also used to distribute resources for future investments. Long-range planning is required to be eligible for federal and state transportation funding assistance, given the vast amount of money invested in the system each year. A TPO is designated to carry out the metropolitan transportation planning process. This process is accomplished through a forum of COOPERATIVE, COMPREHENSIVE, and CONTINUING transportation decision making.

TPOs are established in a study area with a population of 50,000 or more, determined by the U.S. Census. The principal responsibilities of the Okaloosa-Walton TPO include the development of a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), a 20-year Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), a five-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), a Congestion Management Process (CMP), a Public Participation Plan (PPP), and related planning studies and projects deemed necessary to address transportation issues in the Okaloosa-Walton TPO study area.



# TPO STRUCTURE



## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

The Okaloosa-Walton TPO board is comprised of local government officials who make decisions regarding transportation at the regional level. The TPO works to increase safety, security, accessibility, mobility, and connectivity for people and goods. Membership of the Okaloosa-Walton TPO board is comprised of elected officials from the following municipalities:

### COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

4 Okaloosa County Commissioners  
3 Walton County Commissioners

### CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS OR MAYOR

3 seats City of Crestview  
2 seats City of Destin  
2 seats City of Ft. Walton Beach  
1 seat City of DeFuniak Springs  
1 seat City of Freeport  
1 seat City of Mary Esther  
1 seat City of Niceville  
1 seat City of Valparaiso

*The TPO board and advisory committees meet, at minimum, six times a year. The TPO board meets at 9 a.m. on the second Wednesday of the meeting month. The meeting locations currently alternate between Okaloosa and Walton counties in Florida. The TPO meeting schedule can be found online at [www.ecrc.org](http://www.ecrc.org). A print copy of the schedule is available upon request.*

# CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

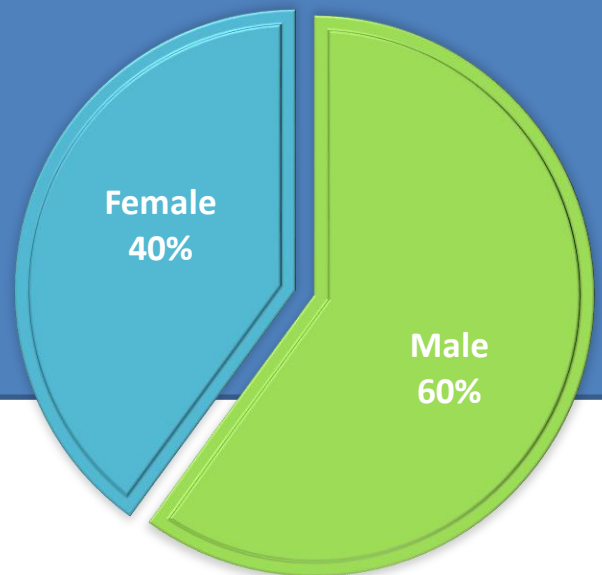
The Okaloosa-Walton CAC is comprised of members of the public who express an interest in transportation planning. Prospective members complete an application process and must be recommended for approval by the CAC and ultimately approved by the TPO board. Following approval, members serve at the pleasure of the TPO board.

*The CAC meets at 9:30 A.M. on the day of TPO meetings. CAC meetings are held at various locations throughout the TPO region. The CAC meeting schedule can be found online at [www.ecrc.org](http://www.ecrc.org). A print copy of the schedule is available upon request.*

## CAC MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION BY GENDER IDENTIFICATION AND RACE

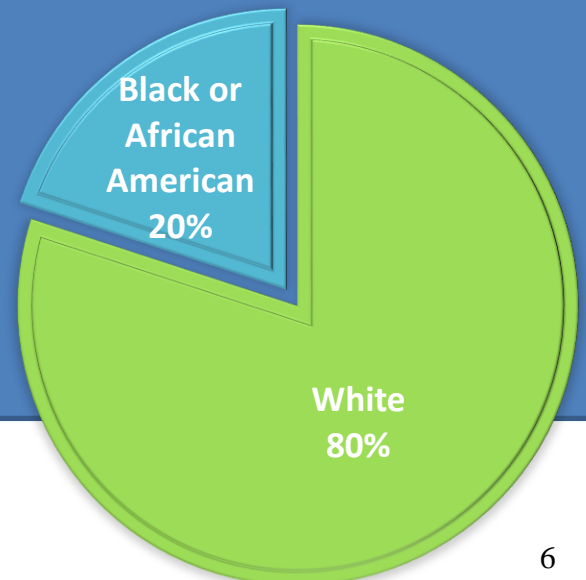
### OKALOOSA-WALTON TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE (CAC) SURVEY RESULTS

#### GENDER BREAKDOWN



### OKALOOSA-WALTON TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE (CAC) SURVEY RESULTS

#### RACIAL BREAKDOWN





# CAC MEMBERSHIP

To ensure geographical representation, each member of the TPO board will appoint a member to the CAC who is representative of his/her respective jurisdiction, representing citizens from their respective districts. An appointed CAC member's term will mirror the term of their appointing TPO board member. TPO staff will correspond with new elected officials selected to serve on the TPO board regarding the CAC membership recruitment process.

The appointment of CAC members, by TPO board members, will represent the Okaloosa-Walton TPO study area as follows:

- Okaloosa County
- Walton County
- City of Crestview
- City of Destin
- City of Ft. Walton Beach
- City of DeFuniak Springs
- City of Freeport
- City of Mary Esther
- City of Niceville
- City of Valparaiso

*\*\*The number of representatives for each area is based on population\*\**





# TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

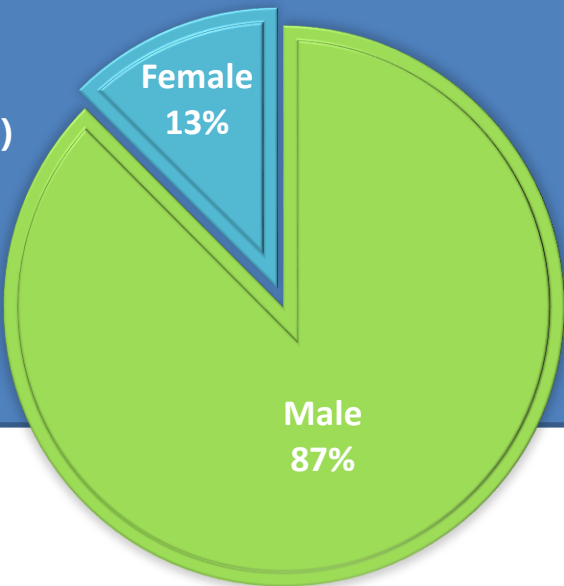
The Okaloosa-Walton TCC is comprised of local government technical staff. This committee participates in the planning process by providing technical advice to the TPO board.

The TCC meets at 1:30 PM on the day of TPO meetings. TCC meetings are held at various locations throughout the TPO boundary. The TCC meeting schedule can be found online at [www.ecrc.org](http://www.ecrc.org). A print copy of the schedule is available upon request.

## TCC MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION BY GENDER IDENTIFICATION AND RACE

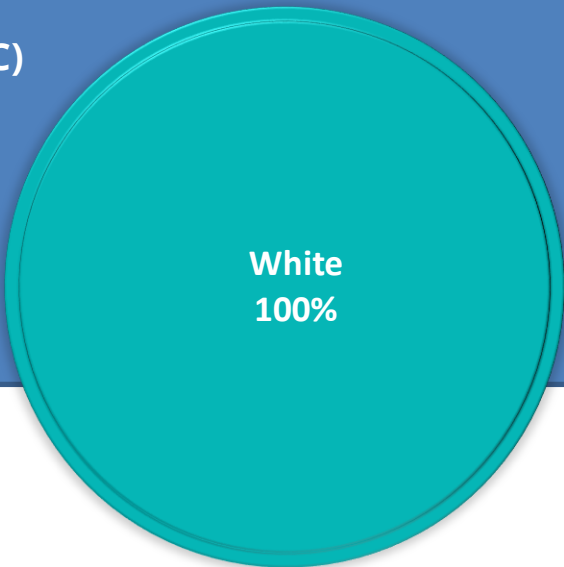
OKALOOSA-WALTON  
TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE (TCC)  
SURVEY RESULTS

GENDER BREAKDOWN



OKALOOSA-WALTON  
TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE (TCC)  
SURVEY RESULTS

RACIAL BREAKDOWN



# INTERESTED PARTIES

Subscribe here for [online](#) information regarding Okaloosa-Walton TPO meetings, plans, programs, or committees. All public meetings and workshops are noticed seven days in advance on the Okaloosa-Walton TPO website calendar, community calendars, and news release. Okaloosa-Walton TPO board, committee, and other public agendas and schedules can be found [online](#).

## STAKEHOLDERS

A stakeholder is defined as any person or group that is affected by transportation plans or programs, including those who may not be aware they are affected.

The following groups and individuals are considered stakeholders in the transportation planning process and the audience for various communication tools and outreach efforts:

- Transportation agencies; freight and passenger railroads; logistics providers
- Media
- Homeowners/neighborhood associations
- Civic and advocacy groups
- Business community
- Interested parties expressing an interest in transportation planning
- Area Chambers of Commerce and Economic Development Agencies
- Environmental groups
- Pedestrian and bicycle users
- Special populations and groups
- Large employers
- Boards of education
- Other stakeholders identified by the TPO in outreach efforts



# Okaloosa-Walton TPO Data Profile

## KEY FACTS



**278,777**

Total Population



**111,546**

Total Households



**2.44**

Average Household Size

## INCOME



**\$72,152**

Median Household Income



**\$41,766**

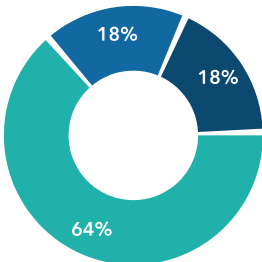
Per Capita Income



**8%**

Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP

## EMPLOYMENT



- White Collar
- Blue Collar
- Services

**3.1%**

Unemployment Rate

## EDUCATION



**94%**

High School Grad or Higher



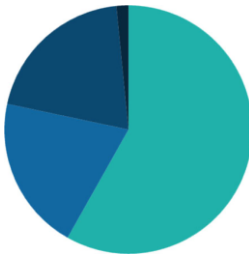
**37%**

Bachelor's Degree or Higher

## LANGUAGE

Population Age 5+ that Speaks a Language other than English at Home

**11.4%**



- Spanish
- Other Indo-European
- Asian and Pacific Island
- Other

## SPECIAL POPULATIONS



**20%**

Population Age 65+



**28%**

Households with 1+ Persons with a Disability

**21%**

Minority Population\*

**2%**

Owner Households with No Vehicles



**10%**

Renter Households with No Vehicles



Total Land Area (Square Miles):

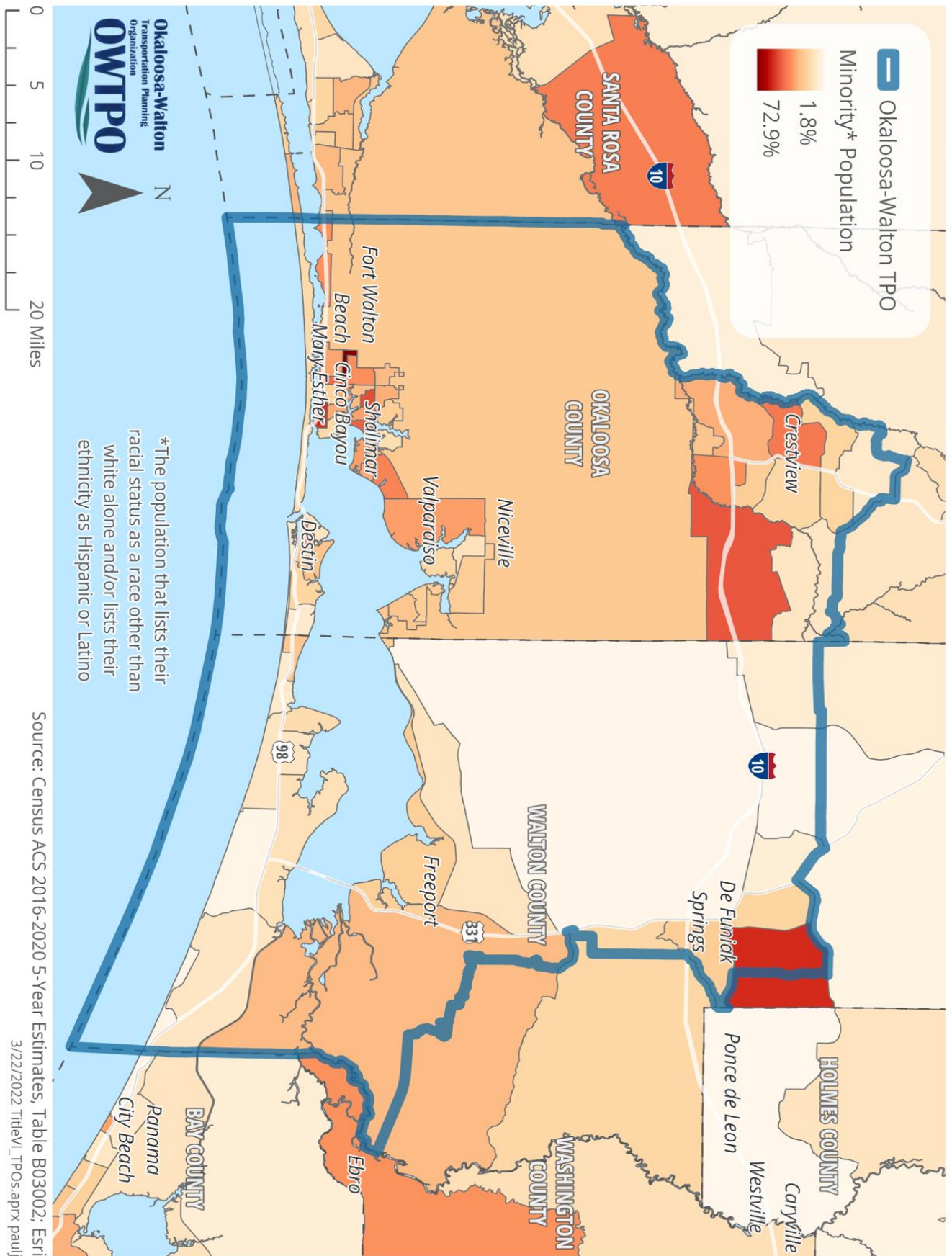
**1,126**

Okaloosa-Walton  
Transportation Planning  
Organization  
**OWTPO**

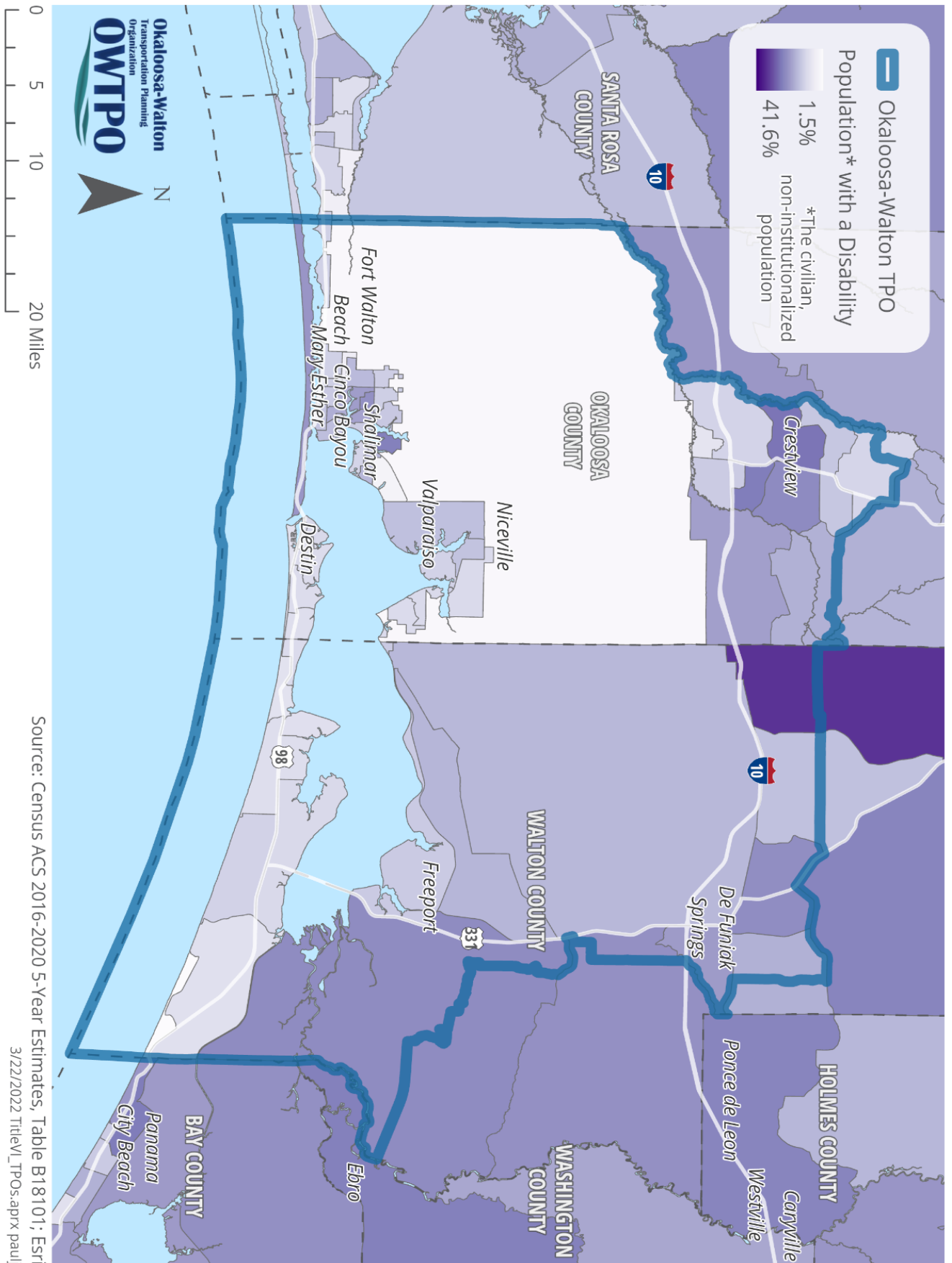
Source: 2023 Esri Estimates;  
Census ACS 5-Year Estimates 2017-2021 (food stamps, language, vehicles, disability)  
\*Minority population is the population that lists their racial status as a race other than white alone and/or lists their ethnicity as Hispanic/Latino.



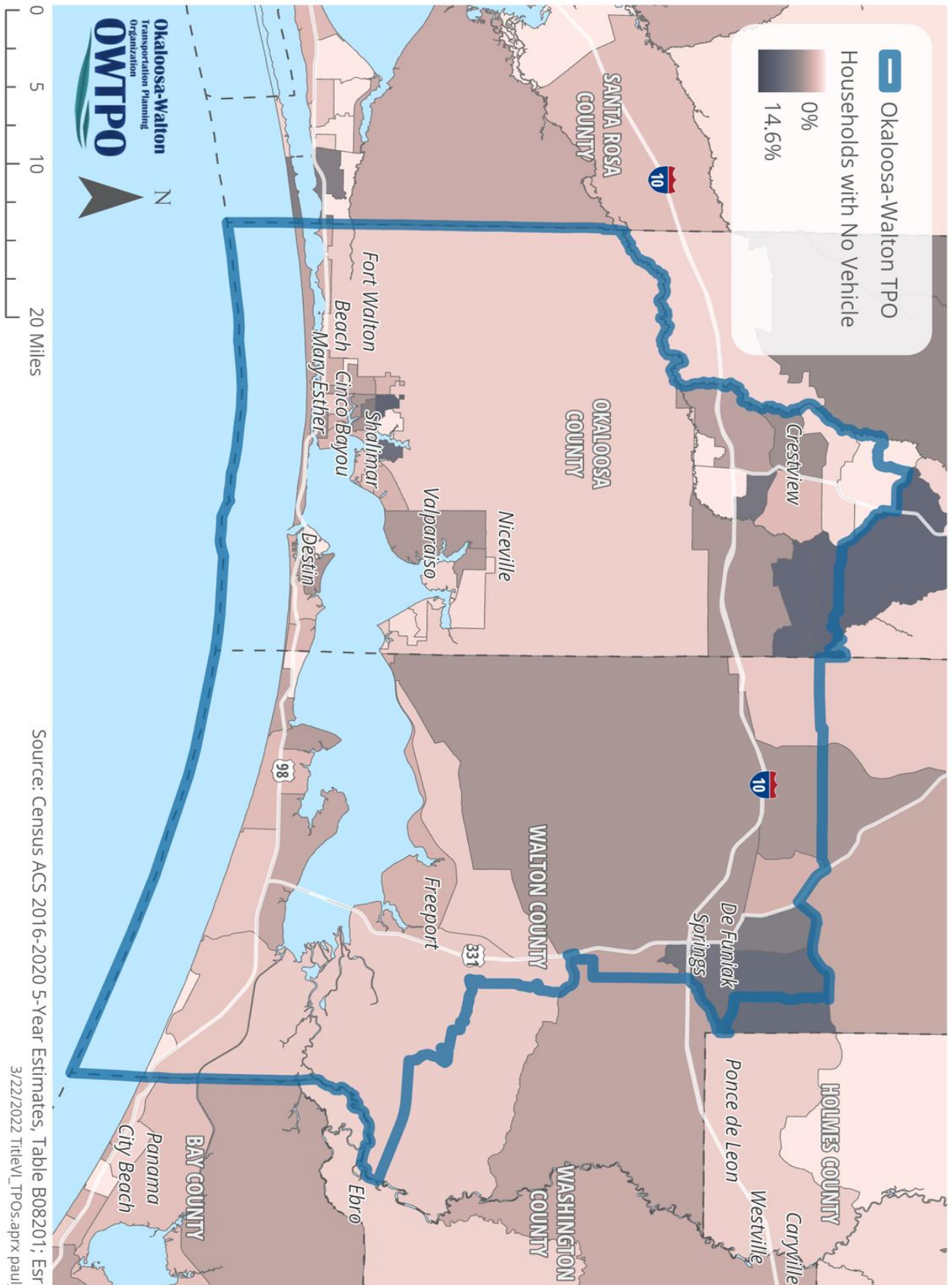
# MINORITY POPULATION BY CENSUS TRACT



# POPULATION WITH A DISABILITY BY CENSUS TRACT



# HOUSEHOLDS WITH NO VEHICLE BY CENSUS TRACT





# TITLE VI IN THE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS

The Okaloosa-Walton TPO created the Public Participation Plan (PPP) to provide guidelines for achieving optimal engagement of the public when developing major planning documents and programs. Quality public participation is solicited early and continues throughout the planning process, helping to avoid, minimize, and mitigate negative project impacts while providing the best solutions for the community. Public input is often used in the development of plan or program goals, objectives, criteria, and overall recommendations to the TPO board. The Okaloosa-Walton Public Participation Plan can be viewed in Appendix IV of this document.

The primary goals of the Okaloosa-Walton TPO PPP are to:

**Inform the Public:** *Inform the public, to the maximum extent possible with available resources, of opportunities to participate in the transportation decision-making process.*

**Involve the Public:** *Involve the public early and often in the transportation planning process.*

**Include the Public:** *Reach out to the geographical, organizational, and demographic communities that compose the TPO study area to increase the public's opportunity to participate in developing transportation plans and services.*

**Improve the Public Participation Process:** *Continually identify and implement ways to improve the public participation process.*

The PPP is assessed on a quarterly basis to ensure effectiveness as trends and technologies change. All major or minor changes proposed for the plan are reviewed annually and implementation of updates initiates a 45-day review period. Changes to the plan will be posted online. A link to the document with changes will be provided to the TPO board, advisory committees, interested parties, and partners.

The PPP is reviewed as part of the four-year certification process conducted by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA). This document, updated in 2019, based on feedback from the Federal Certification Review in 2018, is available online at [www.ecrc.org](http://www.ecrc.org) or by contacting Public Involvement at 850-332-7976.



# SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Each public participation process provides an opportunity to develop methods to reach traditionally underserved populations, such as minorities and low-income. Potential underserved populations may also include youth, persons with disabilities, and senior citizens.

## Identification of Special Populations

U.S. Census data is used to identify the Okaloosa-Walton TPO study area demographics which include, race, age, and limited English proficiency communities. Coordinating with agencies throughout the study area that serve special populations aids in the identification of traditionally underserved populations.

Outreach efforts are recorded via interactive map with demographic data and projects, with emphasized attention paid to special populations that may be affected as a result of plans and programs. Mapping this data shows corresponding projects relative to communities that would be most impacted and allows staff to identify populations most affected by the plans and programs.

The interactive map, along with U.S. Census demographic data, is also utilized to focus outreach efforts in communities of traditionally underserved and limited English proficiency populations. Enhanced outreach methods, such as community pop-up events, can be implemented to involve traditionally hard to reach populations in the transportation planning process. TPO staff diligently pursues representation, participation, and input from special populations. Special populations are encouraged to participate through outreach efforts in communities with a high concentration of minorities, correspondence with special population media outlets, and partnerships with agencies that serve special populations. Relationships with local special population community groups, such as the NAACP, Minority Chambers of Commerce, and cultural association, have proven particularly effective in reaching and encouraging participation of special populations.

Additionally, the bylaws of the [Citizen Advisory Committee](#) address diversity requirements for minority representation to ensure all members of the public have every opportunity to be involved in the transportation planning process.





# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

In 1994, a presidential executive order directed federal agencies to address the effects of all programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations.

The Okaloosa-Walton TPO's environmental justice initiatives accomplish this by adhering to three fundamental principles:

- 1.To avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse health and environmental effects (including social and economic) on minority populations and low-income populations
- 2.To ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process
- 3.To prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority and low-income populations

Properly implemented, environmental justice principles and procedures improve all levels of transportation decision-making. It enhances the public participation process, strengthens community-based partnerships, and provides minority and low-income populations with opportunities to improve the quality of transportation in their lives. Further, environmental justice assists to avoid disproportionately high and adverse impacts on underserved populations and mitigates avoidable negative impacts by identifying concerns early in the planning phases.

Any proposed projects entered into the Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) environmental screening tool allow for the opportunity to incorporate environmental considerations into transportation planning and engage resource agencies and support the environmental policy of FDOT "to help preserve and enhance Florida's natural, physical, cultural, and social environment as we develop, implement, and maintain transportation facilities and services" (Policy No.: 000- 625-001-I). The ETDM tool provides citizens with the opportunity to direct comments to FDOT, resource agencies, and other stakeholders. If there is a disparate impact to underserved populations, staff will focus outreach efforts on underserved communities and review alternative options.





# TITLE VI EQUITY ANALYSIS

Title 49 CFR, Appendix C, Section (3)(iv) requires that “the location of projects requiring land acquisition and the displacement of persons from their residences and business may not be determined on the basis of race, color, or national origin.” For purposes of this requirement, “facilities” does not include bus shelters, as they are considered transit amenities. It also does not include transit stations, power substations, or any other project evaluated by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Facilities included in the provision include, but are not limited to, storage facilities, maintenance facilities, operations centers, etc. In order to comply with the regulations, the Okaloosa-Walton TPO will ensure the following:

1. The Okaloosa-Walton TPO will complete a Title VI equity analysis for any facility during the planning stage with regard to where a project is located or sited to ensure the location is selected without regard to race, color, or national origin. The TPO will engage in outreach to persons potentially impacted by the siting of the facility. The Title VI equity analysis must compare the equity impacts of various sitting alternatives, and the analysis must occur before the selection of the preferred site.
2. When evaluating locations of facilities, the Okaloosa-Walton TPO will give attention to other facilities with similar impacts in the area to determine if any cumulative adverse impacts might result. Analysis should be done at the Census tract or block group level, where appropriate, to ensure that proper perspective is given to localized impacts.
3. If the Okaloosa-Walton TPO determines that the location of the project will result in a disparate impact on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, and/or family status, the TPO may only locate the project in that location if there is a substantial legitimate justification for locating the project there, and where there are no alternative locations that would have a less disparate impact on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, and/or family status. The Okaloosa-Walton TPO must demonstrate and document how both tests are met. The TPO will consider and analyze alternatives to determine whether those alternatives would have less of a disparate impact on the basis of race, color, or national origin, and then implement the least discriminatory alternative.

The Okaloosa-Walton TPO has not recently constructed any facilities, nor does it currently have any facilities in the planning stage. Therefore, the TPO does not have any Title VI Equity Analysis reports to submit with this plan. The Okaloosa-Walton TPO will utilize the demographic maps included in Appendix A for future Title VI analysis.



mobility needs. Each year the TPO goes through the Long Range Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Plan, and Project Priorities processes as well as other projects, such as Corridor Management Studies. The TPO also participates in the 5-year major update of the Transportation Development Plan (TDP). The TDP targets minority and LEP concentrated population areas for outreach and input in the process. The TPO uses ArcGIS software to map outreach efforts, demographic data, and currently prioritized projects to determine areas that need focus for inclusion in the transportation planning process. Minority, disability, and vehicle access density maps can be found in the Okaloosa-Walton TPO Area Demographic Profile section of this document, starting on page 8 of this document.

Vehicles Available by Household (Owner and Renter Occupied)		
Vehicles Available	Estimate	Percent
No Vehicle	4,231	44.3%
One Vehicle	31,408	31.7%

## PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

In the event the Okaloosa-Walton TPO acts as a primary recipient and passes funds to a sub-recipient, the TPO and sub-recipient will enter into an agreement for operation that lays out the specific duties of the TPO and sub recipient, budget and vehicles and equipment maintenance. Each quarter the sub recipient will submit a statement to the TPO. The TPO will then reimburse the sub-recipient for qualified amount and expenses. Should the need arise, the Okaloosa-Walton TPO will hold a competitive application process. In this process staff will reach out to service providers within the TPO boundary with a concentration on applicants that provide service to the minority population. Currently the Okaloosa-Walton TPO has no sub-recipients and has received no funding request. Should this change, the plan will be updated to reflect the updated information.



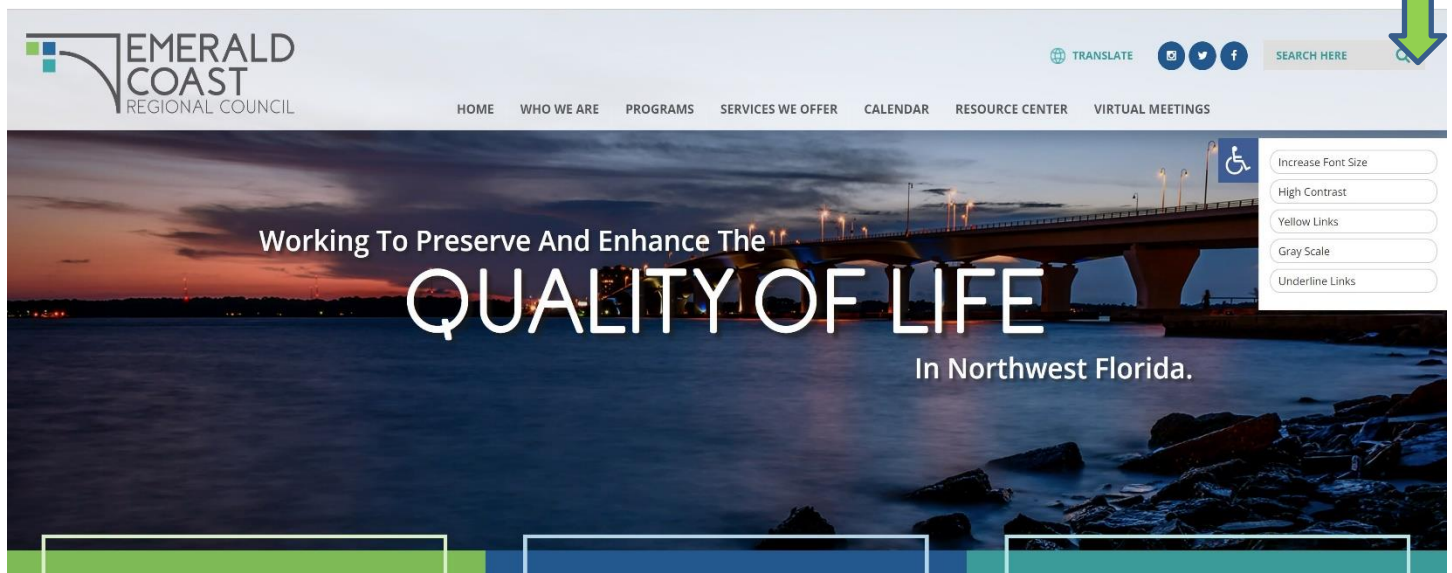


# PROGRAM INFORMATION ACCESSIBILITY

All documents, created and distributed by the Okaloosa-Walton TPO, are available in electronic, print, and/or translated forms upon request.

The Okaloosa-Walton TPO is committed to providing a website that is accessible to the widest possible audience, regardless of technology or ability. The TPO is actively working to increase the accessibility and usability of ECRC.org and program/project webpages, and in doing so adhere to many of the available standards and guidelines. The Okaloosa-Walton TPO endeavors to conform to level AA of the web content accessibility guidelines (WCAG) 2.1. These guidelines explain how to make web content more accessible for people with disabilities. Conformance with these guidelines will help make the internet user-friendly for all people. The Okaloosa-Walton TPO has built webpages using code compliant with the standards and displays correctly in current browsers. While the Okaloosa-Walton TPO strives to adhere to the accepted guidelines and standards for accessibility and usability, it is not always possible to do so in all areas of the website. The Okaloosa-Walton TPO continually seeks solutions that will bring all areas of the website up the same level of overall web accessibility. In the meantime, should any website users experience any difficulty in accessing information on the website, please contact staff at [PublicInvolvement@ecrc.org](mailto:PublicInvolvement@ecrc.org) or 850-332-7976, Florida TTY 711.

[www.ecrc.org](http://www.ecrc.org)





# TITLE VI PROGRAM STATEMENT

Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is the metropolitan planning organization for Okaloosa and Walton County. As a transportation planning organization, the Okaloosa-Walton TPO provides a forum for local elected officials, transportation experts and citizens to work together to improve mobility for residents, businesses and visitors. Recipients of federal funds, such as metropolitan planning organizations, must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other nondiscrimination requirements, ensuring that no person is subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion and family status in employment and the provision of government services. This requirement includes the creation of a Title VI Program, along with a regular review of its effectiveness and conformity with federal and state law. This Title VI Program works in concert with the organization's Public Involvement Plan and Limited English Proficiency Plan, which identify specific tactics for outreach and involvement (i.e. notification, information, and opportunities for diverse participation). The Okaloosa-Walton TPO Title VI Program is reviewed annually by the Florida Department of Transportation and every four years by the Federal Highway Administration.

***Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Age Discrimination Act of 1975; Section 324 of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973; Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987; the Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992***

The TPO is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any of its programs, activities, or services on the basis of race, color or national origin. All persons, regardless of their citizenship, are covered under this regulation. In addition, the TPO prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin in its employment and business opportunities.

The TPO will not condone retaliation against an individual for his/her involvement in asserting his/her rights pursuant to Title VI or because he/she filed a complaint or participated in an investigation under Title VI, and /or this regulation.

As a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) fund recipient, as well as a Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) fund recipient, the TPO will ensure that its programs, policies and activities comply with the both FTA and FDOT Title VI Regulations of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The TPO will submit its Title VI Program to the FTA once every three (3) years to ensure compliance with Title VI Requirements.

The TPO will maintain a list of any Title VI investigations, complaints, or lawsuits filed which allege the TPO discriminated against a person or group on the basis of race, color, or national origin. This list will include:

- a) The date the investigation, complaint, or lawsuit was filed
- a) A summary of the allegation(s)
- a) The status of the investigation, complaint, or lawsuit
- d. Any actions or corrective actions taken by the TPO in response to the investigation, complaint or lawsuit

The TPO will ensure that the level and quality of its transportation service is provided without regard to race, color or national origin.

The TPO will promote the full and fair participation of all affected populations in the transportation decision-making process.

The TPO will make good faith efforts to achieve environmental justice as part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, activities, and services on minority populations and low-income populations within the TPO's service area as provided herein.

The TPO will ensure that Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals have access to the TPO's programs, activities, and services.

The TPO will seek out and consider the viewpoints of minority, low-income and Limited English Proficient (LEP) populations in the course of conducting public outreach and involvement activities. The TPO's public participation strategy will offer early and continuous opportunities for the public to be involved in the identification of social, economic and environmental impacts of proposed transportation decisions.

The TPO will ensure that individuals have access to its programs, activities and services by developing and carrying out the language plan herein. The TPO will continually assess the language assistance needs of the population to be served.

The TPO will use the following four (4) factors to determine what measures must be undertaken to provide reasonable and meaningful access to LEP individuals:

- a) Languages likely to be encountered and the number or proportion of LEP persons in the eligible service population likely to be affected by the program, activity, or service
- a) Frequency with which LEP individuals come into contact with TPO programs, activities, and services
- a) Importance of the program, activity, or service provided by the TPO to LEP individual's lives

Resources needed to provide effective language assistance and costs.

The purpose of the document is to detail specific compliant procedures for better documentation efforts related to Title VI and related statutes.

## List of Locations Where Title VI Notice is Posted

Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization's Title VI notice to the public is currently posted at the following locations:

Location Name	Address
Emerald Coast Regional Council Pensacola Office	4081 E. Olive Rd. Pensacola, Suite A, Florida, 32514
Emerald Coast Regional Council Website	<a href="http://www.ecrc.org">www.ecrc.org</a>

*Such notices may also be posted or announced with local stakeholders and community centers. New locations may be added as needed.*



# **Title VI Public Notice (FTA Version in English & Spanish)**

## **Notifying the Public of Rights Under Title VI**

### **Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)**

- The TPO operates its programs and services without regard to race, color, and national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Any person who believes she or he has been aggrieved by any unlawful discriminatory practice under Title VI may file a complaint with the TPO.
- For more information on the TPO's civil rights program, and the procedures to file a complaint, contact 850-332-7976, ext. 220; email [leandra.meredith@ecrc.org](mailto:leandra.meredith@ecrc.org); or visit our administrative office at 4081 East Olive Road, Suite A, Pensacola, Florida 32514. For more information, visit [www.ecrc.org](http://www.ecrc.org).
- A complainant may file a complaint directly with the Federal Transit Administration by filing a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights, Attention: Title VI Program Coordinator, East building, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor-TCR, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20590.
- If information is needed in another language, contact 850-332-7976, ext. 220.
- Approved by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

## **Notificación al Público de Derechos Bajo el Título VI**

### **Okaloosa-Walton Organización de Planificación de Transporte (TPO)**

El TPO (por sus siglas en español) opera sus programas y servicios, sin distinción de raza, color y origen nacional, de conformidad con el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles. Cualquier persona que cree que él o ella ha sido agraviada por cualquier práctica discriminatoria ilegal bajo el Título VI, puede presentar una queja ante el TPO.

- Para obtener más información sobre el programa de derechos civiles del TPO, y los procedimientos para presentar una queja, contacte a 850-332-7976, ext. 220; [leandra.meredith@ecrc.org](mailto:leandra.meredith@ecrc.org) correo electrónico; o visite nuestra oficina administrativa en 4081 East Olive Road, Pensacola, Florida 32514. Para obtener más información, visite [www.ecrc.org](http://www.ecrc.org).
- El demandante puede presentar una queja directamente con la Administración Federal de Transporte mediante la presentación de una queja ante la Oficina de Derechos Civiles, Atención: Coordinador de Programa del Título VI, edificio Oriente, 5th Floor-TCR, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20590.
- Si se necesita información en otro idioma, llame al 850-332-7976, ext. 220.
- Aprobado por la Administración Federal de Tránsito (FTA)



## Title VI Public Notice (FDOT Version in English & Spanish)

### **Notifying the Public of Rights Under Title VI**

#### **Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)**

No person in the United States and State of Florida shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, handicap/disability, income status, retaliation, or other reason be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination or retaliation, under any Federally or non-federally funded activity or program administered by a recipient of federal financial assistance. Any person who believes he or she has been aggrieved by any unlawful discriminatory practice under Title VI may file a complaint with the TPO. For more information on Title VI or to file a complaint, contact the Title VI Coordinator at 850-332-7976, ext. 220 or visit [www.ecrc.org](http://www.ecrc.org).

Approved by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

### **Notificación al Público de Derechos Bajo el Título VI**

#### **Okaloosa-Walton Organización de Planificación de Transporte (TPO)**

Ninguna persona en los Estados Unidos será, sobre la base de raza, color u origen nacional, sexo, edad, hándicap/discapacidad, nivel de ingresos, represalias, or otro razón ser excluida de participar en, negado los beneficios de, o ser objeto de otro modo a discriminación o represalia, bajo cualquier actividad o programa federal o no fondos federales administrado por un receptor de la asistencia financiera federal. Cualquier persona que cree que él o ella ha sido agraviada por cualquier práctica discriminatoria ilegal bajo el Título VI, puede presentar una queja ante el TPO. Para obtener más información sobre el Título VI o para presentar una queja, comuníquese con el Coordinador del Título VI al 850-332-7976, ext. 220 o visite [www.ecrc.org](http://www.ecrc.org).

Aprobado por el Departamento de Transporte de la Florida (FDOT)

# TITLE VI COMPLAINT PROCEDURE & FORMS

The Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization abides by both the Federal Transit Administration and the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) Title VI/Nondiscrimination Programs. As a result, it is the policy of this agency, under ***Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Age Discrimination Act of 1975; Section 324 of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973; Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987; the Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992***, and related statutes and regulations, that no person in the United States shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability/handicap, or income status, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination or retaliation under any federally or non-federally funded program or activity administered by this agency or its sub-recipients.

Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against by the TPO, (hereinafter referred to as "TPO") may file a Title VI complaint by completing and submitting the TPO's Title VI Complaint Form. The Title VI Coordinator investigates complaints received no more than 180 days after the alleged incident. The Title VI Coordinator will only process complaints that are complete. The following procedures will be used to investigate formal Title VI complaints:

Once the complaint is received, the Title VI Coordinator will review it to determine if our office has jurisdiction. The complainant will receive an acknowledgement letter or email informing her/him whether the complaint will be investigated by our office. The complaint will be confidential.

The TPO has 60 days to investigate the complaint. If more information is needed to resolve the case, the Title VI Coordinator may contact the complainant. The complainant has 10 business days from the date of contact to send requested information to the investigator assigned to the case. If the investigator is not contacted by the complainant or does not receive the additional information within 10 business days, the Title VI Coordinator can administratively close the case. A case can be administratively closed also if the complainant no longer wishes to pursue their case.

After the investigator reviews the complaint, he/she will present the case to the TPO board only. The TPO will issue one of two determinations to the complainant: a closure letter/email or a letter/email of finding. A closure letter/email summarizes the allegations and states that there was not a Title VI violation and that the case will be closed. A letter/email of finding summarizes the allegations and the interviews regarding the alleged incident, and explains whether any disciplinary action, additional training of the staff member, or other action will occur. If the complainant wishes to appeal the decision, he/she has 30 days after the date of the determination letter/email to do so. The complaint case will be filed in the office electronically.

The person may also file a complaint directly with the Federal Transit Administration, at FTA Office of Civil Rights, East Building, 5th Floor TCR, 1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20590.

## COMPLAINT OF DISCRIMINATION

The Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization abides by both the Federal Transit Administration and the Florida Department of Transportation's Title VI/Nondiscrimination Programs. As a result, it is the policy of this agency, under ***Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Age Discrimination Act of 1975; Section 324 of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973; Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987; the Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992***, and related statutes and regulations, that no person in the United States shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability/handicap, or income status, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination or retaliation under any federally or non-federally funded program or activity administered by this agency or its sub-recipients.

### Section I:

Complainant(s) Name:

Complainant(s) Address:

Telephone (Home):

Telephone (Work):

Email Address:

Accessible Format  
Requirements:

Large Print ☐

TDD ☐

Audio Tape  
☐

Other ☐

### Section II:

Are you filing this complaint on your own behalf?

Yes\* ☐

No ☐

**\*If you answered "yes" to this question, go to Section III.**

If not, please supply the name and relationship of the person for whom you are complaining for:

Name:

Relationship:

Please explain why you have filed for a third party:

Please confirm that you have obtained the permission of the aggrieved party if you are filing on behalf of a third Party:

Yes ☐

No ☐

### Section III:

I believe the discrimination I experienced was based on (check all that apply):

☐ Race

☐ Color

☐ National Origin

☐ Sex

☐ Age

☐ Handicap/Disability

☐ Income Status

☐ Retaliation

☐ Other

Date of Alleged Discrimination:

Explain as clearly as possible what happened and why you believe you were discriminated against. Describe all persons who were involved. Include the name and contact information of the person(s) who discriminated against you (if known) as well as names and contact information of any witness. If more space is needed, please use back of this form.

### Section IV

Have you previously filed a Title VI complaint with this agency?

Yes ☐

No ☐



Section V	
Have you filed this complaint with any other Federal, State, or local agency, or with any Federal or State Court? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
If yes, check all that apply and list name of agency/court if known:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Agency: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Court: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> State Agency: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> State Court: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Local Agency: _____	
Section VI	
Please provide information about a contact person at the agency/court where the complaint was filed.	
Name: _____	Title: _____
Agency: _____	Telephone: _____
Address: _____	
You may attach any written materials or other information that you think is relevant to your complaint.	
Complainant(s) or Complainant(s) Representatives Signature: _____	Date of Signature: _____

**Please mail this form or submit this form in person to the address below:**

Okaloosa-Walton TPO  
Leandra Meredith, Title VI Coordinator  
4081 E. Olive Rd. Pensacola, Florida 32514

(850) 332-7976, Ext. 220 phone (850) 637-1923 fax  
[leandra.meredith@ecrc.org](mailto:leandra.meredith@ecrc.org)

Internal Use Only		
Date Complaint Was Received: _____	Date Investigation Was Completed: _____	Investigator Assigned: _____

## COMPLAINT OF DISCRIMINATION

La Organización de Planificación de Transporte del permanece tanto por la Administración Federal de Tránsito y el Departamento de Programas Título / No Discriminación VI de Transporte de la Florida. Como resultado de ello, es la política de este organismo, en el **Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964; Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973; Ley de Discriminación por Edad de 1975; Sección 324 de la Ley Federal de Carreteras-Aid de 1973; Ley de Restauración de Derechos Civiles de 1987; la Ley de Derechos Civiles de Florida de 1992**, y los estatutos y reglamentos relacionados, que ninguna persona en los Estados Unidos será, sobre la base de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, edad, discapacidad / impedimento o estado de ingresos, ser excluido de la participación en, ser negado los beneficios de, o ser sujeto de otro modo a discriminación o represalia bajo cualquier programa no federal con fondos federales o actividad administrada por esta agencia o sus sub-receptores.

### Sección I:

Nombre Del Demandante:

Dirección Del Demandante:

Teléfono (Casa):

Teléfono (Trabajo):

Dirección De Correo Electrónico:

Requisitos formato  
accessible:

Letra Grande ☐

TDD ☐

Audio Tape ☐

Otro ☐

### Sección II:

¿Está presentando esta queja en su propio nombre?

**\*Si usted contestó "sí" a esta pregunta,  
vaya a la Sección III.**

Sí\* ☐

No ☐

Si no es así, por favor provea el nombre y la relación de la persona a la que usted se está quejando por:

Nombre:

Relación:

Por favor, explique por qué usted ha presentado por una tercera persona:

Por favor, confirma que ha obtenido el permiso de la parte perjudicada, si usted está presentando en nombre de un tercero:

Si ☐

No ☐

### Sección III:

Creo que la discriminación que experimenté fue basado en (marque todo lo que corresponda):

☐ Raza

☐ Color

☐ Origen Nacional

☐ Sexo

☐ Edad

☐ Handicap/Discapacidad

☐ Estado de Ingresos

☐ Represalias

☐ Otro

Fecha de la  
Discriminación Presunta:

Explique lo más claramente posible lo que pasó y por qué cree que fue discriminado. Describa todas las personas que estuvieron involucradas. Incluya el nombre y la información de contacto de la persona (s) que lo discriminó (si se conoce), así como los nombres y la información de los testigos en contacto. Si se necesita más espacio, por favor use el reverso de este formulario.

<b>Sección IV</b>		
¿Ha presentado previamente una queja del Título VI con esta agencia?		Si <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sección V</b>		
¿Ha presentado esta queja ante cualquier otro, estatal o agencia local Federal, o ante cualquier tribunal federal o estatal?		Si <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
En caso afirmativo, marque todo lo que corresponda:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Agencia federal _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribunal Federal: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agencia Estatal: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribunal Estatal: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agencia Local: _____		
<b>Sección VI</b>		
Por favor provea información sobre una persona de contacto en la agencia/tribunal donde se presentó la denuncia.		
Nombre:	Título:	
Agencia:	Teléfono:	
Dirección:		
Puede adjuntar cualquier material escrito o cualquier otra información que usted piensa que es relevante para su queja.		
Demandante (s) o recurrente (s) Representantes Firma Del:		Fecha de la firma:

**Por favor envíe este formulario en persona en la dirección abajo, o envíe este formulario a:**

Okaloosa-Walton TPO  
 Leandra Meredith Coordinador del Título VI  
 4081 E. Olive Rd. Pensacola, Florida 32401

(850) 332-7976 Teléfono (850) 637-1923 Fax  
 leandra.meredith@ecrc.org

<b>Sólo para uso interno:</b>		
Fecha De Recibimiento por Okaloosa-Walton TPO:	Fecha De La Investigación Completada:	Investigador Asignado:



# TITLE VI COMPLAINTS, INVESTIGATIONS & LAWSUITS

There have been no Title IV complaints, investigations, or lawsuits, filed with the Okaloosa-Walton TPO.

<i>Type of Process</i>	<i>Date*</i>	<i>Summary**</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Action(s) Taken</i>
<i>Investigations</i>				
1.				
<i>Lawsuits</i>				
1.				
<i>Complaints</i>				
1.				

\*Month, Day, and Year

\*\*Including basis of complaint: race, color, national origin, sex, age, handicap/disability, income status, retaliation, or other)

## LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE PLAN

The TPO will seek out and consider the viewpoints of minority, low-income and Limited English Proficient (LEP) populations in the course of conducting public outreach and involvement activities. The TPO's public participation strategy will offer early and continuous opportunities for the public to be involved in the identification of social, economic and environmental impacts of proposed transportation decisions.

The TPO will ensure that individuals have access to its programs, activities and services by developing and carrying out the language plan. The TPO will continually assess the language assistance needs of the population to be served. The TPO will use the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) Four-Factor LEP Analysis to determine appropriate measures to provide reasonable and meaningful access to LEP individuals.

The baseline analysis of minority and disadvantaged populations in the Okaloosa-Walton TPO boundary is derived from the U.S. Census Bureau data. The following table and maps provide a county-by-county snapshot.

# FOUR-FACTOR ANALYSIS

## Factor One: Demographics

The first part of the organization's self-assessment involves data on the number of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) persons eligible to be served, likely to be served, or likely to be encountered by the organization through programs, services, or activities. The Okaloosa-Walton TPO collects data related to language from several sources. The broadest data available to the organization is compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau in the American Community Survey.

Of persons that speak a language other than English, data on the percentage of those individuals who also reported they speak English "less than very well" is of particular importance in identifying those likely to be encountered by the organization or eligible for language assistance.

Persons Speaking English "not well" or "not at all" (Age 5+)
TPO Area Total
0.9%

English Language Proficiency for Okaloosa-Walton Area Residents age 5+			
Language Spoken	Person Speaking English Less Than Very Well	% of LEP Population	% of Okaloosa-Walton Area Population
Spanish	2,575	67.9%	1.1%
Other Indo-European Languages	717	18.9%	0.3%
Asian and Pacific Island Languages	503	13.3%	0.2%
Other Languages - Various	0	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,795</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>

Based on the information in the table above, Spanish, Asian and Pacific Island languages are the highest LEP population at over 1000 individuals in each category. Due to the diversity of Asian and Pacific Island languages the TPO will provide translated material upon request in a timely and efficient manner. The TPO will provide Spanish translated material for core documents and outreach material.

## Additional Data:

The Okaloosa-Walton TPO maintains records of additional data to track limited English proficiency needs. Though results are not formal, the data does provide a timely snapshot of current requests and activities related to language assistance. Given the time between U.S. Census Bureau reports, this information can provide a timelier indication of shifts in the community's demographic makeup.

Years	Category	Results
2019-2022	Public Hearing: Request for translation	0
2019-2022	Public Hearing: Comments submitted in a language other than English	0
2019-2022	General Inquiries: Request for information in another language	0

## Factor Two: Frequency of Contact

Though the Okaloosa-Walton TPO has regular public hearings, board meetings and committee meetings throughout the year, community outreach is the main source of contact (or potential contact) between the organization and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Persons. As a result, the frequency of contact is difficult to anticipate.

The organization's Public Involvement Plan notes a special emphasis on community outreach opportunities that engage traditionally underserved populations.

Contact Initiated/Administered by the Okaloosa-Walton TPO		
Program/Activity	Frequency	Resources Available
Board Meetings	Five to Six times per year	Bilingual employees, Special assistance notice in meeting public notices, LEP notice on all agendas, case-by-case response
Committee Meetings	Five to six times per year	Bilingual employees, Special assistance notice in meeting public notice, LEP notice on all agendas, case-by-case response
Community Events	The Okaloosa-Walton TPO strives to do at least two community events per year.	Bilingual employees, Spanish language materials, and "I speak" Cards
Public Hearings/Workshops	Varies depending on project	Bilingual employees, Special assistance notice in meeting public notice, LEP notice on all agendas, case-by-case response

## **Factor Three: Importance of Program**

Transportation planning organizations receive funds to develop transportation plans for a designated urban area. The planning process is guided by federal and state law, including public involvement requirements to ensure diverse public outreach, notice, and opportunities for input.

The planning process does not include any direct service or program that requires vital, immediate or emergency assistance, such as medical treatment or services for basic needs (like food or shelter). Additionally, Okaloosa-Walton TPO does not require documents, such as completed application, for public participation. However, determining whether materials, information, and/or notification related to an action is “vital”, the absences of direct services or application requirements is not the only consideration.

Future transportation projects and investments are shaped by three distinct plans developed by the Okaloosa-Walton TPO:

- 1. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**
- 2. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)**
- 3. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Given the impact of these plans on northwest Florida’s future transportation system, the Okaloosa-Walton TPO places a special emphasis on language assistance for educational materials and public input tools related to the Transportation Improvement Program, the Long Range Transportation Plan, and the Unified Planning Work Program. These tools are often helpful with outreach related to other programs and studies.

While meaningful access for all participants and the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) population is the intent behind services identified in this plan, the availability of resources may limit the language services in some areas. Additionally, services provided one year may not be possible in a future year because of available resources.

Language assistance involving notification of services, translation of public input forms and/or surveys related to a formal public hearing, and maintenance of the translated documents online have high priority. Other activities, such as community events, optional meetings, and specialized speakers have a lower priority if/when resources preclude the organization from executing all language assistance options.



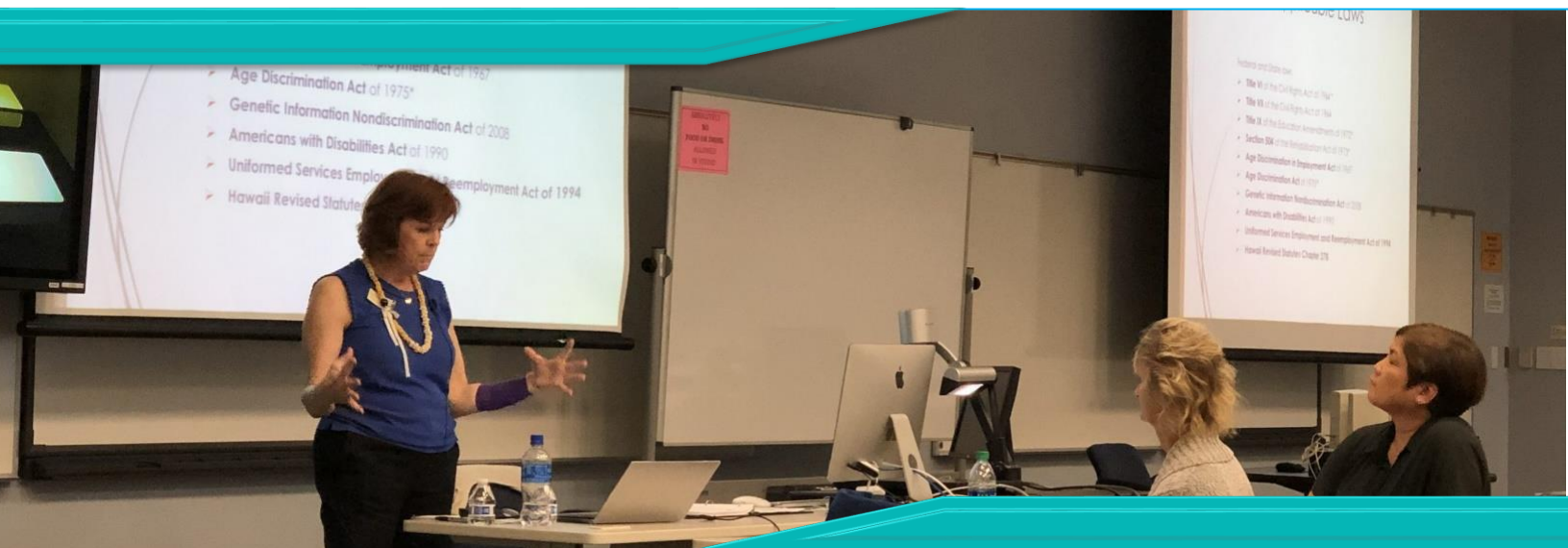
## Factor Four: Resources

In developing the Limited English Proficiency Plan, the Okaloosa-Walton TPO has identified resources for potential recipients and associated costs for services. The organization maintains a file with specific contact information for service providers and volunteer-based programs, allowing timely updates. Cost are often determined by the type and scope of services provided. As a result, some resources list “indeterminable” as an associated cost until a specific project is identified.

Resources and Associated Cost		
Resource	Associated Cost	Application
Translation (General)	\$29.00 per page *estimate	Translation services for standard forms and documents. Outside services and bilingual staff
Interpretation Services	\$75-\$100 per hour *minimum of 2 hours	Services for public meetings. Outside services and bilingual staff
Notice	Indeterminable	Notification of availability of free language services to LEP persons is included within meeting notices. Notification is also sent to other language publications in the TPO area.
“I Speak” Cards	Printing Cost, Vary	“I Speak” cards are available at all outreach events and public meetings.

## Title VI Training

A region-wide Title VI training is held every other year for TPO and local municipal staff. This training traditionally provides an overview of Title VI policy, updated requirements, and real-world exercises. Annually, staff reviews the Title VI program and provides updated resources, policy, and procedure to internal staff. Annual review details can be found on page 34 of this document.



# LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE

The Language Assistance Plan provides an implementation process to address appropriate language needs identified in the organization's self-assessment, completed in the previous Four Factor Analysis section of this document.

## Goals

- Provide meaningful access to vital Okaloosa-Walton TPO programs and services for the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) population identified using the four-factor analysis presented in the previous section of this document.
- Identify various resources, with or without associated costs, to ensure the organization can balance meaningful access to programs and services, while not incurring undue burdens on financial resources
- Complete plan updates every three years and staff reviews annually to ensure resources identified remain consistent with identified needs.

Services and Resources		
Area	Service	Description
Notification	Print Publication	Special assistance notice in public meeting notices, LEP-specific notice on all agendas, targeted ads in other language publications (when vital)
	Website	LEP-specific notice webpage and on TPO webpage
	Internal Partners	Access to notification resources of all members of the Okaloosa-Walton TPO partnership
	Direct Mail	On request, ability to customize direct mail by requested language
Outreach Material	General Brochures	General information brochures available in Spanish and other languages upon requested
	Community Survey	Customized language specific surveys available upon request
	Targeted Forms	Complaint form available in Spanish, "I Speak" cards available to identify additional language needs
Public Hearing	Overview Material	Bilingual employees, Spanish language brochures, Spanish language forms, news release for public hearings sent to other language publications, "I Speak" cards.
Bilingual Employees	Miscellaneous	Currently the Okaloosa-Walton TPO has two bilingual employees on staff who communicate in English and Spanish

## Outside Translation Providers

Okaloosa-Walton TPO staff maintains a more detailed list of contact information for translation and ADA services. A brief list is below:

Outside Translation/Service Provider	
Provider	Service/Translation Provided
Sign Language Services, Inc.	Sign Language Interpretation
Interpreting Associates, LLC.	Sign Language Interpretation
GSID	Sign Language Interpretation
Professional Interpreting Service for the Deaf, Inc.	Sign Language Interpretation
Alliance Services	Document Translation (any language)
Technical Translation	Document Translation (any language)
Escambia County Area Transit	ADA Information
Center for Independent Living	ADA Information
UWF Student Disability Center	ADA Information
Escambia County	ADA and Community Information

*Information in the above list is updated and verified annually.*



# ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

The Okaloosa-Walton TPO staff must assess the effectiveness of Title VI and LEP procedures and strategies to ensure that funds and time are well invested, and public participation goals are achieved without discrimination. It is standard practice that all TPO plans and programs require an evaluation of public outreach activities on a quarterly basis. If the assessment reveals that the public participation goals are not being achieved, the techniques may be modified or changed. Quarterly assessment meetings are held internally for transportation and other program staff to assess all outreach opportunities and plan or program specific goals. The assessment meetings give staff an opportunity to develop, evaluate, and modify goals. The Title VI Program will be evaluated on an annual basis in coordination with public outreach.

## TITLE VI EVALUATION METRICS

The Okaloosa-Walton TPO's Title VI activities can be evaluated through numerous methods. Currently, the TPO tracks the following metrics:

- Number of complaints received
- Number of translation request
- Number of special population outreach opportunities
- Estimated special population reach

## ANNUAL REVIEW AND UPDATES

This plan will be updated every three (3) years to: (1) ensure compliance with federal and state law, (2) update demographic statistics to accurately track northwest Florida's population and language needs, (3) confirm the Okaloosa-Walton TPO's commitment to providing services for persons with limited English proficiency, and (4) provide an assessment of the plan's effectiveness in addressing nondiscrimination objectives. The plan will be reviewed annually by staff to ensure effectiveness and to implement minor updates, as needed. This annual review is done by using the Annual Title VI Program Review Checklist found in appendix II of this document.





# APPENDIX I: SIGNED RESOLUTION

## RESOLUTION O-W 23-21

**A RESOLUTION OF THE OKALOOSA-WALTON  
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE AND APPROVAL OF THE UPDATED  
TITLE VI AND NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY AND PLAN  
INCLUDING LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) MAJOR UPDATE**

---

**WHEREAS**, the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization designated by the Governor of the State of Florida as being responsible with the State of Florida, for carrying out the continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process for the Okaloosa-Walton TPO Planning Area; and

**WHEREAS**, the Okaloosa-Walton TPO is the recipient of State and Federal grant funds for Public Transportation in the Okaloosa and Walton County Urbanized Area; and

**WHEREAS**, State and Federal grants impose certain obligations; and

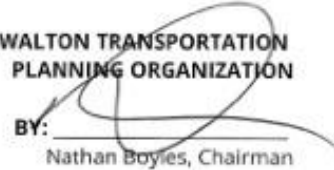
**WHEREAS**, in order for the TPO to continue receiving and utilizing State and Federal grant funds, it is necessary to update the Title VI and Nondiscrimination Policy and Plan Including Limited English Proficiency (LEP);

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE OKALOOSA-WALTON COUNTY  
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (TPO) THAT:**

The TPO authorizes the TPO chair to sign and approve the 2023 Title VI and Nondiscrimination Policy and Plan Including Limited English Proficiency (LEP) major update.

Passed and duly adopted by the Okaloosa-Walton County Transportation Planning Organization on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of August 2023.

**OKALOOSA-WALTON TRANSPORTATION  
PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**BY:**   
Nathan Boyles, Chairman

**ATTEST:** 

# APPENDIX II:

## ANNUAL TITLE VI PROGRAM REVIEW CHECKLIST

### Annual Title VI/ADA and LEP Review Checklist

\_\_\_Has the information been placed in a visible location?

Actions taken to comply:

---

---

\_\_\_If such information is available, are staff members aware that they have this information?

Actions taken to comply:

---

---

\_\_\_Are announcements and virtual attendee dialogue audible?

Actions taken to comply:

---

---

\_\_\_Are any announcements, such as security awareness announcements, able to be made in languages other than English?

Actions taken to comply:

---

---

\_\_\_Does the station display information or instructions using pictographs?

Actions taken to comply:

---

---

\_\_\_Are "I Speak" cards taken to community meetings?

Actions taken to comply:

---

---

\_\_\_Are translated versions of any written materials available on request?

Actions taken to comply:

---

---

\_\_\_Can members of the public provide oral as well as written comments?

Actions taken to comply:

---

---

\_\_\_Do meeting notices, press releases, and public service announcements include the translation services statement?

Actions taken to comply:

---

---

\_\_\_Does the agency website have a link to requesting translation service request on its home page?

Actions taken to comply:

---

---

\_\_\_Does the agency have the most current LEP data available reflected in the process plan?

Actions taken to comply:

---

---

\_\_\_Is the current plan still effective for the current LEP data?

Actions taken to comply:

---

---

Title VI Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Review: \_\_\_\_\_

# APPENDIX III: DEFINITIONS

**Adverse Effect** means having a harmful or undesired effect.

**Age** means the length of existence extending from the beginning to any given time.

**Color** means the natural appearance of a person's skin.

**Disability** means a condition of being unable to perform a task or function because of a physical or mental impairment.

**Discrimination** refers to any act or inaction, whether intentional or unintentional, in any program or activity of a Federal aid recipient, sub-recipient, or contractor that results in disparate treatment, disparate impact, or perpetuates the effects of prior discrimination based on race, color, or national origin.

**Handicap** means a person who has some condition that markedly restricts their ability to function physically or mentally or socially.

**Income** means the amount of money or its equivalent received during a period of time in exchange for labor or services, from the sale of goods or property, or as profit from financial investments.

**Limited English Proficient (LEP) Persons** are individuals for whom English is not their primary language and who have a limited ability to speak, understand, read, or write English. It includes people who reported to the U.S. Census that they do not speak English well or do not speak English at all.

**Low-Income Population** means any readily identifiable groups of low-income individuals who live in geographic proximity, and if circumstances warrant, geographically dispersed transient persons who will be similarly affected by a proposed DOT program, policy, or activity.

**A Minority Person** is a citizen of the United States whose race or ethnicity is a non-dominant race within the group. In the United States, racial/ethnic minorities are generally considered to include Hispanic/Latinos, African Americans, Asians, Native Americans, Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders, and those of two or more races.

**African American or Black** is a US citizen who has origins in any of the African racial groups of Africa and is regarded as such by the community of which the person claims to be a part.

**American Indian and Alaska Native**, which refers to people having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintain tribal affiliation or community attachment.

**Asian**, which refers to people having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent.

**Hispanic or Latino**, which includes people of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.



**Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders**, which refers to people having origins in any of the original people of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

**National Origin** means the particular nation in which a person was born, or where the person's parents or ancestors were born.

**Race** A term used to describe a group of people who share physical characteristics, such as skin color and facial features. They may also share similar social or cultural identities and ancestral backgrounds. There are many racial groups, and a person may belong to or identify with more than one group.

**Recipient** means one that has received or is receiving Federal financial assistance. The term includes sub-recipients of a recipient and sub-recipients in FTA State administered programs.

**Retaliation** is any adverse action taken against another individual because of his/her participation in the complaint, investigation, or hearing relating to this policy or the provision of federal or state law.

**Sex** means the differentiation between a male and female with reference to the reproductive organs.

**Vital Documents** are documents that convey information that critically affects the ability of the customer to make informed decisions about his/her participation in the program (e.g., public notices, consent forms, complaint forms, eligibility rules, notices pertaining to the reduction, denial or termination of services or benefits, right to appeal, and notices informing customers of the availability of free language assistance).

# APPENDIX IV: OKALOOSA-WALTON TPO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

The Okaloosa-Walton Public Participation Plan can be found online via this link [https://files.ecrc.org/document\\_center](https://files.ecrc.org/document_center) or by clicking the image below. It can also be found under the Documents dropdown tab on the OW TPO Webpage found here: [https://www.ecrc.org/programs/public\\_involvement/okaloosa-walton\\_tpo](https://www.ecrc.org/programs/public_involvement/okaloosa-walton_tpo)

Please contact [public involvement staff](#) to obtain a print copy of the document.



OKALOOSA-WALTON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN**  
STAFFED BY THE EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

# Title VI and Non-Discrimination Policy Statement



The Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is the metropolitan planning organization for Okaloosa and Walton counties. As a metropolitan planning organization, the Okaloosa-Walton TPO provides a forum for local elected officials, transportation experts, and citizens to work together to improve mobility for residents, businesses, and visitors. Recipients of federal funds, such as metropolitan planning organizations, must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other nondiscrimination authorities. This ensures that no person is subjected to discrimination on the basis of: race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, and/or family status in employment and/or the provision of government services. This requirement includes the creation of a Title VI Nondiscrimination Plan, along with a regular review of effectiveness and conformity with federal and state law.

The Okaloosa-Walton TPO Title VI Nondiscrimination Plan works parallel to the TPO's Public Involvement Plan which identifies specific tactics for outreach and involvement (i.e. notification, information, and opportunities for diverse participation).

The Okaloosa-Walton TPO is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any of its programs, activities, or services on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, and/or family status. All persons, regardless of their citizenship, are covered under this regulation. In addition, the TPO prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, and/or family status in its employment and business opportunities.

The Okaloosa-Walton TPO will not condone retaliation against an individual for asserting his/her rights pursuant to Title VI or because he/she filed a complaint or participated in an investigation under Title VI, and/or this regulation.

The Okaloosa-Walton TPO will maintain a list of any Title VI investigations, complaints, or lawsuits filed which allege the TPO discriminated against a person or group on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, and/or family status. This list will include: The date the investigation, complaint, or lawsuit was filed; A summary of the allegation(s); The status of the investigation, complaint, or lawsuit; and Any actions or corrective actions taken by the TPO in response to the investigation, complaint, or lawsuit.

The Okaloosa-Walton TPO will ensure that the level and quality of its transportation service is provided without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, and/or family status.

The Okaloosa-Walton TPO will promote the full and fair participation of all affected populations in the transportation decision-making process.

The Okaloosa-Walton TPO will make good faith efforts to achieve environmental justice as part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, activities, and services on minority populations and low-income populations within the TPO service area as provided herein.

The Okaloosa-Walton TPO will ensure that Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals have access to TPO programs, activities, and services.

The Okaloosa-Walton TPO will seek out and consider the viewpoints of minority, low-income, and Limited English Proficient (LEP) populations in the course of conducting public outreach and involvement activities. The TPO's public participation strategy will offer early and continuous opportunities for the public to be involved in the identification of social, economic, and environmental impacts of proposed transportation decisions.

The Okaloosa-Walton TPO will ensure that individuals have access to TPO programs, activities and services by developing and carrying out the language plan herein. The TPO will continually assess the language assistance needs of the population to be served. The purpose of the Title VI document is to detail specific compliant procedures for better documentation efforts related to Title VI and related statutes.

by  \_\_\_\_\_, Chief Executive Officer

Dated 5-12-23 \_\_\_\_\_