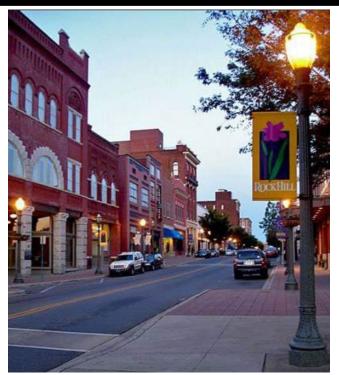


2023

Nondiscrimination Program Plan City of Rock Hill







October 2023

Table of Contents

Contents	1
Section 1: Introduction	4
Section 2: Background	4
City of Rock Hill	4
Water and Sewer Department	4
Federal Nondiscrimination Laws	5
Section 3: City of Rock Hill's Nondiscrimination Program	6
Overview	6
Notice of Discrimination	6
Notice to the Public	6
Title VI Coordinator Responsibilities	7
Section 4: Program Details	8
Complaint Procedure and Form	8-11
Complaints Lawsuits and Investigations	11
Organization and Staffing	11-13
Public Participation Plan	14-15
Public Information and Notifications	13
Meeting Locations	14
Public Meeting Forums	14
Websites	14
Community Events	15
Outreach to Community Groups	15
Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan	16-25
Federal Requirements	16
The Need for a Limited English Proficiency Plan	16
Elements of an Effective LEP Plan	16
The "Four Factor Analysis"	18-26
Factor 1	18-20
Factor 2	21-22
Factor 3	22-23

Factor 4	23
LEP Plan Conclusion	23
Implementing the LEP Plan	23
LEP Plan Staff Training	24-25
Safe Harbor	25
Demographic Information of Non-Elected Committees and Council	26-27
Sub-recipient Title VI Program	27
Sub-recipient Performance Monitoring	28
Service Standards and Policies for My Ride Rock Hill	28
Vehicle Load Factor	30
Vehicle Headways	30
On-Time Performance	30
Service Availability	30-31
Distribution of Transit Amenities	31
Vehicle Assignments	31-32
Demographic and Service Maps	31
Demographic Ridership and Travel Patterns	31
Monitoring Report of Service Standards and Policies	31-32
Public Engagement Process for Recipient's Title VI Policies	33
Results of Service and Fare Equity Analyses	33
City Management Approval of the Title VI Program	33
Conclusion	33
Appendices	34-53
Appendix A - FTA Certification and Assurances	34-36
Appendix B - Standard U.S. DOT and EPA Title VI Assurances	37-38
Appendix C - Map of Rock Hill Urbanized Area	39
Appendix D - Fare Increase / Major Service Reductions	40
Appendix E – Discrimination Complaint Form (English)	41-42
Appendix F – Discrimination Complaint Form (Spanish)	43-44
Appendix G – Discrimination Complaint Log	45
Appendix H – Staff Training, Title VI Fact Sheet	46



TITLE VI PROGRAM UPDATE

I. Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 601 states: No person in the United States shall, on the grounds 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 financial assistance (42 U.S.C. Section 2000d).

The Age Discrimination Act of 1975 prohibited exclusion based on age, and Title 23 USC 324 added that no person should be excluded from participation on the basis of sex. The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 reemphasized all of the anti-discrimination laws and the applicability to federal programs.

Additionally, by participating in the Federal Transit Administration (FTA, Section 5307 Program) and the Federal Highway Administration [FHWA, federal regulations 23 CFR 200.9(b) (7) and 49 CFR21], recipients provide the following annual certification and assurance: No person, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any project, program or activity funded in whole or in part by U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) agencies.

In compliance with 49 CFR Section 21.9(b), the City of Rock Hill will record and retain information and submit information to the required DOT agencies (FTA and FHWA) as necessary or required. A Title VI update and/or compliance report shall be submitted to the responsible DOT regional agency office every three years.

Elements in Chapters III, IV and appendices of the FTA Circular 4702.1B are to be included in the report: (1) public notice / statement affirming Title VI compliance; (2) procedures for tracking and investigating Title VI complaints; (3) a list of any Title VI complaints; (4) public involvement and outreach activities; and (5) the City's approach to providing language assistance and meeting the needs of LEP populations.

David B. Vehaun

City Manager

August 8, 2023

Date

SECTION 1: Introduction

The City of Rock Hill is a direct recipient of Federal funding and assistance. The City of Rock Hill makes every effort to ensure our federally assisted programs and activities affords everyone the opportunity to participate in and benefit from City-sponsored programs and activities without regard to race, color, nation origin, sex, age, disability, religion, income, or family status.

In compliance with federal nondiscrimination laws, the City of Rock Hill has established a Nondiscrimination Program.

This document describes the City of Rock Hill Nondiscrimination Program.

SECTION 2: Background

2.1 City of Rock Hill

Rock Hill, South Carolina is a business-savvy blend of historic charm and responsibly implemented expansion. The city is located in the north-central area of South Carolina approximately 20 miles south of Charlotte, NC along the I-77 corridor. Rock Hill is a growing community of nearly 75,000 residents. Rock Hill is the largest city in York County, SC and the only major South Carolina city in the Charlotte area.

Rock Hill earned its name in 1852, when the Charlotte/Columbia/Augusta Railroad line was being constructed through the area. Rail crews encountered a small, flinty hill and dubbed the spot "Rock Hill." A U.S. Post Office was established during that year, marking the official beginning of the city.

The railroad brought business into the area which thrives as a result. The village was incorporated in 1892.

The government for the City of Rock Hill consists of legislative, executive, and judicial functions. The City Council and City Management divisions comprise the legislative and executive functions of the organization. City Council is responsible for directing the government through policy actions and legislative decisions. The City Manager's Office provides professional leadership and direction in the administration and execution of all policies and supervises City Departments to ensure high quality community services. The Municipal Court and the Solicitor's Office provide the judicial function for the city.

2.2 Water and Sewer Department

The water and sewer department of the City service 52,6332 and 35,087 customers in the greater Rock Hill area. This customer base is comprised of both residential and commercial customers.

2.3 Federal Nondiscrimination Laws

The four most notable federal nondiscrimination laws are:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- Age Discrimination Act of 1975

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is the overarching civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin, in any program, service or activity that receives federal assistance. Specifically, Title VI assures that "No person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefit of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal assistance."

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any education or training program receiving federal financial assistance, with a limited number of defined exceptions.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) prohibits discrimination on the basis of an individual's disability by all federal agencies and in all federally funded activities

Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, prohibits discrimination in federally supported activities on the basis of age.

These four federal nondiscrimination laws have been further broadened and supplemented by related statutes, regulations, and executive orders (EOs), including:

- Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (aka Grove City Bill) specifies that entities receiving federal funds must comply with the civil rights legislation in all operations, not just the program or activity that received the funding
- 40 CFR Part 5-Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance
- 40 CFR Part 7-Nondiscrimination in Programs Receiving Federal Assistance from the EPA
- Executive Order (EO) 13166-Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) dated August 11, 2000
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services "Revised Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affected Limited English Proficient (LEP) Persons" dated 2004
- Guidance to Environmental Protection Agency Financial Assistance Recipients
 Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited
 English Proficient (LEP) Persons (69 FR 35602, June 25, 2004)
- Title VI Public Involvement Guidance for EPA Assistance Recipients Administering Environmental Permitting Programs (Recipient Guidance) (71 FR 14207, March 21,

2006)

- Arizona EO 2009-09-Prohibition of Discrimination in State Contracts, Nondiscrimination in Employment by Government Contractors and Subcontractors
- A.R.S. Title 41 (State Government), Chapter 9 (Civil Rights), Article 1 (Civil Rights Division and Civil Rights Advisory Board) (A.R.S. §§ 41-1401 41-1405)
- A.R.S. Title 41 (State Government), Chapter 9 (Civil Rights), Article 4 (Discrimination in Employment) (A.R.S. §§ 41-1461 41-1468)
- A.R.S. § 41-1494 (Training; Orientation and Therapy; Blame and Judgment; Prohibition; Annual Report; Definition)
- A.R.S. § 11-661(D) (Posting Of Financial Statements; Budget; Accepting Audit Results)
 (Title 11 (Counties), Chapter 4 (Fiscal Provisions), Article 3 (Auditing Provisions))
- EPA's Grant General Terms and Conditions
- EPA's Procedural Safeguards Checklists for Recipients-Federal Nondiscrimination Obligations and Best Practices revised January 2020

SECTION 3: Program Overview

3.1 Overview

In order to provide services that are responsive to the needs and priorities of the City of Rock Hill's diverse population, it is essential to have a process in place that effectively engages the public, fully integrates their feedback, and results in decisions that are protective of human health and the environment. The goal of the City's Nondiscrimination Program is to ensure all people have a meaningful role in processes associated with the delivery of City services.

3.2 Public Notice of Rights and Complaint Process

The City's notice and commitment to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is reflected in the guidance and policy statement provided in the Public Participation Plan (updated May 2023) that states in Section IV that in "complying with Federal Law, [the City of Rock Hill] will proactively reach out to those who either cannot or are unlikely to attended traditional meetings due to lack of transportation or for other reasons such as a disability or language barrier." Additionally, the City's most recent date of updating Certification(s) and Assurance(s) was April 28, 2021 (Appendix A); Standard U.S. DOT Title VI Assurances was updated August 8, 2023 (Appendix B). The Rock Hill Nondiscrimination Public Notice is posted at City Hall, the City's Operation Center, located at 757 S. Anderson Road, on the City's website, various bulletin boards located throughout the City.

In Compliance with 49 CFR Section 21.11(b), the City has developed procedures for investigating and tracking discrimination complaints. Such procedures shall be made available to the public upon request. Per the City's Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan, these procedures are made available in both English and Spanish.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Nondiscrimination Program Rights

The City of Rock Hill does not does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, or sex in the administration of its programs or activities, and, the City of Rock Hill does not retaliate against any individual or group because they have exercised their rights to participate in actions protected, or oppose action prohibited, by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7, or for the purpose of interfering with such rights.

Ann Morgan, Title VI Coordinator, is responsible for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning non-discrimination requirements implemented by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7 (Non-discrimination in Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Assistance from the Environmental Protection Agency), including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (hereinafter referred to collectively as the federal non-discrimination laws).

If you have any questions about this notice or any of City of Rock Hill's non-discrimination programs, policies or procedures, you may contact:

The City of Rock Hill
Attention: Ann Morgan, Title VI Program Coordinator
Risk Management Department
757 S. Anderson Road
Rock Hill, SC 29731
803-329-7025

If you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to a City of Rock Hill's program or activity, you may contact the Title VI Coordinator identified above or visit our website at www.cityof rockhill.com to learn how to file a complaint of discrimination, or

If information is needed in another language, please call 803-329-7025.

Si se necesita información en otro idioma, llame al 803-329-7025.

3.3 Title VI Coordinator Responsibilities

The Title VI Coordinator is charged with the responsibility for implementing, monitoring, and ensuring the City's compliance with all non-discrimination federal laws to include Title VI regulations, Title IX, Section 504, Age Discrimination and EPA's non-discrimination regulations at 40 CFR, Parts 5 and 7.

Title VI Coordinator responsibilities are as follows:

- Conduct Title VI and other regulatory compliance reviews of department program area activities of federal financial assistance.
- Collects statistical data (race, color, national origin, sex disability, and age) on the City's
 relevant boards, commissions, and committees, and participants in the beneficiaries of the
 City's programs, activities, and services.
- Review pre-grant and post-grant awards for compliance with Title VI, IX, Section 40 and other federal non-discriminatory regulatory requirements.
- Coordinate the development and implementation of a training program and conduct training programs on Title VI and other related statutes for City employees and recipients of federal grant funds.
- Process and maintain log of nondiscrimination complaints.
- Ensure that Title VI, IX, Section 40, and other regulatory requirements are included in policy directives and that the procedures used have built in safeguards to prevent discrimination.
- Assist program personnel to correct Title VI, IX, Section 40 and other regulatory problems or discriminatory practices or policies found when conducting self-monitoring and compliance review activities.
- Manage the City's Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Program ensuring that City information and services are accessible to customers. Develop Title VI, IX, Section 40, and other regulatory information for public dissemination, where appropriate, in languages other than English.

Section 4: Program Details

In drafting the Nondiscrimination Program, the City compiles various documents in accordance with regulatory requirements.

These documents are as follows:

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Nondiscrimination Notice to the Public
- Nondiscrimination Complaint Procedure and Forms
- List of Discrimination Complaints, Lawsuits, and Investigations
- Public Participation Plan
- Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan
- Demographic Information of Non-Elected Committees and Councils
- Sub-recipient Title VI Program and Monitoring
- City Management Approval of the Title VI Program and Nondiscrimination Program

Nondiscrimination Notice to the Public

The City has created a Nondiscrimination Notice to the Public, translated it into Spanish and posted it at City Hall, the City's Operation Center, located at 757 S. Anderson Road, on the City's website, various bulletin boards located throughout the City. In addition, Public notices are posted and in all buses owned by the City. Per the DOT's Safe Harbor Provision, the City's MY RIDE webpage, has the Title VI notice posted in all safe harbor languages. A language meets the safe harbor requirement when it is represented by 5% or 1,000 individuals, whichever is less, who are limited English proficient in a transit agency's service area. The Nondiscrimination Notice to the Public contains so that violations can be reported and investigated by the City's Program Coordinator.

Nondiscrimination Complaint Procedures and Form

These procedures explain the formal and informal complaint process for nondiscrimination complaints, communicates the rights and responsibilities of the complainant, and states the responsibilities of the City of Rock Hill. It does not preclude the right of any complainant to file complaints directly with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), or to seek private legal representation.

Every effort will be made to obtain early resolution of complaints at the lowest possible level. Complaints should be filed within 180 calendar days of the alleged occurrence.

B. Filing a Complaint:

Any person who believes they, or any specific class of persons have been subjected to discrimination or retaliation prohibited by Civil Rights authorities, on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, or sex in the administration of its programs or activities, may file a written complaint with the City's Title VI Coordinator. A formal complaint must be filed within 180 calendar days of the alleged occurrence. The complaint must meet the following requirements:

- Complaints must be in writing and signed by the complainant(s).
- Complaints must include the date of the alleged act(s) of discrimination.
- Complaint must present a detailed description of the issues, and if available, include names, job titles, and addresses of those individuals perceived as parties in the action complained against.

C. Method of Filing a Complaint:

The preferred method is to file a complaint using the Discrimination Complaint Form (Appendix E and F) and sending it to:

Ann Morgan, Occupational Health & Safety Risk Manager 757 S. Anderson Road, Rock Hill, SC 29732

Ann.Morgan@CityofRockHill.com

Verbal complaints will be accepted and transcribed by the Title VI Coordinator. To make a verbal complaint, individuals may call (803) 329-7025 and ask for the Title VI Coordinator. It should be noted that the City staff will provide appropriate assistance to complainants, including those persons with disabilities or who are limited in their ability to communicate in English.

It should also be noted that in addition to the complaint process outlined above, a complainant may file a Title VI complaint directly with:

- The U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, Office of Civil Rights, Region IV, 230 Peachtree, NW, Suite 800, Atlanta, GA 30303, or
- The Federal Transit Administration, Office of Civil Rights, Attention: Title VI Program Coordinator, East Building, 5th Floor TCR, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20590, **or**
- The Federal Highway Administration, Attention: Title VI Team Lead, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20590, or
- South Carolina Department of Transportation Office of Minority & Small Business Affairs 955 Park Street, Suite 117 Columbia, South Carolina 29202-0191.

D. Receipt and Acceptance:

Upon receipt of the complaint, the Title VI Coordinator will notify the complainant, in writing, within ten (10) business days of receipt of the complaint.

In order to be accepted, a complaint must meet the following criteria:

- The complaint must be filed within 180 calendar days of the alleged occurrence and fall within jurisdiction of the City.
- The allegation(s) must involve a covered basis such as race, color, national origin disability, age or sex.
- The allegation(s) must involve a program or activity that receives federal financial assistance.

E. <u>Tracking / Documenting Complaints:</u>

Any written or oral complaint alleging discrimination on the grounds covered by Title VI, IX, of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 40 or 540 or other federal nondiscriminatory statutes, will be recorded in a log sheet (Appendix G) maintained by the City. The Discrimination Complaint log sheet includes:

- Name of the complainant(s)
- Date complaint was received
- Nature of complaint
- Action taken by the City
- Initial / signature of the City representative handling the complaint

F. <u>Investigating Complaints:</u>

The Title VI Coordinator will review the complaint within five (5) business days of receipt, to determine whether the City has jurisdiction over the complaint, whether the complaint is complete, and whether the complaint alleges a potential regulatory violation. A complaint shall be investigated unless:

- It fails to allege facts that establish discrimination, or
- It does not relate to a program or activity controlled by the City.

If the Title VI Coordinator determines the complaint alleges a potential regulatory violation, he/she enters the complaint into the Discrimination Complaint Log for investigation tracking purposes.

The Title VI Coordinator will begin an investigation within ten (10) business days of receipt unless the complaint is filed with an external agency first or simultaneously.

Complaints in which the City of Rock Hill is named as the Respondent, shall be forwarded to the appropriate federal agency for proper disposition, in accordance with their procedures.

The investigation may include discussions of the complaint with all affected parties to determine the nature of the problem. Additionally, the complainant may be represented by an attorney or other representative of his / her own choosing during the course of the investigation.

Investigations will be conducted for complaints received within 180 days of the alleged incident and will be completed within 60 days of the formal complaint. The Title VI Coordinator will process complaints that are complete.

G. Dismissals:

A complaint may be recommended for dismissal for the following reasons:

- The complainant requests withdrawal of the complaint.
- The complainant fails to respond to repeated requests for additional information needed to process the complaint
- The complainant cannot be located after reasonable attempts to contact the complainant.

If the Title VI Coordinator determines that the complaint does not identify a potential violation as recognized by the appropriate federation regulation, the Title VI Coordinator will notify the affected manager and the complainant in writing within a reasonable period and the matter will be handled through the affected department and/or division, potentially as a customer service complaint.

List of Nondiscrimination Complaints, Lawsuits, and Investigations

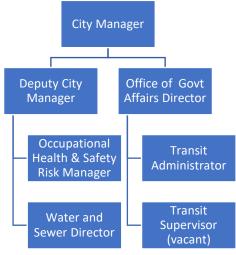
The City of Rock Hill has not had any Title VI, IX, Section 40 or other federal non-discriminatory regulated coomplaints, lawsuits, or investigations from June 2019 through October 2023.

Nondiscrimination Organization and Staffing

The City encourages that discrimination in any form be reported to leadership or other appropriate officials. The Occupational Health & Safety Risk Manager is responsible for ensuring Title VI implementation and reports to City Management. The following chart describes the City's organizational structure for the Nondiscrimination Program:

Position	Title VI Responsibilities
Occupational Health & Safety Risk Manager	The Occupational Health & Safety Risk Manager serves as the City's Title VI Coordinator and is responsible for compliance with the provisions of Title VI ensuring nondiscrimination in all federally funded City programs and services. The Occupational Health & Safety Risk Manager provides leadership, guidance, direction, oversight, and support for the City's Title VI Program.
Human Resources Manager (HRM)	The HRM serves as a City Title VI resource and may assist, as needed, with compliance initiatives, coordinating on-going employee training and policy review.
Transit Department	The Transit Department Head will ensure Title VI nondiscriminatory training is completed and tracked for new employees and on-going with the partnership of Learning and Development.
Water and Sewer Department	The Water and Sewer Department Head will ensure Title VI nondiscriminatory training is completed and tracked for new employees and on-going with the partnership of Learning and Development.
City Management	City Management supports nondiscrimination in all programs, services, and activities in the City.

Organizational Chart – City of Rock Hill:



The City of Rock Hill recognizes the significance and importance of continued Title VI training and is committed to ensure on-going Title VI training for the City's Title VI Designee and staffs that have Title VI nondiscrimination responsibilities. This is part of our training program and may include a combination of FTA/FHWA training materials available on-line, through SCDOT Training Programs, as well as guest speakers or presenters specialized in Title VI training and compliance.

All employees shall be provided a statement of the Title VI Plan and sign the Acknowledgement of Receipt (Appendix I) upon hire. During New Employee Orientation, new employees are informed of the provisions of Title VI and nondiscrimination regulations and the City's expectations to perform their duties accordingly. Training records and/or logs will be maintained in Human Resources.

Public Participation Plan

Public participation allows member of the community to provide input so that their concerns, desires, and values are considered as part of the City's decision-making process. By following these guidelines, it is possible that these individuals are able to have a direct influence and potentially affect this process, thus allowing the City to better serve the needs of our community.

The City of Rock Hill's Public Participation Plan serves as a guide for the City's public outreach, in order to ensure that the public is both informed and able to give meaningful levels of input on programs and activities. The plan also emphasizes the importance of reaching out to traditionally underrepresented groups such as low income, minority, and Limited English Proficient (LEP) populations, to ensure they are given the opportunity to participate in this process. The communication activities may focus in different mediums depending on the program or population affected. These include but are not limited to:

I. Public Information and Notifications:

The City of Rock Hill is committed to publishing notices, brochures, proposals, or programs, including how the public can obtain information and make comments, where meetings are to take place, and other applicable information. The notices for public input are posted 30 days in advance so the public has time to consider proposals and make comments. Advertised notices will include contact information for any individuals that have special needs or require special assistance.

The notice methods may include:

- Press releases to local media
- Customer newsletters (email)
- Website links and articles
- On bus advertising
- Printed fliers and brochures
- Spanish translation services and translated materials including service area maps, customer surveys and forms such as Title VI notice information
- Radio, television or newspaper ads considering stations and publications that serve LEP and minority populations
- Social Media, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

II. Meeting Locations:

The City of Rock Hill will continue to offer public meeting locations that have convenient access to public transit and are centrally located so that anyone in its transit service area can attend meetings and receive information about any programs and activities that will impact them, especially LEP and minority populations. Meetings are to be held at different times of the day for easier access. All public meeting locations will be accessible to those with disabilities. If notified five (5) business days prior to the meeting, language or hearing interpreters will be made available.

III. Public Meeting Forums:

On critical issues such as major transit service changes, the City will conduct public meetings with transit service customers. The City will prepare proposals in sufficient detail and make these available prior to the meetings for interested individuals. If the proposal involves service changes, maps will be made available. The City will collect comments (oral and written) and have a sign-in sheet available. If no one is in attendance, staff will wait for 10 minutes, announce the reason for the meeting, provide statement that no one is in attendance and close the meeting.

IV. Websites:

The City of Rock Hill provides information on the Nondiscrimination Program, Title VI and ADA and other regulatory programs on its designated websites:

(cityofrockhill.com)https://www.cityofrockhill.com-legal-notice

https://www.cityofrockhill.com/departments/planning-and-development/planning-preservation/transportation-planning and www.MyRideRockHill.com.

In addition, the My Ride Rock Hill website content includes maps and route schedules, a rider guide, other transportation, trip planning, bus locator, mobile app, etc. Any change in service such as traffic reroutes, holiday hours, weather abnormalities, etc. are made available on the site. My Ride press releases are published on the site as well. The site has translation options available for on- demand translation into Spanish, Russian, Portuguese, Italian, German, French, Dutch, Chinese and Arabic. Emails, push notifications and SMS messaging may be sent to customers for service alerts and real-time departure times for any stops when they subscribe

for the service.

V. Community Events:

The City of Rock Hill's City Management, Department Heads and City Council participates in community events and provides information and/or field questions relating to programs and activities.

VI. Outreach to Community Groups:

The City of Rock Hill has staff members, as requested and available, to speak to faith-based organizations, colleges, universities, Council Wards, neighborhood communities and other community groups such as the International Center of York County.

The City of Rock Hill has an employee that is very active with the International Center of York County (ICYC). ICYC provides resources and assistance for individuals with limited English proficiency. This employee provides feedback and updates to the City on behalf of ICYC.

Limited English Proficiency Plan

Pursuant to Executive Order 1316 of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, federal agencies such as the Department of Transportation's (DOT) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are to examine the services it provides, and then identify, develop, and implement a system by which LEP persons can meaningfully access those services consistent with, and without unduly burdening, the fundamental mission of the agency .In accordance with these requirements, recipients shall take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to benefits, services, information, and other important portions of their programs and activities for individuals who are limited English proficient. The recipient shall develop an assistance plan that is tailored to meet the needs of the LEP population(s) it serves.

Federal Requirements:

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Department of Transportation's (DOT) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) implementing regulations, and Executive Order 13166, signed on August 11, 2000, are the federal legislation necessitating LEP Plans from public agencies receiving federal funds.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d, et seq., and its implementing regulations provide that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or nation origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity that receives Federal financial assistance.

Executive Order 13166, "Improving Access to Services with Limited English Proficiency," requires Federal agencies to examine the services they provide, identify any need for services to those with LEP, and develop and implement a system to provide those services so LEP persons can have meaningful access to them. EO 13166 also requires that the Federal agencies work to ensure that recipients of Federal financial assistance provide meaningful access to their LEP applicants and

beneficiaries. The Executive Order applies to all federal agencies and all programs and operations of entities that receive funding from the federal government – including state agencies, local agencies and governments, private and non-profit entities, and sub-recipients such as public transit agencies.

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) published revised LEP guidance for its recipients on December 14, 2005.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) references the DOT LEP guidance in its Circular 4702.1B, "Title VI and Title VI-Dependent Guidelines for FTA Recipients," which was published on October 1, 2012. This Circular reiterates the requirement to take responsible steps to ensure meaningful access to benefits, services, and information for LEP persons and suggests that FTA recipients and sub-recipients develop a language implementation plan consistent with the provisions of Section VII of the DOT LEP guidance.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) references Executive Order 13166 (Limited English Proficiency) in its "Title VI of The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Additional Nondiscrimination Requirements" information.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) references Executive Order 13166 (Limited English Proficiency) in its "Title VI of The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and LEP guidance I its Circular 69 FR 35602 (June 25, 2004).

The Need for a Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan

Individuals with a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English are limited English proficient. This language barrier may prevent individuals from accessing public services and benefits.

My Ride is one of the transit services available for the City of Rock Hill, South Carolina. Other transit services includes CATs and York County Access. The City is a direct recipient of federal funding and is required to develop and routinely update its LEP plan as part of its Title VI Program. The City's LEP plan is a requirement for FHWA and EPA also.

The City's LEP plan is a critical component to best serving the transit needs of the diverse population in our service area. Providing language assistance in a competent and effective manner will help ensure the City's Transit services are safe, reliable, convenient, and accessible to LEP persons in the community. Ideally, these efforts will attract additional LEP riders to My Ride Rock Hill.

Elements of an Effective LEP Plan

As guided by DOT LEP Policy Guidance, EPA and other federal regulator, the City of Rock Hill a as a receipt of federal funding has developed an implementation plan to address the needs of

the LEP populations they serve. The guidance notes that effective implementation plans typically include the following five (5) elements:

- 1. Includes the results of the Four Factor Analysis and the LEP Population served.
- 2. How the City of Rock Hill provides language assistance services.
- 3. How the City of Rock Hill provides notice to LEP persons about language assistance services.
- 4. How the City of Rock Hill monitors, evaluates, and updates the LEP Plan.
- 5. How the City of Rock Hill trains employees on LEP assistance.

The "Four Factor Analysis"

Through conducting the "Four Factor Analysis," the City is better positioned to formalize and implement a cost-effective and appropriate mix of proactive language assistance measures and to respond to requests for LEP assistance from constituents.

The four factors are as follows:

- 1. The number or proportion of LEP persons eligible to be served or likely to be encountered by a program, activity, or service of the recipient or grantee.
- 2. The frequency with which LEP individuals come in contact with the program.
- 3. The nature and importance of the program, activity, or service provided by the recipient to the LEP Community.
- 4. The resources available to the recipient and the overall cost.

The City's "Four Factor Analysis"

Factor 1:

The number or proportion of LEP persons eligible to be served or likely to be encountered by a program, activity, or service of the recipient or grantee.

Analysis of 2017-2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year estimates data was conducted to:

- a) estimate potential LEP populations in York County,
- b) then estimate potential LEP populations within the City of Rock Hill My Ride's service area, and
- c) lastly, checking these estimates against the top ten non-English languages spoken at home for the population 5 + years of age within York County.

For planning purposes, My Ride operates four (4) fare-free fixed routes in a service area, which covers 31.35 square miles within the City of Rock Hill, South Carolina. See Figure 1 for a map of My Ride's service area.

Examination of 2017-2021 ACS, "Language Spoken at Home for the Population 5 Years and Over," by geographic place, determined there is one (1) non-English language group spoken at home by over 1,000 persons in York County, which is Spanish. Spanish is spoken by approximately 11,817 persons in York County (4.54% of total population) varying in levels of English proficiency from "very well" 68.4% (of total Spanish speaking population), to "less than very well" 31.5% (of total Spanish speaking population).

For additional analysis of populations five (5) and older by language spoken at home and ability to speak English, see Table 1.

TABLE 1: Language Spoken at Home in York County, South Carolina

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME FOR THE	York County, So	York County, South Carolina		
POPULATOIN 5 YEARS AND OVER	Estimate	Percent		
Total:	260,533	100.00%		
Speak only English	240,094	92.15%		
Spanish:	11,817	4.54%		
Speak English "very well"	8,087	3.10%		
Speak English less than "very well"	3,730	1.43%		
French, Haitian, or Cajun:	763	0.29%		
Speak English "very well"	710	0.27%		
Speak English less than "very well"	53	0.02%		
German or other West Germanic languages:	566	0.22%		
Speak English "very well"	436	0.17%		
Speak English less than "very well"	130	0.05%		
Russian, Polish, or other Slavic languages:	747	0.29%		
Speak English "very well"	482	0.19%		
Speak English less than "very well"	265	0.10%		
Other Indo-European languages:	2,872	1.10%		
Speak English "very well"	2,469	0.15%		
Speak English less than "very well"	403	0.06%		
Korean:	162	0.06%		
Speak English "very well"	85	0.03%		
Speak English less than "very well"	77	0.03%		
Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese):	660	0.25%		
Speak English "very well"	307	0.12%		
Speak English less than "very well"	353	0.14%		
Vietnamese:	750	0.29%		
Speak English "very well"	375	0.14%		
Speak English less than "very well"	375	0.14%		
Tagalog (incl. Filipino):	404	0.16%		
Speak English "very well"	363	0.14%		
Speak English less than "very well"	41	0.02%		
Other Asian and Pacific Island languages:	1,259	0.48%		
Speak English "very well"	957	0.37%		
Speak English less than "very well"	302	0.12%		
Arabic:	211	0.08%		
Speak English "very well"	169	0.06%		
Speak English less than "very well"	42	0.02%		
Other and unspecified:	228	0.09%		
Speak English "very well"	222	0.09%		

Speak English less than "very well"	6	0.00%
-------------------------------------	---	-------

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates; York County, South Carolina

CHART 1: York County, South Carolina data

Language Spoken	Number that "speak English less than very well" (estimated)	Percentage that "speak English less than very well"	Translate Vital Documents? (Yes or No)
Spanish	3,730	1.43%	Yes, More than 1,000 and Less than 5%
Chinese (Incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	353	0.14%	No, Less than 1,000 and Less than 5%
Vietnamese	375	0.14%	No, Less than 1,000 and Less than 5%
Russian, Polish, or other Slavic languages	265	0.10%	No, Less than 1,000 and Less than 5%
Other Asian & Pacific Island languages	302	0.12%	No, Less than 1,000 and Less than 5%

Lastly, analysis was needed to determine total languages spoken within each language group to help confirm, if any, LEP populations are within the My Ride service area. Using 2017-2021 ACS data on "Language Spoken at Home for the Population 5 Years and Over," the following ten (10) languages are the most spoken at home in York County:

- 1) English
- 2) Spanish
- 3) Other Indo-European languages
- 4) Other Asian and Pacific Island languages
- 5) French, Haitian, or Cajun
- 6) Russian, Polish, or other Slavic languages

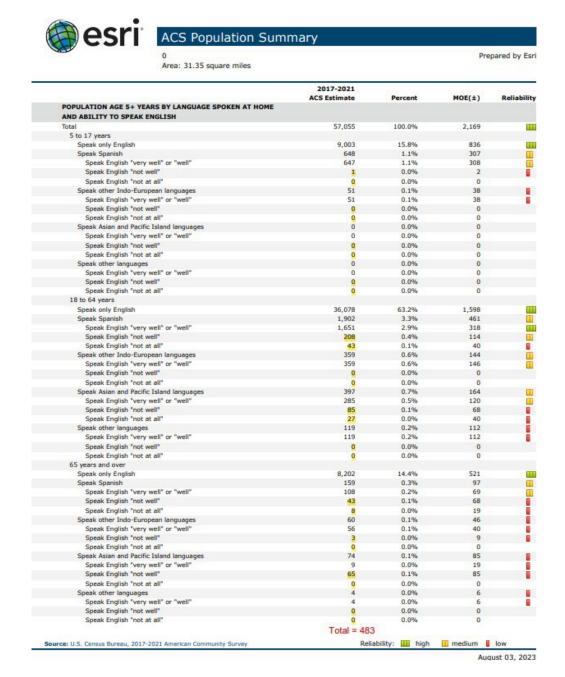
- 7) Vietnamese
- 8) Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)
- 9) German or other West Germanic languages
- 10) Tagalog (incl . Filipino)

This analysis determined only one language, "Spanish", surpasses the DOT threshold for persons who speak English less than "very well" (i.e. 5% or 1,000 people, whichever is less). An estimated 3,730 Spanish-speaking persons in York County speak English less than "very well." For additional analysis, see Table 1 and Chart 1.

Factor 2:

The frequency with which LEP individuals come in contact with services.

TABLE 2



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey (ACS) Polygon 4; Area: My Ride service area 31.35 square miles.

The LEP population—the population that speaks English less than "very well", or "well"—was estimated by summing the Census responses for Speak English "not well," and "not at all." The data is categorized by the language groups spoken by respondents: "Spanish," "Indo-European languages," "Asian and Pacific Island languages," and "speak other languages." To examine this, estimates were derived from 2017-2021 ACS data on "Language Spoken at Home for the Population 5 Years and Over." The majority of the LEP population within My Ride's service area—approximately 303 of the 483 LEP non-English speaking persons—speaks Spanish (62.7%). The remaining 180 non-English speaking persons presumably speak one or more of the "other Indo-European languages", "Asian and Pacific Island languages", or "other languages". People who speak Spanish at home represent 4.54% of York County's population 5 years and over. All other languages were spoken by less than 3.31% of the population in York County.

CHART 2: My Ride Service Area

Language Spoken	Number that speak English "less than very well" (estimated)	Percentage that speak English "less than very well"	Translate Vital Documents? (Yes or No)
Spanish	303	0.53%	No, Less than 1,000 and Less than 5%
Indo-European language	3	0.0%	No, Less than 1,000 and Less than 5%
Asian & Pacific Island languages	177	0.31%	No, Less than 1,000 and Less than 5%
Other languages	0	0.0%	No, Less than 1,000 and Less than 5%

The vast majority of the populations with which we do business are proficient in English, so LEP services are not normally required. However, since 4.75% of the residents living within My Ride's service area speak Spanish, this is the only "other" language used when the occasion requires. For this purpose, the City has Title VI complaints available in Spanish. The City of Rock Hill employs Spanish speaking individuals who are available to translate during normal business hours. The City also utilizes third-party translation services available through Language Line Solutions. LEP individuals currently have infrequent and unpredictable contact with the City of Rock Hill transit services. However, the small and growing size of the LEP population in the My Ride service area will likely increase its future contact with My Ride services and it will be important to continue monitoring its population trends. On board surveys is a monitoring method which may be deployed.

Factor 3:

The nature and importance of service provided by the City of Rock Hill to LEP population.

The City Of Rock Hill staff members are most likely to encounter LEP individuals through office visits, phone conversations, Myride passengers, and attendance at neighborhood/public meetings, In an effort to serve LEP individuals, calls/contracts are handled by City staff either

via our Language Line Solutions or as staff encounters potential barriers.

Factor 4:

The resources available to City of Rock Hill and the overall cost.

The City has the availability of at least two (2) full-time Spanish-speaking employees at City Hall, two (2) employees in the Neighborhood Services Department, and one (1) employee in City Management - Housing & Community Development available to provide translation services. The cost for the employee resources includes salary and benefits. These employees spend an estimated 10% of their work time, or less providing translation services. The City also utilizes citywide on-demand translation services through Language Line Solutions a third-party provider, which operates 24/7/365. Language Line Solutions offers phone and video call interpretation services in 240+ languages. Fees are charged to the City per service provided, based on the minutes of the call and yearly contractual fees. City publications, such as for My Ride, is currently enhancing its publications and prints in English and Spanish as well. The Nondiscrimination complaint form is also available in Spanish as well as English. The My Ride Rock Hill website has the functionality for users to translate the site pages into various languages, including Spanish, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Chinese, Arabic and Dutch. The website cost is included in an annual contract.

LEP Plan Conclusion

Spanish is the most prevalent language spoken by LEP persons in both York County and the service area and should be the primary focus of any translation or language assistance activities. There are populations in the community that speak non-English languages other than Spanish, and it remains important to consider providing additional language assistance services as necessary and economically feasible. We regularly interact with and receive feedback from our employee who is a representative at International Center of York County (ICYC). This program offers a range of support services to equip people from abroad to function effectively in York County.

Implementing the LEP Plan

Based on the four-factor analysis, the City has identified the language needs and services required to provide meaningful access to information for the LEP residents of Rock Hill. The City will review its LEP Plan on a regular basis and incorporate LEP data gathering ventures, such as surveys, to further identify additional language area-specific needs for the top languages identified. A review of the City's relevant programs, activities, and services that are currently being offered include:

- Spanish speaking translators may be available, upon request, during normal business hours.
- The City contracts with Language Line Solutions for translation services 24/7/365.
- Title VI Complaint Forms available in both English and Spanish.

The City will actively and regularly contact International Center of York County (ICYC) that serve LEP persons, to identify any additional information or activities that might better improve the City's transit services to assure non-discriminatory service to LEP persons. The City will then evaluate the projected financials to provide the translation services and assess which of these

can be provided most cost effectively.

LEP Plan Staff Training

To ensure effective implementation of this plan, the City schedules training for employees on a periodic basis.

- Review the City's LEP Services available to the public
- How to handle verbal requests for transit services in a foreign language
- How to utilize Language Line Solutions translation services
- Have "I Speak" Language Identification Cards available at the Rotunda Desk (City Hall),
 Operations Center Reception Desk and easily accessible to transit employees
- Review demographic data about local LEP population
- Notification of appropriate staff to notify when services are not met for an LEP persons

New employees will continue to receive Language Line Solutions training during New Employee Orientation.

Notice to LEP Persons USDOT LEP guidance provides that once an agency has decided, based on the four factors, that it will provide language services, it is important that the agency notify LEP persons of the services available free of charge, and in the language(s) LEP persons would understand.

To this end, the City is committed to providing statements in public information and public notices language assistance, or special accommodations will be provided to persons, with reasonable advance notice to the City.

The City will provide / undertake the following actions:

- With advance notice of seven (7) calendar days, provide interpreter services at public meetings.
- Include in outreach documents, including notices, a statement that interpreter services are available at meetings, with seven days' advance notice.
- Continue publication of transit services and federal complaint forms on the website and reference the availability of these forms and where to get them, in the LEP Plans.
- Train employees on the requirements for providing meaningful access to services for LEP persons.
- Inform community-based organization and stakeholders of transit services, including the availability of language assistance services, with notice.
- Monitoring, evaluating, and updating the plan on a periodic basis: The Title VI Coordinator shall review changes in demographics and services provided to determine the need to modify or update frequently used services, programs, and documents, to ensure accessibility for LEP services to the LEP public and employees.

The LEP Review shall include:

- Review of current and historical data available via Language Line Solutions reports.
- Assessing current and historical LEP populations in the service area or population affected or

encountered.

- Assessing current and historical LEP usage, including languages served.
- Determining the frequency of encounters with LEP language groups by surveying staff on how
 often they use language assistance services, if they believe there should be changes in the
 way services are provided or the providers that are used, and if they believe that the language
 assistance services in place are meeting the needs of the LEP community in our service area.
- Assessing customer satisfaction by surveying LEP candidates based on their experience of My Ride's programs, benefits, services, and the importance of activities to LEP persons.
- Reviewing any complaints from LEP persons from the previous year as it pertains to needs not being met.
- Solicit and evaluate feedback from community-based organizations and stakeholders about My Ride's effectiveness and performance in ensuring meaningful access for LEP individuals.
- Monitor My Ride's response rate to complaints or suggestions by LEP individuals, community members and employees regarding language assisted services provided.
- Availability of resources and the costs imposed.
- Educate or refresh staff to work effectively with in-person and telephone interpreters.
- Determining whether identified sources for assistance are still available and viable.

SAFE HARBOR

Safe Harbor Stipulation Federal law provides a "Safe Harbor" stipulation so that recipients can ensure with greater certainty that they comply with their obligations to provide written translations in languages other than English. A "Safe Harbor" means that if a recipient provides written translations (as under circumstances outlined in paragraphs A and B of the publication Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against Notional Origin Discrimination Affecting limited English Proficient Persons) such action will be considered strong evidence of compliance with the recipient's written-translation obligations under Title VI. Strong evidence of compliance with the recipient's written-translation obligations under 'Safe Harbor' includes providing written translations of vital documents for each eligible LEP language group that constitutes 5% or 1,000, whichever is less, of the population of persons eligible to be served or likely to be affected or encountered. Translation of other documents, if needed, can be provided orally. The failure to provide written translations under the circumstances does not mean there is noncompliance, but rather provides a quide for recipients that would like greater certainty of compliance than can be provided by a fact-intensive, fourfactor analysis. For example, even if a Safe Harbor is not used, if written translation of a certain document(s) would be so burdensome as to defeat the legitimate objectives of its program, it is not necessary. Other ways of providing meaningful access, such as effective oral interpretation of certain vital documents, might be acceptable under such circumstances.

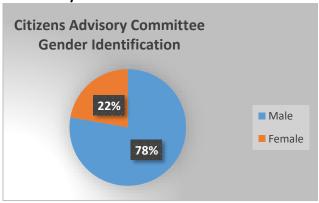
The City defines the LEP population by the people that speak English less than "very well" and the Spanish speaking population exceeds the 1,000 persons' threshold. There are 3,730 Spanish-speaking persons that speak English less than "very well" in York County. To meet the Safe Harbor provisions, the City's transit services will provide additional vital documents for its services for Spanish-speaking persons.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION OF NON-ELECTED COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

In accordance with Title 49 CFR Section 21.5(b)(1)(vii), a recipient may not, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, "deny a person the opportunity to participate as a member of a planning, advisory, or similar body which is an integral part of the program." There are requirements for recipients when they choose the membership for certain groups within their organization such as transit-related, non-elected planning boards, advisory councils or committees, or similar committees. These requirements include providing a table depicting the racial breakdown of the membership of those committees, and a description of efforts made to encourage the participation of minorities on such committees.

The City does not have committees or council for the My Ride transit service. However, of important note, the Rock Hill-Fort Mill Area Transportation Study (RFATS), is a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) which covers the transit service area of the City of Rock Hill. RFATS has a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) designed to ensure meaningful public participation in the transportation planning process. This committee reviews and provides input on the development of programs and projects within the RFATS communities, including the Public Participation Plan. Additionally, this committee considers the needs of those traditionally underserved by the existing transportation system. Staff tracks issues and concerns voiced by the members of the CAC as a method of accountability to the public. Several City of Rock Hill employees and council members are active members and coordinators in the RFATS organization. See Pie Charts 1-2 and Chart 3 for RFATS Citizens Advisory Committee members.

PIE CHART 1: RFATS Citizens Advisory Committee



PIE CHART 2: RFATS Citizens Advisory Committee

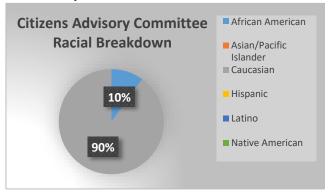


CHART 3: RFATS Citizens Advisory Committee

Jurisdiction	Name	Appointment Term
York County (1)	Luther Dasher	10/1/21 - 9/30/24
Lancaster County (1)	Carl Manns	2/1/23 – 1/31/26
Town of Fort Mill (1)	David Ward	2/1/23 – 1/31/26
City of Tega Cay (1)	Jim Van Blarcom	12/1/21 - 11/30/24
City of Rock Hill (1)	Frank Myers	12/1/21 - 11/30/24
Catawba Indian Nation (1)	Vacant	
Public at Large (2)	Vacant	
Public at Large	Dr. David Keely	7/1/21 – 6/30/24
Minority Populations (2)	Cleopatra Allen	4/1/22 – 3/30/25
Minority Populations	Aaron Barnes	7/1/20 – 6/30/23
Transportation Disadvantaged (1)	Frieda Price	4/1/22 – 3/30/25

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) includes representation from the six (6) RFATS communities and at-large members representing underserved populations.

SUB-RECIPEINT TITLE VI PROGRAM

In accordance with CFR 21.9(b), and to ensure that sub-recipients are complying with the DOT Title VI regulations, primary recipients must monitor their sub-recipients, to whom they provide funding for compliance with these regulations. Importantly, if a sub-recipient is not in compliance with the Title VI requirements, then the primary recipient is not in compliance.

As defined in Title VI Circular 4702.1B:

- 1) A primary recipient means any FTA recipient that extends Federal financial assistance to a sub-recipient.
- 2) A direct recipient is defined as an entity that receives funding directly from FTA. For purposes of the Title VI Circular, 4702.1B, a direct recipient is distinguished from a primary recipient in that a direct recipient does not extend financial assistance to sub-recipients, whereas a primary recipient does.

As a direct recipient of FTA funds, the City of Rock Hill does not have sub-recipients.

In addition to the fixed route and complementary paratransit services operated by the City, two additional transit options are available:

A. <u>82x Express Bus Route</u>: Operated by the Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS), the 82x route provides service from Downtown Rock Hill to the Charlotte Transportation Center. It is available Monday through Friday during the morning and afternoon peak periods and is a

critical service option for assisting area residents in accessing employment opportunities in the greater Charlotte Area.

B. <u>York County Access</u>: The Demand Response Program (known as York County Access) operates Monday through Friday from 6:00am to 6:00pm. This service operates within the City of Rock Hill and the broader Rock Hill Urbanized Area.

Attached for reference is a map illustrating the Rock Hill Urbanized Area and how both of these routes function within the region. Also included is a graphical depiction of the most frequent destinations for York County Access.

SUB-RECIPEINT PERFORMANCE MONITORING PROGRAM

The City of Rock Hill has the responsibility to monitor compliance of third-party contractors providing transit services for the city. To ensure all applicable FTA compliance requirements are met, the City maintains a comprehensive Performance Monitoring Program (PMP).

The PMP utilizes both quarterly and annual on-site visits to review each contractors' policies / procedures to ensure the provision of non-discriminatory service and how the public is notified of their rights under Title VI.

SERVICE STANDARDS AND POLICIES

This requirement applies to all fixed route providers of public transportation service. Appendix C to 49 CFR part 21 provides in Section (3)(iii) that "[n]o person or group of persons shall be discriminated against with regard to the routing, scheduling, or quality of service of transportation service furnished as a part of the project on the basis of race, color, or national origin. Frequency of service, age, and quality of vehicles assigned to routes, quality of stations serving different routes, and location of routes may not be determined on the basis of race, color, or national origin." Service standards must include the following for each mode of transportation: vehicle load, vehicle headway (minimum possible distance or time between vehicles without a reduction in their speed), on-time performance, and service availability. Any significant service deficiencies that are identified must be evaluated in order to determine the extent to which they impact minority populations. If minorities are negatively impacted at a disproportionately higher rate than non-minorities, additional steps may be necessary to remedy this discrepancy.

The FTA requires fixed route transit providers to develop a policy for each mode of transportation relating to distribution of transit amenities and vehicle assignment. Transit providers may also set policies for additional indicators as appropriate.

MY RIDE has designed its policies to ensure that its vehicle assignment and passenger amenity distribution practices do not result in discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin.

A. Vehicle Load Factor

Definition: The ratio of passengers to the total number of seats on a vehicle.

Example: A 1.2 Vehicle Load Factor Standard on a 30-passenger bus would mean:

30 passengers seated and up to 6 passengers standing before the

standard would be exceeded.

Peak Period: Morning or afternoon time periods when transit riding is heaviest.

Non-Peak Period: Non-rush periods of the day when travel activity is generally lower.

My Ride's Vehicle Load Factor standard during peak and non-peak use periods is 1.5. This standard is monitored often and will be reported to FTA every three years as required.

B. Vehicle Headways

Definition: Vehicle Headways is the amount of time between two vehicles traveling in

the same direction on a given route.

Example: A route with 60 minutes headways means the bus would leave a

downtown transfer every hour.

My Ride's vehicle headway has been established as follows for the four bus routes:

Route 1:	Downtown/Knowledge Park Loop	60 minutes
Route 2:	Saluda/Heckle Loop	60 minutes
Route 3:	Cherry/Riverwalk Line	60 minutes
Route 4:	Dave Lyle/Galleria Line	60 minutes

The vehicle headway performance standard is monitored often and will be reported to FTA every three years as required.

C. On-Time Performance

Definition: On-time performance is a measurement of "runs" completed as

scheduled and is generally expressed in terms of percentages.

Example: On-time = 0 Minutes Early/Five Minutes late, means that the bus should

arrive 0 minutes early and leave no later than 5 minutes late.

My Ride's on-time performance has been established as 0 minutes early / 5 minutes late. Our standard is to have 90 % of our runs completed on-time. This standard is monitored often and will be reported to FTA every three years as required.

D. Service Availability

Definition: Service Availability is a general measure of the distribution of routes

within a transit provider's service area, frequently referred to as "route spacing", but may also be expressed as percent of population within

specified distance to a transit route or stop.

Example: 95% of population within ¼ mile of stop.

My Ride's service availability is based upon operating service within a 31.35 square mile area of Rock Hill.

E. Distribution of Transit Amenities

Definition: Defined as the items of comfort, convenience, and safety that are

available to the general riding public.

Example: Shelters, benches, provision of information.

Bicycle Racks:

All buses in My Ride's fixed-route vehicle fleet are outfitted with fold-down bicycle racks capable of holding two passenger bicycles.

Automated Systems:

All buses are equipped with audio and visual announcements identifying the route and stop or intersection based on Automated Vehicle Locator (AVL) equipment.

Benches and Bus Shelters:

Bus shelter and bench placement standards are monitored while staff continues to evaluate My Ride's bus shelter and bench placement practices and conducts research. We currently have 93 bus stop signs at various locations throughout the service area. Placement of bus shelters or benches at bus stops involves consideration of several factors such as:

- Ridership for a bench
- Ridership for a shelter
- Bus Stop Level of Service (span of service, average trip frequency)
- Proximity to other shelters
- Equity Title VI Compliance Existing bench or shelter locations will be considered for equity in distribution within the service area
- Local Land Use

Information Materials:

Information materials, such as schedules and system maps are provided and made available to the public at no cost. Information and route brochures are made available to the general public upon request. The My Ride website contains information on bus schedules, route maps, news, etc.

F. Vehicle Assignment

Definition: The process by which transit vehicles are placed into service in depots and

on routes throughout the transit provider's system. Policies for vehicle assignment may be based on the age of the vehicle, where age would be

a proxy for condition.

My Ride operates a fixed route vehicle fleet consisting of ten (10) units. All of the current units in the fleet are powered by battery-electric technology. The ten (10) vehicles in the My Ride fleet

consists of seven (7) 2019 model-year, and three (3) 2021 model-year Proterra Transit Buses. All units are identically equipped with interior and exterior digital signage and audio announcement features, wheelchair lifts and wheelchair securement devices, including two (2) wheelchair securement stations. Throughout the service area, My Ride vehicles are assigned for service duty based on: the relative number of passengers using specific routes during specific times of the service day and the day of week that the service will be performed; and the relative availability of a specific size of vehicle based on the rotational nature of My Ride's preventive maintenance/maintenance program and battery-electric charging requirements. Three (3) buses are available to provide complementary on-demand service to customers certified as eligible for ADA Paratransit service within a 0.75-mile radius buffer around My Ride's four fixed routes (Attachment H). This paratransit service is operated by York County Council on Aging. My Ride's vehicle assignments throughout the service area shall be appropriately distributed within the system as determined using the process described above.

DEMOGRAPHIC AND SERVICE MAPS

Title 49 CFR 21.9(b) states that recipients "should have available for the Secretary racial and ethnic data showing the extent to which members of minority groups are beneficiaries of programs receiving Federal financial assistance."

The City of Rock Hill does not have a population greater than 200,000 people, My Ride does <u>not</u> operate 50 or more vehicles. For this reason, this section is not required.

DEMOGRAPHIC RIDERSHIP AND TRAVEL PATTERNS

FTA Circular 4702.1B requires that fixed route providers collect information on the race, color, national origin, English proficiency, language spoken at home, household income, and travel patterns of their riders using customer surveys. Demographic information shall also be collected on fare usage by fare type amongst minority users and low-income users, in order to assist with fare equity analyses.

The City of Rock Hill does not have a population greater than 200,000 people, My Ride does <u>not</u> operate 50 or more vehicles. For this reason, this section is not required.

MONITORING REPORT OF SERVICE STANDARDS AND POLICIES

In order to ensure compliance with DOT's Title VI regulations, the FTA requires transit agencies to monitor the performance of their transit system relative to their system-wide service standards and service policies no less than every three years. Agencies shall submit the results of the monitoring program as well as documentation to verify the Board's consideration, awareness, and approval of the monitoring results to the FTA every three years as part of the Title VI Program.

The City of Rock Hill does not have a population greater than 200,000 people, My Ride does <u>not</u> operate 50 or more vehicles. For this reason, this section is not required.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS FOR RECIPIENT'S TITLE VI POLICIES

The FTA/FHWA requires that the recipient shall engage the public in the decision-making process to develop major service change, disparate impact, and disproportionate burden policies.

Please see Appendix D.

RESULTS OF SERVICE AND FARE EQUITY ANALYSES

Transit agencies are required by the FTA to conduct equity analyses for major service changes and fare changes to ensure those changes do not result in disparate impacts to minority riders or a disproportionate burden on low-income riders. Transit agencies shall submit the results of any major service change and/or fare equity analyses conducted since the submission of its last Title VI Program. Agencies shall also submit documentation with the Title VI Program as evidence of the board, governing entity, or official's consideration, awareness, and approval of the analysis.

Not applicable.

CITY MANAGEMENT APPROVAL OF THE NONDISCRIMINATION PROGRAM

City Management approved the Nondiscrimination Program on Oct 29, 2023.

CONCLUSION

The City's 2023 Nondiscrimination Program Plan represents the City's continued efforts to maintain strict compliance with all Title VI, IX, Section 40, and other regulatory requirements s. Furthermore, this program also shows the City's continued commitments to serving the diverse population within its service area. The City of Rock Hill strives to ensure individuals of all backgrounds have equal access to programs, services, and activities.

Appendices

A. FTA Certification and Assurances

Certifications and Assurances

Fiscal Year 2021

FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2021 CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES FOR FTA ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

	(Signature pages alternate to providing Certifications and Assura	ances in TrAMS.)
Name	of Applicant: City of Rock Hill	
The A	applicant certifies to the applicable provisions of categories 01-21.	
	Or,	
The A	applicant certifies to the applicable provisions of the categories it h	as selected:
Cate	egory	Certification
01	Certifications and Assurances Required of Every Applicant	/
02	Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans	
03	Tax Liability and Felony Convictions	
04	Lobbying	
05	Private Sector Protections	
06	Transit Asset Management Plan	
07	Rolling Stock Buy America Reviews and Bus Testing	
08	Urbanized Area Formula Grants Program	
09	Formula Grants for Rural Areas	
10	Fixed Guideway Capital Investment Grants and the Expedited Project Delivery for Capital Investment Grants Pilot Program	
11	Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities and Low or No Emission Vehicle Deployment Grant Programs	

12	Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Programs	/
13	State of Good Repair Grants	/
14	Infrastructure Finance Programs	
15	Alcohol and Controlled Substances Testing	
16	Rail Safety Training and Oversight	
17	Demand Responsive Service	
18	Interest and Financing Costs	
19	Construction Hiring Preferences	
20	Cybersecurity Certification for Rail Rolling Stock and Operations	
21	Tribal Transit Programs	

FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2021 FTA CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES SIGNATURE

PAGE
(Required of all Applicants for federal assistance to be awarded by FTA in FY 2021)

AFFIRMATION OF APPLICANT

Name of the Applicant: City of Rock Hill

BY SIGNING BELOW, on behalf of the Applicant, I declare that it has duly authorized me to make these Certifications and Assurances and bind its compliance. Thus, it agrees to comply with all federal laws, regulations, and requirements, follow applicable federal guidance, and comply with the Certifications and Assurances as indicated on the foregoing page applicable to each application its Authorized Representative makes to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in federal fiscal year 2021, irrespective of whether the individual that acted on his or her Applicant's behalf continues to represent it.

FTA intends that the Certifications and Assurances the Applicant selects on the other side of this document should apply to each Award for which it now seeks, or may later seek federal assistance to be awarded during federal fiscal year 2021.

The Applicant affirms the truthfulness and accuracy of the Certifications and Assurances it has selected in the statements submitted with this document and any other submission made to FTA, and acknowledges that the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986, 31 U.S.C. § 3801 et seq., and implementing U.S. DOT regulations, "Program Fraud Civil Remedies," 49 CFR part 31, apply to any certification, assurance or submission made to

FTA. The criminal provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 apply to any certification, assurance, or submission made in connection with a federal public transportation program authorized by 49 U.S.C. chapter 53 or any other statute

In signing this document, I declare under penalties of perjury that the foregoing Certifications and Assurances, and any other statements made by me on behalf of the Applicant are true and accurate. 4-28-2021 David Vehaun Authorized Representative of Applicant AFFIRMATION OF APPLICANT'S ATTORNEY For (Name of Applicant): As the undersigned Attorney for the above-named Applicant, I hereby affirm to the Applicant that it has authority under state, local, or tribal government law, as applicable, to make and comply with the Certifications and Assurances as indicated on the foregoing pages. I further affirm that, in my opinion, the Certifications and Assurances have been legally made and constitute legal and binding obligations on it. I further affirm that, to the best of my knowledge, there is no legislation or litigation pending or imminent that might adversely affect the validity of these Certifications and Assurances, or of the performance of its FTA assisted Award. Attorney for Applicant Each Applicant for federal assistance to be awarded by FTA must provide an Affirmation of Applicant's Attorney

pertaining to the Applicant's legal capacity. The Applicant may enter its electronic signature in lieu of the Attorney's signature within TrAMS, provided the Applicant has on file and uploaded to TrAMS this hard-copy

Affirmation, signed by the attorney and dated this federal fiscal year.

35

B. Standard U.S. DOT Title VI Assurances

Standard U.S. DOT Title VI Assurances

The City of Rock Hill (hereinafter referred to as the "Recipient") HEREBY AGREES THAT, as a condition to receiving any Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) through the **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)** or the **Federal Transit Administration (FTA)**, is subject to and will comply with the following:

Statutory/Regulatory Authorities

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964(§42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq., 78 stat. 252), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin);
- 49 C.F.R. Part 21(entitled Non-discrimination in Federally-Assisted Programs of the Department of Transportation-Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964);
- 28 C.F.R. section 50.3 (U.S. Department of Justice Guidelines for Enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964),

The preceding statutory and regulatory cites hereinafter are referred to as the "Acts" and "Regulations", respectively.

General Assurances

In accordance with the Acts, the Regulations, and other pertinent directives, circulars, policy, memoranda, and/or guidance, the Recipient hereby gives assurance that it will promptly take any measures necessary to ensure that

"No person in the United States will, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity," for which the Recipient receives Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation, including the FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION (FHWA) AND THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA).

The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 clarified the original intent of Congress, with respect to Title VI and other Non-discrimination requirements (The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973), by restoring the broad, institutional-wide scope and coverage of these non-discrimination statutes and requirements to include all programs and activities of the Recipient, so long as any portion of the program is Federally assisted.

Specific Assurances

More specifically, and without limiting the above general Assurance, the Recipient agrees with and gives the following Assurances with respect to its Federally-assisted programs:

- The Recipient agrees that each "activity", "facility", or "program", as defined in §§21.23(b) and 21.23(e) of 49 C.F.R. §21 will be (with regard to an "activity") facilitated, or will be (with regard to a facility (operated, or will be (with regard to a "program") conducted in compliance with all requirements imposed by, or pursuant to the Acts and, the Regulations.
- 2. That the Recipient will insert the following notification in all solicitations for bids, Requests for Proposals for work, or material subject to the Acts and the Regulations made in connection with all programs and activities and, in adapted form, in all proposals for negotiated agreements regardless of funding source:

"The City of Rock Hill, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C §§2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award."

- The Recipient will insert the clauses of Appendix A and E of this Assurance in every contract or agreement subject to the Acts and the Regulations.
- 4. The Recipient will insert the clauses of Appendix B of this Assurance, as a covenant running with the land, in any deed from the United States effecting or recording a transfer of real property, structures, use, or improvements thereon, or interest therein to a Recipient.
- That where the Recipient receives Federal financial assistance to construct a facility, or part of a facility, the Assurance will extend to the entire facility and facilities operated in connection therewith.
- That where the Recipient receives Federal financial assistance in the form, or for the acquisition or real property or an interest in real property, the Assurance will extend to the rights to space on, over, or under such property.
- 7. That the Recipient will include the clauses set forth in Appendix C and Appendix D of this Assurance, as a covenant running with the land, in any future deeds, leases, licenses, permits, or similar instruments entered into by the Recipient with other parties:
 - (a) for the subsequent transfer of real property acquired or improved under the applicable activity, project, or program; and
 - (b) for the construction or use of, or access to, space on, over or under real property acquired, or improved under the applicable activity, project, or program.
- That this Assurance obligates the Recipient for the period during which Federal financial assistance is extended to the program, except where the Federal

financial assistance is to provide, or is in the form of, personal property, or real property, or interest therein, or structures or improvements thereon, in which case the Assurance obligates the Recipient, or any transferee for the longer of the following periods:

- the period during which the property is used for a purpose for which the Federal financial assistance is extended, or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits; or
- (b) the period during which the Recipient retains ownership or possession of the property.
- 9. The Recipient will provide for such methods of administration for the program as are found by the Secretary of Transportation or the official to whom he/she delegates specific authority to give reasonable guarantee that it, other recipients, sub-recipients, sub-grantees, contractors, subcontractors, consultants, transferees, successors in interest, and other participants of Federal financial assistance under such program will comply with all requirements imposed or pursuant to the Acts, the Regulations and this Assurance.

10. The Recipient agrees that the United States has a right to seek judicial enforcement with regard to any matter arising under the Acts, the Regulations, and this Assurance.

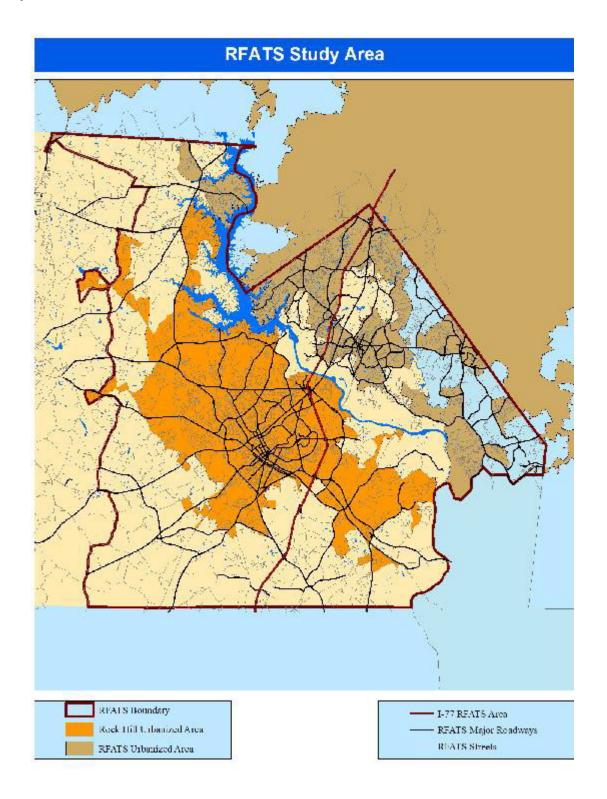
THIS ASSURANCE is given in consideration of and for the purpose of obtaining any and all Federal grants, loans, contracts, property, discounts or other Federal financial assistance extended after the date hereof to the Recipient by the Department of Transportation under any program or activity and is binding on it, other recipients, subgrantees, contractors, subcontractors, transferees, successors in interest and other participants. The person or persons whose signatures appear below are authorized to sign this Assurance on behalf of the Recipient.

The City of Rock Hill

Signature of Authorized Official

Dated August 8 2023

C. Map of Rock Hill Urbanized Area



6B THE HERALD

Classified

Legals

NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGES FOR MY RIDE ROCK HILL

In coordination with the My Ride Rock Hill Public Participation plan, comments regarding the proposed service changes can be made by Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at Noon.

The proposed service changes are available to view electronically on the City of Rock Hill's website at www.cityofrockhill.com under the Transportation and Traffic webpage and on the My Ride Rock Hill website at www.myriderockhill.com. Proposed changes are also available on My Ride buses.

Submit comments using any of these methods:

- Email: <u>comments@myriderockhill.com</u>
- Phone: 803-329-RIDE (7433); Press 9 to leave a message with your feedback.
- · In Person:
 - Drop-In Meeting—Monday, August 29, 2022, 6-7 PM in Rock Hill City Council Chambers, 155 Johnston Street, Rock Hill, SC (Spanish translator will be in attendance.)
 - Traffic Commission Meeting—Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at 10 AM in Rock Hill City Council Chambers, 155 Johnston Street, Rock Hill, SC





E. Discrimination Complaint Form (English)

DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT FORM

SECTION I: COMPLAINANT INFO	RMATION:			
First Name		Last Name		
Mailing Address	City/State		Zip	
Home Telephone	Other Telepho	ne	E-mail Address	
SECTION II: INCIDENT INFORM	fation:			
Date of incident: Please include the discrimination and the most recent discrimination.		Date of Grievance	submission:	
Location of incident: (include str	reet crossing, street n	umber, Street, City S	tate, ZIP)	
riow were you discriminated again were treated differently. Use additi			s possible. Include how other persons g documents if available.	
List the state and/or federal statues specificity the action(s) or inaction pages if necessary.			ll allegedly violated and detail with alleged violation. Use additional	
action, to secure rights protected by	y the laws. If you feel (ease explain the circu	hat, you have been r	either taken action, or participated in etaliated against, separate from the cribe the action you took which you	
Name(s) of individual(s) responsib	le for the discriminato	ry action(s).		

additional she	eets, if necessary).		
	NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
l			
2.			
4. <u>—</u>			
Briefly explai	n what action you are see	king.	
SECTION II	I: CERTIFICATION:		
Complainan	t's Signature		Date
Print Name			
Submit Com	plaint Form with any ad	ditional pages to:	
City of Rock	Hill		
	forgan, Title VI Coordins	itor	
	Iorgan, Title VI Coordins son Road	ator	

For Official Use Only

Date Referred:

Date Complaint Received:_

Referred to:

F. Discrimination Complaint Form (Spanish)

su queja. (Adj	iunte hojas adicionales, si e	ser contactada(s) para obtener info s necesario).		
	NOMBRE	DIRECCIÓN	TELÉFONO	
1				
4				
Droporajono a	ualouiar información adici	onal que considere útil para investia	rar osto asserto	
Proporcione c	ualquier informacion autor	onai que considere uni para investi	gar este astinio.	
Explique brev	emente qué acción está bu	scando.		
	-			
SECCIÓN II	I: CERTIFICACIÓN:			
Firma del de	emandante	1	Fecha	
Imprimir no	mbre			
Envíe el Forn	nulario de Queja con las	páginas adicionales a:		
City of Rock	Hill			
	organ, <u>Coordinadora</u> del J	<u>ítulo</u> VI		
Rock Hill, 29				
O por correo	electrónico a:			
	@cityofrockhill.com			
		Sala para usa afisia!		
Fecha en que s	e recibió la queja:	Solo para uso oficial —		
Referido a:		Fecha de referencia:		

FORMULARIO DE QUEJAS POR DISCRIMINACIÓN

Nombre		Apellido	
Dirección	Ciudad/Estado		Código postal
Teléfono de casa	Otro teléfono		Dirección de correo electrónic
SECCIÓN II: INFORMACIÓN S	OBRE INCIDENTE(S):		
echa del incidente: Incluya la iscriminación y la(s) fecha(s) m iscriminación.		Fecha de presentaci	ón de la queja:
Dicación del incidente: (inclu	ya cruce de calles, núm	l ero de calle, calle, ciud	lad, estado, código postal)
			sible. Incluya cómo se trató a otras documentos de respaldo si están
detalle con especificidad la(s) :	acción(es) o inacción(es)		ad de Rock Hill presuntamente vic Hill que respaldan la presunta
y detalle con especificidad la(s) : violación. Utilice páginas adicio: La ley prohíbe la intimidación participado en ellas, para garanti	acción(es) o inacción(es) nales si es necesario. o las represalias contra zar los derechos protegide gada anteriormente, ex	de la Ciudad de Rock I cualquier persona por os por las leyes. Si cree plique las circunstancia:	

G. Discrimination Complaint Log

ॐ			CITY OF ROCK HILL DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT LOG			
CASE#	COMPLAINANT NAME	COMPLAINANT ADDRESS	DATE FILED	BASIS	STATUS	DISPOSITION
						

H. Staff Training: Title VI Fact Sheet

Title VI Fact Sheet

The City of Rock Hill and the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) want to ensure you have the following information:

The City of Rock Hill provides public notice of its policy to uphold and assure full compliance with the non-discrimination requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. section 2000d) and related nondiscrimination authorities.

Title VI and related nondiscrimination authorities stipulate that no person in the United States of America shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

Any person who believes they have, individually or as a member of any specific class of person, been subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin has the right of file a formal complaint. Any such complaint must be in writing and submitted within 180 days following the date of the alleged occurrence to the City's Title VI Coordinator.

I am committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of City programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI.

Employee Signature	Department	Date
Presenter's Signature	Department	Date

This page intentionally left