

TITLE VI COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

Title VI Information, Limited English Proficient (LEP) information and Complaint Process (printed materials, website, and other mediums upon request)

The Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART) grants all citizens equal access to all its transportation services. It is further the intent of PART that all citizens are aware of their rights to such access. This is designed to serve as an educational tool for citizens so that they may understand one of the civil rights laws that protect their benefits of PART's programs and services, specifically, as it relates to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

What is Title VI? Title VI is a section of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requiring 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 benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance." Note that Title VI does not address gender discrimination. It only covers race, color and national origin. Other Civil Rights laws prohibit gender discrimination.

What is LEP? As part of Title VI requirements, PART has developed a Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan to help identify reasonable steps to provide language assistance for LEP persons seeking meaningful access to PART services as required by the Federal Transit Administration "Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency." A Limited English Proficiency person is one who does not speak English as their primary language and who has a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English.

PART's Complaint and Investigation Procedures These procedures cover all complaints filed under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, for alleged discrimination in any program or activity administered by PART. These procedures do not deny the right of the complainant to file formal complaints with other State or Federal agencies or to seek private counsel for complaints alleging discrimination. Every effort will be made to obtain early resolution of complaints at the lowest level possible. The option of informal mediation meeting(s) between the affected parties and PART may be utilized for resolution. Any individual, group of individuals or entity that believes they have been subjected to discrimination prohibited under Title VI and related statutes may file a complaint.

The following measures will be taken to resolve Title VI complaints:

Title VI Complaint Procedure

Title VI complaint forms may download from www.partnc.org or requested from (PART).

The complainant may also submit a written statement that contains all the following information:

1. Name, address, and telephone number of the complainant.
2. The basis of the complaint (race, color, national origin).
3. The date or dates on which the alleged discriminatory event or events occurred.
4. The nature of the incident that led the complainant to feel discrimination was a factor.

5. Names, addresses and telephone numbers of persons who may have knowledge of the event.
6. Other agencies or courts where complaint may have been filed and a contact name.
7. Complainant's signature and date.

If the complainant is unable to write a complaint, PART staff will assist the complainant. If requested by complainant, PART will provide a language or sign interpreter.

Complainants have the right to complain directly to the appropriate federal agency. Complaints must be filed within one-hundred eighty (180) calendar days of the alleged incident.

PART will begin an investigation within fifteen (15) working days of receipt of a complaint.

PART will contact the complainant in writing no later than thirty (30) working days after receipt of complaint for additional information, if needed. If the complainant fails to provide the requested information in a timely basis, PART may administratively close the complaint.

PART will complete the investigation within ninety (90) days of receipt of the complaint. If additional time is need for investigation, complainant will be contacted. A written investigation report will be prepared by the investigator. This report shall include a summary description of the incident, findings and recommended corrective action.

A closing letter will be provided to the complainant and the respondent or respondent department. Parties will have five (5) working days from receipt of the closing letter to appeal. If neither party appeals, the complaint will be closed.

If required, the investigation report will be forwarded to the appropriate federal agency.

Federal Transit Administration Office of Civil Rights
Attention: Title VI Program Coordinator
East Building, 5th Floor-TCR
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

FTA complaint procedures can also be found on the FTA web site at: www.fta.dot.gov. These procedures are also outlined in FTA Circular 4702.1B, Chapter IX.

A Title VI complaint must be submitted in writing. PART strongly encourages the use of the **PART Title VI Complaint Form** when filing official complaints. Upon completion of a PART Title VI Complaint Form, send it to:

Director of Commuter Operations
Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation
107 Arrow Road
Greensboro NC 27409