

Port of Vancouver
Annual Title VI Update Questionnaire

I. POLICY STATEMENT

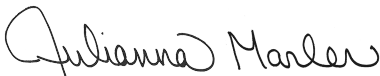
There were no significant changes to the organization's Title VI Plan for the reporting period from January 1, 2019, ending June 30, 2021.

A. Policy of Nondiscrimination

The Port of Vancouver assures that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, or sex as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (P.L. 100.259) be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any port sponsored program or activity. The Port of Vancouver further assures every effort will be made to ensure nondiscrimination in all of its programs and activities, whether those programs and activities are federally funded or not.

In the event the Port of Vancouver distributes federal aid funds to another entity, the port will include Title VI language in all written agreements and will monitor for compliance.

Title VI compliance is a condition of receipt for federal funds. Assurance of compliance, therefore, falls under the proper authority of the Board of Port Commissioners pursuant to its budgetary authority and responsibility. The Executive Director and Title VI Coordinator are authorized to ensure compliance with provisions of this policy and with the law, including the requirements of 23 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 200 and 49 CFR 21.


Chief Executive
Officer

August 1, 2021

Date

11. ORGANIZATION, STAFFING, STRUCTURE

- A. Organization: The Port of Vancouver is directed by a board of three elected officials, each serving a six-year term. For this reporting period Port of Vancouver Commissioners: Jack Burkman, Don Orange and Eric LaBrant represented the citizens of Clark County.
- B. Staffing: See attached organizational chart for details regarding the staffing structure. Significant changes in employment for the past year for transportation related positions included:
- Project Engineer hired in April 2021 – not a Title VI Specialist
 - Director of Communications hired in July 2020 – not a Title VI Specialist

III. TITLE VI MONITORING AND REVIEW PROCESS

The Port of Vancouver annually conducts an audit of internal forms and processes as they relate to contracts, purchasing and advertising to ensure the organization's policy of non-discrimination is clearly understood by staff, contractors, and customers.

In an effort to ensure the port is proactive and meeting the needs of the community, staff regularly attends a variety of local neighborhood meetings throughout the year, continually seeking input regarding projects and policies.

The Port of Vancouver's website, www.portvanusa.com includes language regarding Title VI and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and asks individuals requiring reasonable accommodations to request written material in alternative formats and languages by calling the port or emailing info@portvanusa.com. In addition, there is information for the deaf or hard of hearing and opportunities to obtain translation services in a variety of languages to include Russian and Spanish. Individuals requiring a reasonable accommodation are asked to request written material in alternative formats and languages simply by contacting the Port of Vancouver by phone, fax or e-mail.

IV. COMPLAINTS

There were no complaints filed with the Port of Vancouver in the reporting year.

V. ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT FOR EACH PROGRAM AREA

A. Planning

- 1) How many consultant projects for planning were awarded and their dollar value?
There was one climate action planning contract awarded by the Port of Vancouver to Ramboll US Consulting for \$119,771.00 with a contract date through May of 2024
- 2) Describe efforts made to utilize minority and female consultants and subcontractors in federally funded contracts.
The Procurement team routinely reaches out to organizations with access to minority/female contractors/consultants to seek partnerships and education about

port contracting and consulting opportunities. In 2020 the Procurement Service Manager attended a virtual workshop hosted by Southwest Washington Contractors Associations and shared how to do business with the port by registering for rosters. Additionally, a project forecast was developed and shared for attendees to understand what work may be available in the near future.

- 3) Describe any studies conducted to provide data relative to minority persons, neighborhoods, income levels, physical environments, and travel habits. What assistance did the Title VI Coordinator provide to ensure that Title VI considerations were included in the planning stage?

During the reporting period, there were no official studies required for planning purposes. However, the port does research data relative to minority populations, neighborhoods, and income levels for grant applications. The port's grant applications are mostly for capital projects and do require diversity information regarding the project.

- 4) Identify the number of planning hearings held. Describe efforts to ensure citizen participation in the hearings, particularly by minorities and women. How many minorities and women both individually and through their organizations were represented, and their role(s) in the citizen participation effort?

There were several climate action planning meetings throughout the reporting period. These meetings took place during the commission meetings, which are open to the public for comments. Climate Action documents are also posted on the port's website for the public to review. Bi-lingual materials regarding the Climate Action Plan were distributed and feedback was solicited from underrepresented groups.

B. Research

- I) How many research projects are currently underway?

There are no research projects underway.

C. Location

- I) Describe complaints filed, if any, resulting from the choice of highway location decisions, or the procedure used for arriving at the decisions.

Not applicable.

- 2) Identify the titles, ethnicity and gender of employees, and any vacancies, in the Location Program area. Describe efforts of the Title VI Coordinator to increase the representation of minorities and women if they are under-represented. Describe efforts to encourage adequate representation of minorities and women on boards and committees involved in the development of transportation projects.

The port does not employ anyone with specific responsibilities in the Location Program Area. The port also does not have boards or committees in transportation project developments.

- 3) How many Environmental Impact Statements were reviewed? Summarize

comments provided on the EIS about adverse impacts on minority, handicapped, elderly, etc., communities.

There were no Environmental Impact Statements reviewed in this reporting period.

- 4) How many consultants currently have contracts involving project development activities and their dollar value? How many are minority consultants and their dollar value? Where minorities and women participation are low, describe efforts to increase their participation.

One consultant, GreenWorks, has a contract involving project development activities utilized in fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. The term of the contract is expected to be through 2022 and is valued at \$2,000,000.00. The consultant did not state they are a minority firm. The Port of Vancouver will continue to advertise all projects and encourage the participation of all qualified consultants.

- 5) How many project location public hearings were held? Describe how these hearings were advertised, including efforts to provide notification to minorities.

The Port of Vancouver held no public hearings for project location in the past year. However, it does hold regularly scheduled bi-monthly commission meetings that are open to the public and widely advertised. Port staff provides updates to elected officials on projects, and the public is invited to provide feedback during the open forum. These meetings are posted on the port's website and social media platforms and are also televised via the local television network.

- 6) Describe efforts to identify minority leaders and encourage them to provide suggestions and ask questions about the location of highways.

Not applicable.

- 7) Was there a need to utilize bilingual advertisements, announcements, notices, etc.?

The Port of Vancouver provides notices about projects that are provided in several languages including English, Spanish, Russian and Vietnamese. There were no requests for bilingual advertisement during the current reporting period. However, the port did post legal notices and bid solicitations in the Hispanic publication, *El Latino De Hoy*.

D. Design

- 1) How many consultant firms currently have design contracts and their dollar value? How many of these are held by minority and women owned firms and their dollar value?

There are seven professional firms that have design contracts with a total value of approximately \$2.1 million over multiple fiscal years. The two largest design contracts were established with Greenworks and WSP Inc.

There are two WBE firm with a contract of \$211,250.00.

Architectural Applications P.C. \$147,000.00

ABD Engineering (WBE) \$11,250.00

Commercial Industrial Design Architecture (WBE) \$200,000.00

Greenworks \$2,000,000.00

KPFF \$48,190.00

MCA Architects \$300,000.00

PBS Engineer \$ Environmental \$251,600.00

WSP \$461,000.00

- 2) Describe efforts to increase minority and female participation in consultant contracts. Does the agency maintain a list of minority and woman consultants? If so, how many firms are on the list? How many are receiving contracts?
The agency maintains a roster for which consultants register and are given the opportunity to select if they are a DBE/WBE/MBE/ECT certified firm. The port advertises all solicitations required by the port's procurement policy in the local newspaper and the Daily Journal of Commerce. The port also advertises on its website and encourages participation from all consultants. There are 25 consulting firms listed on the port small works roster who have registered as a DBE/WBE/MBE. There were 3 firms awarded contracts for the year 2019.
- 3) How many highway design phase public hearings were held? Describe minority individuals, groups and organizations that participated in the hearings, including efforts to involve them. Provide a summary of concerns and issues raised, if any, related to minority communities. Describe actions taken by the Title VI Coordinator to facilitate and/or address these concerns.
Not applicable.
- 4) Identify the Design Program employees by title, ethnicity, and gender, and identify a vacant position. Describe efforts to increase minority and female representation where it is low.
Project Delivery Manager, Caucasian Male
Project Manager, Caucasian Male
Project Manager, Caucasian Female
Director of Engineering and Project Delivery, Caucasian Male
Contract Manager, Caucasian Male
Procurement Service Manager, Asian Female
Real Estate Manager, Caucasian Female
- 5) Identify Title VI complaints filed, if any, in the Design Program area. Provide a summary of each with basis, status, actions proposed, and actions taken.
There have been no Title VI complaints filed with the Port of Vancouver in the reporting period.
- 6) Identify any significant Title VI problem areas, accomplishments, and actions to take during the ensuing year.

The Port of Vancouver will continue to advertise all projects and encourage the participation of all qualified consultants. During the reporting period the port has posted legal notices and bid solicitations in the Hispanic publication, *El Latino De Hoy*.

E. Right of Way

1) Identify the number of civil rights complaints filed, if any, in each of the following Right- of-Way functional areas:

- a. Appraisals
- b. Negotiations
- c. Relocation Assistance and Payments
- d. Property Management

There were no civil rights complaints filed with the Port of Vancouver for the reporting period.

2) How many appraisers were utilized and how many were minority and women? What efforts were made by the Title VI Coordinator to increase minority and women representation if they were low?

In 2019, there were no ROW appraisals.

3) Identify the number of negotiations. Does the negotiator's log reflect any disparity in negotiations with minorities as compared to non-minorities?

There were no negotiations or disparities identified.

4) Explain concerns, if any, raised by minorities or women about their options in the negotiation phase.

There were no concerns raised.

5) Identify the number of relocations.

There were no relocations for the year 2020

6) Describe concerns, if any, raised by minorities or women on replacement housing, referral housing and advisory services.

Not applicable.

7) Identify the number of contracts awarded for providing relocation assistance, the opportunities given to minorities and women to obtain these, and how many they received.

There were no contracts awarded for relocation assistance.

8) Describe special efforts made to comply with Title VI regulations?

There were no relocations or appraisals.

9) Identify Right-of-Way staff by name, job title, race and gender.

F. Construction and Maintenance

- 1) Describe civil right complaints, if any, the agency received on their competitive bidding procedures, and the corrective action, if any was needed, that the agency has taken. Provide a summary of any concerns raised by MWBE about licensing, pre-qualifications, lack of sub-contracting opportunities, etc.

There were no civil rights complaints or concerns expressed by MWBE regarding the Port of Vancouver in the reporting period.

- 2) Summarize the efforts of the Title VI Coordinator to encourage the use of minority individuals, firms, or agencies for maintenance agreements or construction contracts.
The Port of Vancouver will continue to advertise projects in compliance with Title VI regulations and seek participation in the bidding process by all qualified contractors. The Procurement Specialist seeks out DBE firms on small works solicitations from the port's small works roster.

In the next fiscal year, the port anticipates utilizing federal funds for projects. The Port of Vancouver will meet Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) goals for each applicable project.

- 3) Describe any agency procedures that were reviewed to assure Title VI compliance in subcontract agreements, first and second tier, material supply and equipment lease agreements.

An audit of internal forms and processes as they relate to contracts, purchasing and advertising was conducted. The goal of this internal audit was to ensure the organization's policy of non-discrimination is clearly understood by staff, contractors and customers. The Title VI assurances are part of established boilerplate language for all contracts and is a part of the review checklist to ensure consistency.

- 4) List any significant accomplishment goals and/or action items to be taken during the ensuing year.

The Port of Vancouver will continue to advertise all projects in accordance with Title VI requirements and encourage the participation of all qualified contractors in the bidding process.

The port has added bid solicitations, legal notices, and invites to register on its small works roster to its social media platform. Data on the social platform shows increasing traffic on posts. The port has also posted these same notices in the Hispanic publication, *EL Latino De Hoy*.

In the next reporting period, the port will also be posting in the *The Asian Reporter*.

G. Education and Training

- 1) Describe efforts made to encourage participation by minorities and women in National Highway Institute (NHI) educational and training program(s).
The Port of Vancouver did not participate in any NHI educational and training programs in the reporting period.

- 2) Identify the types of NHI programs the agency staff attended, whether the agency sponsored or co-sponsored the programs, the number of agency staff that attended, and how many of these were minorities and women.
The Port of Vancouver did not participate in any NHI programs. However, the Title VI Coordinator attended a DBE virtual training presented by the Washington Department of Transportation.

- 3) Identify agency staff responsible for training by job title, ethnicity and gender.
Director of Human Resources, Caucasian Male.

- 4) Describe civil rights complaints filed, if any, concerning training and educational opportunities, and the corrective actions. Provide a summary of concerns raised, complaints filed, status, etc.
The Port of Vancouver received no civil rights complaints in the reporting period.

H. Administration

- 1) Provide a summary list of employees by ethnicity, gender and title in each of the Title VI program areas.
Chief Operations Officer, Caucasian Male
Project Manager, Caucasian Female
Procurement Services Manager, Asian Female
Project Delivery Manager, Caucasian Male
Real Estate Manager, Caucasian Female
Director of Human Resource, Caucasian Male

- 2) Describe activities undertaken to assure Title VI compliance with contractors and by contractors. (Title VI requirements are to be included in all contracts, subcontracts, and consultant agreements.) Describe reviews made to ensure contractors and consultants are apprised of Title VI requirements and to ensure that contractors and/or consultants are adhering to Title VI requirements.
The Port of Vancouver advertises all appropriate public works solicitations utilizing the Title VI language and encourages all qualified contractors to bid for projects. Construction contracts will be awarded on the basis of lowest responsive and responsible bidder, as well as meeting DBE requirements.

Applicable Federal requirements are included in bid documents and compliance to stated specifications is monitored throughout the project. Contractors are

required to follow all provisions of Title VI and require sub-contractors to do the same.

Project managers are familiar with Title VI requirements and conduct regular on-site inspection to ensure compliance. All applicable projects utilizing contractors have established DBE goals. The port is diligent to ensure those goals are met by both contractors and subcontractors.

- 3) Describe Title VI training, if any, that was provided, and how many participants attended, their titles, etc. Describe participation in any other kind of civil rights training (e.g., title and course content), and provide a list of participants by job title (e.g. supervisor, manager, etc.)

The Title VI Coordinator will continue to attend training when available. The Title VI Coordinator provided information and education at port department meetings, including project delivery team, maintenance, finance, and external affairs. These teams include managers, superintendents, directors, and specialists.

- 4) Describe how Limited English Proficiency population is served.

The port offers written and verbal translation services for documents to non-English speaking residents. Some documents on the port's website are already translated and available, while Title VI notices are posted in Spanish and Russian. In the current reporting period, the port added bid advertisements to the Hispanic publication, *El Latino De Hoy*. The port has added more goals to expand LEP outreach and will have more updated details in the next Title VI update.