

RESOLUTION NO. R2011-15
Inclusive Public Participation Policy

MEETING:	DATE:	TYPE OF ACTION:	STAFF CONTACT:	PHONE:
Executive Committee	12/1/11	Recommendation to Board	Leslie Jones, Director of Diversity Alec Stephens, Diversity Technical Advisor	206-398-5047 206-398-5019
Board	12/15/11	Final Action		

PROPOSED ACTION

Adopts an inclusive public participation policy to assure meaningful access to public involvement and community outreach programs for minority, low-income and limited English proficient populations.

KEY FEATURES

- This policy ensures that Sound Transit’s public involvement and community outreach programs are designed to meet the following goals, pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964:
 - Providing services without regard to race, color, or national origin;
 - Promoting the full and fair participation of affected populations in transit decision making;
 - Preventing denial, reduction, or delay in benefits related to programs and activities that benefit minority or low-income populations; and
 - Facilitating meaningful access to programs and activities by persons with limited English proficiency.
- This policy applies to planning and service aspects of Sound Transit projects that receive federal funding. Sound Transit is in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and this policy affirms Sound Transit’s commitment.
- Sound Transit will continue to include low-income, minority and limited English groups in its public involvement and community outreach programs, including service changes, fare changes and future service planning.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Title VI was enacted as part of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance.

FISCAL INFORMATION

Not applicable to this action.

SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION

Not applicable to this action.

BACKGROUND

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states that “no person in the United States shall, on the ground 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.” Sound Transit is committed to upholding these principles.

Sound Transit’s public involvement and community outreach programs will be designed to engage diverse populations by:

- Meeting environmental justice requirements and limited English proficiency needs
- Making materials available in multiple formats, holding meetings in accessible facilities and providing meeting and project information to underserved populations
- Providing the public with innovative opportunities and methods for accessing agency and project information
- Engaging diverse populations early in the planning and development process
- Making information available to minority, low-income, and limited English proficient populations

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

JI 11/23/2011

PRIOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTIONS

None.

TIME CONSTRAINTS

None.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Not applicable to this action.

LEGAL REVIEW

RM 11/23/11



RESOLUTION NO. R2011-15

A RESOLUTION of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority adopting a policy for inclusive public participation and to assure meaningful access to minority, low-income and limited English proficient populations in public involvement and community outreach programs.

WHEREAS, the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority, hereinafter referred to as Sound Transit, has been created for the Pierce, King, and Snohomish Counties region by action of their respective county councils pursuant to RCW 81.112.030; and

WHEREAS, Sound Transit is authorized to plan, construct, and permanently operate a high-capacity system of transportation infrastructure and services to meet regional public transportation needs in the central Puget Sound region; and

WHEREAS, in general elections held within the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority district on November 5, 1996 and November 4, 2008, voters approved local funding to implement a regional high-capacity transportation system for the central Puget Sound region; and

WHEREAS, Sound Transit has made a commitment to the people within its three-county region to seek community involvement as it plans, designs, builds, and operate a regional transit system; and

WHEREAS, Sound Transit has developed and utilized strategies to reach and include the diverse people of its region to promote, encourage, and utilize public involvement processes to carry out its mission; and

WHEREAS, Sound Transit is a recipient of federal funding; and

WHEREAS, consistent with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Sound Transit is committed to:

- Providing services without regard to race, color, or national origin;
- Promoting the full and fair participation of affected populations in transit decision making;

- Preventing denial, reduction, or delay in benefits related to programs and activities that benefit minority or low-income populations; and
- Facilitating meaningful access to programs and activities by persons with limited English proficiency.

WHEREAS, inclusive public participation is fundamental to all of Sound Transit's public involvement and community outreach programs, the Board of Directors has decided to develop a policy reflecting Sound Transit's commitment for inclusive public participation and to assure meaningful access to minority, low-income and limited English proficient populations in its public involvement and community outreach programs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that Sound Transit's public involvement and community outreach programs will be designed to meet the following goals, pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964:

- Accommodate the diverse communities within the project area and meet environmental justice requirements and limited English proficiency needs
- Provide the public with multiple opportunities and methods for accessing agency and project information.
- Engage diverse populations early in the planning and development process by making materials available in multiple formats, holding meetings in accessible facilities and providing meeting and project information to underserved populations.
- Make information available to minority, low-income, and limited English proficient populations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in achieving these goals, and pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Sound Transit will utilize strategies, tools, and techniques targeted to reach minority, low-income, and limited English proficient populations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Sound Transit will strive to conduct public involvement and outreach activities with processes that are full, robust, and inclusive of all community members.

ADOPTED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on December 15, 2011.



Aaron Reardon
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator