

TITLE VI REPORT

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Project: Jefferson County TSP Update

Subject: Title VI Report

Project #: 22928

TITLE VI REPORT OVERVIEW

This Title VI Report documents the project process and outreach conducted for the Jefferson County Transportation System Plan (TSP) update, including activities focused for Title VI populations in the County. In the context of transportation and land use planning in Oregon, Title VI represents a set of federal acts and associated authorities to promote a more inclusive planning and decision-making process, and to more equitably share the benefits and impacts of projects and programs that receive federal funding. Title VI and associated authorities define protected populations based on demographic characteristics including race, ethnicity, language, age, gender, disability, and income.

PROJECT OVERVIEW AND PROCESS

Jefferson County and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) worked collaboratively to update the County's TSP to provide a foundation and guide for identifying and implementing future transportation projects to improve safety, access, and mobility for all people driving, walking, and biking in the County.

The identification of needs and consideration and prioritization of solutions incorporated community input and feedback to develop the finalized list of projects included in the updated Transportation System Plan (TSP). As part of these efforts, the project team staff reviewed the County's Title VI populations using the most recent Census data for conducting outreach and as part of identifying needs and improvements for the County's transportation system. Specific findings included identifying and providing transportation options for areas that are home to limited-English speakers, elderly populations, disabled residents, youth populations, and minority populations. These populations were considered throughout the development of the TSP.

OUTREACH AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT EFFORTS

Jefferson County and ODOT collaborated to update the Jefferson County TSP to create a relevant guide for identifying and implementing multimodal transportation projects. The TSP Update process included these steps to improve safety, access, function, and mobility all users of the County's transportation system:

- ▶ Identifying existing and future needs in the transportation system – with an emphasis on improving multimodal safety in the County;
- ▶ Evaluating potential solutions based on the identified needs;
- ▶ Prioritizing improvements along key corridors, in communities, near schools, and at other identified activity centers;
- ▶ Incorporating community input and feedback on identified needs and proposed projects into an updated TSP.

In coordination with the County and ODOT, the project team developed outreach strategies tailored to Jefferson County, particularly the Title VI populations, to guide community outreach activities, engage diverse perspectives, and incorporate input into the TSP from the people it serves. The primary community outreach activities included forming a Project Advisory Committee (PAC) to guide plan development and hosting public meetings to integrate public input.

Project Advisory Committee

The PAC comprised study area representatives including County Planning and Public Works staff; County administrator; City staff from Madras, Culver, and Metolius; City Council representatives from Culver and Metolius; County Sheriff; City of Madras Police; County Health Department; County Parks and Recreation; Jefferson County School District 509J; Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Representative; Economic Development of Central Oregon (EDCO); City of Metolius Public Works; Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) Transit Planner, Bicycle and Pedestrian representatives, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs representative, and various ODOT staff.

The project team held three (3) meetings with the Project Advisory Committee at project milestones to discuss findings and obtain direction as well as to coordinate on relevant local plans. Project milestones included reviewing the project goals and objectives, reviewing the existing transportation system conditions and needs, examining potential solutions to identified existing and future needs, refining and selecting solutions to be incorporated into the TSP and discussing how they might be funded, and reviewing the Draft TSP, a compilation of project work.

Outreach Methods

Community outreach methods aimed to engage people of different ages, ethnicities, and incomes so that the updated TSP embodied various perspectives. These outreach methods included:

- ▶ Three (3) virtual Project Advisory Committee meetings.
- ▶ Two (2) virtual public meetings, which provided opportunities for online review of materials and commenting maps that remained open two weeks after the live virtual meetings:
 - The first meeting, held on December 15, 2020, shared the project team's findings about the existing transportation system and provided the community with an opportunity to validate and/or expand on the identified needs and share reactions to the initial proposed solutions to address those needs.
 - The second meeting, held on April 1, 2020, presented the Draft TSP and solicited public input on those solutions.
- ▶ Notice of meetings, agendas, and project materials distributed on the project website, Project Advisory Committee emails, City of Madras, City of Culver, City of Metolius, the Jefferson County

509J School District, the fire district, the Sheriff's office, the County Health Department, the County Building and grounds, the Board of Commissioners, the Planning Commission, the Planning Commission's email list, the Madras Chamber of Commerce, the County Fair Board, and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

- ▶ A publicly accessible project website (jeffersoncountytsp.com) that hosted meeting announcements and all project produced materials.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

The planning process evaluated changes to the transportation system that could support and improve safe walking, biking, taking transit, and driving in Jefferson County. The resulting projects are intended to benefit all community members in Jefferson County, including Title VI populations.

The bicycle and pedestrian projects and transit vision identified in the TSP are likely to provide greater benefit to Title VI populations given that, on average, they typically have fewer resources to own and maintain automobiles. Many of the TSP's solutions for bicycle and pedestrian projects are focused on providing connections between Culver, Metolius, and areas outside of Madras, which are also locations with highest percentages of youth and households with limited English, and within Camp Sherman and Crooked River Ranch, areas with higher percentages of elderly population and population with disabilities. The transit projects provide better connections for residents of Crooked River Ranch, Metolius, and Culver as well.

No adverse impacts to Title VI populations (e.g., removal or restriction of walking, biking, or transit service or facilities) were identified as part of this project.

Jefferson County and ODOT will continue to partner to implement the TSP to achieve these outcomes.