PROWERS COUNTY

301 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUITE 215
LAMAR, COLORADO 81052-2857
(719) 336-8025 FAX: (719) 336-2255

PROWERS AREA TRANSIT (LEP) LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT POLICY

Public Participation

Prowers Area Transit (PATS) is committed to providing meaningful opportunities for all members of the public, including minority populations and individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP), to participate in transit-related planning and decision-making.

PATS will take the following steps to encourage public participation:

- Title VI notices will be displayed in English and Spanish on PATS vehicles, at the PATS administrative office, in public meeting areas, and on the Prowers County website.
- Public notices will explain that PATS operates its programs and services without regard to race, color, or national origin and will provide instructions for requesting additional information or filing a Title VI complaint.
- Meeting notices, agendas, and opportunities for public comment will be posted on the Prowers County website, at the Prowers County Courthouse, and at the Lamar Community Resource and Senior Center. Notices will be provided with reasonable advance notice and in accordance with applicable Colorado open-meeting requirements.
- Spanish-language interpretation will be provided free of charge when requested in advance. PATS will make reasonable efforts to provide interpretation or translation in other languages when needed.
- Reasonable accommodations, alternative formats, and communication assistance will be provided to individuals with disabilities upon request.
- PATS may use surveys, rider communications, public notices, social media, community organizations, local service providers, faith-based organizations, and direct outreach to obtain input from minority, low-income, LEP, older-adult, and disabled populations.
- Major service changes, fare changes, facility decisions, and updates to the Title VI Program will include appropriate opportunities for public review and comment.

PATS will maintain documentation of public notices, meeting attendance, comments received, language assistance provided, outreach activities, and responses to public input. A summary of outreach conducted since the previous Title VI Program submission will be included with each updated program.

Title VI Nondiscrimination Policy

Prowers Area Transit is a demand-response public transportation provider and a subrecipient of federal transit funding through the Colorado Department of Transportation.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d, 49 CFR Part 21, and applicable Federal Transit Administration and CDOT requirements, Prowers Area Transit operates its programs and provides its services without regard to race, color, or national origin.

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No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin:

- Be excluded from participation in a PATS program or activity.
- Be denied the benefits of a PATS program, service, or activity.
- Receive a service or benefit that is different from, or provided differently from, the service provided to others.
- Be subjected to segregation or separate treatment.
- Be restricted in the enjoyment of any advantage or privilege available through PATS.
- Be treated differently when determining eligibility, membership, or another condition for receiving service.
- Be denied an opportunity to participate in PATS programs, services, public meetings, planning activities, or advisory bodies.

PATS will not intentionally discriminate in the scheduling, dispatching, routing, fares, eligibility determinations, trip approvals or denials, response times, vehicle assignments, hours of operation, or quality of transportation services based on race, color, or national origin. Appendix C to 49 CFR Part 21 continues to prohibit discrimination in transit routing, scheduling, vehicle quality, and service quality.

PATS will take reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to individuals with limited English proficiency. Language assistance will be provided free of charge when reasonably necessary to allow an individual to access PATS services, information, complaint procedures, and public-participation opportunities.

Title VI specifically protects against discrimination based on race, color, and national origin. PATS also complies with other applicable federal and state civil-rights laws prohibiting discrimination on additional grounds, including sex, religion, age, and disability. These additional protections are administered under their respective legal authorities and should not be described as Title VI protections.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Anthony Letteer
Operations Manager
Prowers Area Transit