

Title VI Annual Accomplishment Report

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Albany Area Metropolitan Planning Organization



Prepared By

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Introduction

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related federal nondiscrimination directives, the Albany Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO) assures that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability or income status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any AAMPO sponsored program or activity.

The purpose of this report is to describe major Title VI activities conducted by AAMPO between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 (Oregon state fiscal year 2021). This report will be submitted to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Office of Civil Rights Title VI Team for inclusion in ODOT's Annual Report to the Federal Highway Administration. This report provides an overall review of the efficacy of AAMPO's Title VI/Nondiscrimination procedures, with specific information including:

- **Title VI Plan Changes:** A summary of any approved changes to the Title VI Plan during the reporting period. If changes occurred, a signed copy of the revised document will be included.
- **Title VI Reporting Structure:** A description of the Title VI reporting structure, including the Title VI Coordinator, MPO Manager, and staff. This includes a listing of race, ethnicity, and gender for each staff person.
- **Title VI Adherence:** A summary of AAMPO's planning and program activities and their related Title VI adherence.
- **Demographic Information:** A summary of demographic information used to review and monitor populations covered under Title VI requirements. Includes a demographic profile of MPO Policy and Advisory Committees.
- **Title VI Complaints:** A list of any Title VI complaints received during the reporting period, including the basis for the complaint (ethnicity, gender, etc.) and summary of the outcome or resolution.
- **Trainings & Education:** A list of Title VI/Nondiscrimination trainings or educational activities MPO staff participated in during the reporting period.
- **Title VI Goals:** Description of Title VI goals and objectives for the upcoming year.

This document will also be available on the AAMPO website:

<http://www.ocwcog.org/transportation/aampo/>

About the AAMPO Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

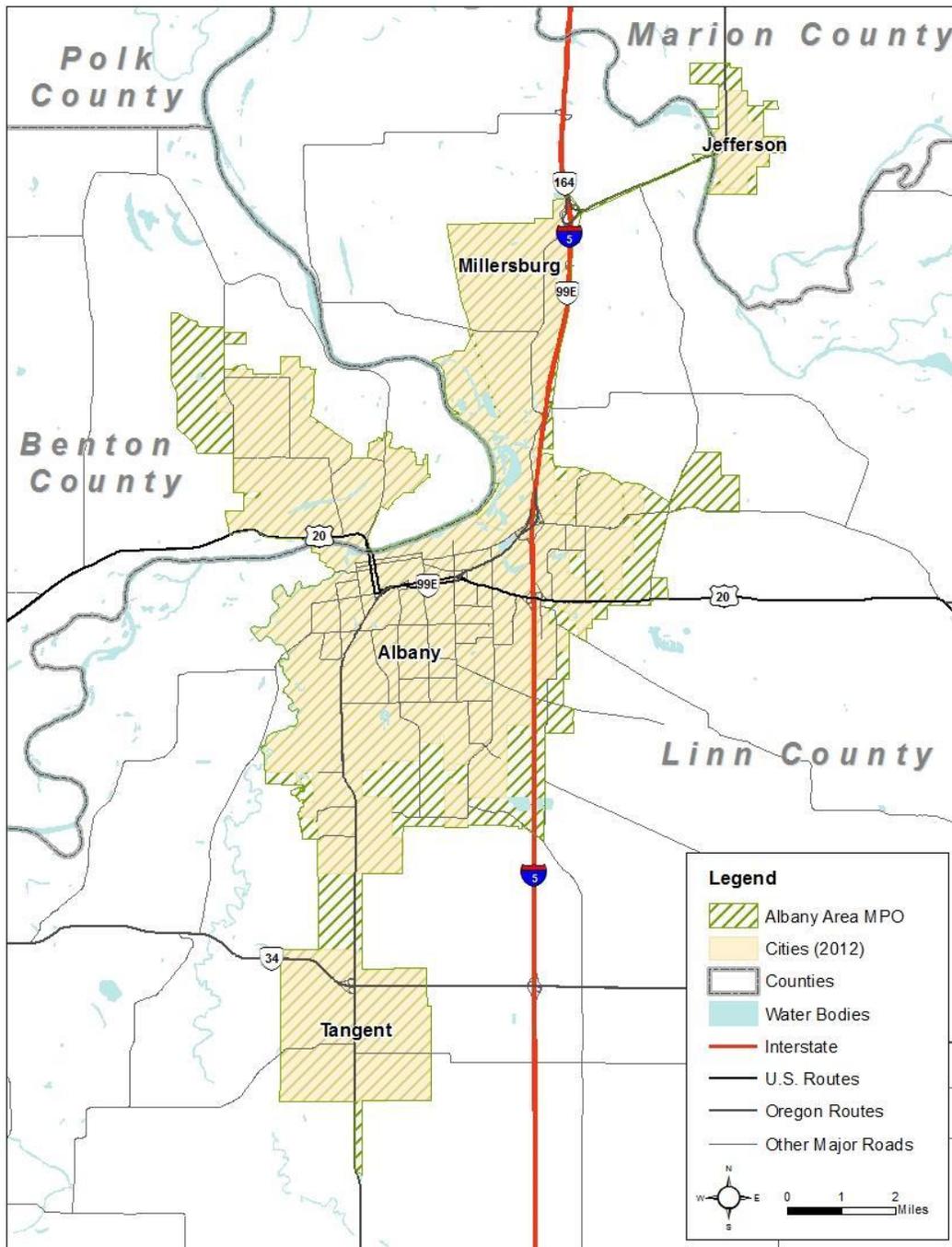
The Albany Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, AAMPO, is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the cities of Jefferson, Millersburg, Albany, and Tangent, and parts of Benton, Linn, and Marion counties. Federal regulations require that MPOs be formed for all Urbanized Areas with a population of 50,000 or more in order to provide continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning for the region.

AAMPO is governed by an eight-member Policy Board consisting of elected representatives from each city or county (with the exception of Marion County, which opted out of Policy Board representation), as well as a staff person from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), and a Citizens' Representative. The City of Albany is the owner of the Albany Transit System and the City's representation on the MPO Policy Board also represents the interests of the transit system. The Policy Board operates according to the adopted Operating Guidelines.

AAMPO's seven-member Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is made up of professional staff of the above entities (with the exception of the City of Jefferson, whose representative is a City Councilman), and the ODOT Regional Planner. The representatives of relevant federal and other state agencies have ex-officio status on TAC. The TAC reviews technical material and provides recommendations to the Policy Board.

The Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments, under a contract with the Policy Board, provides fiscal and administrative services, and staffing to AAMPO.

Map 1: AAMPO Planning Area



Title VI Plan Changes

There have been no changes to AAMPO’s Title VI Plan in this reporting period. AAMPO’s Title VI Plan was last updated in April 2020. AAMPO’s Title VI Plan can be accessed from AAMPO’s website, <http://www.ocwcog.org/transportation/aampo/>.

Title VI Reporting Structure

AAMPO’s staffing – including administrative, bookkeeping, and computer services– are performed by the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) under a contract with the Policy Board. AAMPO is primarily staffed by a single employee, Catherine Rohan, with additional support from OCWCOG’s Transportation Programs Manager, Executive Assistant, and other transportation planning staff. OCWCOG staff dedicated to AAMPO activities are located in the Community and Economic Development Department (CED).

Catherine serves as AAMPO’s Title VI Coordinator and is responsible for ensuring compliance with Title VI requirements within the MPO. Catherine reports to Transportation Programs Manager Nicholas Meltzer. Contact information for both parties is listed below.

AAMPO Assistant Transportation Planner & Title VI Coordinator Catherine Rohan crohan@ocwcog.org (541) 924-4548	OCWCOG Transportation Programs Manager Nicholas Meltzer nmeltzer@ocwcog.org (541) 759-1911
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The following is a list of staff detailing job title, race, and gender. Both AAMPO staff and OCWCOG staff that support AAMPO are listed.

Job Title	Race or Ethnicity	Gender
Transportation Programs Manager (AAMPO support staff)	Caucasian	Male
Executive Administrative Assistant (AAMPO support staff)	Hispanic	Female
Assistant Transportation Planner (AAMPO primary staff)	Caucasian	Female
Assistant Transportation Planner & ADA Coordinator (OCWCOG support staff)	Caucasian	Female
Transportation Planner (OCWCOG support staff)	Caucasian	Female
Assistant Transportation Planner (OCWCOG support staff)	Caucasian	Non-binary
GIS Specialist (OCWCOG support staff)	Caucasian	Male
Transportation Planner (CAMPO staff/OCWCOG support staff)	Caucasian	Male
Community and Economic Development Director (AAMPO support staff)	NA - new staff started after survey administered	

Title VI Adherence

AAMPO was involved in a number of planning activities during the past reporting period. Planning efforts and related Title VI activities are listed below. Activities are categorized as either continuous or project specific.

Continuous Activities

Continuous activities are primarily administrative tasks that are performed routinely over the course of a year or two. Examples of continuous activities include the development of the annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and monthly meetings of the Policy Board and the Technical Advisory Committee. For these activities AAMPO, at a minimum, conducted the following outreach activities:

- Held public meetings at convenient and accessible locations and times – Since mid-2020 these meetings have been held virtually, with options to attend via video conferencing applications and calling in on a phone
- Provided a public comment opportunity on each Policy Board and Technical Advisory Committee meeting agenda and invited the public to submit written comments electronically or on paper
- Posted meeting dates, agendas and minutes on the AAMPO website:
<http://www.ocwcog.org/transportation/aampo/>
- Provided reasonable public access to technical and policy information used in the development of plans and programs including posting key documents on the AAMPO website

Policy Board and Technical Advisory Committee meetings: Policy Board and Technical Advisory Committee meetings were held monthly. Dates and agendas were posted to AAMPO's website and sent out via email to an interested parties list one week before the meeting. Policy Board and Technical Advisory Committee meetings were open to the public and had time allotted for public comments. AAMPO also offered meeting accommodations, such as sign language and interpreting services, for those who needed such services.

FY2022 Unified Planning Work Program: AAMPO's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) was developed during this reporting period. The UPWP was adopted by the AAMPO Policy Board in April 2021. For the development of the UPWP, AAMPO engaged stakeholders in the following ways:

- Emailed stakeholders, interested parties, and local newspapers regarding draft UPWP discussion and opportunity for public comment during AAMPO meetings
- Held a 15-day comment period prior to a decision by the Policy Board to adopt the UPWP
- Provided public comment opportunities at all Policy Board and TAC meetings
- Provided notifications regarding the UPWP public comment period on the AAMPO website, along with agendas and minutes for all Policy Board and TAC meetings

Transportation Improvement Plan Amendments: AAMPO coordinated with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) on their public involvement and consultation processes on Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) amendments. During FY2021 a number of TIP amendments were discussed and approved during Policy Board and TAC meetings with summary information included in meeting packets and on the AAMPO website. All full TIP amendments included a public comment period and were published in the local newspaper.

Project Specific Activities

Project specific activities are long-range transportation efforts that are undertaken periodically. Examples of these are the development and periodic update of AAMPO's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) or the undertaking of special studies. For these planning efforts, AAMPO develops a specific public involvement program prior to the commencement of the activity. The specially tailored programs, at minimum, include all the elements listed above for continuous activities and also include targeted public outreach and solicitation of public comments. During state fiscal year 2021, AAMPO worked towards or completed the following specific planning activities.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan: AAMPO began work on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan in the summer of 2020, work is expected to conclude in winter of 2021. Outreach, engagement, and Title VI related activities completed in FY2021 for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan include the following.

- Creating AAMPO's first Engagement Charter, laying out AAMPO's commitment to the public regarding engagement
- Creating an equity index map used in the project prioritization process
- Interviews with key community partners and stakeholders, such as school districts, libraries, and city staff
- Promotion of mapping and written survey via identified community partners, social media, and physical flyers
- Attending virtual community partner meetings to promote the plan and survey, including the Linn-Benton Hispanic Advisory Committee and the Albany Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission
- Hosting the MPO's first virtual public house
- Updates on Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan project website
- Notices posted on AAMPO website
- Discussion of plan progress at TAC meetings (included public comment time)
- Discussion of plan progress at Policy Board meetings (included public comment time)

Demographic Information

This section details demographic data used by AAMPO in relation to Title VI as well as a demographic profile of AAMPO's Policy Board and Technical Advisory Committee.

Demographic Data

AAMPO collects demographic information for the MPO area to review and monitor populations covered under Title VI requirements. The following table summarizes key demographics and their sources that are used by AAMPO.

Measure	Value	Source
Percent of population living below the poverty line	11.7%	2015-19, 5 Year ACS, Table B17021
Percent of minority population	18.9%	2015-19, 5 Year ACS, Table B03002
Percent of population age 65+	16.1%	2015-19, 5 Year ACS, Table B01001
Percent of population with disabilities	16.2%	2015-19, 5 Year ACS, Table DP02
Percent of population that speaks English less than "very well"	3.1%	2015-19, 5 Year ACS, Table B16004

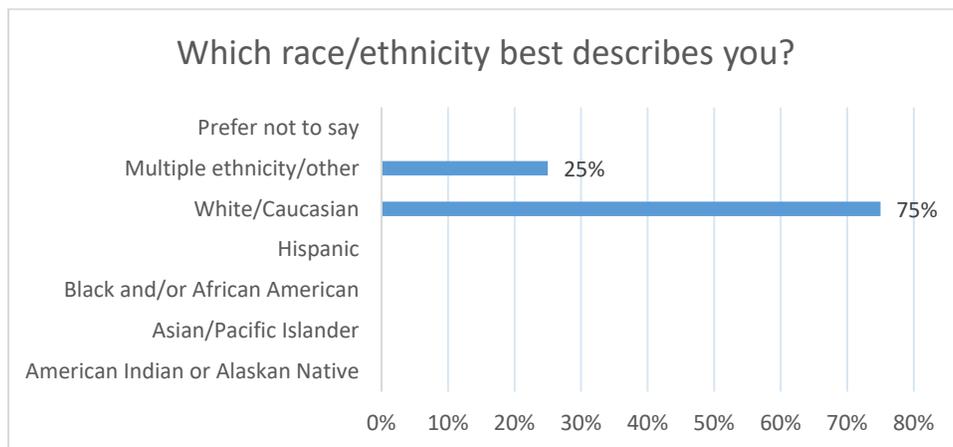
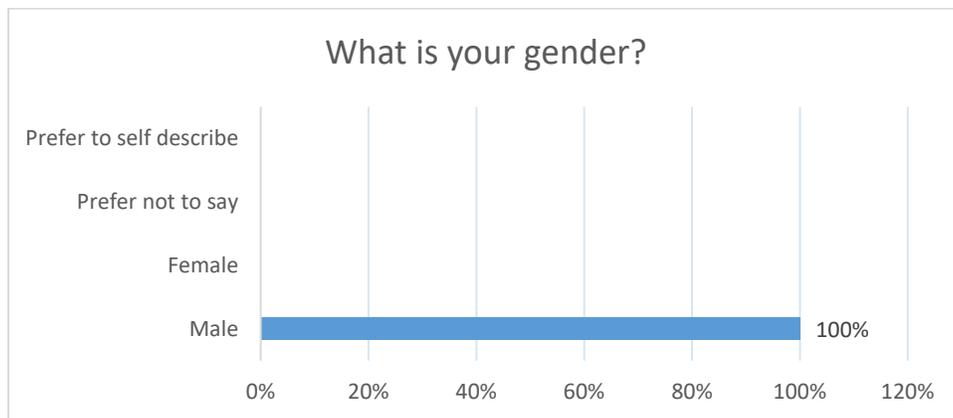
Demographic Profile of Policy and Advisory Committees

During October of 2020 (quarter two of FY2021) staff requested that members of the AAMPO Policy Board and Technical Advisory Committee complete a three question demographic survey. Survey results are outlined in the sections below.

Policy Board

AAMPO's Policy Board is made up of eight members. Policy Board members represent the following parties: the cities of Jefferson, Millersburg, Albany, and Tangent, Benton and Linn counties, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), and general citizens (in the form of a Citizens' Representative). All Policy Board members are elected officials with the exception of ODOT's representative and the Citizens' Representative.

Four Policy Board members responded to AAMPO's demographic survey. As seen below, 100% of respondents identify as male. 75% of respondents identify as white/caucasian and 25% identify as multiple ethnicity/other.



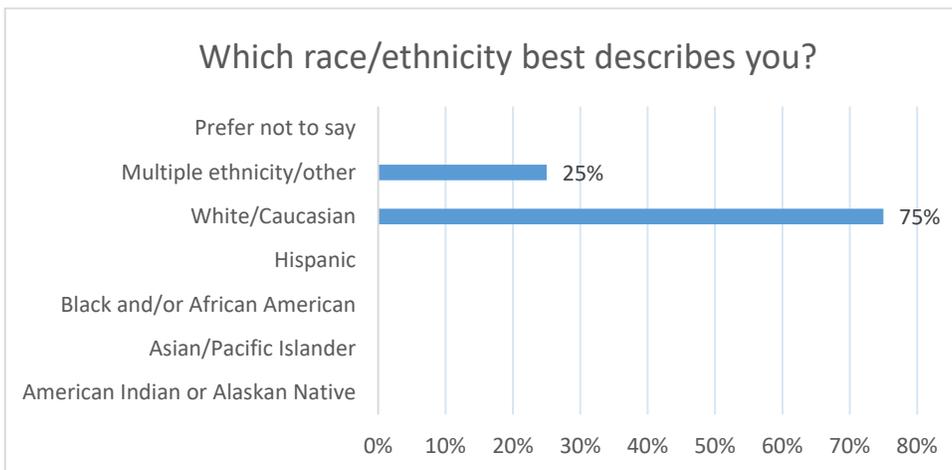
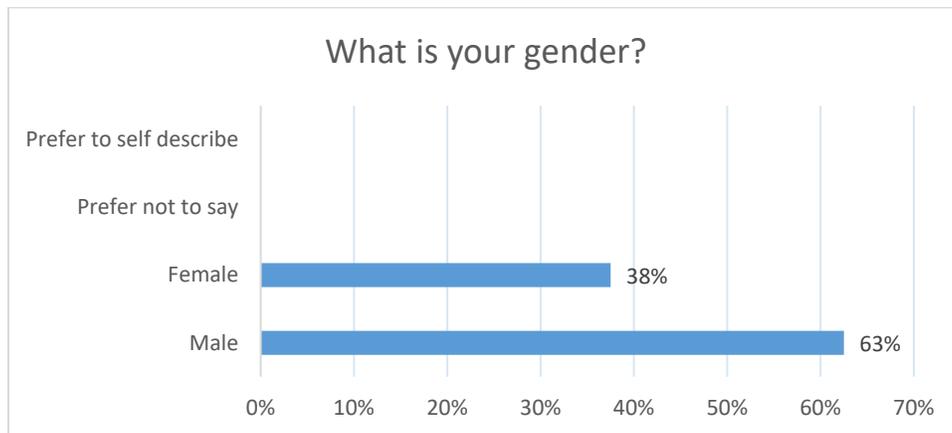
Technical Advisory Committee

AAMPO's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is made up of seven members. TAC members represent the following parties, the cities of Jefferson, Millersburg, Albany, and Tangent, Benton and Linn counties, and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). All TAC members are city or county staff persons with the exception of the City of Jefferson's representative, who is a City Councilman.

Eight TAC members responded to AAMPO's demographic survey. It is suspected the either one TAC member took the survey twice or one Policy Board member incorrectly identified themselves as serving

on the TAC. Because surveys were anonymous it was not possible to remove the extra response, thus the survey results include the extra response.

As seen below, 63% of respondents identify as male and 38% identify as female. 75% of respondents identify as white/caucasian and 25% identify as multiple ethnicity/other.



Title VI Complaints

There were no Title VI complaints filed for AAMPO projects, programs or activities between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021.

Trainings & Education

AAMPO staff participated in the following trainings and educational activities during FY2021:

- November 3: ADA Document Accessibility Webinar – Katie Trebes (ADA Coordinator)
- January 26-28: Smart Growth America's Equity Summit – Catherine Rohan (AAMPO Transportation Planner)
 - Dismantling exclusionary power structures that challenge smart growth and perpetuate inequality
 - Prepare, Prioritize and Promote – how supporting Black and Brown Businesses is a key to smart growth
 - The role of government in undoing the harm caused by the Interstate Highway System

- April 13-15: ADA State of Science Conference (Virtual) – Katie Trebes (ADA Coordinator)
 - Disability and Implicit Bias
 - Planning for Inclusive Communities
 - Synthesizing the Strengths and Limitations of ADA Transition Plans for the Pedestrian Infrastructure
 - Bus Stops and Beyond
- April 21: Accessibility for Passengers with Sensory or Cognitive Disabilities Webinar – Katie Trebes (ADA Coordinator)
- April 28: MetroQuest Forum on Equity and Public Engagement for Transportation Planning – Catherine Rohan (AAMPO Transportation Planner)
- May 4: Federal Highway Administration Engaging Traditionally Underserved Communities Using Virtual Public Involvement Webinar – Catherine Rohan (AAMPO Transportation Planner)
- May 5: Improving Access for All: Bringing On-Demand Technology to Paratransit Webinar – Catherine Rohan (AAMPO Transportation Planner)

Title VI Goals

AAMPO's goals related to Title VI for the upcoming year include the following:

- Complete update and adopt the Public Participation Plan
- Continue exploring and testing virtual engagement practices
- Continue reading and critical group discussions of books related to transportation and race
 - *Policing the Open Road: How Cars Transformed American Freedom* by Sarah A. Seo (completed)
 - *Right of Way: Race, Class, and the Silent Epidemic of Pedestrian Deaths in America* by Angie Schmitt (in progress)