

2015 Title VI Goals & Accomplishments Report



DATE: October 30, 2015
TO: Jay Ankenbrock, NHDOT
FROM: Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization
RE: 2015 Title VI Goals and Accomplishments Report

Goals and Objectives

- #1 Develop and implement an outreach programs to educate members of the public about transportation, land use and air quality issues and their interrelationships; and about the transportation planning process and how they can be involved in it.
- #2 Solicit the participation of local officials, community groups, and individual citizens in the transportation planning process.
- #3 Reach out to under-represented persons and groups, including low-income, minority populations and those of Limited English Proficiency to ensure that decisions are made with their input taken into consideration.
- #4 Inform the general public of the federally funded transportation projects and planning activities for each fiscal year.
- #5 Provide notice to the public that the Strafford Regional Planning Commission/Strafford MPO operates its programs or conducts its planning activities subject to the nondiscrimination requirement under Title VI, and that members of the public can request additional information regarding the obligations of the Planning Commission.
- #6 Continually identify and implement ways to improve the public input process.
- #7 Ensure no person is denied access to or participation in Metropolitan Planning Organization programs.
- #8 Avoid disproportionately high and/or adverse impacts on communities.
- #9 Improve the public involvement process.
- #10 Involve the public by providing opportunities for input early and often in the transportation planning and decision making process.
- #11 Document public involvement process, comments and responses for all transportation planning documents



1 Develop and implement an outreach programs to educate members of the public about transportation, land use and air quality issues and their interrelationships; and about the transportation planning process and how they can be involved in it.

Performance Measures/Indicators for FY2015	Explanation of complete/incomplete measures during FY2015	Performance Measures/Indicators for FY2016
<p>Create a series of <i>Transportation 101</i> planning fact sheets that explain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → What transportation planning is and why it's important. → How people can get involved in the process and why they would want to participate. → The relationship between transportation, land use, and air quality issues. <p>Add a section to the SRPC website addressing public involvement in the planning process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → i.e. Want to get involved!? (click here) 	<p>Strafford MPO finds outreach to be a viable part of the transportation planning process. An outreach program has been developed and implemented at SRPC with the hiring of a Communications and Outreach Specialist in July of 2014. Currently outreach is being conducted for the MetroPlan update.</p> <p>Fact sheets have been created concerning how transportation planning works in the state and in the region, how people can get involved, and what is being done with the Metro Plan and how outreach is involved.</p> <p>A section of the website was added addressing public involvement and how individuals can become active in the transportation planning process. This is located at http://strafford.org/transportation/ppplan.php</p>	<p>Strafford MPO staff will attend 2-5 community outreach events to educate members of the public about transportation, land use and air quality issues and their interrelationships; and about the transportation planning process and how they can be involved in it.</p> <p>Strafford MPO staff will meet with at least three transportation stakeholders to educate them about our processes as an MPO, while also gathering input from them for the Metro Plan and other planning documents.</p>



2 Solicit the participation of local officials, community groups, and individual citizens in the transportation planning process.

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<p>Reach out to current contacts on our Strafford MPO Policy and Technical Advisory Committee groups, to COAST and Wildcat Transit, and other colleagues for suggestions for citizens' advisory committee members.</p> <p>Put together a citizens advisory committee to provide insight into local community needs concerning transportation in the region</p>	<p>Strafford MPO planned to create a Citizen's Advisory Committee during FY2015. After talking with the SMPO Committees there didn't seem to be an interest or recommendations of interested parties for the Citizens Advisory Committee.</p> <p>Instead Strafford MPO chose to focus on individual outreach events, creating surveys and holding public meetings.</p> <p>Strafford MPO has worked to update their contact list by adding a variety of local officials, community groups, and individual citizens. Emails of current contacts were updated as well.</p>	<p>SRPC will contact local officials from the three regional communities that were not able to meet during the project solicitation process to set up meetings to solicit their input about Strafford MPO transportation planning priorities and local projects.</p> <p>SRPC will engage with local citizens through community events explaining the Metro Plan process between fall 2015 and spring 2016.</p> <p>SRPC will hold at least three focus interviews with groups of transportation stakeholders for input on the MTP and other transportation planning documents.</p>



3 Reach out to under-represented persons and groups, including low-income, minority populations and those of Limited English Proficiency to ensure that decisions are made with their input take into consideration.

Performance Measures/Indicators for FY2015	Explanation of complete/incomplete measures during FY2015	Performance Measures/Indicators for FY2016
<p>Inclusion of a more extensive dataset in future Title VI reports that addresses LEP, low income, and minority population concentrations in the region.</p> <p>Contact the Dover Adult Learning Center to set up bi-annual meetings with the LEP student populations to solicit input concerning transportation planning and processes.</p>	<p>We work to ensure we receive input from those whose voices may be absent during the planning process. We do this by holding events at a variety of accessible locations. As the minority population is quite low in the Strafford MPO Region we often do not engage directly with groups of minority populations or those of Limited English Proficiency.</p> <p>We have included a more extensive dataset as a complement to this evaluation report. This will help us understand the composition of our region and where we can focus our outreach efforts to best reach more of these populations.</p>	<p>Better identify what minority groups exist in the Strafford region through the use of the Title VI dataset for the FY 2015 <i>Title VI Goals and Accomplishment Report</i>. Create and an update to the dataset for the FY2016 report.</p> <p>Develop a list of at least five strategies for how we can reach these populations.</p> <p>Attend events such as the Jakarta festival, and the Newmarket Heritage Festival during FY2016-FY2017.</p>

4 Inform the general public of the federally funded transportation projects and planning activities for each fiscal year.

Performance Measures/Indicators for FY2015	Explanation of complete/incomplete measures during FY2015		Performance Measures/Indicators for FY2016
Expand the delivery of the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects to community/cultural centers, and LEP class centers.	While we did not expand the delivery of the Annual Listing of Obligated projects we have been cognizant of posting other notices in new locations. As we are located in the Rochester Community Center, we are able to post public notices in a location where a variety of community members will see them. We also posted public notices and the actual documents for the Annual Listing of Obligated projects at the Dover, Rochester, and Somersworth libraries. These communities have some of the highest number of LEP, low income, and minority populations within the region.		Expand the delivery of the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects to at least 3 community and cultural centers so that we give a wide audience the opportunity to review the document. Explain different federally funded transportation projects during outreach events. Add a survey question addressing knowledge of federally funded transportation projects.

5 Provide notice to the public that the Strafford Regional Planning Commission/Strafford MPO operates its programs or conducts its planning activities subject to the nondiscrimination requirement under Title VI, and that members of the public can request additional information regarding the obligations of the Planning Commission.

Performance Measures/Indicators for FY2015	Explanation of complete/incomplete measures during FY2015	Performance Measures/Indicators for FY2016
<p>Make it clear to those involved in the transportation planning processes that Strafford Regional Planning Commission operates its programs or conducts its planning activities subject to nondiscrimination under Title VI.</p> <p>Include accommodations for individuals that are classified as having Limited English Proficiency.</p>	<p>On the agendas for every Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee meeting, which are posted on the SRPC website and in the office, the following message is included <i>“reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a description of the accommodation you will need including as much detail as you can provide. Also include a way we can contact you if we need more information. Last minute requests will be accepted, but may be impossible to fill. Send an email to srpc@strafford.org or call 603-994-3500.”</i></p> <p>On the new SRPC website, the Title VI document is located under guiding documents in the Transportation section of the website.</p> <p>We always encourage people to contact us with any questions as well. We have included a new section on our website which explains the easiest and best ways to get involved, or get in touch with staff at Strafford MPO.</p> <p>We created an assurance of non-discrimination as part our organization’s policy documents. It is uploaded on our website on the Administration page.</p>	<p>Make sure the document stating our practices in accordance with Title VI legislation are present on our website and easy to locate.</p> <p>Upload SRPC Assurance of Non-Discrimination to the Title VI section of the SRPC website.</p> <p>Continue to list steps for special accommodations for meetings on our agendas.</p>



6 Continually identify and implement ways to improve the public input process.

Performance Measures/Indicators for FY2015	Explanation of complete/incomplete measures during FY2015	Performance Measures/Indicators for FY2016
<p>Sign up for email lists for other MPOs in New England and across the state in an effort to learn about their public processes</p> <p>Attend 1-5 trainings concerning public outreach processes (including webinars)</p>	<p>Strafford MPO continually stays up to date on public input processes for other MPOs in the state, as well as looking to outside examples and case studies for exemplary outreach and planning practices. The Title VI Coordinator has signed up for multiple MPO email lists to learn what other organizations are doing in their outreach processes.</p> <p>Strafford MPO meets with transportation agencies in the region, such as COAST and Wildcat Transit, to learn about the types of outreach and planning they are doing for Title VI. Strafford MPO staff are involved on the Coast Board of Directors and on the CommuteSMARTseacoast Board of Directors.</p> <p>The Title VI Coordinator has attended multiple webinars concerning transportation outreach best practices and case studies from around the United States.</p>	<p>Use new techniques, such as polling applications, for gathering input that would allow those who may not normally voice their opinions to express their thoughts.</p> <p>Continue to attend 1-5 trainings concerning public outreach processes (including webinars).</p> <p>Follow at least five new transportation groups/MPOs on social media to learn of new /innovative techniques for transportation planning.</p>



7 Ensure no person is denied access to or participation in Metropolitan Planning Organization programs

Performance Measures/Indicators for FY2015	Explanation of complete/incomplete measures during FY2015	Performance Measures/Indicators for FY2016
<p>Continue to hold MPO meetings in a central location with public transportation access.</p>	<p>At Strafford MPO we comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which states, “that no person is excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation.” It is also the policy of the Strafford Regional Planning Commission/ Strafford MPO to carry out the requirements of Title VI and to assure every effort will be made to ensure nondiscrimination in all its programs and operations, regardless of the funding source. Complaint procedures and complaint forms have also been implemented to support this policy. A Title VI Coordinator was nominated and approved to oversee this portion of compliance of Title VI is carried out with all transportation planning processes.</p> <p>Meetings are held in an easily accessible location with plenty of notice surrounding each meeting.</p>	<p>Note and record all input received from willing participants concerning transportation planning processes.</p> <p>Hold events in a variety of accessible locations around the region.</p> <p>List comments from all parties from the Metro Plan public comment period on the SRPC website.</p> <p>Ensure the majority of Technical Advisory, Policy, and Commission meetings are held in locations that are accessible by public transportation.</p>

8 Avoid disproportionately high and/or adverse impacts on communities.

Performance Measures/Indicators for FY2015	Explanation of complete/incomplete measures during FY2015	Performance Measures/Indicators for FY2016
<p>Setup educational displays at local organizations and citizen groups</p> <p>Speak at civic group meetings, schools and leadership courses</p>	<p>SRPC is committed to the requirements of MAP-21 and Title VI by actively reaching out to those underrepresented populations within communities that may have disproportionately high or adverse impacts because of transportation planning.</p> <p>Strafford MPO has set up educational displays at outreach events and at Annual Meetings. The goal is for the public to understand that SMPO works to ensure that transportation planning avoids high and adverse impacts on the community. Strafford MPO staff speaks to this at COAST board meetings and events such as the Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation. SRPC staff hold public meetings concerning projects of regional impact.</p>	<p>Continue to conduct Regional Impact Committee (RIC) meetings for projects of regional impact.</p> <p>Notice RIC meeting on social media, in SRPC communications, and in other news outlets.</p> <p>Provide opportunities for transportation project managers (i.e. invite them to public meetings) to explain transportation projects and the steps they have taken to avoid disproportionately high and/or adverse impacts on communities.</p>



9 Improve the public involvement process

Performance Measures/Indicators for FY2015	Explanation of complete/incomplete measures during FY2015	Performance Measures/Indicators for FY2016
<p>Reach out to communities through the establishment of a citizen's advisory group.</p> <p>Establish a stronger presence at transportation related events by attending at least 2-4 per year (i.e. Bike Walk to Work Week, presentations on DOT projects, etc)</p>	<p>Strafford MPO's Communications & Outreach Specialist continuously reaches out to communities and individuals. Some of the ways this has been accomplished is through using social media: Strafford MPO uses their blog, Facebook, Twitter, and Constant Contact to discuss and inform the public on transportation planning in the region. Bits and Pieces, a weekly update from Strafford MPO (and RPC/EDD) is sent out to a database that includes individuals, organizations, elected officials and municipalities. It highlights transportation information in our region and helps keep the public informed of the planning process.</p> <p>We have included a section on meeting agendas called, Citizen's Forum, that allows the public to speak about the meeting subject matter. SMPO staff attended multiple events over the past fiscal year such as Bike Walk to Work Week, GACIT hearings, and other transportation related conferences.</p> <p>Blogs addressing transportation planning are posted so that individuals can view events, processes, and projects of the Strafford MPO transportation planning staff.</p>	<p>Make format upgrades to the next version of the Public Participation Plan to make it more reader friendly.</p> <p>Use new applications and programs to conduct outreach allowing all interested parties to voice their opinions in person or through a web-based application allowing for anonymity.</p> <p>Post at least five transportation blogs a year.</p>



10 Involve the public by providing opportunities for input early and often in the transportation planning and decision making process

Performance Measures/Indicators for FY2015	Explanation of complete/incomplete measures during FY2015	Performance Measures/Indicators for FY2016
<p>Continue to advertise meetings via social media and print outlets</p> <p>Advertise transportation meetings in the region.</p>	<p>When Strafford MPO holds meetings related to transportation planning they are posted online, and in the SRPC office allowing sufficient time for individuals to plan for attendance. Strafford MPO Policy and Technical Advisory Committee meetings are held on a set schedule so that individuals can easily plan for attendance as well.</p> <p>Strafford MPO posts notices for public hearing meetings at local libraries and in town halls (for specific announcements).</p>	<p>Notify the public of the Metro Plan processes before they begin.</p> <p>Post notices for meetings and events in a variety of locations with the required amount of notice.</p> <p>Make it clear that we want input from all citizens so we may portray an accurate voice of the region.</p>

11 Document public involvement process, comments and responses

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<p>Include a separate list of public comments and responses on the SRPC website</p> <p>Post 2-3 blog posts a year specifically about transportation outreach and planning</p>	<p>Public involvement processes are documented in many ways including meeting minutes, in reports, and via social media outlets with our Facebook, twitter, and blog. Public involvement processes are also extensively covered in the Public Outreach Plan for Local Solutions for the Strafford Region, and the Strafford MPO Public Participation Plan. Comments received from outreach are individually addressed, sorted, analyzed and categorized to ensure that everyone's input is addressed in an equitable manner.</p> <p>For Local Solutions for the Strafford Region (the SRPC Regional Master Plan) a separate webpage was created to house public comments. We plan to do something similar with the input from the comments received from the public comment period for the Metro Plan.</p> <p>Also, in an effort to document our public involvement process there have been multiple blog posts addressing transportation projects and outreach processes, There were at least eight transportation related blog post on the Strafford RPC blog in FY2015. These can be viewed at www.strafford.org/magazine.</p> <p>Every weekly update that is sent out from SRPC also has a transportation section.</p>	<p>Continue to publish blogs (at least 5 in FY2016) related to transportation outreach and planning processes.</p> <p>Create a webpage for comments to the Metro Plan and post public comment period comments for viewing by all interested parties.</p> <p>Keep track of input for use in the MTP, and eventually the update of the Public Participation Plan.</p> <p>Keep sharing with our audiences what we are doing as an MPO via our weekly update process.</p>



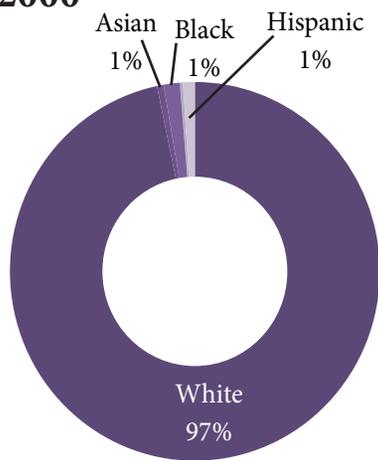
Languages Spoken at Home

- 93% English
- 3.5% Other Indo-European languages
- 1.8% Asian and Pacific Islander languages
- 1.3% Spanish
- 4% Other

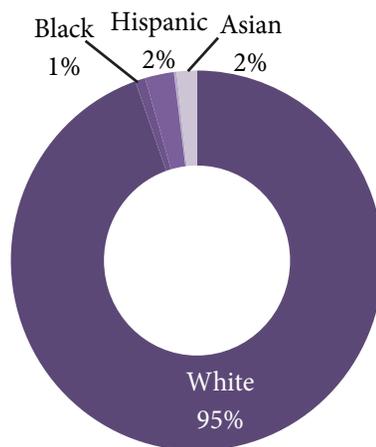
Source: ACS 2013

Minority Population Share

2000



2010



Source: Census 2010

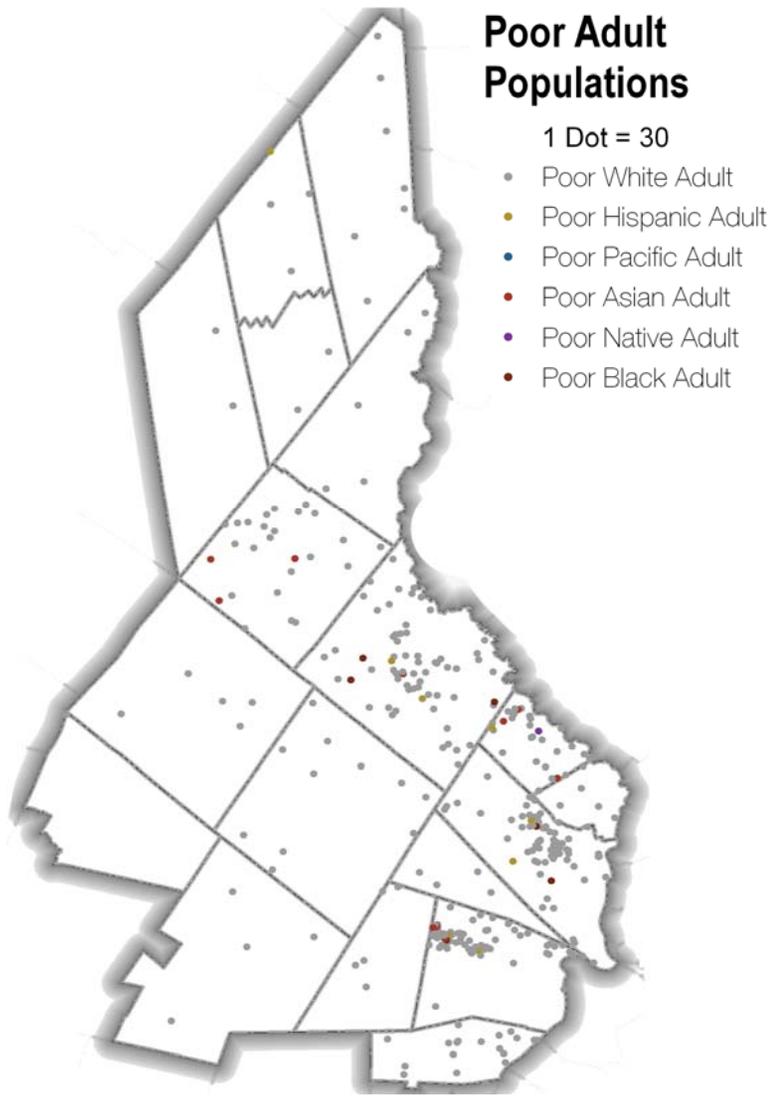


Student LEP Populations

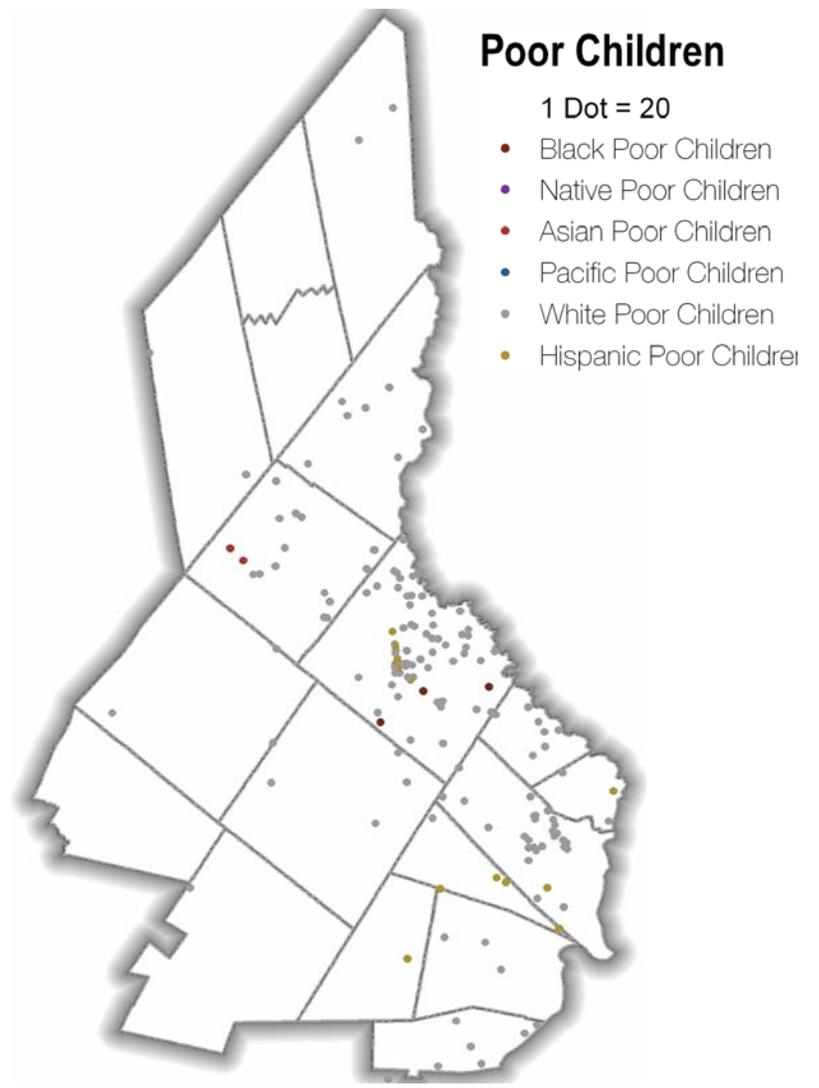
School System	2012 Enrollment	2012 LEP Eligible	LEP Students (%)
Barrington	1004	**	N/A
Dover	4104	101	2.5%
Farmington	1379	**	N/A
Governor Wentworth Regional	2382	**	N/A
Milton	594	**	N/A
Newmarket	1030	**	N/A
Northwood	433	**	N/A
Nottingham	508	0	0%
Oyster River Coop	1994	39	2%
Rochester	4383	29	.7%
Rollinsford	193	**	N/A
Somersworth	1780	56	3.1%
Strafford	432	**	N/A
Wakefield	427	0	0%
Coe-Brown Academy	718	0	0%

Key: ** Less than 10 students Source: NHDOE

Poor Adult Populations



Poor Child Populations



Source: Census 2010