

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Title VI Civil Rights Plan – for Public Transit

Background

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR) receives direct Tribal Transit funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and it also has received pass through federal funding through ODOT as well as direct Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) monies. The Grand Ronde Tribe is a domestic dependent nation with preserved rights to tribal sovereignty. The Tribe has a government to government relationship with the State of Oregon. The FTA has obligated States that receive FTA transit funds to pass on their Civil Rights obligation along with their federal pass through funds. This pass through obligation did not specifically exempt tribal governments from this obligation.

The Grand Ronde Tribe does not provide direct public transit services. The Tribe uses intergovernmental agreements with three adjacent public transit entities all of which have pre-existing direct obligations to have Title VI Civil Rights plans for public transit. The Tribe's participation in the cost of these three routes does not alter that primary obligation.

The Civil Rights plans were created to protect minority populations from discrimination in transit services. The Grand Ronde Tribe used their status as a transit eligible entity to bring transit funding and transit services to our unincorporated Grand Ronde community where public transit did not exist. Each of the transit routes are a public service open to all. Our contracted vendors to these agreements are obligated to comply with Title VI Civil Rights requirements. As the Grand Ronde Tribe is a direct recipient of FTA funding the FTA has oversight responsibilities for their funding instead of ODOT (page 2 of ODOT's 2013, Handbook Title VI of the Civil Rights Act).

Through the Tribe's intergovernmental agreements for public transit service, which is the only public transit program of the Tribe, the Tribe will seek to ensure that these public transit agencies comply with all applicable federal and state public transit requirements that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of its public transit programs or activities.

The Tribe has an intergovernmental transit agreement with Yamhill County Transit Area for a West Valley route between Grand Ronde and McMinnville. The Tribe has a Professional Services Agreement with Pacific Crest Bus Lines for a Coastal Connector route between Lincoln City, Grand Ronde, and continues to Salem.

The Tribe will have additional intergovernmental transit agreements with other public transit agencies as public transportation needs arise. This policy will be updated as new intergovernmental transit agreements are executed.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines to effectively monitor and ensure that the CTGR is in compliance with all applicable FTA Title VI requirements and regulations in order to carry out the provisions of the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Title VI Regulations at 49 CFR Part 21. The standard annual certifications and assurances for financial assistance from the FTA includes Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Policy

Discrimination is defined as an intentional or unintentional action through which a person, solely because of race, color, or national origin is subjected to unequal treatment under a program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. CTGR is committed to creating and maintaining public transportation that is free of all forms of discrimination. Though its contracts with public transit providers, CTGR will require that no person or group of persons shall be discriminated against, based on race, color, or national origin with regard to routing, scheduling or the quality of transportation service. Upon receipt of any complaints, CTGR will take appropriate preventive or corrective action available to it to address behavior that violates this policy or the rights and privileges designed to protect. Should CTGR provide direct transportation services with the FTA funds in the future, CTGR will take primary responsibility for ensuring that no person or group of persons shall be discriminated against, based on race, color, or national origin with regard to routing, scheduling or the quality of transportation service.

Program

CTGR shall provide information to the public regarding Title VI obligations and advise members of the public of the protections against discrimination afforded to them by Title VI.

Complaint Procedures

Complaints should be filed under the complaint procedure of the public transit provider that is providing the service on that route under intergovernmental agreement with the Tribe by using the form of that provider. The complaint should be filed within 180 days of the occurrence of the alleged discriminatory act. Complainant may also copy his or her complaint to the Grand Ronde Tribe or provide a separate complaint using the form in Attachment C.

Primary Transit Providers (Grand Ronde Tribal Community Area)

If you believe you have been denied federal Title VI protections or benefits on the basis of your race, color, or national origin then your written complaint may be addressed to:

Coastal Connector Route (Lincoln City, to Grand Ronde, then to Salem)

Pacific Crest Bus Line, President, 4145 NW Coyner Ave, Redmond, OR, 97756:
Phone 541-366-5110, info@pacificcrestbuslines.net .

West Valley Route (Grand Ronde to McMinnville)

Yamhill County Transit Area, Transit Manager, 53 NE 5th Street, McMinnville, OR 97128; phone 503-474-4910, ycta@co.yamhill.or.us.

Complaints may also be filed directly with the Federal Transit Administration by filing a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights, Attention: Title VI Program Coordinator, East Building, 5th Floor-TCR, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20590. Additionally, complaints may be filed directly with the Oregon Department of Transportation, Office of Civil Rights, Title VI Office, 355 Capital Street NE, Salem, OR 97301, (503) 986-3169.

Complainants wishing to provide their complaint to CTGR should copy their complaint to:

Mr. John Mercier, Public Works and Tribal Transportation Program Manager
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
9615 Grand Ronde Road
Grand Ronde, OR 97347-9712

John.Mercier@grandronde.org

The complaint must include the basis for discrimination, the date of the offense and an explanation of the events. The Tribe will review written complaints within 10 business days and will provide the complainant with confirmation of receipt of complaint.

Following review of the complaint received or copied to CTGR, CTGR will address the issues with the contracted transit provider and take appropriate action.

CTGR will contact the person submitting the complaint within 10 working days to verify receipt and to ask any follow up questions.

CTGR should respond complete an investigation within 90 days of receipt of a completed complaint form. If more information is needed to resolve the case, CTGR may contact the complainant.

If CTGR determines that the complaint does not fall within their jurisdiction, CTGR will record the information and refer the person submitting the complaint to the entity of jurisdiction and any other appropriate entities including ODOT or the FTA.

This complaint process does not deny or limit the person's right to file a formal complaint with an outside enforcement agency (BOLI, EEOC, U.S. Department of Transportation, FHWA, FTA, or U.S.

Department of Justice) or to seek private counsel for complaints alleging discrimination.

A person who submits a complaint has the right to appeal the investigation and findings.

Attachment A

Title VI Policy

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states: "No person in the United States shall, on the grounds 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."

The Grand Ronde Tribe is committed to complying with the requirements of Title VI in the provision of public transit services through intergovernmental agreements, and will not permit any discrimination in these public services based on race, color, sex, national origin, or any other protected classification.

**Your Rights Under Title VI for Public Transit
The Confederated Tribe of Grand Ronde**

The Grand Ronde Tribe has intergovernmental agreements with public transit entities that are required to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act in the operation of their public transit services without regard to race, color, or national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by any unlawful discriminatory practice under Title VI may file a complaint with the Transit agency providing that service. By accepting federal transit funding the Tribe is also required to comply and does so primarily through these contracted services but complaints can also be provided to the Tribe.

Primary Transit Providers (Grand Ronde Tribal Community Area)

If you believe you have been denied federal Title VI protections or benefits on the basis of your race, color, or national origin then your written complaint may be addressed to:

West Valley Route (Grand Ronde to McMinnville)

Yamhill County Transit Area, Transit Manager, 53 NE 5th Street, McMinnville, OR 97128; phone 503-474-4910, ycta@co.yamhill.or.us.

With a copy to Transit funding Entity (for Grand Ronde Tribal Community Area)

Mr. John Mercier, Public Works and Tribal Transportation Program Manager
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
9615 Grand Ronde Road
Grand Ronde, OR 97347-9712
john.mercier@grandronde.org

You may file a complaint directly with the Federal Transit Administration by filing a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights, Attention: Title VI Program Coordinator, East Building, 5th Floor-TCR, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20590.

You may also file a complaint directly with the Oregon Department of Transportation, Office of Civil Rights, Title VI Office, 355 Capital Street NE, Salem, OR 97301, (503) 986-3169.

For more information on the Grand Ronde Tribe's Title VI Plan and the procedures to file a complaint contact the Tribe's public transit civil rights program contact John Mercier at 503-879-2400 by phone, or text (503) 428-1441, or email john.mercier@grandronde.org.

If information is needed in another language, contact 503-798-3521. Si se necesita informacion en otro idioma, comuniquese con el Departamento de Planificacion al 503-798-3521.

This notice is posted on the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde website at:

<https://www.grandronde.org/press-media/project-updates/transportation-projects/>

**Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Title VI Complaint Form for Transit Services**

NOTE: This Complaint Form can be accessed on the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde website at:
<https://www.grandronde.org/press-media/project-updates/transportation-projects/>

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states “No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance”. *Title 42 U.S.C. Section 2000d*

Please provide the following information necessary in order to process your complaint. A formal complaint must be filed within 180 days of the occurrence of the alleged discriminatory act. Assistance is available upon request. Please contact John Mercier at (503) 879-2400

Complainant's Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Telephone: _____

Person(s) discriminated against (if other than complainant)

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Telephone: _____

What is the discrimination based on?

____ Race/Color ____ National Origin ____ Sex ____ Disability
____ Low Income ____ Limited English Proficiency

Date of alleged discrimination: _____

Location: _____

Agency and/or person responsible for alleged discrimination:

If the discrimination occurred on one of the public transit buses serving Grand Ronde which bus route was it?

☐ West Valley Route

☐ Cherriots Grand Ronde 2X

☐ Coastal Connector Route

What was the time of the day? _____
Describe the alleged discrimination. Explain what happened and whom you believe was responsible (*please attach additional sheets of paper to this form is needed*).

List names and contact information of persons who may have knowledge of the alleged discrimination.

How can this complaint be resolved? How can the problem be corrected?

Please sign and date. The complaint will not be accepted if it has not been signed. You may attach any written materials or other supporting information that you think is relevant to your complaint.

Signature

Date

Please submit this form in person at the address below, or mail this form to:
Mr. John Mercier, Public Works and Tribal Transportation Program Manager
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
9615 Grand Ronde Road
Grand Ronde, OR 97347-9712

John.Mercier@grandronde.org

Public Participation Plan Requirement

The Confederated Tribe of Grand Ronde exists to serve its members subject to treaties with the United States of America. The Tribe receives federal and state transit funds it uses to provide public transit services for its members and to non-members as a public service.

The Tribe holds an annual community input meeting during May or early June of each year which is publicized in the Smoke Signals which is widely distributed, free, and the only local newspaper in this community area. Non-members can attend and comments are collected from all who attend who are interested. The Tribe is responsible for several dozen programs that require public input. The Tribe cannot afford to have separate meetings each year for all of these programs. Public Transit services has had an open house table, banner, flyers and a questionnaire at this annual meeting for several years now.

Following these meetings Tribal staff meet with the Tribe's Special Transportation Advisory Committee. The STFAC includes members of the Grand Ronde Tribe's Elders Committee and no more than one elder staff member of the Elder's Activity Center. Members of the committee are present at lunch most every day of the week at the Elder's Activity Center. The STFAC makes recommendations to Tribal Council. The Tribal Council's legislative action committee meeting is publicly advertised as is the Tribal Council meeting. The Tribal Council considers comments received then determines what action is best for the Tribe and its members and in the case of public transit what is best for all those in the community.

The Tribe has a Transit Development Plan and Coordinated Transportation Plan or Transit Plan. The Tribe also has a Long Range Transportation Plan and a Tribal Transportation Plan which was approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. These plans were adopted by Tribal Council in 2019. The Tribe plans to update its plan during 2025-2026. Additional public input (tribal and non-tribal) will be part of that project and process.

The Tribe Council holds a public meeting every other Wednesday night which includes an open topics session after a normally short agenda. The public can bring issues or concerns to Tribal Council at that time (subject to a 5 minute limitation rule). The meetings are available on the Tribal website.

Language Assistance Plan

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde contracts with area public transit providers through intergovernmental agreements. These public transit providers already have their own Limited English Proficiency (LEP) plans and service areas which include much larger population bases.

Four Factor Demographic Analysis:

1) Nature and importance of service provided by CTGR.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR) serves the Grand Ronde community area. Service areas for the Tribe vary depending on the program. For public transit the Grand Ronde-Willamina area is the appropriate service community. The Tribe has brought public transit to the community and has facilitated transit through the community on to other destinations. The Tribe serves as a transit hub between the coast and the northern and central valley areas.

2) The number or proportion and LEP persons in the service area.

CTGR has used the 2022 American Community Survey for determining the LEP population. Data was gathered for Grand Ronde and Willamina to identify information on persons who do speak languages other than English at home and who speaks English less well or not at all and would be classified as limited English proficient or “LEP”.

a) 2022: American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year Estimates Subject Tables

1. S0101 Age and Sex
2. S1601 Language Spoken at Home

Description	% of Total Population	Total Individuals	Sub-Area Grand Ronde	Sub-Area Fort Hill	Sub-Area Willamina
Total Service Area Population		3762	1410	65	2287
Population 5 years and over	93%	3504	1280	65	2159
Speak only English	90%	3376	1207	65	2104
Spanish spoken at Home:	1.4%	54	20	0	34
English spoken less than very well:	0.7%	25	7	0	18
Other Indo-European languages	0.5%	19	2	0	17
English spoken less than very well:	0%	0	0	0	0
Asian and Pacific Island languages:	0.5%	20	16	0	4
English spoken less than very well:	0.3%	13	13	0	0
Other languages:	0.9%	35	35	0	0
English spoken less than very well:	0.4%	14	14	0	0

A review of the data from the 2022 American Community Survey shows that the main minority languages spoken in the transit service area are Spanish and other languages. The percentages are small. Less than 5% of the population speaks any single language other than English.

3) Frequency of contact with LEP persons

Since the initial extension of public transit service to Grand Ronde (which the Tribe arranged with federal and state transit funds through existing public transit service providers) there have been no Title VI investigations, complaints or lawsuits against the Tribe or, to the Tribe's knowledge, against any of the Tribe's three public transit agency vendors on the three routes the Tribe subsidizes with these funds. The Tribe does have a health clinic which in some communities also serves a sizable Hispanic population. There is a Hispanic health center in McMinnville (30 minutes northeast) and it is understood that this population travels there for care. Only 53 Spanish speakers were identified in the 2010 Census data for the Grand Ronde – Willamina area and all stated that they spoke English well. There were 11 Thai speakers in Grand Ronde that did not speak English very well and 11 Native speakers in Willamina that said they don't speak English very well. Those are not Grand Ronde (Chinuk) speakers to the Tribe's knowledge (there are no remaining first speaker Chinuk speakers in our area) so we believe they are likely a variety of different Native languages.

4) Resources and Costs

The three transit providers all have much larger LEP populations in the areas they primarily serve than the portions of their service the Grand Ronde Tribe contracts for. Their LEP programs are available for users to access.

“Minority” Representation Table

The Grand Ronde Tribe is majority Native American by race. By definition, only Native Americans can be on Tribal Council. Tribal Council designated a subgroup of the Tribal Elders to serve as the Special Transportation Fund Advisory Committee including Tribal elders and staff. The Committee members are appointed by the Elder’s Committee. Tribal Council may also appoint Ex Officio members to assist the Committee in their determinations. The Grand Ronde – Willamina area is majority Caucasian. Again, the Tribe has used the Grand Ronde – Willamina area as the applicable service area.

Body	Caucasian	Latino	African Am.	Asian Am.	Native Am.
Population - Grand Ronde, & Willamina*	68.83%	6.29%	0.38%	0.41%	16.20%
Tribal Council	0	0	0	0	9 – 100%
Transportation Advisory Committee	0	0	0	0	3 – 100%
* Most of the balance was “two races” Native American and White 6.59%.					

Equity Analysis

This does not apply to transit stations or bus shelters but only to transit storage or maintenance facilities or to transit operations centers. As noted above the Tribe does not provide any transit services directly and has no such facilities.

Fixed Route Service

In contracting for services the Tribe will ensure transit providers provide vehicles for these routes of an appropriate age and quality that is based on factors other than race, color, or national origin. The Tribe's contracted routes are commuter routes.