



WHITLEY COUNTY
INDIANA

Whitley County

TITLE VI IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

2025

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INTRODUCTION

This Title VI Implementation Plan is a part of the Whitley County continual and ongoing effort to proactively meet and exceed the minimum compliance requirements established under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 49 CFR § 26, and the related anti-discrimination statutes and regulations. With this Implementation Plan, Whitley County seeks to provide continued transparency, clarity, and technical guidance for internal and external constituents regarding its Title VI program.

WHITLEY COUNTY TITLE VI NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE & POLICY

Whitley County values each individual's civil rights and wishes to provide equal opportunity and equitable service for the citizens of this state. As a recipient of federal funds, Whitley County conforms to Title VI and all related statutes, regulations, and directives, which provide that no person shall be excluded from participation in, denied benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance from Whitley County on the grounds of race, color, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, national origin, religion, income status or limited English proficiency. Whitley County further assures every effort will be made to ensure nondiscrimination in all its programs and activities, regardless of whether those programs and activities are federally funded.

It is the policy of Whitley County to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e; Age Discrimination Act of 1975, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6101-6107; Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4601-4655; 1973 Federal Aid Highway Act, 23 U.S.C. § 324; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Pub. L. No. 92-318, 86 Stat. 235; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. §§ 701 *et seq*; Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Pub. L. No. 100-259, 102 Stat. 28; Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 *et seq*.; Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act 1968, 42 U.S.C. §§ 3601-3631; Exec. Order No. 12898, 59 Fed. Reg. 7629 (1994) (Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations); and Exec. Order No. 13166, 65 Fed. Reg. 50121 (2000) (Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency).

The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Pub. L. No. 100-259, 102 Stat. 28, broadened the scope of Title VI coverage by expanding the definition of terms "programs or activities" to include all programs or activities of federal-aid recipients, subrecipients and contractors/consultants, regardless of whether such programs and activities are federally assisted.

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Pub. L. No. 93-112, 87 Stat. 355, Whitley County hereby gives assurance that no qualified disabled person shall, solely by reason of disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or otherwise be subjected to discrimination, including discrimination in employment, under any program or activity that receives or benefits from this federal financial assistance.

Whitley County also assures that every effort will be made to prevent discrimination through the impacts of its programs, policies and activities on minority and low-income populations. In addition, Whitley County will take reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to services for persons with limited English proficiency (LEP).

Whitley County will, where necessary and appropriate, revise, update and incorporate nondiscrimination requirements into appropriate manuals, directives, and regulations.

Whenever Whitley County distributes federal-aid funds to a second-tier subrecipient, Whitley County will include Title VI language in all written agreements.

The following individuals have been identified as Whitley County's Title VI Coordinator and ADA Coordinator and are responsible for initiating and monitoring Title VI activities, preparing reports and performing other responsibilities, as required by 23 C.F.R. § 200 and 49 C.F.R. § 21.

Jennifer Shinabery
Title VI Coordinator
220 West Van Buren Street
Columbia City, IN 46725
jshinabery@whitleygov.com

Brad Allen
ADA Coordinator
220 West Van Buren Street
Columbia City, IN 46725
wcengineer@whitleygov.com

Whitley County affirms its commitment to nondiscrimination annually by publishing its Annual Title VI Implementation Plan and reaffirming its Assurances of Nondiscrimination, incorporated herein (see next page).

TITLE VI ASSURANCES & IMPLEMENTATION

Fully executed Assurances are included in Appendix A and integrated into this document. This Title VI Implementation Plan has been adopted, implemented and is being adhered to by Whitley County. Whitley County has implemented this plan by resolution, and it is effective until November 2025. This plan will be renewed on or before December 2025.

Signed by: Chad Banks
Chad Banks, Whitley County Commissioner

Date: 7/21/2025

Signed by: T Baysinger
Theresa Baysinger, Whitley County Commissioner

Date: 7/21/25

Signed by: Rob Schuman
Rob Schuman, Whitley County Commissioner

Date: 7/21/25

The individuals listed above are duly authorized representatives of Whitley County.

WHITLEY COUNTY ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING

WHITLEY COUNTY ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING

All Title VI concerns should be directed towards the Title VI Coordinator. Additional Title VI department contacts are listed below:

ADA Coordinator	Brad Allen	260-248-3185	wcengineer@whitleygov.com
Assessor	Kim Erdly	260-248-3109	wcassessor@whitleygov.com
Auditor	Tiffany Deakins	260-244-2343	wcauditor@whitleygov.com
Commissioners	Chad Banks	260-244-2378	cbanks@whitleygov.com
Circuit Court	Judge Matt Rentschler	260-248-3115	mjr@whitleygov.com
Clerk	Cindy Doolittle	260-244-2301	cdoolittle@whitleygov.com
Coroner	Scott Smith	260-248-7861	ssmith@whitleygov.com
County Council	Thor Hodges	260-229-1284	thodges@whitleygov.com
Community Corrections	Paula Worden	260-244-2302	wccommunitycorr@whitleygov.com
County Engineer	Brad Allen	260-248-3185	wcengineer@whitleygov.com
Emergency Management	Ed Scott	260-248-3167	escott@whitleygov.com
Purdue Extension Office	Todd Geiger	260-244-7615	geigert@purdue.edu
Health Department	Scott Wagner	260-248-3121	swagner@whitleygov.com
Highway Department	Ryan Getts	260-248-3124	wchighway@whitleygov.com
Maintenance	Mark Sturtevant	260-248-3114	msturtevant@whitleygov.com
Museum	Aaron Mathieu	260-244-6372	wcmuseum@whitleygov.com
Planning & Building	Nathan Bilger	260-248-3165	wcplanning@whitleygov.com
Probation Department	Ed Beber	260-248-3117	ebeber@whitleygov.com
Prosecutor	DJ Sigler	260244-3000	dj@whitcopros.org
Recorder	Rosemary Brown	260-248-3197	wcrecorder@whitleygov.com
Security	Adam Johnson	260-248-3148	ajohnson@whitleysd.com
Sheriff	Jason Spencer	260-248-3101	jspencer@whitleygov.com
Soil & Water	Nadean Lamle	260-244-6266	nadean.Lamle@in.nacdnet.net
Solid Waste Management	Tara Meyers	260-248-3132	recycling@whitleygov.com
Superior Court	Judge Doug Fahl	260-248-3119	dfahl@whitleygov.com
Title VI Coordinator	Jennifer Shinabery	260-248-3134	jshinabery@whitleygov.com
Treasurer	Kay Gatton	260-244-2305	wctreasurer@whitleygov.com
Veterans Service Officer	Joshua Smith	260-248-3189	joshuasmith@whitleygov.com

WHITLEY COUNTY OVERVIEW OF TITLE VI PROGRAM: DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS & REPORTING

The type of data collected is dependent on the program area's objective. Whitley County collects various types of data to ensure compliance with Title VI. Some information is collected for a period with the objective of determining what data needs to be collected.

The following types of data are currently being collected by Whitley County:

- Complaints received, logged, processed, and investigated by Whitley County
- Environmental Justice analysis and reports
- Limited English Proficiency reports
- Title VI Training
- Public Involvement Survey
- Records of meeting minutes and discussions related to Title VI in all program areas.

COMPLAINTS OF DISCRIMINATION

HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT?

While a Complainant may preliminarily submit his or her complaint by online form submission, mail, facsimile, or email to the Title VI Coordinator, a signed, original copy of the complaint must be mailed to the Title VI Coordinator to officially begin the complaint process. Any person with a disability may request to file his or her complaint using an alternative format. Whitley County does not require a Complainant to use the Whitley County complaint form when submitting his or her complaint.

Direct all complaints of discrimination pursuant to Title VI to:

Jennifer Shinabery
Title VI Coordinator
220 West van Buren Street
Columbia City, IN 46725
jshinabery@whitleygov.com
260-248-3134

ELEMENTS OF A COMPLETE COMPLAINT

A complaint must be both written and signed to be complete. Verbal complaints must be reduced to writing and provided to the Complainant for confirmation, review, and signature before processing. The complaint form is available for download from the Whitley County website at: whitleygov.com

Additionally, a complaint must include the following information:

- The full name and address of the Complainant; a phone number and/or email address shall also be provided if available.
- The full name and address of the Respondent, the individual, agency, department, or program that allegedly discriminated against Complainant; and
- A description of the alleged discriminatory act(s) that violated Title VI (i.e., an act of intentional discrimination or one that has the effect of discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability) and the date of occurrence.

PROCESSING COMPLAINTS

The Title VI Coordinator will process all complaints. The Title VI Coordinator is responsible for:

- The Title VI Coordinator will review the complaint upon receipt to ensure that all required information is provided, the complaint meets the filing deadline date which is 180 days from the date the alleged discriminatory act occurred and falls within the jurisdiction of the County.
- The Title VI Coordinator will then investigate the complaint.
- If the complaint warrants a full investigation, the Complainant will be notified in writing by certified mail. This notice will name the investigator and/or investigating agency.
- The party alleged to have acted in a discriminatory manner will also be notified by certified mail as of the complaint. This letter will also include the investigator's name and will request that this party be available for an interview.
- Once the investigation has been completed, a written report will be prepared within sixty calendar days after the receipt of the complaint.
- All parties associated with the complaint will be properly notified of the outcome of the County's investigative report.
- If the complainant is not satisfied with the results of the investigation of the alleged discriminatory practice(s), she/he shall be advised of their right to appeal the County's decision. Appeals must be filed within 180 days after the County's final resolution. Unless new facts not previously considered come to light, reconsideration of the County's determination will not be available.
- The foregoing complaint resolution procedure will be implemented in accordance with the Department of Justice guidance manual entitled "Investigation Procedures Manual for the Investigation and Resolution of Complaints Alleging Violations of Title VI and Other Nondiscrimination Statutes," available online at: <http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/cor/Pubs/manuals/complain.pdf>

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ANALYSIS & REPORTS

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, each Federal agency shall ensure that all programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance that affect human health or the environment do not directly, or through other arrangements, use criteria, methods, or practices that discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin. Part of Title VI reads, "No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or

national origin be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

The three fundamental environmental justice (EJ) principles are:

- To avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority populations and low-income populations;
- To ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process; and
- To prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority populations and low-income populations.

Whitley County is committed to these three environmental justice principles in all work that the County performs.

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) POLICY

On August 11, 2000, the President signed an executive order, Executive Order 13166: Improving Access to Service for Persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), to clarify Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It has as its purpose, to ensure meaningful access to programs and services to otherwise eligible persons who are not proficient in the English language. In addition, The US Department of Transportation published Policy Guidance Concerning Recipients’ responsibilities to Limited English Proficient Person in the December 14, 2005 Federal Register. This guidance outlines the following four factors that the County uses to access the LEP populations.

1. The number and proportion of LEP persons eligible to be served or likely to be encountered by the County.
2. The frequency with which LEP individuals come into contact with the program, activity or service.
3. The nature and importance of the program, activity, or service provided by the program.
4. The resources available to the County and costs.

In addition, Whitley County has not implemented the safe harbor provision whereby it identifies and translate all vital documents into any language where the 5% threshold is met whereby 5% or more of the population in the county both:

- Does not speak English very well AND
- Primarily speaks another specific language as identified in current census data or other publicly available records.

SUMMARY OF THE FOUR FACTOR ANALYSIS

Factor 1:

The number and proportion of LEP persons eligible to be served or likely to be encountered by the County can only be estimated until the actual number of persons who can speak English less than “very well” are documented as needing assistance by County Staff. With this Title VI Plan being in early development stages and considered a document that may need regular updates, US Census Bureau information is being used at this time. The total population is provided below to shown general distribution of race and ethnicity in the community. The estimated

number of persons that may not speak English “very well” is following in the US Census Bureau 2006-2010 American Community Survey.

The U.S. Census Bureau provides statistics from 2021 for Whitley County as follows:

Total population = 34,430 (U.S. Census Bureau 2021 estimate)

Population by Ethnicity: (based on 2021 U.S. Census)

Hispanic or Latino = 861 Non-Hispanic or Latino = 33,569

Population by Race (based on 2021 U.S. Census):

White = 33,328, African American = 207, Asian = 172, American Indian or Alaska Native = 138, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander = 3, Other = 66, Identified by two or more = 516.

The US Census Bureau 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates under SELECTED SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS estimates the number of people in Whitley County who speak a language other than English to be 1258 with those speaking English less than “very well” estimated at 0.04% or approximately 121 individuals who may be considered limited in English proficiency.

According to the census numbers above there may be up to 452 individuals who live in the Whitley County that may be considered as LEP. Based on actual contact between County Staff and the community there have been very few requests from anyone in the service area asking the County to provide language translation services. Therefore, the LEP population is probably even less than the estimate shown above.

Factor 2: The frequency with which LEP individuals encounter the program, activity or service:

Due to the infrequent requests for translation services, there appears to be a minimal need for translation services from the County.

Factor 3: The nature and importance of the program, activity, or service provided by the program:

If at any time a LEP individual requests translation services that are considered important such that denial or delay of access or services or information could have serious or even life-threatening implications, the County will provide, upon request, services to assist the LEP population including translation of vital County documents and interpretation services.

Factor 4: The resources available to the County and costs:

In the event the Whitley County receives a request for individual translation services, the County will contact any appropriate local agency to obtain a translator at no cost to the individual who requires assistance.

SUMMARY OF LEP ACCOMMODATION PLAN

- Whitley County strives to serve its population to the best of its ability and will provide upon request, services to assist the LEP population including translation of vital documents and interpretation services deemed necessary to provide meaningful access to County services.
- A U.S. Census Bureau I Speak card is available as part of this document. This card allows LEP individuals to communicate their preferred language to County Staff whereas County Staff may then access a translation service as determined by the County.
- Whitley County utilizes a voluntary public involvement survey to collect information regarding persons affected by proposed projects. The survey permits respondents to remain anonymous, while voluntarily

answering questions regarding their gender, ethnicity, race, age, sex, disability status, and household income. Once the survey data has been collected, it will be reviewed and then the survey will be placed in a file for future reference. In the case enough surveys are collected over time to show a significant increase in LEP populations, the County may consider changes to their LEP policy. Completed surveys shall be retained for a period of three years from the date of the meeting and/or completion of the related project, if applicable.

- The County reviews written Title VI complaints and ensures every effort is made to resolve complaints informally at the local or regional level and review and update the County's Title VI plan and procedures as required.
- Staff for the County will be provided training on the requirements for providing meaningful access to services for LEP persons and new employees will receive the same training.

TITLE VI TRAINING

EMPLOYER/EMPLOYEE DISSEMINATION & TRAINING

The Title VI Coordinator and appropriate staff members will attend training provided through INDOT. This could include workshops provided by INDOT at either the INDOT district offices or at the central office. The staff training could also include training sessions provided at statewide conferences such as Purdue Road School or other conferences sponsored by Indiana LTAP. The training may also include webinars hosted by various agencies. County staff will also participate in other training opportunities as they become available. Training will be obtained on an annual basis.

The Title VI Coordinator will work with liaisons from each department in Whitley County in order to integrate Title VI compliance into all County offices. The Title VI Coordinator will work with the Page 12 department liaisons to educate new and existing County employees regarding Title VI requirements. The Title VI Coordinator will maintain records of attendance, training materials, and agendas regarding any training provided to County employees.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

DATA COLLECTION

Pursuant to 23 CFR 200.9(b) (4), Whitley County shall collect and analyze statistical information regarding demographics to assist in monitoring and ensuring nondiscrimination in all its programs and activities.

Whitley County shall utilize a voluntary Title VI public involvement survey that will be available at all public hearings and meetings. The survey will allow respondents to remain anonymous. The survey will ask questions regarding the respondent's gender, ethnicity, race, age, income and if they are disabled. The facilitator of the public hearings and meetings will make an announcement at the beginning of the meeting informing attendees of the survey and its purpose and a request will be made for the attendees to complete the voluntary survey.

Completed surveys will be retained by the Title VI Coordinator for three (3) years.

The Title VI Coordinator will also collect and report statistical data for the past three (3) years as it relates to the number of federally funded projects, complaints filed and the results of those complaints, any requests for language services, demographic statistics, and department compliance reviews.

Community involvement & outreach

Whitley County is committed to ensuring that community involvement and outreach is done in a respectful and appropriate manner that will allow for diverse involvement. Public meetings, programs and activities will provide equitable opportunities for participation.

Whitley County hosts meetings monthly and those meetings are open to the public. Any meetings that are open to the public are published on Whitley County website's main page. All Whitley County public meetings are held in locations accessible to individuals with disabilities. Upon request, translators can be provided free of charge to those individuals with limited English proficiency. Auxiliary aids are also available upon request. Requests must be made within forty-eight (48) hours in advance.

Also published on the Whitley County website are various meeting agenda's, meeting minutes, notices, events, and news. Some departments within Whitley County utilize signage, media, and social media websites as another avenue to communicate with the community.

REVIEW OF PROGRAM AREA

This section outlines annual goals set forth by Whitley County to comply with Title VI requirements and statutes. This list will be monitored for updates and additions.

ANNUAL WORK PLAN

Accomplishments	Completion Date
Title VI Coordinator Appointed	July 2025
Title VI Plan Adopted	July 2025
No Title VI complaints filed against Whitley County from August 2019-October 2024	November 2024
ADA Coordinator Appointed	July 2025

Goals	Target Completion Date
2025 Implementation Plan added to Whitley County website	July 2025
Complete annual Title VI training for the Title VI Coordinator	November 2025
Complete annual update of Title VI Implementation Plan	December 2025

APPENDIX

- A. Assurances
- B. Complaint Policy
- C. Complaint Log
- D. External Complaint Procedure/Form
- E. Public Involvement Survey
- F. I Speak Cards
- G. Training Materials & Records of Training Attendance
- H. Reports and Outcomes of Data Collected *
- I. [Materials Related to Annual Goals & Accomplishments] *

*If applicable / as applicable. Change Appendix Title to reflect information attached.

Title VI Assurances

The Whitley County (hereinafter referred to as the "Recipient") HEREBY AGREES THAT as a condition to receiving any Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration, it will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. 2000d-42 U.S.C. 2000d-4 (hereinafter referred to as the Act), and all requirements imposed by or pursuant to Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally-Assisted Programs of the Department of Transportation-Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title 23 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 200, Title VI Program and Related Statutes – Implementation and Review Procedures (hereinafter referred to as the Regulations) and other pertinent nondiscrimination authorities and directives, to the end that in accordance with the Act, Regulations, and other pertinent nondiscrimination authorities and directives, no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of religion, race color, or national origin, sex (23 USC 324), sexual orientation, gender identity (Executive Order 13672), age (42 USC 6101), disability/handicap (29 USC 790) and low income (Executive Order 12898) be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which the Recipient receives Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation, including the Federal Highway Administration, and HEREBY GIVES ASSURANCE THAT it will promptly take any measures necessary to effectuate this agreement. This assurance is required by Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, subsection 21.7(a)(1) and Title 23 Code of Federal Regulations, section 200.9(a) (1) of the Regulations, copies of which are attached.

More specifically and without limiting the above general assurance, the Recipient hereby gives the following specific assurances with respect to its Federal Aid Highway Program.

1. That the Recipient agrees that each "program" and each "facility as defined in 49 CFR subsections 21.23(e) and (b) and 23 CFR 200.5(k) and (g) of the Regulations, will be (regarding a "program") conducted, or will be (regarding a "facility") operated in compliance with all requirements imposed by, or pursuant to, the Regulations.
2. That the Recipient shall insert the following notification in all solicitations for bids for work or material subject to the Regulations and made in connection with all Federal-Aid Highway Programs and, in adapted form in all proposals for negotiated agreements:

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C 2000d to 2000d-4 and Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally assisted programs of the Department of Transportation and Title 23 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 200, Title VI Program and Related Statutes, issued pursuant to such Acts, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contact entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of religion, race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability/handicap and low income in consideration for an award.

3. That the Recipient shall insert the clauses of Appendix A of this assurance in every contract subject to the Acts and the Regulations.
4. That the Recipient shall insert the clauses of Appendix B of this assurance, 'as a covenant running with the land, in any deed from the United States effecting a transfer of real property, structures, or improvements thereon, or interest therein.
5. That where the Recipient receives Federal financial assistance to construct a facility, or part of a facility, the assurance shall extend to the entire facility and facilities operated in connection therewith.
6. That where the Recipient receives Federal financial assistance in the form, or for the acquisition of real property or an interest in real property, the assurance shall extend to rights to space on, over or under such property.

7. That the Recipient shall include the appropriate clauses set forth in Appendix C of this assurance, as a covenant running with the land, in any future deeds, leases, permits, licenses, and similar agreements entered into by the Recipient with other parties: (a) for the subsequent transfer of real property acquired or improved under the Federal-Aid Highway Program; and (b) for the construction or use of or access to space on, over or under real property acquired, or improved under the Federal-Aid Highway Program.
8. That this assurance obligates the Recipient for the period during which Federal financial assistance is extended to the program, except where the Federal financial assistance is to provide, or is in the form of, personal property, or real property or interest therein or structures or improvements thereon, in which case the assurance obligates the Recipient or any transferee for the longer of the following periods: (a) the period during which the property is used for a purpose for which the Federal financial assistance is extended, or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits; or (b) the period during which the Recipient retains ownership or possession of the property.
9. The Recipient shall provide for such methods of administration for the program as are found by the Secretary of Transportation or the official to whom he delegates specific authority to give reasonable guarantee that it, other recipients, subgrantees, contractors, subcontractors, transferees, successors in interest, and other participants of Federal financial assistance under such program will comply with all requirements imposed or pursuant to the Act, the Regulations, and this assurance.
10. The Recipient agrees that the United States has a right to seek judicial enforcement regarding any matter arising under the Act, the Regulations, and this assurance.

THIS ASSURANCE is given in consideration of and for the purpose of obtaining all Federal grants, loans, contracts, property, discounts, or other Federal financial assistance extended after the date hereof to the Recipient Department of Transportation under the Federal-Aid Highway Program and is binding on it, other recipients, subgrantees, contractors, subcontractors, transferees, successors in interest and other participants in the Federal-Aid Highway Program. The person or persons whose signatures appear below are authorized to sign this assurance on behalf of the Recipient.



Chad Banks, President

Whitley County Board of Commissioners

July 7, 2025

APPENDIX A

During the performance of this contract, the contractor, for itself, its assignees, and successors in interest (hereinafter referred to as the "contractor") agrees as follows:

- (1) **Compliance with Regulations:** The contractor shall comply with the Regulation relative to nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the Department of Transportation (hereinafter, "DOT") Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 21, and the Federal Highway Administration (hereinafter "FHWA") Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 200 as they may be amended from time to time, (hereinafter referred to as the Regulations), which are herein incorporated by reference and made a part of this contract.
- (2) **Nondiscrimination:** The Contractor, regarding the work performed by it during the contract, shall not discriminate on the grounds of religion, race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability/handicap and low income in the selection and retention of subcontractors, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment. The contractor shall not participate either directly or indirectly in the discrimination prohibited by 49 CFR, section 21.5 of the Regulations, including employment practices when the contract covers a program set forth in Appendix B of the Regulations.
- (3) **Solicitations for Subcontractors, Including Procurements of Materials and Equipment:** In all solicitations either by competitive bidding or negotiation made by the contractor for work to be performed under a subcontract, including procurements of materials or leases of equipment, each potential subcontractor or supplier shall be notified by the contractor of the contractor's obligations under this contract and the Regulations relative to nondiscrimination on the grounds of religion, race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability/handicap and low income.
- (4) **Information and Reports:** The contractor shall provide all information and reports required by the Regulations or directives issued pursuant thereto, and shall permit access to its books, records, accounts, other sources of information, and its facilities as may be determined by the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) or the FHWA to be pertinent to ascertain compliance with such Regulations, orders, and instructions. Where any information required of a contractor is in the exclusive possession of another who fails or refuses to furnish this information the contractor shall so certify to INDOT or the FHWA as appropriate and shall set forth what efforts it has made to obtain the information.
- (5) **Sanctions for Noncompliance:** In the event of the contractor's noncompliance with the nondiscrimination provisions of this contract, INDOT shall impose such contract sanctions as it or the FHWA may determine to be appropriate, including, but not limited to:
 - (a.) withholding of payments to the contractor under the contract until the contractor complies, and/or
 - (b.) cancellation, termination, or suspension of the contract, in whole or in part.
- (6) **Incorporation of Provisions:** The contractor shall include the provisions of paragraphs (1) through (6) in every subcontract, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment, unless exempt by the Regulations, or directives issued pursuant thereto.

The contractor shall take such action with respect to any subcontract or procurement as INDOT or the FHWA may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for non-compliance: Provided, however, that, in the event a contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or supplier as a result of such direction, the contractor may request the Indiana Department of Transportation to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the Indiana Department of Transportation and, in addition, the contractor may request the United States to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the United States.

APPENDIX B

A. The following clauses shall be included in all deeds effecting or recording the transfer of real property, structures, or improvements thereon, or interest therein from the United States.

(GRANTING CLAUSE)

NOW, THEREFORE, the Department of Transportation, as authorized by law, and upon the condition that the Indiana Department of Transportation will accept title to the lands and maintain the project constructed thereon, in accordance with Title 23, United States Code of Federal Regulations, the Regulations for the Administration of Federal-Aid Highway Programs and the policies and procedures prescribed by FHWA, also in accordance with and in compliance with all requirements imposed by or pursuant to Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the Department of Transportation and Title 23 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 200, Title VI Program and Related Statutes (hereinafter referred to as the Regulations) pertaining to and effectuating the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252; 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4), does hereby remise, release, quitclaim and convey unto the *Indiana Department of Transportation* all the right, title and interest of the Department of Transportation in and to said lands described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof.

(HABENDUM CLAUSE)

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said lands and interests therein unto the Indiana Department of Transportation and its successors forever, subject, however, to the covenants, conditions, restrictions and reservations herein contained as follows, which will remain in effect for the period during which the real property or structures are used for a purpose for which Federal financial assistance is extended or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits and shall be binding on the Indiana Department of Transportation its successors and assigns.

The Indiana Department of Transportation, in consideration of the conveyance of said lands and interests in lands, does hereby covenant and agree as a covenant running with the land for itself, its successors and assigns, that (1) no person shall on the grounds of religion, race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability/handicap and low income be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination with regard to any facility located wholly or in part on over or under such lands hereby conveyed [,] [and]* (2) that the Indiana Department of Transportation shall use the lands and interests in lands and interests in lands so conveyed, in compliance with all requirements imposed by or pursuant to Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the Department of Transportation-Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title 23 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 200, Title VI Program and Related Statutes – Implementation and Review Procedures, and as said Regulations may be amended [,] and (3) that in the event of breach of any of the above-mentioned nondiscrimination conditions, the Department shall have a right to re-enter said lands and facilities on said land, and the above described land and facilities shall thereon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of the Department of Transportation and its assigns as such interest existed prior to this instruction.*

APPENDIX C

The following clauses shall be included in all deeds, licenses, leases, permits, or similar instruments entered by the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) pursuant to the provisions of Assurance 7(a).

The (grantee, licensee, lessee, permittee, etc., as appropriate) for himself, his heirs, personal representatives, successors in interest, and assigns, as a part of the consideration hereof, does hereby covenant and agree [in the case of deeds and leases add "as a covenant running with the land"] that in the event facilities are constructed, maintained, or otherwise operated on the said property described

* Reverter clause and related language to be used only when it is determined that such a clause is necessary to effectuate the purposes of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

in this (deed, license, lease, permit, etc.) for a purpose for which a Department of Transportation program or activity is extended or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits, the (grantee, licensee, lessee, permittee, etc.) shall maintain and operate such facilities and services in compliance with all other requirements imposed pursuant to Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, office of the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the Department of Transportation-Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title 23 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 200, Title VI Program and Related Statutes – Implementation and Review Procedures, and as said Regulations may be amended.

[Include in licenses, leases, permits, etc.]*

That in the event of breach of any of the above nondiscrimination covenants, INDOT shall have the right to terminate the [license, lease, permit, etc.] and to re-enter and repossess said land and the facilities thereon, and hold the same as if said [licenses, lease, permit, etc.] had never been made or issued.

[Include indeed.]*

That in the event of breach of any of the above nondiscrimination covenants, Indiana Department of Transportation shall have the right to re-enter said lands and facilities thereon, and the above-described lands and facilities shall thereupon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of INDOT and its assigns.

The following shall be included in all deeds, licenses, leases, permits, or similar agreements entered by INDOT pursuant to the provisions of Assurance 7(b).

The (grantee, licensee, lessee, permittee, etc., as appropriate) for himself, his personal representatives, successors in interest, and assigns, as a part of the consideration hereof, does hereby covenant and agree (in the case of deeds, and leases add "as a covenant running with the land") that (1) no person on the ground of religion, race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability/handicap and low income shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or he otherwise subjected to discrimination in the use of said facilities, (2) that in the construction of any improvements on, over or under such land and the furnishing of services thereon, no person on the ground of religion, race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability/handicap and low income, shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination, (3) that the (grantee, licensee, lessee, permittee, etc.) shall use the premises in compliance with all other requirements imposed by or pursuant to Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations. Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary. Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the Department of Transportation-Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964), Title 23 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 200, Title VI Program and Related Statutes – Implementation and Review Procedures, and as said Regulations may be amended.

[Include in licenses, leases, permits, etc.]*

* Reverter clause and related language to be used only when it is determined that such a clause is necessary to effectuate the purposes of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

That in the event of breach of any of the above nondiscrimination covenants, INDOT shall have the right to terminate the [license, lease, permit, etc.] and to re-enter and repossess said land and the facilities thereon, and hold the same as if said [license, lease, permit, etc.] had never been made or issued.

[Include in deeds]*

That in the event of breach of any of the above nondiscrimination covenants, INDOT shall have the right to re-enter said land and facilities thereon, and the above-described lands and facilities shall thereupon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of INDOT and its assigns.

* Reverter clause and related language to be used only when it is determined that such a clause is necessary to effectuate the purposes of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

APPENDIX B: COMPLAINT POLICY

Complaint Procedure

Any person who believes that he or she as a member of a protected class, has been discriminated against based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, religion, low income status, or Limited English Proficiency in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended and its related statutes, regulations and directives, Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, as amended, and any other Federal nondiscrimination statute may submit a complaint. A complaint may also be submitted by a representative on behalf of such a person.

It is the policy of Whitley County (the "County") to conduct a prompt and impartial investigation of all allegations of discrimination and to take prompt effective corrective action when a claim of discrimination is substantiated.

No one may intimidate, threaten, coerce or engage in other discriminatory conduct against anyone because they have taken action or participated in an action to secure rights protected by the civil rights laws. Any individual alleging such harassment or intimidation may submit a complaint by following the procedure printed below.

Any individual who feels that he or she has been discriminated against may submit a written or verbal complaint. The complaint may be communicated to any County supervisor or to the Title VI Coordinator. The complaint should be submitted within 180 days of the alleged discrimination. Complaint forms may be found on the Whitley County website or from the human resources department. Individuals are not required to use the County's complaint form. If necessary, the County will help an individual reduce his or her complaint to writing for his or her signature.

A complaint should include the name, address and telephone number of the individual complaining (complainant) and a brief description of the alleged discriminatory conduct including the date of harm. An individual submitting a complaint alleging discrimination may include any relevant evidence, including the names of witnesses and supporting documentation.

Complaints should be directed to:
Jennifer Shinabery, TITLE VI COORDINATOR
220 West Van Buren Street
Columbia City, Indiana 46725
260-244-3134
jshinabery@whitleygov.com

Within 60 days of the receipt of the complaint the County will conduct an investigation of the allegation based on the information provided and issue a written report of its findings to the complainant. The company will try to obtain an informal voluntary resolution to all complaints at the lowest level possible.

A complainant's identity shall be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to conduct an investigation. All complaints shall be kept confidential.

These procedures do not deny the right of any individual to file a formal complaint with any government agency or affect an individual's right to seek private counsel for any complaint alleging discrimination.

Complaints may also be filed with the following government agencies:

Economic Opportunity Division
100 N. Senate, Room N750
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: (317) 233-6511
Fax: (317) 233-0891

Indianapolis District EEOC Office
101 West Ohio Street, Ste 1900
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: (800) 669-4000
Fax: (317) 226-7953
TTY: 1 (800) 669-6820

Indiana Civil Rights Commission
100 N. Senate Ave., Room N103
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Toll Free: 1 (800) 628-2909
Phone: (317) 232-2600
Fax: (317) 232-6560
Hearing Impaired: 1 (800) 743-3336

APPENDIX C: COMPLAINT LOG

WHITLEY COUNTY TITLE VI COMPLAINT LOG

[illegible]

APPENDIX D: EXTERNAL COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Page 1 of 1

The purpose of this procedure is to provide a fair and equitable process for the resolution of external complaints. This procedure applies to all complaints received by the organization, regardless of the source or nature of the complaint. The procedure is designed to ensure that all complaints are handled in a timely and effective manner, and that the organization is committed to resolving the complaint to the satisfaction of the complainant.

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EXTERNAL COMPLAINT OF DISCRIMINATION

INSTRUCTIONS:

The purpose of this form is to help any person interested in filing a discrimination complaint with Whitley County. You are not required to use this form. You may write a letter with the same information, sign it, and return it to the address below. Failure to provide complete information may impair the investigation of your complaint.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended and its related statutes and regulations (Title VI) prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability/handicap, or income status in connection with programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance for the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and/or Federal Transit Administration. These prohibitions extend to Whitley County as a sub-recipient of federal financial assistance.

Upon request, assistance will be provided if you are an individual with a disability or have limited English proficiency.

You also have the right to file a complaint with other state or federal agencies that provide federal financial assistance to Whitley County. Additionally, you have the right to seek private counsel.

Whitley County is prohibited from retaliating against any individual because he or she opposed an unlawful policy or practice, filed charges, testified, or participated in any complaint action under Title VI or other nondiscrimination authorities.

Please make a copy of your complaint form for your personal records. Do not send your original documents as they will not be returned. Mail the original complaint form along with any copies of documents or records relevant to your complaint to the address shown on the complaint form.

Complaints of discrimination must be filed within 180 days of the date of the alleged discriminatory act.

YOUR COMPLAINT CANNOT BE PROCESSED WITHOUT YOUR SIGNATURE.

COMPLAINT INFORMATION		
Name (first, middle, and last)		
Address (number and street, city, state and ZIP code)		
Home telephone number () -	Work telephone number () -	Cellular telephone number () -
Name of complainant		Date (month, day, year)

PERSON/AGENCY/COMPANY YOU BELIEVE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST YOU		
Name (first, middle, and last)	Title	
Name of company		
Address (number and street, city, state and ZIP code)		
Home telephone number () -	Work telephone number () -	Cellular telephone number () -
When was the last alleged discriminatory act? (month, day, year) _____		

Complaints of discrimination must be filed within 60 days of the date of the alleged discriminatory act. If the alleged act of discrimination occurred more than 60 days ago, please explain your delay in filing this complaint.

The alleged discrimination was based on:			
_____ Race	_____ Color	_____ Age	_____ Gender Identity
_____ Disability	_____ National	_____ LEP	_____ Retaliation
_____ Religion	_____ Origin	_____ Income	_____ Sexual Orientation
_____ Other			

Name of complainant

Date (month, day, year)

Describe the alleged act(s) of discrimination (use additional pages, if necessary)

VOLUNTARY TITLE VI PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SURVEY

As a recipient of federal funds, the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is requiring local agencies to develop a procedure for gathering statistical data regarding participants and beneficiaries of its federal-aid highway programs and activities (23 CRF §200.9(b)(4)). Whitley County is distributing this voluntary survey to fulfill that requirement to gather information about the populations affected by proposed projects.

You are not required to complete this survey. Submittal of this information is voluntary. This form is a public document that Whitley County will use to monitor its programs and activities for compliance with Title VI and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended and its related statutes and regulations.

If you have any questions regarding Whitley County's responsibilities under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 or the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact Jennifer Shinabery, Title VI Coordinator, 220 West Van Buren Street, Suite 101, Columbia City, IN 46725, jshinabery@whitleygov.com.

You may return the survey mailing or e-mailing it to the address below.

Date:		
Project Name:		
Proposed Project Location:		
Gender:	Female	Male
Ethnicity:	Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino
Race: (Check one or more)		
	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	White
	Black or African-American	Multiracial
Age:	1-21	22-40
	41-65	65+
Disability:	Yes	No
Household Income:		
	\$0-\$12,000	\$12,001-\$24,000
	\$24,001-\$36,000	\$36,001-\$48,000
	\$48,001-\$60,000	\$60,001+

APPENDIX E

VOLUNTARY PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SURVEY

Name of complainant		Date (month, day, year)
How would you like your complaint to be resolved?		
Have you filed a complaint alleging the same discrimination with another state or federal agency?		
☐ Yes ☐ No		
If yes, please provide the following information for each agency:		
Name of agency		Date complaint filed (month, day, year)
Case number assigned to your complaint		Current status of your complaint
How did you learn about your right to file a discrimination complaint with Whitley County?		
Signature		Date signed (month, day, year)

Please submit this complaint form and any other documentation or other information that you believe is relevant to your complaint to the following addresses:

Jennifer Shinabery
 Title VI Coordinator
 220 West Van Buren Street
 Suite 101
 Columbia City, IN 46725
jshinabery@whitleygov.com

Name of complainant	Date (month, day, year)
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Provide the names of any individual(s) with additional information regarding your complaint:

Name of witness 1 (first, middle, and last)	Title
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Name of company

Address (number and street, city, state and ZIP code)

Home telephone number () -	Work telephone number () -	Cellular telephone number () -
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Include a brief description of the relevant information the witness may provide to support your complaint of discrimination.

Name of witness 2 (first, middle, and last)	Title
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Name of company

Address (number and street, city, state and ZIP code)

Home telephone number () -	Work telephone number () -	Cellular telephone number () -
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Include a brief description of the relevant information the witness may provide to support your complaint of discrimination.

Name of witness 3 (first, middle, and last)	Title
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Name of company

Address (number and street, city, state and ZIP code)

Home telephone number () -	Work telephone number () -	Cellular telephone number () -
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Include a brief description of the relevant information the witness may provide to support your complaint of discrimination.