

Title VI

SORTS continues to insure inclusive public participation in the development of services, current and future operations, changes in services and to meet the needs of all citizens including those with limited English proficiency or meet Title VI coverage. To insure SORTS remains in compliance with Title VI requirements of 49 U.S.C. Sections 5307(b), 5307(c)(1)(1), 23 CFR part 450, , 65 FR 50121, and other regulations (and or) Executive orders pertaining to Title VI, SORTS conducts the following

1. Advertises in local newspapers public meeting dates.
2. Post announcements of public meetings at local churches, community centers, businesses, Head Start centers, nutrition sites, Health Departments, city offices, all Big Five/SORTS offices and other points where people protected by Title VI may gather or utilize.
3. SORTS has contacts with two universities, Catholic churches, and other faith based organizations that have bi-lingual individuals that can be accessed as interpreters if needed. Our parent organization, Big Five Community Services, Inc., also employs bi-lingual staff that are utilized as interpreters and are available as needed. These resources are available by phone during normal working hours.
4. All public meetings are scheduled (minimum of one per year in each area served by SORTS), after hours and with transportation provided if requested.
These public meetings include planning input, particularly any needs currently not being met for LEP/minority/Title VI identified clients.
Public meetings are used to develop a continuous ability for individuals or groups (including LEP) to participate in future transportation services or change in service such as, but not limited to, education, employment, health, Title VI client access, changes to fares or hours of operations and all other transit related needs.
5. SORTS administrative staff participate in local community based boards and provides information to services.
Most of these community based boards serve Title VI individuals and are vital to our efforts to promote our program (and services) to these groups under Title VI
6. SORTS has adopted the Oklahoma Department of Transportation Title VI plan. This may be accessed at the following link: <https://ok.gov/odot/documents/2014%20Title%20VI%20Plan.pdf>

SORTS serves four counties in Sothern Oklahoma. They are, Bryan, Carter, Coal and Love. The latest US census indicates a very small LEP population. Of that, the percentage requiring LEP services are Hispanic. The staff, and other organizations that assist with this component (noted above (3)) speak Spanish. If other dialects are needed, the universities have contacts within their student body and faculty that have agreed to help.