

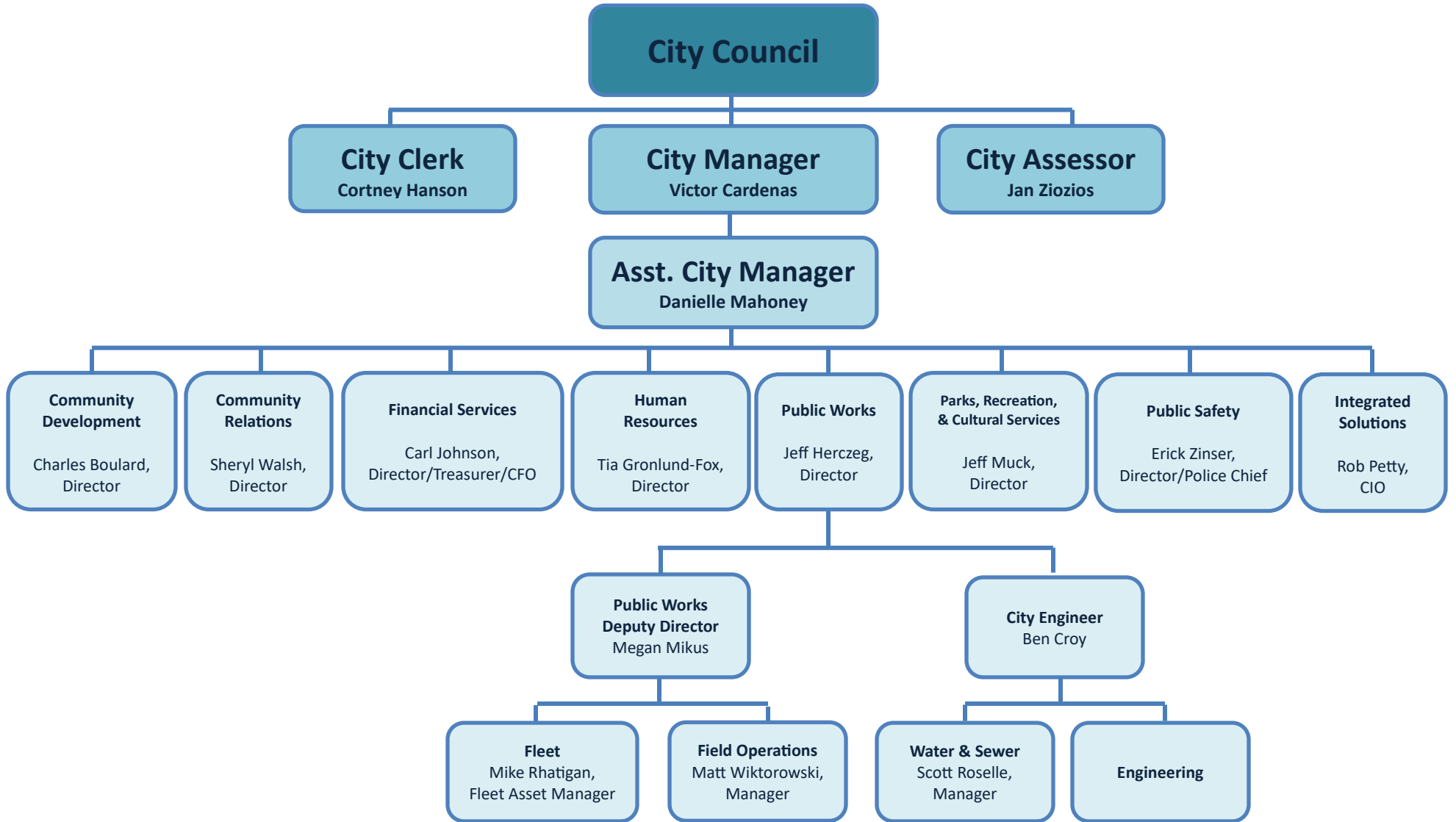
**CITY OF NOVI**  
**TITLE VI**  
**NON-DISCRIMINATION PLAN**

**City of Novi**  
**45175 West 10 Mile Road,**  
**Novi, Michigan 48375**  
**(248)-347-0445**

**Title VI Coordinator Contact information**

Katherine Oppermann, Assistant to the City Manager  
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# City of Novi Organization Chart



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## INTRODUCTION

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, is the overarching civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin, in any program, service or activity that receives federal assistance. Specifically, Title VI assures that, "No person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefit of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal assistance." Title VI has been broadened by related statutes, regulations and executive orders. Discrimination based on sex is prohibited by Section 324 of the Federal-Aid Highway Act, which is the enabling legislation of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 prohibit unfair and inequitable treatment of persons as a result of projects which are undertaken with Federal financial assistance. The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 clarified the intent of Title VI to include all programs and activities of federal-aid recipients and contractors whether those programs and activities are federally funded or not.

In addition to statutory authorities, Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations," signed in February of 1994, requires federal agencies to achieve Environmental Justice as part of its mission by identifying disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations. Environmental Justice Initiatives are accomplished by involving the potentially affected public in the development of transportation projects that fit within their communities without sacrificing safety or mobility. In 1997, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) issued its DOT Order to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations to summarize and expand upon the requirements of Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice. Also, Executive Order 13166, "Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)," provides that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin under any program or activity that receives Federal financial assistance.

As a recipient of federal financial assistance, City of Novi must provide access to individuals with limited ability to speak, write, or understand the English language. The City of Novi must not restrict an individual in any way from the enjoyment of any advantage or privilege enjoyed by others receiving any service, financial aid, or other benefit under its programs or projects. Individuals may not be subjected to criteria or methods of administration which cause adverse impact because of their race, color, or national origin, or have the effect of defeating or substantially impairing accomplishment of the objectives of the program because of race, color or religion. Therefore, the primary goals

and objectives of City of Novi's Title VI Program are:

1. To assign roles, responsibilities, and procedures for ensuring compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related regulations and directives;
2. To ensure that people affected by City of Novi's programs and projects receive the services, benefits, and opportunities to which they are entitled without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability;
3. To prevent discrimination in City of Novi programs and activities, whether those programs and activities are federally funded or not;
4. To establish procedures for identifying impacts in any program, service, or activity that may create an illegal adverse impact on any person because of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability; or on minority populations, low-income populations, the elderly, persons with disabilities, all interested persons and affected Title VI populations;
5. To establish procedures to annually review Title VI compliance within specific program areas within, City of Novi
6. To set forth procedures for filing and processing complaints by persons who believe they have been subjected to illegal discrimination under Title VI in a City of Novi service, program or activity.

As the sub-recipient of federal transportation funds, City of Novi, must comply with federal and state laws, and related statutes, to ensure equal access and opportunity to all persons, with respect to transportation services, facilities, activities, and programs, without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, socio-economic status, or geographical location. Every effort will be made to prevent discrimination in any program or activity, whether those programs and activities are federally funded or not, as guaranteed by the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987.

City of Novi shall also ensure that their sub-recipients adhere to state and federal law and include in all written agreements or contracts, assurances that the subrecipient must comply with Title VI and other related statutes. City of Novi as a sub-recipient, who receives federal transportation funds, shall monitor their subrecipients for voluntary compliance with Title VI. In the event that noncompliance is discovered, City of Novi will make a good faith effort to ensure that the sub-recipient corrects any deficiencies arising out of complaints related to Title VI; and that sub-recipients will proactively gauge the impacts of

any program or activity on minority populations and low-income populations, the elderly, persons with disabilities, all interested persons and affected Title VI populations.

### **Discrimination under Title VI**

There are two types of illegal discrimination prohibited under Title VI and its related statutes. One type of discrimination which may or may not be intentional is "disparate treatment." Disparate treatment is defined as treating similarly situated persons differently because of their race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age.

The second type of illegal discrimination is "disparate impact." Disparate impact discrimination occurs when a "neutral procedure or practice" results in fewer services or benefits, or inferior services or benefits, to members of a protected group. With disparate impact, the focus is on the consequences of a decision, policy, or practice rather than the intent.

The City of Novi's efforts to prevent such discrimination must address, but not be limited to, a program's impacts, access, benefits, participation, treatment, services, contracting opportunities, training, investigation of complaints, allocation of funds, prioritization of projects, and the overarching functions of planning, project development and delivery, right-of-way, construction, and research.

City of Novi has developed this Title VI Plan to assure that services, programs, and activities of the department are offered, conducted, and administered fairly, without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability of the participants or beneficiaries of federally funded programs, services, or activities (see Title VI Assurances below).

## CITY OF NOVI TITLE VI ASSURANCE

The City of Novi (hereinafter referred to as the "City") hereby agrees that as a condition to receiving any Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation, it will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252, 42 USC 2000d-42 USC 2000d-4 (hereinafter referred to as the Act) and 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 for the Department of Transportation - Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (hereinafter referred to as the Regulations) and other pertinent directives, to the end that in accordance with the Act, Regulations, and other pertinent directives, no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of gender, race, color or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which the city received Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation, including the Federal Highway Administration, and hereby gives assurances that it will promptly take any measures necessary to effectuate this agreement. This assurance is required by subsection 21.7 (a) (1) and (b) of the Regulations.

More specifically and without limiting the above general assurance, the City hereby gives the following specific assurance with respect to the Federal Aid Highway Program:

1. That the City agrees that each "program" and each "facility as defined in subsections 21.23(e) and 21.23(b) of the Regulations, will be (with regard to a "program") conducted, or will be (with regard to a "facility") operated in compliance with all requirements imposed by, or pursuant to, the Regulations.
2. That the City 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 City of Novi, 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 issued pursuant to such Act, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contact entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority 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 race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

3. That the City shall insert the clauses of Appendix A of this assurance in every contract subject to the Act and the Regulations.
4. That the City 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 City 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 City 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 City 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 City 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 City 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 City 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 City retains ownership or possession of the property.
9. The City 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, sub-grantees, 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 City agrees that the United states has a right to seek judicial enforcement with regard to any matter arising under the Act, the Regulations, and this assurance.

This assurance is given in consideration of and for the purpose of obtaining any and all Federal grants, loans, contracts, property, discounts or other Federal financial assistance extended after the date hereof to the Recipient under the Federal Aid Highway Program and is binding on it, other recipients, subgrantees, contractors, sub-contractors, 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.

Dated: 10-1-24

City of Novi

  
Victor Cardenas, City Manager

## **CITY OF NOVI POLICY STATEMENT**

City of Novi reaffirms its policy to allow all individuals the opportunity to participate in federal financially assisted services and adopts the following provision:

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. In applying this policy, the City of Novi and its sub-recipients of federal funds will not:

1. Deny any individual with any services, opportunity, or other benefit for which such individual is otherwise qualified;
2. Provide any individual with any service, or other benefit, which is inferior (in quantity or quality) to, or which is provided in a different manner from that which is provided to others;
3. Subject any individual to segregated or disparate treatment In any manner related to such individual's receipt of services or benefits;
4. Restrict an individual in any way from the enjoyment of services, facilities or any other advantage, privilege or other benefit provided to others;
5. Adopt or use methods of administration, that would limit participation by any group of recipients or subject any individual to discrimination;
6. Address any individual in a manner that denotes inferiority because of race, color, or national origin;
7. Permit discriminatory activity In a facility built in whole or In part with federal funds;
8. Deny any segment of the population the opportunity to participate in the operations of a planning or advisory body that is an integral part of a federally funded program;
9. Fail to provide information in a language other than English to potential or actual beneficiaries who are of limited English-speaking ability, when requested and as appropriate;

10. Subject an individual to discriminatory employment practices under any federally funded program whose object is to provide employment;

11. Locate a facility in any way, that would limit or impede access to a federally funded service or benefit.

The City of Novi will actively pursue the prevention of any Title VI deficiencies or violations and will take the necessary steps to ensure compliance. If irregularities occur in the administration of the program's operation, procedures will be promptly implemented to resolve Title VI issues all within a period not to exceed 90 days.

The City of Novi designates Katherine Oppermann, Assistant to the City Manager as the Title VI Coordinator. The Title VI Coordinator will be responsible for initiating and monitoring Title VI activities and other required matters, ensuring that the City of Novi complies with the Title VI regulations and pursues prevention of Title VI deficiencies or violations.

Inquiries concerning the City of Novi and Title VI may be directed Katherine Oppermann, Assistant to the City Manager at 45175 West 10 Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48375. Any questions can be addressed at (248) 347-0478.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Victor Cardenas, City Manager

10-1-24  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Justin P. Fischer, Mayor

9/30/24  
Date

## AUTHORITIES

The authorities applicable to the City of Novi's Title VI/Nondiscrimination Program include:

**Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 USC 2000d to 2000d-4; 42 USC 4601 to 4655; 23 USC 109(h);**

Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act provides that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin (including Limited English Proficiency), or sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance (please refer to 23 CFR 200.9 and 49 CFR 21). Related statutes have broadened the grounds to include age, low income, and disability.

The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 also 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, sub-recipients, and contractors, whether such programs and activities are federally assisted or not (Public Law 100-259 [So 557] March 22, 1988).

**Federal Aid Highway Act of 1973, 23 USC 324:** No person shall on the ground of sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal assistance under this title or carried on under this title.

**Age Discrimination Act of 1975, 42 USC 6101:** No person in the United States shall, on the basis of age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under, any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

**Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 PL 101-336:** No qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination by a department, agency, special purpose district or other instrumentality of a state or local government.

**Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973:** No qualified handicapped person shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity that receives or benefits from federal financial assistance.

**USDOT Order 1050.2:** Standard Title VI Assurances.

**E012250:** Department of Justice Leadership and coordination of Nondiscrimination Laws.

**E012898:** Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations; and

**28 CFR 50.3:** Guidelines for the enforcement of Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964.

**E013166:** Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency.

## DEFINITIONS

Adverse Effects – The totality of significant individual or cumulative human health or environmental effects including interrelated social and economic effects, which may include, but are not limited to: (See Appendix E for additional discussion of "significant")

- Bodily impairment, infirmity, illness or death
- Air, noise and water pollution and soil contamination
- Destruction or disruption of man-made or natural resources
- Destruction or diminution of aesthetic values
- Destruction or disruption of community cohesion or community's economic vitality
- Destruction or disruption of the availability of public and private facilities and services
- Adverse employment effects
- Displacement of person's businesses, farms or non-profit organizations
- Increased traffic congestion, isolation, exclusion or separation of minority or low-income individuals within a given community or from the broader community Denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits of the city programs, policies and activities

Significant Adverse effects on Minority and Low-Income Populations – An adverse effect that:

- a. is predominantly borne by a minority population and/or a low-income population, or
- b. will be suffered by the minority population and/or low-income population and is shown to be appreciably more severe or greater in magnitude than the adverse effect that will be suffered by the non-minority population and/or non-low-income population.

Limited English Proficiency – Individuals with a primary or home language other than English who must, due to limited fluency in English, communicate in that primary or home language if the individuals are to have an equal opportunity to participate effectively in or benefit from any aid, service or benefit provided by the city.

Federal Assistance – Includes grants and loans of federal funds; the grant or donation of federal property and interests in property; the detail of federal personnel, federal property or any interest in such property without consideration or at a nominal consideration or at a consideration which is reduced for the purpose of assisting the recipient, or in recognition of the public interest to be served by such sale or lease to the recipient; and any federal agreement, arrangement or other contract which has, as one of its purposes, the provision of assistance.

Low-Income – A person whose median household income is at or below the Department of Health and Human Service Poverty guidelines.

<https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines>

Low-Income Population – Any readily identifiable group of low-income persons who live in geographic proximity and, if circumstances warrant, geographically dispersed/transient persons (such as migrant workers or Native Americans) who will be similarly affected by a proposed City program, policy or activity.

Minority – A person who is:

- a. Black - A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa;
- b. Hispanic - A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race;
- c. Asian American - A person having origins in any of the original people of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian sub-continent, or the Pacific Islands; or
- d. American Indian and Alaskan Native - A person having origins in any of the original people of North America and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.

Minority Population – Any readily identifiable groups of minority persons who live in geographic proximity and, if circumstances warrant, geographically dispersed/transient persons (such as migrant workers or Native Americans) who will be similarly affected by a proposed city program, policy or activity.

Non-Compliance – A recipient has failed to meet prescribed requirements and has shown an apparent lack of good faith effort in implementing all the requirements of Title VI and related statutes.

Persons – Where designation of persons by race, color or national origin is required, the following designation ordinarily may be used; "White not of 14 Hispanic origin", "Black not of Hispanic origin", "Hispanic", "Asian or Pacific Islander", "American Indian or Alaskan Native". Additional sub-categories based on national origin of primary language spoken may be used, where appropriate, on either a national or a regional basis.

Program – Includes any road or park project including planning or any activity for the provision of services financial aid or other benefits to individuals. This includes education or training, work opportunities, health welfare, rehabilitation, or other services, whether provided directly by the recipient of federal financial assistance or provided by others through contracts or other arrangements with the recipient.

Recipient – Any state, territory, possession, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, or any political subdivision, or instrumentality thereof, or any public or private agency, institution, or organization, or other entity, or any individual, in any state, territory, possession, the District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico, to whom Federal assistance is extended, either directly or through another recipient, for any program. Recipient includes any successor, assignee, or transferee thereof, but does not include any ultimate beneficiary under any such program.

Sub-Recipient – Any agency such as a council or governments, regional planning agency, education institution, for example, that received Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds through the State DOT and not directly from the FHWA. Other agencies, local governments, contractors, consultants that receive these funds are all considered sub-recipients.

## **ADMINISTRATION - GENERAL**

Katherine Oppermann, Assistant to the City Manager, (hereinafter referred to the "Title VI Coordinator") shall have lead responsibility for coordinating the administration of the Title VI and related statutes program, plan and assurances.

Complaints: If any individual believes that he/she or any other program beneficiaries have been the object of unequal treatment or discrimination as to the receipt of benefits and/or service, or on the grounds of race, color, national origin (including Limited English Proficiency), sex, age or handicap, she/he may exercise his/her right to file a complaint with City of Novi. Complaints may be filed with Katherine Oppermann, Assistant to the City Manager.

Data Collection: Statistical data on race, color, national Origin, English language ability and sex of participants in and beneficiaries of city programs; e.g., impacted citizens and affected communities will be gathered and maintained by the City. The gathering procedures will be reviewed annually to ensure sufficiency of the data in meeting the requirements of the Title VI program.

Program Reviews: Special emphasis program reviews will be conducted based on the annual summary of Title VI activities accomplishments and problems. The reviews will be conducted by the Title VI Coordinator to assure effectiveness in their compliance of Title VI provisions. The Title VI Coordinator will coordinate efforts to ensure the equal participation in all their programs and activities at all levels. The City of Novi will be started these reviews in late 2012 and will conduct reviews annually.

Title VI Reviews on Sub-Recipients: The Title VI compliance reviews will be conducted annually by the Title VI Coordinator. Priority for conducting reviews will be given to those recipients of federal (U.S. Department of Transportation) funds with the greatest potential of impact to those groups covered by the act. The reviews will entail examination of the recipients' adherence to all Title VI requirements. The status of each review will be reported in the annual update and reported to relevant U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) modes upon request.

Annual Reporting Form: The Title VI Coordinator will be responsible for coordination, compilation, and submission of annual reporting form data to the Michigan Department of Transportation, Civil Rights Programs Unit and Federal Highway Administration via the Sub-Recipient Annual Certification Form (MDOT form #0179) by October 5th.

Title VI Plan Updates - If updated, a copy of Title VI Plan will be submitted by October 5th to the Michigan Department of Transportation.



Public Dissemination: The City will disseminate Title VI Program information to City of Novi employees and to the general public. Title VI Program information will be submitted to sub-recipients, contractors and beneficiaries. Public dissemination will include inclusions of Title VI language in contracts and publishing the Title VI plan on the City of Novi internet website, <http://www.cityofnovi.org/>.

Remedial Action: The City of Novi through the Title VI Coordinator will actively pursue the prevention of Title VI deficiencies and violations and will take the necessary steps to ensure compliance with all program administrative requirements. When deficiencies are found, procedures will be promptly implemented to correct the deficiencies and to put in writing the corrective action(s). The period to determine corrective action(s) and put it/them in writing to effect compliance may not exceed 90 days from the date the deficiencies are found.

**LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY**

## Background

On August 11, 2000, President William J. Clinton signed an executive order, Executive Order 13166, "Improving Access to Service for Persons with Limited English Proficiency"<sup>i</sup> to clarify Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It had as its purpose, to ensure accessibility to programs and services to otherwise eligible persons who are not proficient in the English language.

This executive order stated that individuals who do not speak English well and who have a limited ability to read, write and speak, or understand English are entitled to language assistance under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 with respect to a particular type of service, benefit, or encounter<sup>ii</sup>. These individuals are referred to as being limited English in their ability to speak, read, write, or understand English, hence the designation, "LEP," or Limited English Proficient. The Executive Order states that:

"Each federal agency shall prepare a plan to improve access to its federally conducted programs and activities by eligible LEP persons. Each plan shall be consistent with the standards set forth in the LEP Guidance, and shall include the steps the agency will take to ensure that eligible LEP persons can meaningfully access the agency's programs and activities."

Not only do all federal agencies have to develop LEP plans as a condition of receiving federal financial assistance, but recipients also have to comply with Title VI and LEP guidelines of the federal agency from which funds are provided as well.

Federal financial assistance includes grants, training, use of equipment, donations of surplus property, and other assistance. Recipients of federal funds range from state and local agencies to nonprofits and organizations. Title VI covers a recipient's entire program or activity. This means all parts of a recipient's operations are covered, even if only one part of a recipient's organization receives the federal assistance. Simply put, any organization that receives federal financial assistance is required to follow this Executive Order.

The City of Novi receives funds from the US Department of Transportation via the Federal Highway Administration.

The US Department of Transportation published *Policy Guidance Concerning Recipients' responsibilities to Limited English Proficient Person* in the December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005 Federal Register<sup>iii</sup>.

The Guidance implies City of Novi as organizations that must follow this guidance:

This guidance applies to all DOT funding recipients, which include state departments of transportation, state motor vehicle administrations, airport operators, metropolitan planning organizations, and regional, state, and local transit operators, among many others. Coverage extends to a recipient's entire program or activity, i.e., to all parts of a recipient's operations. This is true even if only one part of the recipient receives the Federal assistance. For example, if DOT provides assistance to a state department of transportation to rehabilitate a particular highway on the National Highway System, all of the operations of the entire state department of transportation-not just the particular highway program or project-are covered by the DOT guidance.

City of Novi's primary LEP language group is Asian Pacific Islander with Japanese being the primary LEP language. This guidance applies to all DOT funding recipients, which include state departments of transportation, state motor vehicle administrations, airport operators, metropolitan planning organizations, and regional, state, and local transit operators, among many others. Coverage extends to a recipient's entire program or activity, i.e., to all parts of a recipient's operations. This is true even if only one part of the recipient 18 receives the Federal assistance. For example, if DOT provides assistance to a state department of transportation to rehabilitate a particular highway on the National Highway System, all of the operations of the entire state department of transportation-not just the particular highway program or project-are covered by the DOT guidance.

For more information with regarding our policies on LEP, a copy of our LEP plan can be found on our website at [www.cityofnovi.org](http://www.cityofnovi.org) or a copy of the plan document can be requested from:

City of Novi  
Attn: Katherine Oppermann, Assistant to the City Manager  
45175 West 10 Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48375  
Tel: (248) 347-0478  
Email: [koppermann@cityofnovi.org](mailto:koppermann@cityofnovi.org)

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Compliance with Title VI includes ensuring that no minority or low-income population suffers "disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effect" due to any "programs, policies and activities" undertaken by any agency receiving federal funds. This obligation will be met by the City of Novi in the following ways:

When planning specific programs or projects, identifying those populations that will be affected by a given program or project. If a disproportionate effect is anticipated, following mitigation procedures. If mitigation options do not sufficiently eliminate the disproportionate effect, discussing and, if necessary, implementing reasonable alternatives

Disproportionate effects are those effects which are appreciably more severe for one group or predominantly borne by a single group. The City of Novi will use U.S. Census data to identify low income and minority populations.

Where a project impacts a small number or area of low income or minority populations, the City of Novi will document that:

- Other reasonable alternatives were evaluated and were eliminated for reasons such as the alternatives impacted a far greater number of people or did greater harm to the environment, etc.
- The project's impact is unavoidable,
- The benefits of the project for out-weigh the overall impacts and
- Mitigation measures are being taken to reduce the harm to low income or minority populations.

If it is concluded that no minority and/or low-income population groups are present in the project area, the City of Novi will document how the conclusion was reached. If it is determined that one or more of these population groups are present in the area, the City of Novi will administer potential disproportionate effects test.

The following steps will be taken to assess the impact of project on minority and/or low-income population groups:

**STEP ONE:** Determine if a minority of low-income population is present within the project area. If a conclusion is that no minority and/or low-income population is present within the project area, document how the conclusion was reached. If the conclusion is that there are minority population and/or low-income population groups present, proceed to Step Two.

**STEP TWO:** Determine whether project impacts associated with the identified low income and minority populations are disproportionately high and adverse. In doing so, refer to the list of potential impacts and questions contained in Appendix E. If it is determined that there are disproportionately high and adverse impacts to minority and low-income populations, proceed to Step Three.

**STEP THREE:** Propose measures that will avoid, minimize and/or mitigate disproportionately high and disproportionate adverse impacts and provide offsetting benefits and opportunities to enhance communities, neighborhoods and individuals affected by proposed project.

**STEP FOUR:** If after mitigation, enhancements and offsetting benefits to the affected populations, there remains a high and disproportionate adverse impact to minority or low-income populations, then the following questions must be considered:

Question 1: Are there further mitigation measures that could be employed to avoid or reduce the adverse effect to the minority or low-income population?

Question 2: Are there other additional alternatives to the proposed action that would avoid or reduce the impacts to the low income or minority populations?

Question 3: Considering the overall public interest, is there a substantial need for the project?

Question 4: Will the alternatives that would satisfy the need for the project and have less impact on protected populations (a) have other social economic or environmental impacts that are more severe than those of the proposed action (b) have increased costs of extraordinary magnitude?

**STEP FIVE:** Include all findings, determinations or demonstrations in the environmental document prepared for the project.

## FILING A COMPLAINT

### I. Introduction

The Title VI complaint procedures are intended to provide aggrieved persons an avenue to raise complaints of discrimination regarding the city's programs, activities and services as required by statute.

### II. Purpose

The purpose of the discrimination complaint procedures is to describe the process used by the cities for processing complaints of discrimination under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes.

### III. Roles and Responsibilities

The Title VI Coordinator has the responsibility for assuring that the discrimination complaint process and procedures adhere to FHWA's guidance.

### IV. Filing a Complaint

The complainant shall make himself/herself reasonably available to the designated investigator, to ensure completion of the investigation within the timeframes set forth.

Applicability: The complaint procedures apply to the beneficiaries of City of Novi programs, activities and services, including but not limited to: the public, contractors, sub-contractors, consultants, and other sub-recipients of federal and state funds.

Eligibility: Any person who believes that he/she has been excluded from participation in, denied benefits or services of any program or activity administered by the City of Novi or its sub-recipients, consultants and contractors on the basis of race, color, national origin (including Limited English Proficiency), sex, age or disability may bring forth a complaint of discrimination under Title VI.

Time Limitation on Filing Complaints: Title VI complaints may be filed with the Title VI Coordinator's office. In all situations, the employees of the City of Novi must contact the Title VI Coordinator immediately upon receipt of Title VI related statutes complaints. Within ten (10) days the City will acknowledge receipt of the complaint.

Complaints must be filed within 180 days of the alleged discrimination unless the time for filing is extended by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA.)

Complaints must be in writing and must be signed by the complainant and/or the complainant's representative. The complaint must set forth as fully as possible the facts and circumstances surrounding the claimed discrimination. In cases where the complainant is unable or incapable of providing a written statement, the complainant will be assisted in converting the verbal complaint into a written complaint. All complaints, however, must be signed by the complainant and/or by the complainant's representative.

Items that should not be considered a formal complaint: (unless the items contain a signed cover letter specifically alleging a violation of Title VI) include but are not limited to:

1. An anonymous complaint that is too vague to obtain required information
2. Inquiries seeking advice or information
3. Courtesy copies of court pleadings
4. Newspaper articles
5. Courtesy copies of internal grievances

## **V. Investigation**

All complaints investigations are delegated by FHWA. Allegations of discrimination are taken very seriously and will be investigated in a timely manner. The Title VI Coordinator will gather relevant information in a fair and impartial manner and will submit the complaint to MDOT's Statewide Title VI Coordinator who will forward the complaint to FHWA.

The Title VI Coordinator shall organize the gathered information and include a prepared document, which includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Names of the complainant(s) and respondent(s)
- Basis for complaint
- Issues, events, or circumstances that caused the person to believe that he/she has been discriminated against
- Information needed to address the issue
- Criteria, sources necessary to obtain the information
- Identification of key people
- Remedy sought by the complainant(s)

## **Timeframes for Investigations**

For FHWA, there is no regulatory timeframe for completing investigations. However, FHWA strives to complete all tasks within 180 days from the date of acceptance.

For State DOTs that have been delegated an investigation from FHWA, 23 CFR § 200.9(b)(3) provides that State DOTs must complete investigations within 60 days of receipt (meaning the date it receives the delegated complaint from FHWA).

## **FHWA Investigation Potential Outcomes**

First, at any time during the investigation, either FHWA or the respondent may initiate informal negotiations to resolve the issues. The FHWA always strives to resolve Title VI complaints informally, if possible.

In the absence of such negotiations, FHWA Headquarters Office of Civil Rights (HCR) (or an investigator State DOT) will draft a Report of Investigation, which should contain all relevant data and findings, with legal conclusions and potentially include recommendations for action. FHWA is responsible for the final disposition of all complaints, including initiation and conduct of informal negotiations and the issuance of Letters of Finding (LOFs).

There are five potential outcomes for concluding an investigation:

1. The FHWA makes a finding of no violation, and the case will be closed with no further action. The FHWA will issue an LOF stating in sufficient detail the reasons for the determination of no violation.
2. If, by a preponderance of the evidence, FHWA determines the respondent has failed to comply with its Title VI requirements or threatens to fail to comply by action or inaction, then FHWA will inform the respondent and the matter will be resolved by informal means whenever possible.
  - If FHWA informally resolves the matter with the respondent by agreement, then FHWA will hold the complaint in abeyance until the respondent completes its corrective actions. If the corrective actions are completed to the FHWA's satisfaction, then the complaint will be dismissed with no further action.
  - If FHWA cannot informally resolve the matter or the respondent does not complete agreed upon corrective actions, then FHWA



may issue a LOF stating that the Recipient is in noncompliance with its Title VI obligations.

3. If FHWA issues a LOF of noncompliance to the respondent, the LOF will request that the respondent provide to FHWA, within 90 days, an action plan that implements the recommendations in the LOF.
4. If FHWA approves the action plan, then the respondent will be given a reasonable amount of time to implement the plan. At the end of the implementation period, FHWA will assess whether the respondent has sufficiently corrected the deficiencies.
5. If FHWA does not approve the action plan, or the respondent is nonresponsive/uncooperative, then FHWA may seek administrative sanctions, including, but not limited to, suspension or termination of Federal funds or any other means authorized by law such as referral to USDOJ for enforcement.
  - If USDOT seeks to suspend or terminate funds, it must provide the respondent with an opportunity for a hearing on the record. If the Secretary of Transportation determines that the respondent has not complied with Title VI and voluntary compliance cannot be secured, USDOT must notify Congress before that finding goes into effect. 49 CFR §21.13(c).

All LOFs issued by FHWA are administratively final.

**Retaliation:**

The laws enforced by this city prohibit retaliation or intimidation against anyone because that individual has either taken action or participated in action to secure rights protected by these laws. If you experience retaliation or intimidation separate from the discrimination alleged in this complaint please contact:

City of Novi  
Attn: Katherine Oppermann, Assistant to the City Manager  
45175 West 10 Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48375  
Tel: (248) 347-0478  
Email: [koppermann@cityofnovi.org](mailto:koppermann@cityofnovi.org)

## **Reporting Requirements to an External Agency**

A copy of the complaint, together with a copy of the investigation report and final decision letter will be forwarded to the Michigan Department of Transportation, Civil Rights Program Unit within 60 days of the date the complaint was received.

## **Records**

All records and investigative working files are maintained in a confidential area. Records are kept for three years.

## APPENDIX A: REQUIRED CONTRACT LANGUAGE

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 Regulations relative to nondiscrimination in Federally assisted programs of the Department of Transportation, Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 21, 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, with regard to the work performed by it during the contract, shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin in the selection, retention, and treatment of subcontractors, including procurements of materials in the discrimination prohibited by Section 21.5 of the Regulations, including employment practices when the contractor covers a program set for in Appendix B of the Regulations.
- 3. Solicitation for Subcontracts, 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 the contract and the Regulations relative to nondiscrimination on the grounds of race, color, or national origin.
- 4. Information and Reports:** The contractor shall provide all information and reports required by the Regulations, or directives issues pursuant thereto, and shall permit access to its books, records, accounts, other sources of information, and its facilities as may be determined by the State Highway Department of the Federal Highway Administration to be pertinent to ascertain compliance with such Regulations or directives. 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 the State Highway Department or the Federal Highway 25 Administration, as appropriate, and shall set forth what efforts it has made to obtain the information.

- 5. Sanctions for Noncompliance:** In the event the contractor's noncompliance with the nondiscrimination provisions of this contract, the State Highway Department shall impose such contract sanctions as it or the Federal Highway Administration may determine to be appropriate, including, but not limited to:
- a. Withholding 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 provisions of paragraphs (1) through (6) in every subcontract, including procurement of material 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 the State Highway Department or the Federal Highway Administration may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance: 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 State Highway Department to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the State, 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: TRANSFER OF PROPERTY

The following clauses shall be included in any and 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 State of Michigan, will accept title to the lands and maintain the project constructed thereon, in accordance with Title 23, United States Code, the Regulations for the Administration of the Department of Transportation and, 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 (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 State of Michigan all the right, title and interest of the Department of Transportation in and to said lands described Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof.

### [HABENDUM CLAUSE]\*

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said lands and interests therein unto the State of Michigan, and its successors forever, subject, however, the covenant, 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 State of Michigan, its successors and assigns.

The State of Michigan, 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 race, color, national origin, 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 State of Michigan shall use the 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, and as said Regulations may be amended (,) and (3) that in the event of breach of any of the abovementioned 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 deed.

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

## APPENDIX C: PERMITS, LEASES AND LICENSES

The following clauses shall be included in all deeds, licenses, leases, permits, or similar instruments entered into by the Michigan Department of Transportation, pursuant to the provisions of Assurance 8(a).

The grantee, licensee, lessee, permittee, etc., (as appropriate) for himself, his heirs, personal representative, 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 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 remain 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, 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, the Michigan Department of Transportation 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, the Michigan Department of Transportation shall have the right to re-enter lands and facilities hereon, and the above-described lands and facilities shall thereupon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of the State of Michigan Department of Transportation and its assigns.

\*Reverter clause and related language to be used only when it is determined that such a clause is necessary in order to effectuate the purpose of the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Civil Rights Act of 1987.

**APPENDIX D: TITLE VI COMPLAINT FORM**

**CITY OF NOVI  
TITLE VI COMPLAINT FORM**

This form may be used to file a complaint with the City of Novi based on violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. You are not required to use this form; a letter that provides the same information may be submitted to file your complaint. **Complaints should be filed within 180 days of the alleged discrimination.**

*If you need assistance completing this form due to a physical impairment, please contact Katherine Oppermann at (248) 347-0452 or [koppermann@cityofnovi.org](mailto:koppermann@cityofnovi.org).*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Entity type: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work)

Individual(s) discriminated against, if different than above (use additional pages, if needed).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Entity type: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work)

Please explain your relationship with the individual(s) indicated above: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of agency and department or program that discriminated:

Agency or department name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of individual (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Entity type: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



Date(s) of alleged discrimination:

Date discrimination began \_\_\_\_\_ Last or most recent date \_\_\_\_\_

**ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION:**

If your complaint is in regard to discrimination in the delivery of services or discrimination that involved the treatment of you by others by the agency or department indicated above, please indicate below the basis on which you believe these discriminatory actions were taken:

Race

Disability

Religion

National Origin

Color

Sex

Age

Income

**EXPLAIN:**

Please explain as clearly as possible what happened. Provide the name(s) of witness(es) and others involved in the alleged discrimination. (Attach additional sheets, if necessary, and provide a copy of written material pertaining to your case):

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**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Return Complaint Form to:**

Katherine Oppermann, Assistant to the City Manager  
45175 West 10 Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48375  
Telephone: (248) 347-0478 Email: [koppermann@cityofnovi.org](mailto:koppermann@cityofnovi.org)

**Note:** *The City of Novi prohibits retaliation or intimidation against anyone because that individual has either taken action or participated in action to secure rights protected by policies of the City of Novi. Please inform the person listed above if you feel you were intimidated or experience perceived retaliation in relation to filing this complaint.*

## Appendix E: Determining/Distinguishing Significant/Non-significant Effects

"Significant" requires considerations of both context and intensity:

- a) *Context*. This means that the significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole (human, nation), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality. Significance varies with the setting of the proposed action. For instance, in the case of a site-specific action, significance would usually depend upon the effects in the local area rather than in the world as a whole. Both short- and long-term effects are relevant.
- b) *Intensity*. This refers to the severity of impact. Responsible officials must bear in mind that more than one agency may make decisions about partial aspects of a major action. The following should be considered in evaluating intensity:
  - 1) Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse. Significant effect may exist even if, on balance, the effect would be beneficial.

"Non-significant effect" means no substantial change to an environmental component and this no material bearing on the decision-making process.

Scientific, technical, institutional, the public's value, and the local economic conditions influence the meaning of significant effect.

If an alternative would provide a beneficial effect, then the alternative would cause no significant adverse effect. If an alternative would provide an adverse effect, the effect might be significant, or the effect might be non-significant.

Determinations of "significant" and "non-significant" effects will be made by the City Manager.

## APPENDIX F: Program Compliance/Review Goals for Current Plan Year

1. The updated City of Novi Title VI Plan will be published on the City of Novi's Website.
2. Appendix A will be included in all city contracts as outlined in the Title VI Plan.
3. The language in Number 2 of the City of Novi's Title VI Assurance will be included in all solicitations for bids for work or material subject to the Regulations and in all proposals for negotiated agreements.
4. All City of Novi employees will be trained or made aware of the LEP procedure and the Title VI complaint procedure.
5. The following data will be collected and reviewed by the Title VI Coordinator and included, where appropriate, in the annual report submitted to MOOT:
  - a. **Boards and Commissions:** The number of vacancies; how vacancies are advertised and filled; the number of applicants; the representation of minorities will be evaluated.
  - b. **Public Meetings:** The number of open meetings. How meeting dates and times communicated to the general public and to individuals directly affected by the meeting.
  - c. **Construction Projects:** The number of construction projects, number of minority contractors bidding and the number selected; Verification that Title VI language was included in bids and contracts for each project.
  - d. **LEP Needs:** How many requests for language assistance were requested or required and the outcome of these requests.
  - e. **Complaints:** The number of Title VI complaints received; nature of the complaints; resolution of the complaints.
  - f. **Timeliness of Services:** Number of requests for services; Amount of time from request to when service was delivered; Number of requests denied.
  - g. **Right of Way/Imminent Domain:** Numbers of such actions and diversity of individual affected.
  - h. **Program Participants:** Racial Data of program participants where possible.

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<sup>i</sup> The executive order verbatim can be found online at <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2000-08-16/pdf/00-20938.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> Policy Guidance Concerning Recipients' Responsibilities to Limited English Proficient (LEP) Persons. Federal Register: December 14, 2005 (Volume 70, Number 239)

<sup>iii</sup> The DOT has also posted this guidance on their website at: <https://www.transportation.gov/civil-rights/civil-rights-library/policy-guidance-concerning-recipients-responsibilities-limited>