

Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority

Title VI Complaint Procedure (proposed)

Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (AAATA / TheRide) is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of its programs and services based on race, color, and national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For information about TheRide's non-discrimination obligations, or to file a complaint if you believe you have been subjected to unlawful discrimination, please contact TheRide by mail, using the AAATA Title VI Complaint Form to Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority - Attn: Title VI, 2700 S. Industrial Hwy., Ann Arbor, MI 48104, or by email at the "Contact Us" section of TheRide's website, www.theride.org.

A copy of AAATA's Title VI Complaint Form is available in print, in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Arabic, at AAATA's main office, as well as posted online at www.TheRide.org on the Customer Service page within the Title VI Notification Procedure section.

Each complaint received that alleges discrimination based on race, color, or national origin will be investigated using the procedure below, whether it specifically references Title VI or not. All complaints must be received within 180 days of the alleged discrimination incident/occurrence. The complainant will be notified within 7 days confirming receipt and advised it is being investigated. This notice may include a request for additional information necessary to investigate the complaint (e.g. specific time of an incident). A written response of the determination will be provided by mail to the complainant within 30 days of the date of complaint.

If the allegation concerns a specific incident involving an operator or customer service staff member, a preliminary investigation of the facts will be conducted by AAATA Transportation Department management staff. It should be noted that all AAATA's buses and facilities are equipped with cameras. Cameras have proved to be extremely useful in resolving alleged complaints about specific incidents. Transportation Management Staff will make a preliminary determination about the facts, recommend any disciplinary measures, and transmit the complaint to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Deputy CEO, or their delegate.

For more general allegations, such as AAATA service design or fares, the CEO, Deputy CEO, or their delegate will determine the appropriate senior staff member to conduct the preliminary investigation and report the findings and recommendations for corrective action to the CEO, Deputy CEO, or their delegate.

The CEO, Deputy CEO, or their delegate will review all alleged discrimination complaints based on race, color, or national origin and the results of the preliminary investigation. The CEO, Deputy CEO, or their delegate will make a determination as to whether the alleged discrimination based on race, color, or national origin was valid, and any corrective action that will be taken. Note that even if the alleged discrimination is determined to be invalid, corrective action may still be warranted in some cases.

The CEO, Deputy CEO, or their delegate will provide her or his findings in writing (by mail) to the complainant within 30 days of the date of the complaint, including whether the alleged discrimination was found to be valid based on race, color, or national origin, and the corrective actions AAATA has taken or promises to take. The letter will inform the complainant of the opportunity to provide additional information that may lead AAATA to reconsider its decision and of the complainant's right to file a complaint with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

In addition to this policy, AAATA also follows up on informal complaints made by telephone, Internet, social media and email.