



## **TITLE VI COMPLAINT AND INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES**

These procedures cover all complaints filed under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, for alleged discrimination in any program or activity administered by the Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation (COAST).

These procedures do not deny the right of the complainant to file formal complaints with other State or Federal agencies or to seek private counsel for complaints alleging discrimination. Every effort will be made to obtain early resolution of complaints at the lowest level possible. The option of informal mediation meeting(s) between the affected parties and COAST may be utilized for resolution.

Any person, group of people or entity that believes it has been subjected to discrimination prohibited under Title VI and related statutes may file a written complaint to the following address:

**Title VI Coordinator  
Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation  
42 Sumner Drive  
Dover, NH 03820  
Phone: 603-743-5777      Fax: 603-516-0592  
civilrights@coastbus.org**

The following measures will be taken to resolve complaints filed under Title VI and related statutes:

- 1) A formal complaint must be filed within 180 days of the alleged occurrence. Complaints shall be in writing and signed by the individual or their legal representative, and will include the complainant's name, address, and telephone number; the name of alleged discriminating official; the basis for the complaint (race, color, or national origin) and the date of the alleged act(s). A statement detailing the facts and circumstances of the alleged discrimination must accompany all complaints.
- 2) In the case where a complainant is unable or incapable of providing a written statement, a verbal complaint of discrimination may be made to the COAST Title VI Coordinator. Under these circumstances, the complainant will be interviewed, and the Title VI Coordinator will assist the complainant in converting the verbal allegations to writing.
- 3) When a complaint is received, the Title VI Coordinator will provide written acknowledgment of its receipt to the complainant within ten (10) days by Registered mail.
- 4) If a complaint is deemed incomplete, additional information will be requested, and the complainant will have 60 business days to submit the requested information. Failure to do so may be considered good cause for a determination of no investigative merit.

- 5) Within 15 business days from the receipt of a complete complaint, COAST will determine its jurisdiction in pursuing the matter. If COAST does not have sufficient jurisdiction, the Executive Director, or their authorized designee, will refer the complaint to the appropriate State or Federal agency holding such jurisdiction. Within five (5) business days of the decision to proceed, or not proceed, with an investigation the Executive Director, or their authorized designee, will notify the complainant and respondent, by registered mail, informing them of the disposition.
  - a. If the decision is made to not investigate the complaint, the notification shall specifically state the reason for the decision.
  - b. If the complaint is to be investigated, the notification shall state the grounds of COAST's jurisdiction, while informing the parties that their full cooperation will be required in gathering additional information and assisting the investigator.
- 6) If the complaint has investigative merit, the Executive Director or their authorized designee will assign an investigator. A complete investigation will be conducted, and an investigative report will be submitted to the Executive Director within 60 days of receipt of the complaint. The report will include a narrative description of the incident, summaries of all persons interviewed, and a finding with recommendations and conciliatory measures where appropriate. If the investigation is delayed for any reason, the investigator will notify the appropriate authorities, and an extension will be requested.
- 7) After the investigation, and within 90 days of receipt of the complaint, the Executive Director or their authorized designee will issue a closure letter or letter of finding to the complainant and respondent.
- 8) If the complainant wishes to appeal the decision it must direct the appeal to the agency initially. The complainant has 30 days after the date of the letter of findings to do so. The appeal will be investigated and decided by a separate party other than the original investigator.
- 9) The complainant also has the right to file a complaint with the following:

New Hampshire Department of Transportation  
Attn: Title VI Coordinator  
PO Box 483  
Concord, NH 03302

or

Federal Transit Administration  
Office of Civil Rights  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590