

TITLE VI/NONDISCRIMINATION ASSURANCES

The United States Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) Order No. 1050.2A

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) (hereinafter referred to as the “Recipient”) hereby agrees that, as a condition to receiving any Federal financial assistance from the U. S. Department of Transportation (DOT), through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is subject to and will comply with the following:

STATUTORY/REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d *et seq.*, 78 stat. 252), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin (including limited English proficiency));
- 49 C.F.R. Part 21 (entitled *Non-discrimination in Federally-Assisted Programs of the Department of Transportation—Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964*);
- 28 C.F.R. section 50.3 (U.S. Department of Justice Guidelines for Enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964);

The preceding statutory and regulatory cites are referred to as the “Acts” and “Regulations,” respectively.

GENERAL ASSURANCES

In accordance with the Acts, the Regulations, and other pertinent directives, circulars, policy, memoranda, and/or guidance, the Recipient hereby gives assurances that:

No person in the United States 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 under any program or activity, for which the Recipient receives Federal financial assistance from U. S. DOT, including FHWA.

The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 clarified the original intent of Congress, with respect to Title VI and other Non-discrimination requirements (The Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973), by restoring the broad, institutional-wide scope and coverage of these non-discrimination statutes and requirements to include all programs and activities of the Recipient, so long as any portion of the program is Federally assisted.

SPECIFIC ASSURANCES

More specifically, and without limiting the above general Assurance, the Recipient gives the following Assurances:

1. The Recipient agrees that each “activity,” “facility,” or “program,” as defined in §§ 21.23(b) and 21.23(e) of 49 C.F.R. § 21 will be (with regard to an “activity”) facilitated, or will be (with regard to a “facility”) operated, or will be (with regard to a “program”) conducted in compliance with all requirements imposed by, or pursuant to the Acts and the Regulations.
2. The Recipient will insert the following notification in all solicitations for bids, Requests for Proposals for work, or material subject to the Acts and the Regulations made in connection with all its programs and activities and, in adapted form, in all proposals for negotiated agreements regardless of funding source:

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby affirmatively ensures that for any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, all bidders, including disadvantaged business enterprises, will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin in consideration for an award.

3. The Recipient will insert the clauses of Appendix A and E of this Assurance in every contract or agreement subject to the Acts and the Regulations;
4. The Recipient will insert the clauses of Appendix B of this Assurance, as a covenant running with the land, in any deed from the United States effecting or recording a transfer of real property, structures, use, or improvements thereon or interest therein to the Recipient;
5. That where the Recipient receives Federal financial assistance to construct a facility, or part of a facility, the Assurance will extend to the entire facility and facilities operated in connection therewith for the duration of Recipient ownership of the facility and future deeds, leases, licenses, permits, or similar transfers where the use of the facility remains transportation related (see Specific Assurance #8, below).
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 will extend to rights to space on, over, or under such property.

7. That the Recipient will include the clauses set forth in Appendix C and Appendix D of this Assurance, as a covenant running with the land, in any future deeds, leases, licenses, permits, or similar instruments entered into by the Recipient with other parties:
 - a. for the subsequent transfer of real property acquired or improved under the applicable activity, project, or program (Appendix C); and
 - b. for the construction or use of, or access to, space on, over, or under real property acquired or improved under the applicable activity, project, or program (Appendix D).
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 will provide for such methods of administration for the program as are found by the Secretary of Transportation or the official to whom he/she delegates specific authority to give reasonable guarantee that it, other recipients, sub-recipients, sub-grantees, contractors, subcontractors, consultants, transferees, successors in interest, and other participants of Federal financial assistance under such program will comply with all requirements imposed by or pursuant to the Acts, the Regulations and this Assurance.
10. The Recipient agrees that the United States has a right to seek judicial enforcement with regard to any matter arising under the Acts, the Regulations and this Assurance.

By signing this Assurance, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation also agrees to comply (and require any sub-recipients, sub-grantees, contractors, successors, transferees, and/or assignees to comply) with all applicable provisions governing the FHWA's access to records, accounts, documents, information, facilities, and staff. You also recognize that you must comply with any program or compliance reviews, and/or complaint investigations conducted by FHWA. You must keep records, reports, and submit the material for review upon request to FHWA, or its designee in a timely, complete, and accurate way. Additionally, you must comply with all other reporting, data collection, and evaluation requirements, as prescribed by law or detailed in program guidance.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation gives this Assurance in consideration of and for obtaining any Federal grants, loans, contracts, agreements, property, and/or discounts, or other Federal-aid and Federal financial assistance extended after the date hereof to the recipients by the U.S. Department of Transportation under the Federal-aid Highway Program. This Assurance is binding on the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, other recipients, sub-recipients, sub-grantees, contractors, subcontractors and their subcontractors, transferees, successors in interest, and any other participants in the Federal-aid Highway Program. The person signing below is authorized to sign this Assurance on behalf of the Recipient.

SIGNED FOR THE RECIPIENT:



3/15/2021

Jamey Tesler

Date

Acting Secretary/CEO

Massachusetts Department of Transportation

SUBRECIPIENT TITLE VI/NONDISCRIMINATION ASSURANCES

The Pioneer Valley Planning Comm. (hereinafter referred to as the "Sub-Recipient"), hereby agrees that, as a condition of receiving any Federal financial assistance from the United States Department of Transportation (U. S. DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, through its Department of Transportation (Recipient), it is subject to and must comply with the Acts and Regulations detailed in this document.

This Assurance is given in consideration of and for the purpose of obtaining any and all Federal grants, loans, contracts, agreements, property, and/or discounts, or other Federal-aid and Federal financial assistance extended after the date hereof to the recipients by the Department of Transportation under the FHWA Program and is binding on it, other recipients, sub-recipients, sub-grantees, contractors, subcontractors and their subcontractors', transferees, successors in interest, and any other participants in the FHWA Programs. The person or persons whose signature appears below are authorized to sign this assurance on behalf of the Sub-Recipient.

SIGNED FOR THE SUB-RECIPIENT:



2/6/23

(Signature & Date)

Kimberly H. Robinson, Executive Director

(Print Name & Title)

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 (hereinafter includes consultants) will comply with the Acts and Regulations relative to Non-discrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), as they may be amended from time to time, which are herein incorporated by reference and made a part of this contract.
2. **Non-discrimination:** The contractor, with regard to the work performed by it during the contract, will not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, national origin (including limited English proficiency), age, sex, disability, or low-income status in the selection and retention of subcontractors, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment. The contractor will not participate directly or indirectly in the discrimination prohibited by the Acts and the Regulations, including employment practices when the contract covers any activity, project, or program set forth in Appendix B of 49 CFR Part 21.
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 will be notified by the contractor of the contractor’s obligations under this contract and the Acts and the Regulations relative to nondiscrimination on the grounds of race, color, national origin (including limited English proficiency), age, sex, disability, or low-income status.
4. **Information and Reports:** The contractor will provide all information and reports required by the Acts, the Regulations, and directives issued pursuant thereto, and will permit access to its books, records, accounts, other sources of information, and its facilities as may be determined by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) or FHWA to be pertinent to ascertain compliance with such Acts, Regulations, 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 will so certify to MassDOT or FHWA, as appropriate, and will set forth what efforts it has made to obtain the information.
5. **Sanctions for Noncompliance:** In the event of a contractor’s noncompliance with the Nondiscrimination provisions of this contract, MassDOT will impose such contract sanctions as it or FHWA 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. cancelling, terminating, or suspending a contract, in whole or in part.

6. **Incorporation of Provisions:** The contractor will include the provisions of paragraphs one through six in every subcontract, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment, unless exempt by the Acts, the Regulations, and directives issued pursuant thereto. The contractor will take action with respect to any subcontract or procurement as MassDOT or FHWA may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance. Provided, that if the contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with litigation by a subcontractor, or supplier because of such direction, the contractor may request MassDOT to enter into any litigation to protect the interests of MassDOT. In addition, the contractor may request the United States to enter into the litigation to protect the interests of the United States.

APPENDIX B

CLAUSES FOR DEEDS TRANSFERRING UNITED STATES PROPERTY

The following clauses will be included in deeds effecting or recording the transfer of real property, structures, or improvements thereon, or granting interest therein from the United States pursuant to the provisions of Assurance 4:

“Now, therefore, the U.S. Department of Transportation (hereinafter referred to as “U.S. DOT”), as authorized by law, and upon the condition that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation will accept title to the lands and maintain the project constructed thereon in accordance with Title 23, U.S.C., the Regulations for the Administration of the above statute, and the policies and procedures prescribed by the Federal Highway Administration (hereinafter referred to as “FHWA”) of the U.S. DOT in accordance and in compliance with all requirements imposed by Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, U.S. Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S. DOT 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 Massachusetts Department of Transportation all the right, title and interest of the U.S. DOT 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 Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts Department of Transportation, its successors and assigns.

The Massachusetts 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 will on the grounds of race, color, national origin (including limited English proficiency), age, sex, disability, or low-income status 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 Massachusetts Department of Transportation will 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, U.S. Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and as said Regulations and Acts may be amended, and;

*(3) that in the event of breach of any of the above-mentioned nondiscrimination conditions, U.S. DOT will have a right to enter or re-enter said lands and facilities on said land, and that above-described land and facilities will thereon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of the U.S. DOT and its assigns as such interest existed prior to this instruction.**

* 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.

APPENDIX C

CLAUSES FOR TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY ACQUIRED OR IMPROVED UNDER THE ACTIVITY, FACILITY, OR PROGRAM

The following clauses will be included in all deeds, licenses, leases, permits, or similar agreements entered into by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, pursuant to the provisions of Assurance 7a:

1. *The (grantee, lessee, permittee, etc. as appropriate) for himself/herself, his/her 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:*
 - a. *In the event facilities are constructed, maintained, or otherwise operated on the property described in this (deed, license, lease, permit, etc.) for a purpose for which a Department of Transportation activity, facility, or program is extended or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits, the (grantee, licensee, lessee, permittee, etc.) will maintain and operate such facilities and services in compliance with all requirements imposed by the Acts and Regulations (as may be amended) such that no person on the grounds of race, color, national origin (including limited English proficiency), age, sex, disability, or low-income status will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the use of said facilities.*
2. *With respect to licenses, leases, permits, etc., in the event of breach of any of the above Non-discrimination covenants, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation will have the right to terminate the (lease, license, permit, etc.) and to enter, re-enter, and repossess said lands and facilities thereon, and hold the same as if the (lease, license, permit, etc.) had never been made or issued.**

* 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.

3. *With respect to a deed, in the event of breach of any of the above Non-discrimination covenants, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation will have the right to enter or re-enter the lands and facilities thereon, and the above described lands and facilities will there upon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and its assigns.**

APPENDIX D

CLAUSES FOR CONSTRUCTION/USE/ACCESS TO REAL PROPERTY ACQUIRED UNDER THE ACTIVITY, FACILITY, OR PROGRAM

The following clauses will be included in all deeds, licenses, leases, permits, or similar instruments/agreements entered into by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation pursuant to the provisions of Assurance 7b.

1. *“The (grantee, licensee, permittee, etc., as appropriate) for himself/herself, his/her 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 (1) no person on the ground of race, color, national origin (including limited English proficiency), age, sex, disability, or low-income status will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be 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 race, color, national origin (including limited English proficiency), age, sex, disability, or low-income status will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination, and (3) that the (grantee, licensee, lessee, permittee, etc.) will use the premises in compliance with all other requirements imposed by or pursuant to the Acts and Regulations, as amended, set forth in this Assurance.*
2. *With respect to (licenses, leases, permits, etc.), in the event of breach of any of the above non-discrimination covenants, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation will have the right to terminate the (license, permit, etc., as appropriate) and to enter or re-enter and repossess said land and the facilities thereon, and hold the same as if said (license, permit, etc., as appropriate) had never been made or issued.**
3. *With respect to deeds, in the event of breach of any of the non-discrimination covenants, the [description of the property] will there*

* Reverter clause and related language to be used only when it is determined that such a clause is necessary to make clear the purpose of Title VI.

*upon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of the
Massachusetts Department of Transportation and its assigns.**

APPENDIX E

During the performance of this contract, the contractor, for itself, its assignees, and successors in interest (hereinafter referred to as the “contractor,” which includes consultants) agrees to comply with the following non-discrimination statutes and authorities; including but not limited to:

PERTINENT NON-DISCRIMINATION AUTHORITIES:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d *et seq.*, 78 stat. 252) (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin); and 49 CFR Part 21
- The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. § 4601) (prohibits unfair treatment of persons displaced or whose property has been acquired because of Federal or Federal-Aid programs and projects)
- Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973 (23 U.S.C. § 324 *et seq.*) (prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex)
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 794 *et seq.*), as amended (prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability) and 49 CFR Part 27
- The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 6101 *et seq.*) (prohibits discrimination on the basis of age)
- Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982 (49 U.S.C. § 471, Section 47123), as amended (prohibits discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, or sex)
- The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (PL 100-209) (broadened the scope, coverage, and applicability of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, by expanding the definition of the terms “programs or activities” to include all of the programs or activities of Federal-Aid recipients, sub-recipients, and contractors, whether such programs or activities are Federally funded or not)
- Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 12131-12189), as implemented by Department of Transportation regulations at 49 CFR parts 37 and 38 (prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in the operation of public entities, public and private transportation systems, places of public accommodation, and certain testing entities)
- The Federal Aviation Administration’s Non-Discrimination Statute (49 U.S.C. § 47123) (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, and sex)

- Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations (ensures discrimination against minority populations by discouraging programs, policies, and activities with disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations)
- Executive Order 13166, Improving Access to Services for People with Limited English Proficiency, and resulting agency guidance, national origin discrimination includes discrimination because of limited English proficiency (LEP). To ensure compliance with Title VI, you must take reasonable steps to ensure that LEP persons have meaningful access to your programs (70 Fed. Reg. at 74087 to 74100)
- Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1681 *et seq.*) (prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities)