



*Danville Area Transportation Study,
Metropolitan Planning Organization*

Title VI Report
Fiscal Year 2013

August 24, 2012

Danville Urbanized Area, Vermilion County, Illinois

Introduction

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. Each federal agency that provides financial assistance for any program is authorized and directed by the United States Department of Justice to apply provisions of Title VI, Executive Order 12898, and Executive Order 13166 to each program by issuing applicable rules, regulations, or requirements.

This document explains the Title VI program from the DATS Policy Committee for the urbanized area in the territory of Vermilion County, Illinois. This program, conducted in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation, is consistent with the principles of Title VI, federal guidelines, and related requirements and is responsive to the needs of Title VI beneficiaries.

Overall Metropolitan Planning Process

Overview

The metropolitan planning process investigates connections between mobility, multi-modal transportation systems, environmental conditions, economic development, and safety. The MPO provides for non-discrimination in transit planning and programming through oversight and representation by its members; by following federal legislation and the 3C (comprehensive, continuing, and cooperative) transportation planning process; by reflecting the legislation in its objectives, policies, and plans; and by having non-discriminatory development and implementation processes. A cooperative planning process includes participation from a number of federal, state, local, private and public agencies, and individuals.

MPO Policy and Plans

Transportation equity and environmental justice are an integral part of the MPO transportation planning process. DATS generates transportation planning and supports the goals and objectives of regional planning within the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA). DATS engages governmental and nongovernmental transportation agencies within the MPA in order to create a coordinated transportation planning effort.

Transportation Equity

Vision

- There is equitable mobility, quality, affordability, and access to jobs, educational institutions, and services for low-income and minority residents, the elderly, youth, and persons for whom English is a second language

- Environmental burdens from transportation (existing and future) are minimized; low-income and minority populations are not inequitably burdened
- Expansion projects address regional needs

Policies

- Continue outreach and analysis to identify equity needs; continue to monitor system performance
- Address identified equity needs related to service and removing or minimizing burdens (air pollution, unsafe conditions, community impacts)
- Strengthen avenues for involvement of low-income and minority persons in decision making
- Reduce trip times for low-income and minority neighborhood residents and increase transit service capacity

Mobility

Vision

- System provides improved access to jobs, education, and training; health services; social and recreation opportunities
- There are more transportation options and accessibility for all
- Transit ridership and use of sustainable options are increased
- Existing transit, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities are linked in a network

Policies

- Strengthen connections between modes; close gaps in the existing network
- Improve access and accessibility to transit
- Improve transit frequency, span and reliability
- Expand transit, bicycle, and pedestrian networks; focus bicycle investments on moving people between activity centers (and access to transit)

Public Outreach and Involvement Activities

The MPO facilitates and encourages the involvement of all persons in its activities. A variety of approaches have been utilized to provide communication and consultation with interested parties and members of the public. This section will summarize the activities conducted and the outreach methods used by the MPO in implementing its public participation program.

Effective transportation decision making depends upon understanding and properly addressing the unique needs of different socioeconomic groups. Public involvement processes are evaluated and improved, where necessary, to eliminate participation barriers and engage minority and low-income populations in transportation decision making.

1. Developing a Plan for Participation

The Federal Guidelines suggest that planning agencies, working with the community, should develop a plan for how and when citizens will be involved in each transportation planning and project development activity. This public participation plan should include the following elements:

- a. Clearly defined agency transportation goals and objectives;
- b. Be integrated fully into the overall planning process;
- c. Identify key issues and decision points and how they related to citizen participation activities;
- d. Describe citizen participation mechanisms to be used and the timing of such efforts; including efforts to notify the public of informational materials that will be prepared for the public;
- e. Establish procedures for considering public comments and responding to those comments;
- f. Commit adequate resources, including staff, money for printing, and technical assistance, where needed;
- g. Provide for periodic evaluation of effectiveness of the citizen participation program in order to identify weaknesses and modify participation efforts when necessary.

Meaningful public and stakeholder involvement is critical to the long-term success of the Danville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. The objectives of this participation plan are to establish guidelines to: **Inform** the public in a timely manner of policies, progress of specific projects and issues related to the planning process; **Involve** all stakeholders with early opportunities for participating in the decision-making process; **Attend** to citizen concerns and ideas; **Learn** from collected information and stakeholders' ideas to develop consensus and resolve conflict, to generate better planning decisions; **Develop** an effective outreach process that includes an integrated feedback process for evaluation and improvement; **Reflect** regularly on the measured effectiveness of participation strategies, and make subsequent changes to seek greater future success.

DATS produces a Unified Planning Work Program annually and has prepared a Public Involvement Policy. These two documents provide all of the elements suggested by the Federal guidelines. The Unified Planning Work Program delineates transportation issues, goals and objectives within the context of the overall planning process for the Danville

Urbanized Area. The Public Involvement Policy discusses the aspects of the citizen involvement in transportation planning and describes the specific techniques to be used in the citizen involvement process.

2. Identifying Public Participants

The MPO conducts a varied and ongoing program for gathering information and views from all sectors of the public for its transportation planning and programming work. The Federal Guidelines suggest that a list of people to be informed about a planning activity should be developed and expanded regularly. DATS is presently creating a mailing list, that includes members of DATS committee, persons who have requested to be notified of each meeting, plus advocates of representatives of minority groups, the disabled or the elderly. All activities are open to the public. The locations are well dispersed through the region, include environmental justice communities, and are almost always served by public transportation. In conducting its activities, the MPO strives to meet the needs of people requiring special services.

3. Outreach Methods

MPO outreach methods generally serve either or both of two purposes: notification and provision of informational materials and reports. The Federal Guidelines suggest a broad variety of techniques to keep the public informed. The MPO takes a proactive approach to identifying and articulating environmental justice issues in the region. Methods include:

- Identifying and connecting with existing and new contacts and sources of information for the planning process
- Collecting and reporting information on the transportation needs of minority, LEP, and low-income populations for consideration in MPO planning
- Encouraging and facilitating participation in the planning process

The MPO provides public notifications in a variety of ways, such as legal notices, press releases with local newspapers, emailing of flyers and notices, and guarantees public notice of a meeting will be made at least five days in advance of the meeting. DATS maintains a list of all committees, subcommittees, units of government, and interested parties. Citizens may add their names to this list by notifying the DATS office.

Meetings intended for public participation will be held as frequently as deemed necessary. Regular meetings are held monthly: DATS Technical meets on the first Thursday of each month at 10:30 am; DATS Policy Committee meets on the third Thursday of each month at 10:30 am; both committees meet in the Danville Public Library at 319 N. Vermilion St., Danville.

In addition to informing the citizens of meetings and public hearings, the public is encouraged to participate during the discussion of each agenda item. To facilitate public involvement in the development of a document or project, copies of each document discussed at Policy Committee meetings are made available for public inspection at the Department of Public Development offices prior to each meeting and are given to individuals upon request.

The MPO will continue to expand its outreach to neighborhoods of concern and broaden its direct contacts with minority, LEP, and low-income residents in these communities. The goal is to identify specific community needs and to facilitate answers and possible actions by responsible agencies.

Evaluation of Public Participation Efforts

Periodic review of public participation activities to evaluate program effectiveness is required by federal regulations (23 CFR 450.212(a)(7)). Overall evaluation of public participation efforts on a regular basis helps answer whether the program is meeting the key participation plan objectives. Through the evaluation process, a participation program can be refined and improved.

The MPO has developed four tools to measure the effectiveness of public outreach efforts. These tools include: mailing lists, public forums, open meetings, and the internet. The quantitative and qualitative measures will be compiled annually and analyzed against previous participation evaluations to determine net change in participation, which will be presented and discussed at an annual staff public participation meeting to determine the effectiveness of the tools.

Demographic Profile of Environmental Justice Areas

TABLE 1. Population Distribution by Race/Ethnic Group Danville, IL

	2010 Number	2010 % of Total
Total Population	39,853	100%
White	24,882	62%
African American	10,167	26%
American Indian and Alaskan Native	97	0%
Asian and Pacific Islander	455	1%
Multi-Race	1,184	3%
Other	811	2%
Hispanic	2,257	6%

Source: 2010 Census Summary

TABLE 2. Median Household Income by Race/Ethnic Group

Median White Household Income	\$39,422
Median African American Household Income	\$22,734
Median American Indian and Alaskan Native Household Income	N/A
Median Asian Household Income	\$130,117
Median Pacific Islander Household Income	N/A
Median Other Household Income	\$41,881
Median 2 or More Household Income	\$37,259
Median Hispanic Household Income	\$31,862

Source: 2010 Census Data created from intersecting Census Tracts (1-9.12,13 and 112).

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General Housing Characteristics by Census Tract			
Geographic Area	Total Housing Units	Occupied Housing Units	Vacancy Rate
Vermilion County	36,318	32,655	10%
Census Tract 1	929	705	24%
Census Tract 2	799	646	19%
Census Tract 3	961	845	12%
Census Tract 4	1,446	1,266	12%
Census Tract 5	1,801	1,651	8%
Census Tract 6	1,318	1,057	20%
Census Tract 7	1,696	1,561	8%
Census Tract 8	1,235	1,080	13%
Census Tract 9	1,272	1,081	15%
Census Tract 12	1,638	1,525	7%
Census Tract 13	1,798	1,703	5%
Census Tract 112	1,906	1,626	15%

Source: 2010 Census SF 1, Tables H1, H3, H4, and H5

Employment Characteristics by Gender and Race

Subject	Total Involved Census Tracts
Employment Status by Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin	
One race	29,033
White	20,885
Black or African American	7,063
American Indian and Alaska Native	29
Asian	353
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0
Some other race	703
Two or more races	574
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	1,282
Gender	
Male	10,473
Female	10,920
Educational Attainment	
Population 25 to 64 years	18,579
Less than high school graduate	2,849
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	6,608
Some college or associate's degree	5,886
Bachelor's degree or higher	3,236

Source: 2010 Census SF 1

Included Census Tracts: 1-9, 12, 13, and 112

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Source: 2010 Census SF 1, Tables H1, H3, H4, and H5

Racial Distribution by Census Tract

Geographic area	Percent of total population								
	Total population	Race							Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
		One Race						Two or More Races	
		White	Black or African American	American Indian and Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	Some Other Race		
Vermilion County	81,625	82.5	13	0.2	0.7	0	1.5	2.2	4.2
Census Tract 1	1,808	59.8	32.4	0.3	0.6	0	2.5	4.5	5.1
Census Tract 2	1,615	43.2	50.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	2	4.2	5.3
Census Tract 3	2,289	54	36.2	0.2	0	0.1	4.7	4.8	10.1
Census Tract 4	3,550	35.4	58.6	0.6	0.4	0	1.8	3.1	6.2
Census Tract 5	3,962	59.9	32.2	0.1	1.5	0	2.5	3.7	5.5
Census Tract 6	2,747	46.2	44.4	0.3	0.4	0	3.5	5.1	8.7
Census Tract 7	3,568	86.1	7.5	0.3	2.7	0	1	2.4	3.3
Census Tract 8	2,515	85	9.9	0.2	0.6	0.2	2.2	1.9	4.4
Census Tract 9	2,611	89.7	6.3	0.2	0.2	0	1.3	2.3	4.4
Census Tract 12	2,956	88.1	7.1	0.2	1.5	0	0.8	2.2	3.3
Census Tract 13	3,729	89.5	4.2	0.3	3.9	0	1.1	1	2.6
Census Tract 112	6,246	55.6	37.1	0.2	0.6	0	2.8	3.7	10.2

Source: 2010 Census SF 1, Tables P5 and P8