



Title VI Plan

MAY 2024

Prepared by the Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District

Charles Tillotson, Executive Director

Additional Information can be obtained by contacting the Port Office at 504-682-7920 or at 8056 Highway 23 3rd Floor, Belle Chasse, LA 70037

TITLE VI POLICY STATEMENT

Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District (THE PORT') DBA Louisiana Gateway Port, grants all citizens equal access to its transportation services. 'THE PORT' is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in the conduct of its business, including its responsibilities under Title VI of the civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §2000d) which provides that no person 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 its program of ferry service.

Anyone who feels they have been denied the ferry service due to discrimination or wishes to file a complaint should contact the Chief Administrative Officer at 504-682-7920.

TÍTULO VI DECLARACIÓN DE POLÍTICA

El gobierno parroquial de Plaquemines ('THE PORT') otorga a todos los ciudadanos el mismo acceso a sus servicios de transporte. 'THE PORT' está comprometida con una política de no discriminación en la conducción de sus negocios, incluidas sus responsabilidades bajo el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964 (42 USC §2000d (que establece que ninguna persona deberá, por motivos de raza, color o nacionalidad) origen, ser excluido de la participación, se le niegan los beneficios o se le discrimina en virtud de su programa de servicio de ferry.

Cualquiera que sienta que se le ha negado el servicio de ferry debido a discriminación debe comunicarse con el directora de administración al 504-682-7920.

To request information about 'THE PORT' Title VI Policy, please send an e-mail to patriceb@gatewayport.com. To request information in alternative formats, please contact patriceb@gatewayport.com or phone: 504-682-7920.

Charles Tillotson
Executive Director

Notice Posted on all Ferry Vessels, Port Website www.louisianagatewayport.com and at the port administration building at 8056 Highway 23, 3rd floor, Belle Chasse, LA.

Title VI Discrimination Complaint Form

Name	Phone	Name of Person(s) Who Discriminated Against you.
Address (Street No., P.O. Box, Etc.)		Location and Position of Person (If known)
City, State, Zip		City, State, Zip
Discrimination Because Of: ____Race ____Color ____National Origin		Date of Alleged Incident
Explain as briefly and clearly as possible what happened and how you were discriminated against. Indicate who was involved and witnessed the discrimination. Be sure to include how other persons were treated differently than you. Attach any written material pertaining to your case.		
Signature		Date

Please return this form to: **Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District**
 8056 Highway 23, 3rd Floor
 Belle Chasse, La. 70037
 Patriceb@gatewayport.com

Telephone Number: (504) 682-7920

Steps for Filing a Title VI Complaint

Anyone who feels they have been denied ferry service due to discrimination should contact the Chief Administrative Officer at 504-682-7920. If you wish to file a complaint, please contact Chief Administrative Officer at 504-682-7920 or patriceb@gatewayport.com. A complaint form is available on the port website at www.louisianagatewayport.com or a hard copy can be accessed on each ferry vessel as well as the port administration building at 8056 Highway 23, 3rd Floor, Belle Chasse, LA 70037. After completing the form, please return to the below address:

Please return this form to:

**Louisiana Gateway Port
Chief Administrative Officer
8056 Highway 23, 3rd Floor Blvd,
Belle Chasse, LA. 70037
patriceb@gatewayport.com**

Telephone Number: (504) 682-7920

‘THE PORT’ Procedures for Investigating Title VI Complaints

Any person who believes she or he have been discriminated against on the basis of race, color, or national origin by ‘THE PORT’ or our transit service provider may file a Title VI complaint by completing and submitting the ‘THE PORT’'s Title VI Complaint Form or by calling ‘THE PORT’'s Chief Administrative Officer. The anti-discrimination protection also extends to the activities and programs of ‘THE PORT’'s sub-recipients. Any such complaint must be filed within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory act (or latest occurrence). All complaints are logged and will be investigated according to federal standards.

Passengers using federally funded public transportation are entitled to equal access and treatment. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (as amended) and related statutes, ‘THE PORT’ must ensure that no person 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 federally funded program, activity or service it administers.

To submit a complaint online, fill out the online complaint form. ‘THE PORT’'s Title VI Complaint Form is located on the website: www.louisianagatewayport.com, hard copies can be found on each ferry vessel and at the ‘THE PORT’ Administration offices at 8056 Highway 23, 3rd Floor Blvd., Bldg. 100, Belle Chasse, LA 70037. To submit a claim by mail, by phone or in person, please fill out the printable complaint form, mail, email or deliver to:

Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District
Chief Administrative Officer
8056 Highway 23, 3rd Floor
Belle Chasse, LA 70037
Email: patriceb@gatewayport.com
Phone: (504) 682-7920

Individuals may also file complaints directly with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) with the 180-day timeframe:

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Attention:
East Building, 5th Floor – TCR 1200
New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Complaints received by Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District will be assigned to the Chief Administrative Officer for investigation in accordance with federal standards (28 CFR Part 35 and FTA Circular 4702.1B). After the complaint is processed, the Chief Administrative Officer will respond to the complainant and, if warranted by the investigation, take appropriate action. ‘THE PORT’, as the designated recipient of federal funds is responsible for monitoring this process.

To request information about ‘THE PORT’ Title VI Policy, please send an e-mail to Patriceb@gatewayport.com. To request information in alternative formats, please contact Patriceb@gatewayport.com or phone: 504-682-7920.

'THE PORT' has 30 days to investigate each complaint. If more information is needed to resolve the case, THE PORT' may contact the complainant. Following the investigation of the complaint, the possibility of two letters will be sent to the complainant: a closure letter or a letter of finding. A closure letter states that there was not a Title VI violation; therefore, the case will be closed. A letter of finding states that there was a Title VI violation and explains what corrective action will be taken to remedy the situation. A complainant can appeal the decision within 60 days of receiving the letter. All appeals must be submitted to 'THE PORT'.

TRACKING

Complaint comes in and is logged and filed by the Chief Administrative Officer. Once a complaint is received, the Chief Administrative Officer logs the complaint within 24 hours. During the review process, the Chief Administrative Officer will contact the Executive Director to remind them that the complaint has not yet been resolved or closed out. This process is reinitiated weekly to ensure timely compliance.

INVESTIGATING

1. Summary of the complaint: Completed by the Chief Administrative Officer.
2. Statement of issues. List every issue derived from the complaint summary. Include questions raised by each issue:
 - a. Who?
 - b. What?
 - c. When?
 - d. Where?
 - e. How?

Add new issues that may surface during investigation. The final list of issues becomes an outline for investigation.

3. Document all investigated information. Determine action to be taken and follow up with the complainant.

RESPONSE TO COMPLAINANT

Detailed summary of conversation with the complainant. Send a copy of the letter to complainant.

ACTION TAKEN

Must include specific corrective action for each violation found. Include a follow-up action plan. If no violations are found, note 'THE PORT' policies and procedures, etc. reviewed with operator.

Note: To request information about 'THE PORT' Title VI Policy, please send an e-mail to Patriceb@gatewayport.com. To request information in alternative formats, please contact Patriceb@gatewayport.com or phone: 504-682-7920.

Title VI Investigations, Complaints and Lawsuits

There have been no investigations, complaints and/or lawsuits filed against 'THE PORT' during the reporting period.

Title VI – Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs
Civil Rights Act of 1964
42 USC 2000(d)-2000(d)(I)

General

This title declares it to be the policy of the United States that discrimination on the grounds of race, color, or national origin shall not occur in connection with programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance and authorizes and directs the appropriate federal departments and agencies to take action to carry out this policy. This title is not intended to apply to foreign assistance programs.

Section 601 – states the general principle that no person in the United States shall be excluded from participation in or otherwise discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

Section 602 – directs each federal agency administering a program of federal financial assistance by way of grant, contract, or loan to take action pursuant to rule, regulation, or order of general applicability to effectuate the principle of section 601 in a manner consistent with the achievement of the objectives of the statute authorizing the assistance. In seeking the effect compliance with its requirements imposed under this section, an agency is authorized to terminate or to refuse to grant or to continue assistance under a program to any recipient as to whom there has been an express finding pursuant to hearing of a failure to comply with the requirements under that program, and it may also employ any other means authorized by law. However, each agency is directed first to seek compliance with its requirements by voluntary means.

Section 603 -- provides that any agency action taken pursuant to section 602 shall be subject to such judicial review as would be available for similar actions by that agency on other grounds. Where the agency action consists of terminating or refusing to grant or to continue financial assistance because of a finding of a failure of the recipient to comply with the agency's judicial review under existing law, judicial review shall nevertheless be available to any person aggrieved as provided in section 10 of the Administrative Procedure Act (5USC 1009). The section also states explicitly that in the latter situation such agency action shall not be deemed committed to unreviewable agency discretion within the meaning of section 10. The purpose of this provision is to obviate the possible argument that although section 603 provides for review in accordance with section 10, section 10 itself has an exception for action "committed to agency discretion," which might otherwise be carried over into section 603. It is not the purpose of this provision of section 603, however, otherwise to alter the scope of judicial review as presently provided in section 10(e) of the Administrative Procedure Act.

Introduction

Title VI prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. Specifically, Title VI provides 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 benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under and program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District is subject to the requirements of Title VI and the information reporting requirements established by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to evaluate the level of compliance concerning the provision of transit services and related benefits.

Title VI Plan Policy Statement

The Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District ('THE PORT') assures that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, age, disability, or national origin, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (P.L. 100.259), be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity. 'THE PORT' further assures that every effort will be made to ensure nondiscrimination in all of its programs or activities, whether these programs and activities are federally funded or not.

If 'THE PORT' contracts to distribute federal aid funds to another entity, Title VI language will be included in all written agreements and the recipient will be monitored for compliance.

The Chief Administrative Officer designated in the Plan is responsible for initiating and monitoring Title VI activities, preparing required reports and other responsibilities as required by 23 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 200 and 49 Code of Federal Regulation 21.

Charles Tillotson

Date

Authorities

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, income, gender, age, or disability, 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 200.0 and 49 CFR21).

The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 broadened the scope of Title VI coverage by expanding the recipients, subrecipients, and contractors, whether such programs and activities are federally assisted or not (Public Law 100259 [2.557] March 22, 1988).

Environmental Justice (EJ) (Executive Order 12898) addresses disproportionate adverse environmental, social and economic impacts that may exist in communities, specifically minority and low-income populations.

Limited English Proficiency (LEP) (Executive Order 13166) addresses access to services for persons whose primary language is not English and who have a limited ability to read, write, speak or understand English.

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) prohibits discrimination and ensures equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in employment, State and local government services, public accommodations, commercial facilities and transportation.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 324) prohibits discrimination based on handicap/disability.

Additional Authorities and Citations may be found under Table of Authorities, Title VI Legal Manual, U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division at <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/corlcoord/vimannual.htm>.

Organization and Staffing – General

The Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District is responsible for ensuring the implementation of the Commission's Title VI Plan. The Chief Administrative Officer is responsible for the overall management of the Title VI programs, and serves as the Title VI Liaison Officer, DBE Liaison Officer, and LEP Chief Administrative Officer. The day-to-day administration of the plan lies with the Chief Administrative Officer (hereafter referred to as "Chief Administrative Officer") under the direct supervision of the Plaquemines Port Executive Director.

Program Administration – General

As Title VI Liaison Officer, the Chief Administrative Officer shall be responsible for coordinating the overall administration of the Title VI program, plan, and assurances. The Chief Administrative Officer serves under direct supervision of the Port Executive Director, and is responsible for the program's day-to-day administration.

A. Complaints

If any individual believes that she or he or any other program beneficiaries have been subjected to unequal treatment or discrimination in their receipt of benefits and/or services, or on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, they may exercise their right to file a complaint with the Louisiana Department of Transportation. Every effort will be made to resolve complaints informally.

B. Title VI Program Reviews

The 'THE PORT's Title VI Program reviews will be performed by the Chief Administrative Officer to assess the office's administrative procedures, staffing, and resources available for Title VI compliance. This is in addition to the day-to-day monitoring. The Chief Administrative Officer will coordinate efforts to ensure equal participation in all programs and activities at all levels.

C. Operational Guidelines/Program Directives

All operational guidelines to contractors, subrecipients, and program planning areas will be reviewed annually to include Title VI language and provisions and related requirements, where applicable.

D. Training Program

The Chief Administrative Officer will seek all opportunities to participate in education and training outside of the 'THE PORT' office. All Title VI conferences, seminars, trainings, and classes presented by FTA will be considered for staff attendance.

E. Annual Reports

An annual executive summary will be submitted to the Port Executive Director by the Chief Administrative Officer. The summary will review Title VI accomplishments achieved during the year. The Chief Administrative Officer will be responsible for coordination and preparation of the report.

F. Title VI Plan Update

A Title VI Plan Update will be submitted to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LDOTD) by October 1 of each year. The update will report on accomplishments and changes to the program occurring during the preceding year and will also include goals and objectives for the upcoming year.

G. Public Dissemination

The Chief Administrative Officer will disseminate Title VI Program information to employees, and the general public. Public dissemination will include the posting of public statements, inclusion of Title VI language in contracts, and publishing annually the Title VI Policy

Statement in newspapers having a general circulation in the vicinity of proposed projects and announcements of hearings and meetings in minority publications.

The Title VI Plan is easily available at the 'THE PORT' office and can be mailed out upon request.

H. Remedial Action

The 'THE PORT' 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. Should irregularities occur in the administration of the program's operation, corrective action will be taken to resolve Title VI issues, and such actions will be reduced to writing in the form of a remedial action agreed upon to be necessary, all within a period not to exceed 90 days.

I. Procedures Manual

Administration of the Title VI Program will be incorporated in a Procedures Manual that will be updated regularly to incorporate changes and additional responsibilities.

Chief Administrative Officer Responsibilities

The Chief Administrative Officer is charged with the responsibility for implementing, monitoring and ensuring the Commission's compliance with Title VI Regulations. Title VI responsibilities are as follows:

1. Process the disposition of Title VI complaints received by the 'THE PORT'.
2. Conduct annual Title VI reviews to determine the effectiveness of program activities at all levels.
3. Develop Title VI information for dissemination to the general public and, where appropriate, in languages other than English.
4. Identify and eliminate discrimination.
5. Process all Title VI complaints made in person at the 'THE PORT' office or online on the 'THE PORT' Website.
6. Review important Title VI-related issues with the Port Executive Director of 'THE PORT', as needed.

Education and Training

The Chief Administrative Officer will seek all opportunities to participate in education and training outside of the 'THE PORT' office. All Title VI conferences, seminars, trainings and classes presented by, FTA, and will be considered for staff attendance.

The Chief Administrative Officer will be responsible for informing all staff members and consultants of all federal Title VI policies including any changes and updates. The Chief Administrative Officer will also be responsible for informing all staff members and consultants of the 'THE PORT' Title VI Plan and the LEP Plan.

Public Participation

The goal of 'THE PORT''s communications and public participation program is to ensure early and continuous public notification about, and participation in, major actions and decisions by 'THE PORT'. In seeking public comment and review, 'THE PORT' makes a concerted effort to reach all segments of the population, including people from minority and low-income communities, and organizations representing these and other protected classes. Plaquemines Port Board meetings are open to the public and open dialogue with the public is available and encouraged.

The 'THE PORT' has an official Public Involvement Plan which is easily available at 'THE PORT''s office.

The plan includes:

- Public Involvement Policy
- Public Meetings Procedures
- Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Guidelines
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Procedures

Prior Outreach:

Public meetings were held to discuss a proposed fare change.

Consultant Contracts

The Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District is responsible for selection, negotiation, and administration of its consultant contracts. 'THE PORT' operates under its internal contract procedures and all relevant federal and state laws.

Questions

For any questions regarding the 'THE PORT''s Title VI Plan or any related policies and procedures please contact 'THE PORT' Chief Administrative Officer at 504-682-7920.

Public Involvement Policy

www.louisianagatewayport.com

The Port is the planning organization designated to develop an overall transportation plan and to allocate federal funds for the region. The Port Executive Director is the authority which evaluates transportation needs in the Port and makes recommendations to the Port Board. The decision-making process involves local elected officials directly in decisions that help the Port Board develop Port transportation policies, including allocating federal transportation funds.

NONDISCRIMINATION NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Port hereby gives public notice that it is the policy of the Port Board to assure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. Title VI requires that no person in the United States of America shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which Plaquemines Port receives federal financial assistance. Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by an unlawful discriminatory practice under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint with the Port. Any such complaint must be in writing and filed with the Chief Administrative Officer within one hundred eighty (180) days following the date of the alleged discriminatory occurrence. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Discrimination Complaint Form, see the web site at www.louisianagatewayport.com or call 504-682-7920.

INTRODUCTION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document presents policies and procedures for public involvement to ensure that Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District, as the transportation authority for Plaquemines Port Louisiana, meets the spirit and intent of applicable federal and state public involvement laws, regulations and authorities contained in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act.

Citizen Involvement:

- That Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District, as a recipient of federal dollars, promotes equity and environmental justice to meet the spirit and intent of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, The Civil Rights Restoration ACT of 1987, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice; Executive Order 13166 on Limited English Proficiency; the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA); and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA);
- That Port transportation plans and projects reflect public priorities and values
- Transparency and accountability in Port decision-making and promote excellence in Port planning.

Scope

The policies in this document apply to all development of and updates to these policies and to administered transportation planning and investments, including updates to the Port Transportation Plan.

Schedule Review and Revision

These policies will be reviewed at least every four years and revised to reflect changes in federal or state public involvement requirements. A 45-day public comment period will be held prior to adoption of new public involvement policies or major revisions to existing policies.

Summary of Public Outreach

Open discussion takes place at regularly scheduled Port meetings twice monthly January through October and once monthly during November and December.

2.0 PORT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Plaquemines Port public involvement policies reflect requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act; Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice; Executive Order 13166 on Limited English Proficiency; the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); and Louisiana state planning goal 1: Early and continuous public involvement in planning, and for information to be presented in ways that make it understandable and accessible to the general public.

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) established a national policy for the protection of the environment. NEPA requires the consideration of potential impacts on social and natural resources during transportation decision-making.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires reasonable efforts be made to accommodate citizens with disabilities who wish to attend public meetings.

Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act provides that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, national origin, or sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice requires equity in distribution of benefits and burdens of transportation plans and projects, and Executive Order 13166 on Limited English Proficiency requires proactive efforts to engage people with limited English proficiency in the planning process.

3.1 Early and Continuous Public Involvement

Required Procedures

Plans and programs: Plaquemines Port will involve the public early and continuously throughout the planning process in developing major plans and programs.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS): Plaquemines Port will involve the public early in developing Purpose and Need statements and including a formal public comment opportunity.

Recommended Procedures

Early contact with stakeholders: Stakeholders in the planning process should be identified at the beginning of the planning process and notified of key decision points or opportunities to provide input.

3.2 Reasonable Access to Information

Required Procedures

Access to information: The public will be provided reasonable access to technical information, and public information will be made available in electronically assessable formats, such as the World Wide Web.

Visualization techniques: Plaquemines Port will employ electronic methods and visualization techniques, such as maps and charts, to provide information to the public.

Languages other than English: If a plan or project significantly affects a population known to speak a language other than English, key information about the plan or project, the effect on the area, schedule of events and notices of public involvement opportunities will be made available in that language. Significance can refer either to the impact of the project or to the fact that the project will affect an area in which 5% or more of the people speak another language.

Contact information: Contact information for a staff person who can answer questions and provide more information will be included in all public notices and major publications.

Recommended procedures

Plain language: Information that the public needs to understand a program, project or plan should be written in plain language, with unusual terms defined and a minimum of jargon.

Interactivity: Where appropriate, information should be presented in an interactive format.

3.3 Access to public meetings

Required procedures

Convenient times and locations: All Port public meetings will be held at convenient times and in locations that meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities

3.4 Timely information

Required procedures

Timely manner: Information about projects and plans will be provided to the general public, affected public agencies, representatives of transportation agencies, private sector transportation entities and other interested parties, including segments of the community affected by transportation plans, programs, and projects in a timely manner.

3.5 Adequate Public Notice

Required procedures

Timing of notices: Notice of public involvement opportunities will be provided with adequate time for public review and comment prior to key decisions. Notice of public comment opportunities must be published on the Port's web site 45 days prior to the opening of the opportunity.

Notice to minority, low-income, and people with limited English proficiency: Staff must take steps to notify minority and low-income people and people with limited English proficiency of comment opportunities. Notices must describe how to request translators, interpreters or services for those with a hearing disability.

Recommended procedures

Notice to organizations: Interested organizations that hold monthly meetings should receive notice of public involvement opportunities 45 days prior to the opportunity, to allow time for one meeting cycle to occur where members can be informed of the opportunity. The general public should receive notice at least one week before the opportunity.

Notice content: At a minimum, notices should name the project, plan or program; describe how to participate in the opportunity at hand; provide the location of events or how and where to submit comments; and provide the beginning and ending times and dates for all public comment opportunities.

3.6 Public comment opportunities

Required Procedures

General: Public comment will be sought prior to adoption of a final plan, the allocation of funding to projects in the transportation process and public involvement policies and on major changes or amendments to these plans and policies.

Public involvement policies: The public comment period on new or revised public involvement policies shall be at least 45 days.

Decisions with short timelines: When a decision has a very short timeline over which Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District has no control, notice will be sent as soon as possible after learning of the opportunity, and the length of the comment period shall be as long as possible.

3.7 Consideration of Public Comments

Required Procedures

Consideration of public comment: Decision makers will consider public comment in

all major decisions related to adoption of Port transportation plans and programs. Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District will compile and respond to or summarize as appropriate, substantive comments submitted.

Record of public comment: A public comment report on major transportation plans, programs and projects will be compiled and made available to decision-makers and the public. The public comments received during formal, specified public comment periods will be archived and retained for a period of time specified by an official retention schedule that meets federal, state and regional requirements.

Recommended Procedures

Availability of Public Comment Records:

The full text of public comments will be made available to the public in electronic formats, with hard copies provided upon request with an appropriate charge for materials and labor.

3.8 Consideration of the Needs of Traditionally Underserved

Required Procedures

Proactive Consideration: The needs of populations traditionally underserved in the transportation arena, including low-income and minority people and people with limited English proficiency, will be considered in the planning process. Plaquemines Port will seek input from minority and low-income populations in developing major transportation plans and programs.

Interpreter and translator services: Services for people with hearing impairments or limited English proficiency will be provided at any public meeting with 24-hour advance notice.

3.9 Evaluation of Public Involvement Activities

Required Procedures

Activities to be Evaluated: The public involvement program associated with each major plan, program or project will be evaluated for effectiveness and include an evaluation of the outreach to underrepresented populations as defined by Title VI and Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice. The Ports public involvement procedures will be reviewed by FHWA and the FTA during certification reviews. The Port shall collect demographic information for major comment opportunities and public events and analyze the results at least annually.

Timing of evaluation: To ensure full and open access to all, Plaquemines Port will review its public involvement efforts at least every four years, when the public involvement policies and procedures are reviewed and updated.

Recommended procedures:

Timing of evaluation: At the close of major public involvement efforts, the success of those efforts should be evaluated for effectiveness using, for example, checklists, surveys or before and after tests. If the effort involved collection of demographic information, that information should be analyzed and the results captured in order to improve the next public involvement effort.

3.10 Coordination with state public involvement efforts

Required Procedures

Coordination with state public involvement: Plaquemines Port will coordinate public involvement efforts with those of the Louisiana Department of Transportation whenever possible. Coordination may include holding joint open houses or hearings, forming joint citizen advisory committees, or developing joint public notices.

3.11 Development and maintenance of a public participation policy

Required procedures

Consultation with interested parties: Plaquemines Port will develop and update public involvement policies in consultation with interested parties as defined in the current federal transportation authorization. Interested parties include the general public, affected public agencies, public transportation employees, private transportation providers, public transportation users, freight shippers, users of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, disabled, and others as appropriate to the plan or project.

Policy review and updating: Those policies will be reviewed and updated every four years or sooner if there are major changes in federal or state requirements.

Recommended Procedures

Plain language: Policies should be succinct and clearly written in plain language, with a minimum of jargon. A glossary should be included to define unfamiliar terms.

3.12 Development of public involvement plans

Required procedures

Public participation plans for major plans, projects and programs: The Port will develop and utilize a public participation plan that will be reviewed by interested parties and the general public.

Recommended procedures

Public review of plans: Public involvement plans for major plans, programs and projects should be reviewed by interested parties and the general public.

Content of plans: Plans should list the types of public involvement opportunities that will be Offered, when the opportunities will be offered, strategies for addressing the concerns of minority and low-income populations, and key decision points where public comment will be sought.

Port representatives

Executive Director – Charles Tillotson

Chief Administrative Officer – Patrice Bell

www.louisianagatewayport.com

8056 Highway 23, 3rd Floor
Belle Chasse, LA. 70037
504-682-7920

Appendices

Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District

Title VI Assurances

The Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District, 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 of 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 race, color, sex, 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 Recipient receives federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation, including the Federal Highway Administration, and HEREBY GIVES ASSURANCE THAT it will promptly take any measures necessary to effectuate this agreement. This Assurance is required by, Subsection 21. 7 (a) (l) of the Regulations.

More specifically and without limiting the above general assurance, the Recipient hereby gives the following specific assurances to its Federal Aid Highway Program.

1. That the Recipient agrees that each "program" and each "facility" as defined in Subsections 21.23(e) and 21.23fb) 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 Recipient shall insert the following notification in all solicitations for bids, proposals or statements of qualification for work or material subject to the Regulations made in connection with the Federal Aid Highway Program and in adapted form in all proposals for negotiated agreements:

The Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and 78 Stat. 252,42 USC 2000d-d4 and 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 issued pursuant to such Act, hereby notifies all bidders and proposers that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids, proposals or statements of qualification in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin in consideration for an award.

3. That the Recipient shall insert the necessary clauses of this Assurance in every contract subject to the Act and the Regulations.

4. That where the Recipient 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.
5. The Recipient shall 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, subgrantees, 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.
6. The Recipient agrees that the United States has a right to seek judicial endorsement 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 by the Department of Transportation under the Federal Aid Highway Program and is binding on it, other recipients, subgrantees, contractors, subcontractors, 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 the Assurance on behalf of the Recipient.

Charles Tillotson _____ Date _____

Title VI Public Notice

Title VI Notice: Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District ('THE PORT') fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes, executive orders, and regulations in all programs and activities. 'THE PORT' operates without regard to race, color, national origin, income, gender, age, and disability. Any person who believes him/herself or any specific class of persons, to be subjected to discrimination prohibited by Title VI may by him/herself or by representative file a written complaint with the Louisiana Department of Transportation (LaDOTD) or with 'THE PORT'. LaDOTD Title VI Program Manager may be reached via phone at 225-379-1361 or 'THE PORT' Chief Administrative Officer at 504-682-7920. A complaint must be filed with LADOTD or 'THE PORT', no later than 180 days after the date of the alleged discrimination.

'THE PORT' meetings are conducted in accessible locations and materials can be provided in accessible formats and in languages other than English.

The following shortened version of the above paragraph can be used in publications where space or cost is an issue as in classified newspaper announcements.

'THE PORT' fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities.

Limited English Proficiency

Introduction

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI) is the federal law which protects individuals from discrimination on the basis of their race, color, or national origin in programs that receive federal financial assistance. In certain situations, failure to ensure that persons who have limited English proficiency can effectively participate in, or benefit from, federally-assisted programs may violate Title VI's prohibition against national origin discrimination. Persons who, as a result of national origin, do not speak English as their primary language and who have limited ability to speak, read, write, or understand English may be entitled to language assistance under Title VI in order to receive a particular service, benefit, or encounter. In addition to Title VI, *Final Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons* was established on January 22, 2007 as required by Executive Order 13166 (EO 13166). EO 13166 requires for Guidance to be published to clarify recipients' obligations to LEP persons.

The following four-factor analysis shall provide the basis for which any Limited English Proficiency (LEP) individuals will be given equal access to documents and resources related to the Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District's ('THE PORT' or the Port) federally-supported programs. This analysis specifically targets 'THE PORT's use of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds under the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

Four-Factor Analysis

Federal funding recipients are required to take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to their programs and activities by LEP persons. While designed to be a flexible and fact-dependent standard, the starting point is an individualized assessment that balances the four factors. Below 'THE PORT' provides an analysis of each factor and subsequent impact on the plan.

Analysis Factor 1

Total number or proportion of LEP persons eligible to be served or expected to be encountered within the Port (served or encountered includes those persons who would be served by the recipient if the person received education and outreach and the recipient provided sufficient language assistance).

To complete this analysis, 'THE PORT' reviewed the US Census Bureau 2018 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year estimates. The ACS contains data estimates for the population five years or older who speak English "less than very well." According to this review, the total LEP population for any given language group in the Port does not exceed 1,000 people or 5 percent of the population. Below is an overview of data found.

TABLE 1: 2018 ACS 5-YEAR ESTIMATES DATA FOR PLAQUEMINES PORT

Non-English Language Spoken	Number of LEP Population	LEP Percentage of Total Population*
Spanish	257	1.2%
Other Indo-European Languages	73	0.3%
Asian and Pacific Island Languages	436	2.0%
Other Languages	0	0%

Source: 2018 ACS 5-Year data estimates of the population five years or older that "Speak English less than "very well"

***Total population 5 years and over: 21,726 (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)**

Table 1 displays the number and percent of LEP persons by language other than English spoken.

Federal safe harbor rules suggest written translation of vital documents where the size of a language group is 1,000 or more in number or more than 5 percent of the eligible

population, whichever is less. As shown in Table 1, the most spoken languages other than English in the Port is Asian and Pacific Island (436 persons), followed by Spanish (257 persons). However, due to the limited size of each language group being less than 1000 people and both languages being less than 5 percent of the county's total population, 'THE PORT' falls under federal safe harbor and does not meet the requirements for translation of vital documents.

Analysis Factor 2

The frequency with which the LEP persons come into contact with the program.

The frequency with which the LEP persons come into contact with a federal grant program must be considered when providing eligible activities to a defined service area. Contact with persons or households who require assistance in another language is expected to be minimal by the Port. However, the provision of language assistance upon request will be made available.

'THE PORT' would like to note that neither oral or written translation services have been requested by the public for federal programs, including FTA-funded programs. 'THE PORT' will continue to offer translation services at the request of LEP persons.

Analysis Factor 3

The nature and importance of the program, activity, or service provided by the program to people's lives.

The Port does not intend to offer any direct services to individuals with its FTA program. These projects provide overall benefit to the public. Historically, funds have been used for activities such as preventative maintenance, replacement of ferry engines, or improvements to ferry landings. Should a potential program be found to have potential LEP impact, a subsequent plan for performing appropriate translation services and access to key documents.

Analysis Factor 4

The resources available and costs to the recipient.

'THE PORT' has limited administrative budget to carry out its FTA-funded activities. Translation services are not readily available to 'THE PORT', and therefore, a third-party would need to be utilized. Due to the high cost of translation and very small percentage of LEP populations, 'THE PORT' will make available translated vital documents upon request. 'THE PORT' is committed to spending grant funds in a cost reasonable manner.

Certification: Based on the above Four-Factor Analysis, the ‘THE PORT’ is not required to translate vital documents. However, ‘THE PORT’ will make all reasonable attempts to accommodate language access needs for residents requesting written and/or oral translations related to programs funded through the FTA.

Christie Nielsen, Chief Administrative Officer
Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District

Date

Limited English Proficiency Plan

How the ‘THE PORT’ Identifies LEP Persons Who May Need Assistance

- Examine requests for language assistance from past meetings and events to anticipate the potential need for assistance at upcoming meetings.
- A staff member will be placed at the entrance to public meetings to greet and briefly engage with attendees during sign-in to informally gauge each attendee’s ability to write, speak and understand English.
- Staff will be trained to identify non-verbal clues that a person may have Limited English Deficiency, such as reluctance to fill out surveys or sign-in at public meetings.
- Examine Census Bureau population numbers of those who report a primary language other than English and compare that to Census block data and map communities accordingly to determine high concentrations of LEP populations.
- Maintain a stream of communication with LEP community leaders.
- The ‘THE PORT’ has **not** conducted any projects involving facilities in the past three years requiring land acquisition and the displacement of persons from their residences and businesses for which a NEPA process was necessary.

Implementing Language Assistance Measures

- Based on Census Bureau data, ‘THE PORT’ will evaluate all documents, and translate those deemed most widely accessed, into any language other than English that is spoken by more than 5% of the population or by more than 1,000 people per neighborhood.
- The ‘THE PORT’ will translate its Transportation Improvement Program and Title VI Plan into Spanish, when requested. The Title VI Plan will be made available on ‘THE PORT’'s website.
- The ‘THE PORT’ will continue to search out venues that have been

found to be frequented by LEP individuals and make information available at these locations in the most appropriate format and language.

- The 'THE PORT' takes a proactive approach in identifying LEP communities and will continue to host meetings in close proximity to these communities to distribute all necessary translated materials and documents.
- The 'THE PORT' remains committed to providing oral and written translation services upon request.
- All projects falling within a 'THE PORT' LEP area are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. If the nature and importance of the program, activity, and service is deemed significant then the 'THE PORT' and all entities conducting business on our behalf will follow these same LEP guidelines.

Staff Training

Appropriate 'THE PORT' staff will be provided with the LEP plan and will be educated on procedures and services available. All training topics are listed below:

- Understanding the Title VI LEP responsibilities
- What language assistance services 'THE PORT' offers
- How to identify LEP individuals in public meetings
- How to access an interpreter
- Documentation of language assistance requests
- How to handle a complaint

Monitoring and Updating the LEP Plan

This plan is dynamic and may be updated as more effective means of communication are developed. At a minimum, 'THE PORT' follows the Title VI Program update schedule for the LEP plan. The 'THE PORT' will update its LEP Plan as Census data becomes available.

Dissemination of the 'THE PORT' Limited English Proficiency Plan

Any person, including social service, non-profit, law enforcement agencies and other community members with internet access will be able to access the plan. For those without personal internet service, Port libraries offer free internet access. A hard copy of the LEP Plan will be provided to any person or agency upon request. Persons with Limited English Proficiency may also obtain translations of this plan upon request.

Any questions or comments regarding this plan should be directed to the 'THE PORT' Chief Administrative Officer .

Requesting Translation Services

Any individuals who wish to request oral or written translation services can do so through 'THE PORT' by contacting 'THE PORT's Chief Administrative Officer :

Christie Nielsen
Chief Administrative Officer
504-682-7920

Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Notices

ADA Policy

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 prohibits discrimination and ensures equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in employment, State and local government services, public accommodations, commercial facilities, and transportation. In accordance with these requirements the Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District ('THE PORT') will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in 'THE PORT's services, programs or activities.

'THE PORT's Commitment

'THE PORT' will make all reasonable modifications to policies and procedures to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to attend all 'THE PORT' public meetings.

'THE PORT' will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in 'THE PORT's public meetings.

'THE PORT' will post the following ADA notice at the bottom of all 'THE PORT' meeting notices: ADA NOTICE: For special accommodations for this meeting, please contact our ADA Chief Administrative Officer by telephone (504-682-7920), at least one week in advance.

'THE PORT' will include language in all of our contracts to ensure nondiscrimination of all persons with disability

The ADA does not require the 'THE PORT' to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services or impose an undue financial or administrative burden. 'THE PORT' will strive to provide its services, programs and activities in the most accessible manner feasible.

Notification that a 'THE PORT' meeting is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to:

Christie Nielsen 504-682-7920 Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District

SUBRECIPIENTS

While Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District does not have nor has ever had any FTA related subrecipients, below is the process by which any future subrecipients would be assessed.

As a subrecipient of federal funds you are aware that your agency is required to comply with all federal regulations regarding Title VI laws. In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1967 and 49CFR 21, this is the **Annual Title VI Review for Subrecipients and Consultants** to be issued once a year to all agencies awarded contracts by the Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District within the past year. Please provide yes/no answers with a brief explanation.

Name of Subrecipient/Consultant: _____

Date of Contract Awarded: _____

Contract Number: _____

Sub-Recipient Questionnaire

I. Complaint Process

1. Has your firm made itself aware of all federal Title VI rules and regulations as it applies to all subrecipients of federal funds? This information is easily accessible to all consultants via the 'THE PORT' offices and/or website.
2. Does your firm have a formal Title VI policy?
3. Does your firm have a formal Title VI complaint process? If so, provide a brief explanation of that process.
4. Has your firm received any Title VI or Environmental Justice complaints within the last year? If so, what were the issues involved and what were the outcomes?
5. Has your firm processed any Title VI lawsuits within the past year? If so, what were the issues involved and what were the outcomes?
6. Has any member of your firm had any formal Title VI training sponsored by LaDOTD, FHWA, or any other agency in the past year? If so, please explain.

II. Public Involvement – Meetings and Hearings

7. Does your firm hold public meetings in areas that are easily accessible to all members of the community and comply with the Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District's **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Plan**? If not, are there plans to do so in the future?
8. Has your firm made itself aware of Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District's **Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan**? This information is easily accessible to all consultants via the 'THE PORT' offices and/or website.
9. Has your firm had any public request for translations services written or oral? If so, what were the outcomes of these request?

III. Advertisements and Procurements of Contracts

10. Have any subcontracts been awarded within the past year that utilizes federal funds?
11. If subcontracts are awarded are all Title VI assurances and provisions included in advertisements and contracts?

12. Has your firm made itself aware of Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District's **DBE Policy and Program**? This information is easily accessible to all staff members via the 'THE PORT' office and/or website.
13. Is the awarding of any subcontracts non-discriminatory and does it comply with 'THE PORT's DBE Policy

Certifying Officer

Date

Upon receiving this questionnaire, you have 30 days to provide all necessary information and mail to:

**Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District
8056 Highway 23, 3rd Floor
Belle Chasse, La. 70037**

Board Demographics

Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District has no transit-related board or committees. The Port Executive Director who is the appointed Chief Operating Officer of Plaquemines Port and is responsible for the approval and governance of the Port Title VI Program. This Title VI Program has been duly approved and implemented.

Charles Tillotson
Executive Director

Service Standards

Standards

Vehicle Service Loads

Each ferry vessel is a different size and as such has a different load capacity. Load capacities are as follows:

Plaquemines Pride-	<u>72</u>
Belle Chasse II-	<u>34</u>
Pointe A La Hache-	<u>40</u>

On Time Performance Standard

On time performance is defined as maintaining the published schedule for departure from each ferry landing+ five minutes. The published ferry departure schedules are as follows:

Belle Chasse Landing-On the hour and the half hour

Scarsdale Landing- On the quarter hour and the three-quarter hour

East Pointe A La Hache- On the hour

West Pointe A La Hache- On the half hour

Early Departure

No vessel shall depart before it's designated time unless the load limit has been met.

Schedule Reliability.

Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District identifies the acceptable on-time performance as 95% of departures.

Table 1 On-Time Performance Standards by location:

Mode	Definition	OTP Standard
	% of trips with a service gap of five minutes above the schedule	Less than 5% of trips with a service gap
Fixed Route Ferry Service		Current Average 3.8% of trips with a service gap

Service Availability Standard

Service availability is defined as the published normal hours of operation. The published ferry service hours of operation are as follows:

- Belle Chasse/ Scarsdale Route- 6:00 AM until 5:30 PM daily, 7 days a week- 365 days a year
- East Pointe a La Hache/ West Pointe a La Hache-8:00 AM until 7:30 PM, 7 days -365 days

Distribution of Amenities Standard

The distribution of Amenities is defined as the number of restrooms and the number of covered pedestrian areas per ferry vessel. Distribution of Amenities is as follows:

Plaquemines Pride- 1 accessible restroom and 1 covered pedestrian area

Belle Chasse II- 1 accessible restroom and 1 covered pedestrian area

Pointe A La Hache- 1 accessible restroom and 1 covered pedestrian area

Service Policies

Policies

Vehicle Service Assignment Policy

Ferry Vessels will be assigned to the Southern East and West Pointe A La Hache route and the Northern Belle Chasse/ Scarsdale route such that the traffic flow will not be impeded during peak traffic hours. The larger vessel, "M/V Plaquemines Pride," will be assigned to the Northern Belle Chasse/ Scarsdale at all times to accommodate the greater volume of traffic on that route. Due to the constant low volume of traffic on the East & West Pointe A La Hache route the smaller vessel, "M/V Belle Chasse II" will be assigned to this route.

Transit Amenities Policy

Installation of transit amenities at the ferry landings are based on the number of walk on passengers and the number of vehicles boarding at each landing.

Vehicle Headway Policy:

North Ferry:

Belle Chasse Landing - On the hour and the half hour (commencing at 6:00 AM and concluding 10:15 PM)

Scarsdale Landing - On the quarter hour and the three-quarter hour

South Ferry:

West Pointe a La Hache Landing - On the half hour (commencing at 8:00 AM and concluding at 7:15 PM)

East Pointe a La Hache Landing - On the hour

Facilities:

Plaquemines Port has not had any projects involving facilities related to ferry operations in the past 3 years.

The Port of Plaquemines ferry provides transportation across the Mississippi River with two major landings, one in Belle Chasse, LA and a second one at Pointe à la Hache. The Pointe à la Hache PALH Ferry was condemned by the Louisiana Department of Transportation Division in January 2023; however, in May 2024 the port started efforts to reopen it. The Ferry service was transferred to Plaquemines Port in December 2022 from the Parish. The Ferry service is deemed critical infrastructure needed to support emergency transportation routes. This service is funded by the port and the Port earns approximately 10 cents on the dollar from riders. Both ferry systems are described next:

- 'THE PORT' relies heavily on Grant funding for its Ferry operations from the Federal Transit Authority and the Federal Highway Administration. 'THE PORT' operates three Ferries, the MV Pride, the MV Belle Chasse II, and the MV Point a la Hache. The Port was awarded \$18 million to replace the PALH ferry landing and \$26.5 million to build a new electric diesel Ferry, both projects are planned for completion in 2028.
- Plaquemines Port operates this service adjacent to a similar vehicle service operated by the Regional Transit Authority between Algiers and Chalmette, and a Passenger Ferry between Algiers Point and Canal Street. Both 'THE PORT' and RTA Ferries operate a million-dollar deficit. As political sub-divisions of the State of Louisiana, both entities are seeking additional Federal and State financial support to off-set rising operating costs and maintenance expenses.