

Language Assistance Plan for Kanabec County – Timber Trails Public Transit

**Effective:
April 1, 2014**

Purpose

The purpose of this Language Assistance Plan (hereinafter “plan”) is to meet Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA’s) requirements to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin. As a subrecipient of FTA funds, this transit system is pledged to take reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to its transit services for persons who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English. The FTA refers to these persons as Limited English Proficient (LEP) persons.

The completion of this plan for persons with Limited English Proficiency conforms to the requirements of the FTA Circular 4702.1B Title VI Requirements and Guidelines for Federal Transit Administration Recipients.

The U.S. DOT’s FTA Office of Civil Rights’ publication “Implementing the Department of Transportation’s Policy Guidance Concerning Recipients’ Responsibilities to Limited English Proficient Persons – A Handbook for Public Transportation Providers,” dated April 13, 2007, was used in the preparation of this plan.

The plan for Kanabec County – Timber Trails Public Transit contains:

- A. A needs assessment based on the four-factor analysis
- B. Language assistance measures
- C. A staff training plan
- D. Methods for notifying LEP persons about available language assistance
- E. Methods for monitoring, evaluating and updating the plan

A. LEP Needs Assessment – the Four-Factor Analysis

Factor 1. The number or proportion of LEP persons in our service area who may be served or are likely to encounter a transit program, activity, or service.

We assessed the following information (as checked) about LEP persons to determine the number or proportion of LEP persons who might use or want to use our transit services:

- X 2010 US Census data/American Community Survey data
 - Survey results:
 - Local school district data
 - Locally Coordinated Human Services Plan
- X Other Human Services data
 - Area/Metropolitan Planning Organizations/Regional Development Commission data

- Information from local organizations (religious, legal, social service, etc.) about LEP persons in our service area
- X Reports from drivers, dispatchers and others about contact with LEP persons
- Other information: Describe: _____

According to data provided by Mn/DOT from the 2010 American Community Survey 2007-2011 Five-Year estimate:

- 1) The total number of LEP persons in our service area is 308.
- 2) The total eligible population in our service area is 39,579.
- 3) The proportion of LEP persons to the total eligible service population is 0.7502.

Factor 2. The frequency with which LEP persons come in contact with our transit programs, activities, or services.

Reports from dispatch/drivers indicate one time in the previous year where interpretive services were considered, but not needed in the end.

The conclusions drawn from examining this information about LEP persons seeking transit services are that there is a minimal need for such services.

Factor 3 . The nature and importance of programs, activities, or services provided to the LEP population.

Our transit system considers transit to be an important and essential service for many people living in our service area. Many LEP persons use our transit service to travel to get to medical appointments, dialysis and prescription pick-ups. Grocery shopping is a large portion of the service provided by Timber Trails. Timber Trails Public Transit is the primary source for those transit dependent residents of our counties.

Factor 4. The resources available to our transit system and the overall cost to provide language assistance.

Our current budget for marketing to or communicating with LEP persons in their language about transit services that are available to them is \$0.00. This may include funding for staff training, translation services, brochures, flyers, posters, newspaper ads, radio ads, website, etc.

Timber Trails Public Transit is a department of Kanabec County and as such has access to the County's LEP resources. A copy of the current Kanabec County LEP Plan is attached here as Exhibit 1. Through the county, there is quick access to interpretive services with absolutely no charge to the consumer.

B. Language Assistance Measures

There are several language assistance measures that are available to Kanabec County – Timber Trails Public Transit. These include: Check off any items below that are relevant and provide a short narrative to explain your future efforts.

- Translation of key documents in the following language(s): N/A
- X Arranging for availability of oral translators
- Communication with LEP persons' groups about transit services
- Posting notices in appropriate languages informing LEP persons of available services
- Other: Describe:

C. Staff Training

To ensure effective implementation of this plan, the transit system will schedule training at orientations for new staff and for all relevant employees on an annual to review:

- the transit system's Language Assistance Plan
- demographic data about local LEP population
- printed LEP persons' materials
- how to handle verbal requests for transit service in a foreign language
- responsibility to notify transit manager about any LEP persons' unmet needs.

D. Notice to LEP Persons about Available Language Assistance

Our transit system plans to notify LEP persons in their own language about the language assistance available to them without cost by using the following methods:

- signs on buses or at bus stops
- X brochures
- posters
- sending information to local organizations that work with LEP persons
- telephone messages
- local ads (newspaper , radio, TV)
- X website notices
- information tables at local events, grocery stores, pharmacies, and churches
- Other: Describe: _____

E. Annual Monitoring, Evaluating and Updating Plan

The transit system will review this plan during its annual review with its Mn/DOT transit project manager by:

- assessing its effectiveness (e.g., comparing numbers of LEP persons served by year, number of requests for language assistance received during the year),
- assessing the sufficiency of staff training and budget for language assistance,

- reviewing current sources for assistance to ensure continuing availability, and
- reviewing any complaints from LEP persons or about their needs that were received during the past year.

This plan will be reviewed by our transit system annually. Revisions of this plan will be approved by the transit manager and dated.

F. Dissemination of Plan

This Language Assistance Plan is available on our website at:

Timbertrailstransit.com (click on the link on the home page)

This plan is also available at no cost in English upon request by telephone, fax, and mail or in person.

If requested to be provided in another language and it is feasible to have it translated, information will be provided at no cost to the requester.

G. Contact Information

Questions or comments about this plan may be submitted to:

Helen Pieper
Transit Director
905 East Forest Ave. Suite #127
Mora, MN 55051

Direct line: (320) 364-1351
Fax: (320) 679-2077
Helen.pieper@co.kanabec.mn.us