

STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Office of Government Relations
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To: All CDOT Employees

From: Heidi Humphreys – DAS / Herman Stockinger – OPGR / Katherine Williams - CRBRC

Re: Policy Directive 604.0 “Policy on Non-Discrimination”

Date: January 27, 2014

Background Policy Directive 604.0 “Policy on Non-Discrimination” updates Policy Directive 604.0 “Non-Discrimination in Federally Funded Programs Policy,” adopted July 7, 2004.

Rationale for Policy Directive Outlines CDOT’s general non-discrimination policy for all CDOT programs and activities. Also identifies and describes the forms of discrimination that are prohibited by federal law and highlights objectives related to access for persons with disabilities, access for persons with limited English proficiency, principles of environmental justice, and fair competition for federally funded contracts. This directive does not include CDOT’s Equal Employment Opportunity policy, which is set forth in Policy Directive 600.0.

Individuals/Entities Impacted in Policy Directive This Policy Directive applies to all operations of CDOT, including all offices, divisions, regions, and branches of CDOT, its contractors and anyone who acts on CDOT’s behalf. This Policy Directive also applies to the operations of any department or agency to which CDOT extends federal financial assistance. Federal financial assistance includes grants, training, use of equipment, donations of surplus property, and other assistance.

Implementation The Division of Administrative Services (DAS), Civil Rights and Business Resource Center shall implement this directive.

Effective Date January 22, 2014

Review Date On or before January 2019

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLICY DIRECTIVE <input type="checkbox"/> PROCEDURAL DIRECTIVE
Subject POLICY ON NON-DISCRIMINATION		Number 604.0
Supersedes 604 (7/1/04) 611 (4/15/10)	Effective 1.22.14	Originating Office Civil Rights & Business Resource Center, Division of Administrative Services

I. Purpose

To ensure that no person shall, on the ground of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in the operations of the Colorado Department of Transportation (“CDOT”) or of any department or agency to which CDOT extends federal financial assistance.

II. Authority

See Appendix A. This Policy Directive is intended to meet Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Authority requirements.

III. Applicability

This Policy Directive applies to all operations of CDOT, including all offices, divisions, regions, and branches of CDOT, its contractors and anyone who acts on CDOT’s behalf. This Policy Directive also applies to the operations of any department or agency to which CDOT extends federal financial assistance. Federal financial assistance includes grants, training, use of equipment, donations of surplus property, and other assistance.

IV. Policy

1. It is CDOT’s policy that no person shall on the ground of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any operation of CDOT or of any department or agency to which CDOT extends federal financial assistance.

A. Examples of prohibited types of discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age include:

- (1) Denial to an individual any service, financial aid, or other benefit;
- (2) Distinctions in the quality, quantity, or manner in which a benefit is provided;
- (3) Segregation or separate treatment;
- (4) Restriction in the enjoyment of any advantages, privileges, or other benefits provided;

(5) Discrimination in any activities related to highway and infrastructure or facility built or repaired; and

(6) Discrimination in employment.

B. Prohibited discrimination may be intentional or unintentional. Seemingly neutral acts that have disparate impacts on individuals of a protected group and lack a substantial legitimate justification are a form of prohibited discrimination. Instances where seemingly neutral acts may result in discrimination include:

(1) Utilizing criteria or methods of administration that have the effect of subjecting persons to discrimination or have the purpose or effect of substantially reducing the likelihood that persons can benefit from the objectives of a program or activity with respect to persons;

(2) Using different standards or requirements for determining whether a person satisfies any admissions, enrollment, quota, eligibility, membership, or other requirement for any service, financial aid, or other benefit; and

(3) Determining the site or location of a facility that has the effect of excluding persons, denying them the benefits of, or otherwise subject to them discrimination.

C. Harassment and retaliation are also forms of discrimination. Harassment includes a wide range of abusive and humiliating verbal or physical behaviors that are directed against a particular person because of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age. This Policy Directive prohibits retaliation against any person because he or she has reported alleged discrimination under this Policy Directive or has testified, assisted or participated in any manner in an investigation of such report, or has opposed such discrimination. No one shall intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with their rights against discrimination.

D. As part of this Policy Directive, CDOT adheres to the following objectives, which shall not be interpreted in any way to limit the general policy stated above:

(1) Access for Persons with Disabilities – No qualified disabled person shall, solely by reason of his or her disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination. Aids, benefits, and services, to be equally effective, are not required to produce the identical result or level of achievement for disabled and non-disabled persons, but must afford persons with disabilities equal opportunity to obtain the same result, to gain the same benefit, or to reach the same level of achievement, in the most integrated setting that is reasonably achievable. Even if separate or different aid, benefits, or services are available to handicapped persons, a qualified disabled person shall

not be denied the opportunity to participate in the programs or activities that are not separate or different.

(2) Access for Persons with Limited English Proficiency – Individuals who have a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English are considered limited English proficient (“LEP”). Language for LEP individuals can be a barrier to accessing important benefits or services, understanding and exercising important rights, complying with applicable responsibilities, or understanding other information provided by CDOT. Ignoring LEP populations may constitute discrimination on the basis of national origin. CDOT shall seek to communicate with LEP populations and provide LEP individuals meaningful access to CDOT programs and activities.

(3) Principles of Environmental Justice – CDOT will meaningfully engage all sectors of the public, including low-income and minority populations, potentially affected by CDOT projects. To help ensure the fair distribution of the benefits and burdens associated with CDOT programs and activities, CDOT will be guided by the following environmental justice principles:

(a) To avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority and low-income populations;

(b) To ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in CDOT’s decision-making process; and

(c) To prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority and low-income populations.

(4) Fair Competition for Federally-Funded Contracts – A Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (“DBE”) is a business that is owned and controlled by a socially and economically disadvantaged individual or individuals. The objectives of CDOT’s DBE program are to:

(a) To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of federally-assisted contracts in CDOT’s highway, transit, and airport programs;

(b) To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for federally-assisted contracts;

(c) To ensure that CDOT’s DBE program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;

(d) To ensure that only firms that fully meet this part's eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;

(e) To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in federally-assisted contracts; and

(f) To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the marketplace outside the DBE program.

V. Implementation Plan

1. This Policy Directive shall be effective immediately upon approval by the Transportation Committee.
2. The Civil Rights & Business Resource Center (“CRBRC”) shall implement this Policy Directive and will coordinate education and training to ensure compliance with this Policy Directive. All CDOT employees, its contractors, and anyone who acts on behalf of CDOT, including any department or agency to which CDOT extends federal financial assistance, shall be responsible for assuring that the proscribed discrimination does not occur. Should the potential for discrimination be discovered, action to eliminate the potential shall be taken.
3. Notices informing individuals of their rights under this Policy Directive will be posted on CDOT’s internal and external webpages, and be displayed in public office areas. These notices will also be consistent with CDOT’s policy for communicating with LEP populations.
4. As required by federal law, the CRBRC and regional civil rights staff shall be responsible for acquiring non-discrimination assurances, investigating discrimination complaints, conducting reviews of program areas, and preparing required reports.

VI. Review Date

This Policy Directive shall be reviewed on or before January 2019.

Herman J. Stroking III
Secretary, Transportation Commission

1-22-14
Effective Date

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APPENDIX A: Authority for Policy Directive 604.0

Federal Statutes

Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d

Age Discrimination Act of 1975, 42 U.S.C. § 6101

Federal Aid Highway Act of 1970, 49 U.S.C. § 306

Federal Aid Highway Act of 1973, 23 U.S.C. § 324

Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Pub. L. No. 100-259, 102 Stat. 28

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 – 12213

Rehabilitation Act of 1973 § 504, 29 U.S.C. § 794

Federal Transit Laws, 49 U.S.C. § 5332

Federal Regulations

23 CFR §1.36 – Compliance with Federal laws and regulations

23 CFR pt. 200 – Title VI Program and Related Statutes – Implementation and Review Procedures

23 CFR pt. 771 – Environmental Impact and Related Procedures

28 CFR pt. 35 – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in State and Local Government Services

28 CFR pt. 36 – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in Public Accommodations and in Commercial Facilities

28 CFR pt. 42, subpart C – Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs – Implementation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

49 CFR pt. 21 – Nondiscrimination in Federally-Assisted Programs of the Department of Transportation – Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

49 CFR pt. 26 – Participation By Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in Department of Transportation Financial Assistance Programs

49 CFR pt. 27 – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance

49 CFR § 37.5 – Nondiscrimination – Transportation Services for Individuals with Disabilities (ADA)

Executive Orders

Exec. Order No. 12898, 59 Fed. Reg. 7629 – Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations

Exec. Order No. 13166, 65 Fed. Reg. 50121 – Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency