

Seneca Nation of Indians
Seneca Transit System

**Title VI
Public Participation Plan**

The Seneca Nation of Indians (SNI) Seneca Transit System (STS) makes efforts to reach out to its community on the operation by publishing notices of the opportunity to request public comments on grant applications, proposed service changes, and changes to the fare structure of the STS. The aforementioned notices are posted on various electronic media formats including the STS website and published in local print. The STS maintains a list of social service, human service, public and private transportation providers, including taxi operators, and local institutions and transmits all notices associated with the STS to the listed entities to afford the opportunity to review any comments on proposed changes. In the STS service area, this list includes entities which may represent minority and limited English proficient populations.

Title VI information, including Title VI complaint procedures and forms are posted on the STS website. Title VI information is also displayed in public areas associated with STS.

Notice to Beneficiaries

The STS has published a Notice to Beneficiaries stating that the STS does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. The notice includes procedures, by which, an individual can contact the STS for information on its Title VI program or exercise the individual's right to submit a Title VI complaint to the STS or the Federal Transit Administration. The published Notice to Beneficiaries has been posted on the STS website and the Notice to Beneficiaries has been translated to Spanish and posted on the STS Website.

Language Assistance Program:

The STS does not discriminate against individuals that may encounter a language barrier in the distribution of documents and materials associated with the STS. In the occurrence of a situation where an individual has limited English proficiency and the English language is a barrier to the individual's ability to access information concerning documents and materials associated with the STS, the STS will arrange for language assistance services to enable a translation of the aforementioned documents for said individual. The STS has translated its Notice to Beneficiaries of Protections available under the Title VI program into Spanish and the Notice is posted on the STS website. Procedures, by which and individual may request language assistance are available on the STS website.

STS Passenger Behavior Policy

The STS has published and posted on the STS website its Passenger Behavior Policy, also known as the Code of Conduct, and distributed the policy on STS buses during operation of service.

Community Participation

The SNI recognizes the importance and value of regular and meaningful public participation in the planning process to engage communities and foster collaborative relationships with other agencies and programs. The SNI passed a resolution at May 2017 Council adopting a comprehensive Public Participation Plan (PPP) to provide guidance on public involvement.

The STS continues to participate in efforts to enhance regional coordination and cooperation in the delivery of transportation services. The Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board convenes the Regional Mobility Management Committee with representatives from all three counties (Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua) and the Seneca Nation. Representation on the Committee includes STS, Access Allegany, Chautauqua Area Regional Transit System (CARTS), Olean Area Transit System (OATS); The ReHAbilitation Center in Olean and the Resource Center in Jamestown; Chautauqua Works in Jamestown; Cattaraugus County Planning Department; and NYS Department of Transportation.

Representatives of OATS, Access Allegany, CARTS, and STS conduct meetings during which opportunities and activities to coordinate public transportation services among operations are discussed. The continuation of established partnering agreements provides the opportunity for the cost efficient provision of public transportation services to the region. It is anticipated that existing partnering agreements will be reviewed and renewed annually.

An update to the Cattaraugus County Coordinated Plan calls for identifying strategies to address gaps, eliminate duplications, and improve the efficiency of the use of available resources in the delivery of regional transportation services in the region. The Seneca Nation of Indians participates in regional discussions to identify opportunities and resources to implement such strategies.