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## **Portage County Engineer's Office Title VI Complaint Procedure**

Any person who believes she or he has been discriminated against on the basis of race, color, or national origin by the Portage County Engineer's Office (hereinafter referred to as "the County") may file a Title VI complaint by completing and submitting the agency's Title VI complaint Form. The County investigates complaints received no more than 180 days after the alleged incident. The County will process complaints that are complete.

Once the complaint is received, the County will review it to determine if our office has jurisdiction. The complainant will receive an acknowledgement letter informing her/him whether the complaint will be investigated by our office.

The County has 60 days to investigate the complaint. If more information is needed to resolve the case, the County may contact the complainant. The complainant has 30 business days from the date of the letter to send requested information to the investigator assigned to the case. If the investigator is not contacted by the complainant or does not receive the additional information within 30 business days, the County can administratively close the case. A case can be administratively closed also if the complainant no longer wishes to pursue their case.

After the investigator reviews the complaint, she/he will issue one of two letters to the complainant: a closure letter or a letter of finding (LOF). A closure letter summarizes the allegations and states that there was not a Title VI violation and that the case will be closed. An LOF summarizes the allegations and the interviews regarding the alleged incident, and explains whether any disciplinary action, additional training of the staff member or other action will occur. If the complainant wishes to appeal the decision, she/he has 30 days after the date of the letter or the LOF to do so.

A person may also file a complaint directly with the Ohio Department of Transportation, at ODOT Office of Equal Opportunity, Attention: Title VI Coordinator, 1980 West Broad St., Columbus, OH 43223.

Or with;

the Federal Transit Administration, at FTA Office of Civil Rights, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.