

## What can I do about discrimination?

A person may file a complaint with the MTPO. All complaints will be referred to the Civil Rights Officer, who will evaluate and refer the complaint to the appropriate program area. Every effort will be made to resolve the complaint as quickly as possible.

## Who may file a complaint?

Any person who feels he or she has been subject to discrimination because of race, color, age, national origin, sex, disability, veteran or low-income status.

## When should I file a complaint?

You should file a complaint within 180 days following the discriminatory action.

## How to file a complaint

Contact the Office of Civil Rights in writing or by phone to request assistance in filing your complaint.

### Metropolitan Topeka Planning Organization Civil Rights Department

620 SE Madison St, Unit 11  
Topeka, Kansas 66607  
Phone: 785-368-3728  
Fax: 785-368-2535



## Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights Information

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Including Title VI

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Metropolitan Topeka  
Planning  
Organization 

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# External Civil Rights Complaint Process

## The assurance:

The Metropolitan Topeka Planning Organization (MTPO), as a recipient of federal funds for programs, has given the assurance that within daily operations, MTPO will not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, veteran or low income status.

## The laws:

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended and 49 CFR Part 21 prohibit discrimination based on race, color, and national origin in all federal-aid programs.

Sex discrimination is also prohibited by Section 162 (a) of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (see 49 CFR 27) prohibit discrimination based on disability, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 USC 6101) prohibits discrimination based on age.

The basic philosophy of the laws is that people affected by transportation programs should receive the services, benefits, and opportunities to which they are entitled with no differences because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, veteran or low income status.

## What is discrimination?

An intentional or unintentional act which subjects a person or a group to unequal treatment under a transportation program. Everyone, no matter what their race, sex, color, national origin, age, disability, or veteran or low income status, should be treated fairly and equally in all matters relating to transportation.

## Examples of prohibited discriminatory acts:

1. Public meetings that are held at hard-to-reach or inaccessible sites or at times when most affected people are working.
2. Zoning changes that would lower the quality of life in a neighborhood.
3. Unequal payments offered or paid for similar properties.

4. Unequal relocation assistance or housing payments.
5. New housing that is not equal to the property replaced.
6. No effort made to locate minority or women contractors, consultants, or researchers for transportation projects.
7. Minority and women contractors not notified about highway projects to be let for bid.
8. A neighborhood loses access to stores, services, medical offices, churches, recreation, or transportation due to highway construction.
9. Property value decreases or increases in unequal ways due to highway construction.
10. Minority neighborhood roads that are not as well-maintained as those in non-minority areas.
11. Environmental impact is more severe on a minority or low income neighborhood as compared to a higher valuation area.