

## 6.0 Public Participation Plan

*FTA Circular 4702.1B, Chapter III, Paragraph 4.a.4: Every Title VI Plan shall include the following information: A public participation plan that includes an outreach plan to engage minority and limited English proficient populations, as well as a summary of outreach efforts made since the last Title VI Plan submission. A recipient's targeted public participation plan of minority populations may be part of efforts that extend more broadly to include constituencies that are traditionally underserved, such as people with disabilities, low-income populations, and others.*

The Public Participation Plan (PPP) of the TPO for the Lowndes County Transit System was developed to ensure that all members of the public, including minorities and Limited English Proficient (LEP) populations, are reasonably encouraged to participate in the decision making process for the TPO and the Lowndes County Transit System. Policy and service delivery decisions need to take into consideration community sentiment and public opinion based upon reasonable and well-executed outreach efforts. The public outreach strategies described in the PPP are designed to provide the public with effective access to information about the Lowndes County Transit System services and to provide a variety of efficient and convenient methods for receiving and considering public comment prior to implementing changes to services. The PPP is included as Appendix F to this Title VI Plan.

### **Current Outreach Efforts**

Lowndes County Transit System is required to submit a summary of public outreach efforts made over the last three (3) years. The Lowndes County Transit System does not directly offer any transportation services, but rather contracts with the TPO to provide a 5311 Transit System service (the only transportation service currently provided by Lowndes County). The following is a list and short description of recent, current, and planned outreach activities.

The TPO in conjunction with the Lowndes County Transit System holds a public meeting annually (or more frequently as needed) concerning the 5311 Transit System. This public meeting allows the public generally to provide input and seek information and ask questions concerning the 5311 Transit System, and specifically to comment on the annual grant application by the Lowndes County Transit System for GDOT funding for the 5311 Transit System. The Lowndes County Board of Commissioners, Lowndes County Transit System and TPO periodically receive verbal comments from the public, both publicly and privately, from citizens and community groups concerning the 5311 Transit System. The Commissioners make themselves easily available to their constituents, and the Lowndes County Transit System staff and the TPO staff are available to the citizens of Lowndes County during normal business hours. The Lowndes County website and the TPO's website are designed to be user-friendly in providing contact information for each Lowndes County Commissioner, the Lowndes County Manager, the staff of the Lowndes County Transit System, and the staff of the TPO.