

Greenville-Pickens Area Transportation Study (GPATS) Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan

INTRODUCTION

This plan will serve as a guide for GPATS, who is a recipient of federal funding, to address any current needs as well as anticipate any future needs of individuals with limited English language skills. This plan is an expanded section of the Title VI document and was prepared in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d, et seq. This regulation holds that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin under any DOT-assisted program or activity because they face challenges communicating in English.

This plan uses data from the U.S. Census in order to adequately assess the prospective LEP needs within the GPATS defined area. The Four Factor Analysis was used as a guide for staff to ensure all responsibilities to the LEP public were considered.

The plan will be updated as need be in the following years. However, a major update will need to occur after Census 2020 and will reassess all statistical data as well as any LEP persons encountered and the way in which GPATS assisted getting those persons the information they requested. The GPATS programs will also be reassessed for the need of language assistance to be continued and/or offered.

Senior management will be made aware of this plan as well as any other planning personnel involved in GPATS programs. The LEP plan will be included on the GPATS website (www.GPATS.org) as well as the Title IV document complete with policy, procedure, and the complaint form. Translated copies can be obtained upon request for LEP persons. Questions or comments about the LEP plan and/or Title IV document should be directed to the GPATS Title VI Coordinator who is part of the Transportation Planning Staff.

FOUR FACTOR ANALYSIS

1. The number or proportion of LEP persons in the SCDOT service area who may be served or likely to encounter an SCDOT program, activity, or service.

The GPATS boundary encompasses areas of five different counties: Greenville, Pickens, Anderson, Spartanburg, and Laurens. The Census 2010 populations for all of the counties include:

County	Total Population (2010)	Hispanic/Latino (%)	Asian (%)	Percentage with language other than English Spoken at home (%)
Anderson	187,126	3.2	0.8	4
Greenville	451,225	8.5	2.1	11.5
Laurens	66,537	4.3	0.4	4.4
Pickens	119,224	3.3	1.7	5.1
Spartanburg	284,307	6.1	2.2	8.8
<i>*Using Census 2010 Data</i>				

The table above shows the potential of LEP population as a whole within each county based on different ethnicities.

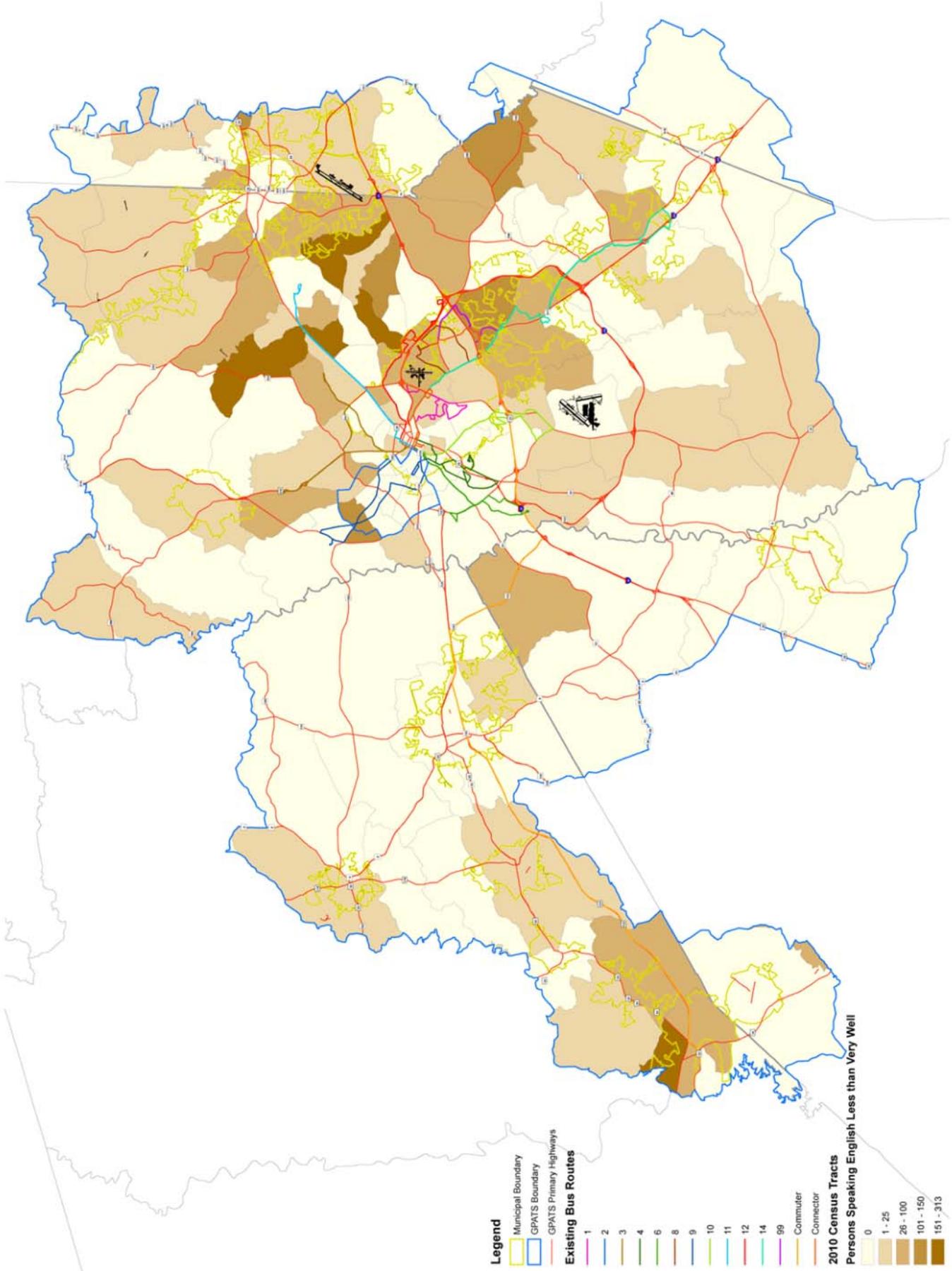
County	Spanish Population	Spanish Population that speaks English "less than very well"	Percentage	Other Language Population	Other Language Population that speaks English "less than very well"	Percentage
Anderson	2,081	1,346	64.68%	1,466	510	34.79%
Greenville	15,977	9,767	61.13%	8,405	2,808	33.41%
Laurens	1,100	814	74.00%	331	119	35.95%
Pickens	1,306	641	49.08%	1,173	401	34.19%
Spartanburg	6,505	3,979	61.17%	4,557	1,857	40.75%
<i>*Using Census population 2012 estimates</i>						

The table above shows the Spanish population within each county as well as any other language population and the total and percentage that speaks English "less than very well". Individuals who have identified themselves as speaking English "less than very well" are considered to be limited English proficient based on their limited ability to read, write, speak or understand English. This deficiency can lead to issues related to public transportation, signage, and overall involvement in the planning processes.

The Hispanic/Latino/Spanish-speaking group makes up the largest percent of ethnicities that are not considered Caucasian or Black/African American

within all five counties. Since it is the largest LEP group in South Carolina, this part of the Title VI plan will focus on targeting the Spanish-speaking community. Language assistance will be available to other LEP individuals in the community as needed.

The map on the next page shows the geographical distribution of population of which claim to speak English “less than very well”.



2. The frequency with which LEP individuals come in contact with a jurisdiction/entity within the Greenville-Pickens Area Transportation Study for public information.

After an email inquiry sent from GPATS to all jurisdictions/entities within the study area, it was found that there were very few instances where language assistance was requested for public information.

The City of Greenville's Bus System, Greenlink, has come into contact with two people in the past five years that have asked for information in Spanish. However, a recent survey by the City showed that the Hispanic population did not use the Greenlink bus system at all. Greenlink is currently analyzing this information and trying to determine how to engage more of the Hispanic community to make sure they know all available transit options.

Greenlink also has some information (route schedules, boarding information, and Title VI Complaint form) already available in Spanish (the primary language of LEP individuals based on 2010 census data).

The Appalachian Council of Governments (ACOG) states that the only time any information is requested in a different language (Spanish) is for material related to Aging Services. The COG directs those individuals to the State Office which has all forms and materials in Spanish. ACOG also has an on-call translator service which works over the phone. They use that service approximately six times a year.

GPATS has not received any requests for information in another language.

3. The nature and importance of the program, activity, or service provided by GPATS to LEP community.

GPATS's most critical activity that is provided to the LEP community revolves around public involvement (public information or planning meetings). GPATS includes areas from five different counties and manages projects such as roadway projects, transit projects, and pedestrian and bicycling projects.

It is crucial that all geographic areas and demographic groups are made aware of these projects as well as any other public information concerning transportation.

GPATS also monitors any Title VI complaints that may occur as well as any requests for public information to be translated into another language.

GPATS will continue to assess any LEP needs by communicating with community organizations that serve LEP persons, as well as with LEP

persons. GPATS will work with the local and regional bus systems to make sure they are in accordance with this LEP plan.

4. The resources available to GPATS and overall costs.

An employee of Greenville County (where GPATS staff is housed) who speaks Spanish fluently has offered any assistance if ever needed. GPATS staff will make this assistance known if a need arises. GPATS will also make an effort to ensure that the public is aware that this assistance is readily available. Several techniques can be employed to ensure outreach to LEP persons during public involvement session. One technique would be to make sure any printed materials are written in an alternative language if being presented in a known area of LEP population. Also, public meeting notices, based on the LEP population and when relevant, will include a translated clause for “A (insert alternative Language) translator will be available.”

In situations where Greenville County/GPATS employees cannot or should not provide services, i.e., an unfamiliar language or dialect, a legal matter or need for expert testimony, Greenville County/GPATS will acquire professional translators and/or interpreters.