

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of June 26, 2013

Subject: Approve Title VI Service Equity Analysis for METRO Red Line

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the Title VI service equity analysis for the METRO Red Line service.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Cyndi Harper, Manager of Route Planning, presented the results of the analysis.

Council Member Commers asked if the map and results were just for Metro Transit service or for all providers. Ms. Harper replied that this analysis included the Red Line as well as local and express route changes that MVTA is implementing at the same due associated with the Red Line.

Council Member Brimeyer asked if the maps and slides reflect both Metro Transit and MVTA service. Ms. Harper confirmed that they do include both providers. Brimeyer then asked if the same type of analysis will be needed for Southwest LRT. Ms. Harper stated that is the case. The methodology used to conduct service equity analyses is evolving as more data becomes available, but a similar review will be done for Southwest LRT project. Reviews will include both LRT and connecting bus service operated by the Council and by Southwest Transit.

Brimeyer wondered if this analysis would be done for various arterial BRT corridors. Ms. Harper said that, if the arterial BRT corridors meet the definition of a major service change, then a service equity analysis will be done.

The item was moved by Council Member Munt and was seconded by Council Member Smith. It passed unanimously.

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: June 10, 2013

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of June 26, 2013

Subject: Approve Title VI Service Equity Analysis for METRO Red Line

District(s), Member(s): 5-Steve Elkins, 15-Steven Chavez, 16-Wendy Wulff

Policy/Legal Reference: 49 CFR part 21, "Nondiscrimination in Federally-Assisted Programs of the Department of Transportation Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964"

Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510
John Levin, Director Service Development, 612-349-7789
Adam Harrington, Assistant Director, Route & System Planning, 612-349-7797
Cyndi Harper, Manager of Route Planning, 612-349-7723

Division/Department: Metro Transit/Service Development

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the Title VI Service Equity Analysis for the METRO Red Line service.

Background

As required by the FTA, Metro Transit conducted a Title VI equity review of the new METRO Red Line service. The Red Line is owned by the Metropolitan Council and will be operated under contract by Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA). MVTA is also making service changes on several local and express routes in conjunction with the opening of the Red Line. All of these changes were evaluated together as a package, the "Red Line Service Restructuring Plan," to determine if they would create a disparate impact or disproportionate impact on minority or low-income populations.

The Council's Red Line service is a service increase, while the overall package of Red Line and MVTA service changes is a mix of service increases and service decreases. Overall, the implementation of the Red Line and the service changes on MVTA routes will result in a 30.7% increase in transit service, as measured by the change in number of trips across the project area.

Non-minority populations will see a larger increase in transit service (32%) than minority populations (27%). Non-low income populations will have a larger increase in transit service (30.9%) than low-income populations (28.6%). However, these differences are both within the four-fifth's threshold that the Council and MVTA use to determine whether potential for disparate impact or disproportionate burden exists. Therefore, the Title VI Service Equity Analysis of the Red Line Restructuring Plan shows no disparate impact or disproportionate burden on minority or low-income populations.

Rationale

FTA Circular 4702.1B requires funding recipients to evaluate "any and all service changes that exceed the transit provider's major service change threshold, as well as all fare changes, to determine whether those changes will have a discriminatory impact based on race, color or national origin."

Funding

Funding for the Service Equity Analysis was provided through State bonds awarded to Red Line BRT and approved by Dakota County Regional Rail Authority.

Known Support / Opposition

The MVTA board is scheduled to approve the service equity analysis of the MVTA service changes at their June 26th meeting.