

## Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 12, 2014

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

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### **Proposed Action**

That the Metropolitan Council approve the results of the 2012 Title VI Service and Facility Standards Monitoring Study.

### **Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions**

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

Council Member Duinick asked what data was used to determine which areas are low-income or minority areas. Ms. Harper replied that 2010 Census data is used. Minorities represent 27.9% of the service area and low-income populations represent 11.9% of the overall population in the region. Blocks and block groups exceeding the regional average are considered predominantly low-income or predominantly minority. Council Member Duinick commented that 2010 Census data is old and may present some challenges. Ms. Harper added that American Community Survey (ACS) data, which uses a smaller sample but is updated more frequently, is also used. It is compared with census data to look for any significant differences.

The item was moved by Council Member Elkins and was seconded by Council Member Commers. It passed unanimously and will be part of the **CONSENT** agenda.

## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: January 27, 2014

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 12, 2014

**Subject:** Approve Title VI Service and Facility Standards Monitoring Study

District(s), Member(s): All

**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 results of the 2012 Title VI Service and Facility Standards Monitoring Study.

### Background

To comply with federal Title VI guidelines, Metro Transit has adopted system standards and policies to guard against discriminatory service design and operations decisions. The FTA requires us to monitor these service standards at least once every three years by comparing the level and quality of service provided to predominately minority and/or low-income areas with service provided to other areas to ensure disparate impacts have not resulted from policies and decisions. To ensure Metro Transit's service design, delivery and amenity distribution is not discriminatory, the system was reviewed against standards in these areas:

- Vehicle assignment
- Maximum passenger load
- On-time performance
- Service availability
- Headway standards
- Distribution of transit amenities

Staff completed this Monitoring Study in August 2012 and submitted it to the FTA as part of the 2012 Triennial Review. Under the FTA Title VI Circular in effect at that time, board approval was not required for this analysis. In October 2012, a new Title VI Circular was released, which does require the board to approve the results of the Monitoring Study before submitting a new Title VI Program. The Council will be submitting a new Title VI

Program in Spring 2014. Therefore, the most recent Title VI Service and Facilities Monitoring Study must be approved by the Council before then.

### **Results**

The 2012 Title VI Service and Facility Standards Monitoring Study analyzed 21 different standards for two population groups, low-income populations and minority populations. For each standard, the analysis reviewed the service design and delivery to see if there were patterns that exceed the statistical threshold for potential disparate impacts. A table with the results for the evaluation of each standard is attached, and the entire report can be found online at [metrotransit.org/TitleVI](http://metrotransit.org/TitleVI).

Of the 42 total analyses, two areas showed a potential for disparate impact: heated shelter placement in low-income areas and heated shelter placement in minority areas. Based on these findings, staff more closely reviewed the location of each heated shelter and the population served by each shelter. This more in-depth review determined that there was not in fact a disparity in the placement of heated shelters.

### **Funding**

The 2012 Title VI Service and Facility Monitoring Study was funded using existing Metro Transit and Metropolitan Council transit service operating resources.

### **Known Support / Opposition**

There is no known opposition to the proposed action.