

## Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of January 11, 2017

**Subject:** Approve 2017 Metropolitan Council Title VI program for the FTA

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the 2017 Title VI Program.

### Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Staff from the Council's Office of Equal Opportunity, Aaron Koski (Assistant Director) and Luis Morales (Manager of Special Projects), presented this business item and corresponding powerpoint presentation that summarized the Council's updated Title VI program. This program summarizes activities over the last 2 years, such as Title VI equity analyses, revised customer and service demographic information, and an updated Limited English Proficiency plan, among other updates.

Several questions were raised.

- Council member Rodriguez asked if the Council's subrecipients prepared their own Title VI programs, or whether Metro Transit prepared these programs using information provided by its subrecipients.

Mr. Morales stated that subrecipients prepare their own Title VI programs with the technical assistance of Council staff. In addition, he stated that the Council keep subrecipient Title VI programs on file, and is not required to include them as part of the Council's submission to the FTA.

- Council member Barber asked about the timing of public engagement and the corresponding analyses needed if Metro Transit decides to pursue possible fare increases.

Mr. Morales responded that previous fare change analyses and public engagement efforts have taken approximately 6 months, depending on the level of public engagement activities. Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb stated that staff will be presenting more information on possible fare changes during the Committee of the Whole meeting on February 1, 2017.

- Council member Munt asked if there were any analyses completed exploring if racial disparities existed in how long it takes Transit customers to reach their destinations.

Mr. Morales responded that Metro Transit regularly analyzes its transit services, including on time performance, the distribution of amenities, etc., and offered to investigate and follow up with her whether these analyses have explored her specific question.

Motion by Council member Munt, seconded by Council member Rodriguez and passed.

## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: January 9, 2017

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of January 11, 2017

**Subject:** Approve 2017 Metropolitan Council Title VI program for the FTA.

**District(s), Member(s):** All

**Policy/Legal Reference:** FTA Circular C 4702.1B, "Title VI Requirements and Guidelines for Federal Transit Administration Recipients"

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Wanda Kirkpatrick, Director, Office of Equal Opportunity, 651-602-1085; Luis Morales, Special Projects Manager, Office of Equal Opportunity, 612-349-7567

**Division/Department:** Office of Equal Opportunity/Regional Administration

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the 2017 Title VI Program.

### Background

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ensures that no person, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity under the control of recipients of federal assistance. The FTA requires that recipients submit a Title VI program every 3 years. The contents of this program are described in FTA Circular 4702.1B *Title VI Requirements and Guideline for Federal Transit Administration Recipients*.

The Metropolitan Council's 2017 Title VI Program updates and compiles the Council's Title VI activities since 2014 in the following areas:

#### Part 1: General Requirements

- Title VI Notices & Complaint Procedures
- Public Participation & Language Assistance Plan
- Minority Representation on Planning & Advisory Bodies
- Sub-Recipient Monitoring & Facility Siting Evaluations

#### Part 2: Metro Transit Requirements

- Service Area and Customer Demographics
- Service and Fare Change Evaluations
- Monitoring of System-Wide Service Standards and Policies

#### Part 3: Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) Requirements

- Incorporation of Title VI Principles in Regional Planning
- Distribution of State and Federal Funds
- Distribution of FTA Funds to Sub-recipients

## **Rationale**

The Council's 2017 Title VI Program documents its compliance with the FTA's Title VI requirements. This Program identifies efforts by Council staff to satisfy the objectives of Title VI, which include:

- Ensuring that the level and quality of public transportation is provided in a nondiscriminatory manner,
- Promoting full and fair participation in public transportation decision making without regard to race, color, or national origin;
- Ensuring meaningful access to transit-related programs and activities by persons with limited English proficiency.

These efforts are supported by specific policies, procedures, and plans. In addition, this program compiles the Met Council's Title VI efforts from 2014 – 2016, and references studies, evaluations, and other supporting information, which will be available on the Met Council website.

The Met Council's 2017 Title VI Program includes an updated and more robust Language Assistance Plan that catalogues language services available to customers who have limited English proficiency, Metro Transit demographic maps and studies that update the 2014 Title VI Program submission, and summaries of public outreach efforts by staff throughout the Council. In addition, the Plan summarizes facility siting equity analyses for the Heywood Campus, and the Blue Line Extension Operations & Maintenance Facility, equity analyses for the Service Improvement Plan and West End & Route 9 Study, and Transit's Service Monitoring Study.

## **Thrive Lens Analysis**

The Title VI Program helps to advance all the Thrive outcomes (stewardship, prosperity, equity, livability, and sustainability). The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires that recipients of federal funding comply with the requirements of Title VI, including submitting a Title VI program approved by the Council. Not doing so may result in loss of federal funding. By approving this plan and submitting it to the FTA, the Council remains compliant and eligible for federal assistance. The Council uses this assistance to help support various transportation projects, improvements, and initiatives that impact the vitality and health of the region. In addition, the program lays out specific analyses and steps the Council must take to ensure that it delivers services in a nondiscriminatory way. These efforts help establish a foundation upon which the Council can advance racial and socioeconomic equity.

## **Funding**

The 2017 Title VI Program and all of its components were funded using existing Metro Transit and Metropolitan Council transit service operating resources.

## **Known Support / Opposition**

There is no known opposition to the proposed action.

# 2017 Title VI Program Met Council Update

Transportation Committee Meeting  
January 9, 2017

Luis Morales – Office of Equal Opportunity

## Title VI Overview & Guidance

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
  - No Person in the United States shall, on the ground of **race, color, or national origin**, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.
- Executive Order 12898 (**income**)
- Guidance: Circular 4702.1B (2012)
  - [www.fta.dot.gov/civilrights/title6/civil\\_rights\\_11704.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/civilrights/title6/civil_rights_11704.html)

## Title VI Compliance

- General Requirements (RA, MT, MTS)
- Requirements for Fixed Route Providers (MT)
- Requirements for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MTS)

# General Requirements

1. Submit Title VI Program every 3 years
2. Title VI Notices, Complaint Procedures
  - Revised Notice – Buses, Train Cars, & Facilities
3. Inclusive Public Participation
  - Public Engagement Plan (2015)
4. LEP Language Assistance Plan (2016)

# General Requirements

5. Minority Representation on Planning & Advisory Bodies
6. Facility Siting Evaluations
  - Blue Line Extension Operations & Maint. Facility (2016)
  - Heywood Campus Expansion (2016)
7. Sub-recipient Monitoring
  - MVTA, Southwest Transit, Plymouth Metrolink, Maple Grove Transit (Fall 2016)



# Title VI Notice

## YOUR RIGHTS UNDER TITLE VI

The Metropolitan Council operates its services and programs without regard to race, color, national origin or socioeconomic status. Contact us as listed below to file a discrimination complaint, or to learn more about the Metropolitan Council's Title VI obligations.

El Consejo Metropolitano opera sus servicios y programas sin importar su raza, color, origen nacional o estatus socioeconómico. Comuníquese con nosotros como se indica a continuación para presentar una queja por discriminación o para obtener más información sobre las obligaciones del Título VI del Consejo Metropolitano.

Lub Metropolitan Council khiav nws cov haujlwm thiab kev pab uas tsis xyuas los ntawm haiv neeg, teb chaws yug, los sis kev neej nyiaj txiag. Cuag tau peb li qhia hauv qab no yog xav ua ntaub ntawv tsis txaus siab, los sis yog xav paub ntxiv txog lub Metropolitan cov nra dej num Npe VI (Title VI).

Guddiga Arrimaha Magaalada wuxuu adeegyadiisa ka fuliyaa iyadoo aan loo eegayn qolada, midabka, asalka qarameed, ama xaaladaha dhaqan-bulsho. Nagala soo xariira sida hoos ku taxan si aad u xarayso cabashada la xariirta faquuqa, ama aad wax dheeraada uga ogaato waxa ku saabsan waajibaadka arrimaha Guddiga Magaalada.

### Office of Equal Opportunity

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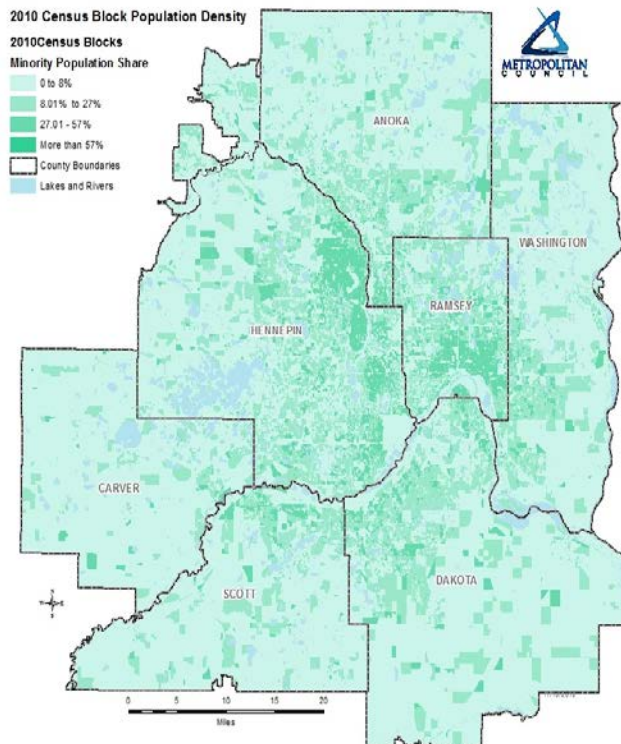


# Transit Requirements

1. Set system-wide standards & policies
  - Better Bus Stops (ongoing)
2. Service Area & Customer Demographics (2016)
3. Evaluate Service & Fare Changes
  - Service Improvement Plan (Approved 2015)
  - West End & Route 9 Study (ongoing)
  - Transit Assistance Program (ongoing)
4. Monitor Transit Service
  - Service Monitoring Study (Approved 2015)

# Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Requirements

1. Service Area Demographics
2. Incorporating Title VI Principles in Regional Planning
3. Distribution of State & Federal Funds



## Next Steps

- Metro Transit Senior Staff Meeting
  - January 3, 2017
- Transportation Committee & Met Council Approvals
- Submission of Title VI Plan to FTA
  - February 1, 2017
- Triennial Review – 2018

## Proposed Action

- That the Metropolitan Council approve the 2017 Title VI Program for submission to the FTA.