

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of December 8, 2021

Subject: Approve the 2021 Title VI Service and Facilities Standards Monitoring Study

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the results of the 2021 Title VI Service and Facilities Standards Monitoring Study, which shows no disparate impact on communities of color and no disproportionate burden on low-income communities.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Metro Transit Route Planning Manager Cyndi Harper presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Cummings seconded by Fredson. Motion carried.

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: November 22, 2021

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of December 8, 2021

Subject: Approve the 2021 Title VI Service and Facilities 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: Wes Kooistra, General Manager, 612-349-7310

Adam Harrington, Director of Service Development, 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 2021 Title VI Service and Facilities Standards Monitoring Study, which shows no disparate impact on communities of color and no disproportionate burden on low-income communities.

Background

To comply with federal Title VI guidelines, the Metropolitan Council has adopted Metro Transit system standards and policies to guard against discriminatory service design and operations decisions. The FTA requires certain transit providers to monitor these service standards at least once every three years by comparing the level and quality of service provided to communities of color and/or low-income populations with service provided to other populations to ensure past decisions have not resulted in disparate impacts or disproportionate burden. To ensure that the service design, delivery and amenity distribution of Metro Transit and MTS contracted service is not discriminatory, the system was reviewed against standards and policies in these areas:

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

Title VI guidelines require the board to approve the results of the monitoring study and include them in the agency's next Title VI Program submittal in 2023.

Rationale

The 2021 Title VI Service and Facility Standards Monitoring Study analyzed Fall 2020 data for ten different standards and policies for two population groups: BIPOC populations and low-income populations, relative to white populations and higher income populations. In some cases, Fall 2019 data was used to replace or supplement the Fall 2020 data due to the impacts of the pandemic on our service availability and delivery. For each standard or policy the analysis reviewed the service design and delivery to see if there were patterns

that exceed the statistical threshold for potential disparate impacts on communities of color populations or disproportionate burdens on low-income populations. Of the 20 total analyses, none showed a potential for disparate impact or disproportionate burden.

An executive summary that includes a table with the results for the evaluation of each standard is attached, and the entire report can be found on the Office of Equal Opportunity's MetNet site in the Special Projects Unit. The study will be posted on our website after it is approved.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The 2021 Title VI Service and Facility Standards Monitoring Study directly aligns with the principles of the Equity outcome, ensuring that we do not discriminate in how we design and operate service or locate passenger amenities. This formal review compares the amount and quality of service in communities of color and low-income areas as compared to the rest of the system to determine if there are any disparate impacts or disproportionate burdens.

Title VI is one piece of the broader strategic framework that Metro Transit uses to meaningfully advance equity in the region. Broader equity work, including additional quantitative analysis, is ongoing and continuous at Metro Transit. Equity is not achieved through one sole program, project, policy, or procedure, but in the integration of equity work throughout the agency.

Funding

The 2021 Title VI Service and Facility Standards Monitoring Study was funded using existing Metro Transit and Metropolitan Council's adopted operating budgets.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to the proposed action.