

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.