

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: January 13, 2020

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of January 22, 2020.

Subject: 2020 Title VI Plan Update, Resolution 2020-02

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: 49 CFR Part 21: Nondiscrimination in Federally-Assisted Programs of ... of Transportation—Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as detailed in FTA Circular 4702.1B

Staff Prepared/Presented: Guthrie Byard, ADA & Title VI Administrator

Division/Department: OEO

Proposed Action

- Approve the Metropolitan Council 2020 Title VI Program Update
- Adopt the attached resolution No. 2020-02 adopting the Metropolitan Council 2020 Title VI Program Update and signing the Title VI Policy Statement and Assurances as required by USDOT

Background

Title VI prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance. Specifically, Title VI provides that:

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.

As such, all recipients of FTA funds are required to have a Title VI program on file with FTA (except Tribal Transit recipients). This Program shall be updated every 3 years.

Rationale

The Title VI Program must be approved by the recipient's board of directors or appropriate governing entity or official(s) responsible for policy decisions prior to submission to FTA.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Approval of the updated Title VI plan advances the Council's Thrive emphasis on equity, as it 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 transit program or activity under the control of the Metropolitan Council.

Funding

Funding for the completion of this Title VI plan update was split between OEO, Metro Transit, and MTS.

Known Support / Opposition

There is general support for the Title VI plan update with no known opposition.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

390 Robert Street North, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1805

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-02

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE TITLE VI PROGRAM UPDATE

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council conducts transportation planning in accordance with federal requirements of Title 23, Section 134 of the United States Code as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Twin Cities urbanized area; and

WHEREAS, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and succeeding laws prohibit federal agencies and any sub-recipients of federal funds from discriminating on the basis of race, color, and national origin; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council's Title VI Program provides information and procedures on Limited English Proficiency (LEP) that ensures individuals with limited English skills have meaningful access to federally conducted and/or funded programs and activities; and

WHEREAS, all recipients and sub-recipients of USDOT funds are required to have a Title VI program documenting compliance with Title VI regulations and in accordance with Title 49 CFR Section 21.9(B) and update it every three years;

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council has developed an update to its 2017 Title VI Program, which addresses the requirements for Metropolitan Planning Organizations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Metropolitan Council hereby adopts the updated Title VI Program and signs the Title VI Policy Statement and Assurances as required by the USDOT.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2020.

Charles Zelle, Chair

Elizabeth Sund, Recording Secretary