

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-office Communication

DATE: 4/17/2025

TO: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation
Julie Esch, Interim President and Managing Director, Milwaukee County Transit System

SUBJECT: From the Director, Department of Transportation, and the Interim President and Managing Director, Milwaukee County Transit System, providing an informational report regarding Title VI Equity Analysis, and Service and Fare Equity Analysis.

FILE TYPE: Reference File Report

POLICY

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states: “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.

BACKGROUND

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires transit providers prepare a Title VI Program Plan Update every three years to document compliance. The purpose of the Plan Update is to ensure that transit services are provided in a non-discriminatory manner, to promote full and fair participation in transit decision-making without regard to race, color, or national origin, and to ensure meaningful access to transit-related programs and activities by persons with limited English proficiency.

As a recipient of FTA funds, MCTS must document the Plan Update has been approved by the County Executive and County Board of Supervisors. The Milwaukee County Department of Transportation submits the Plan Update on behalf of MCTS to FTA. The 2023 Title VI Plan Update was approved by the County Board of Supervisors in July 2023 (File #23-700) and is available at <http://www.ridemcts.com/about-us/title-vi-policy>. The next plan update will be in 2026.

The Plan Update is required to include the following content:

- Notice to the Public, Complaint Procedures and Form, and a Summary of Complaints
- Public Participation Plan and Public Outreach & Involvement Activities
- Limited English Proficiency Plan

- Minority Representation on Planning and Advisory Bodies
- Monitoring of Sub-recipient Title VI programs
- Approval of Title VI Program by the Governing Entity
- Definitions of Major Service Change, Disparate Impact, and Disproportionate Burden
- Service Standards / Policies and Demographic data on minority / low-income populations
- Service and Fare Equity Analyses of major service changes and fare changes

Finally, it should be noted these actions are consistent with and relevant to Milwaukee County General Ordinance Chapter 108 Achieving Racial and Health Equity.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Describe how the item aligns to the strategic plan:

2A: Determine what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity.

2C: Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions.

3A: Invest “upstream” to address root causes of health disparities.

3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities.

FISCAL EFFECT

There is no fiscal impact of this informational report.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation

John Rodgers, Deputy Director, Department of Transportation

Julie Esch, Interim President and Managing Director, MCTS, jesch@mcts.org

Jesus Ochoa, Planning Manager, MCTS, jochoa@mcts.org

Kevina Vann, Director of Equity and Employee Relations, MCTS, kvann@mcts.org

PREPARED BY:

Jesus Ochoa, Planning Manager, Department of Service Development, MCTS

Kevina Vann, Director of Equity and Employee Relations, MCTS

APPROVED BY:



Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation

ATTACHMENTS:

PowerPoint

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk