

County of Milwaukee
Interoffice Communication

DATE: 5/11/2017
TO: Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Brian Dranzik, Director, Department of Transportation
SUBJECT: Resolution Approving of Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) 2017 Title VI Program Plan Update

POLICY

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states: “No person in the United States shall, 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 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 last program plan update was prepared and approved in 2014. The purpose of the Title VI Program 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.

The FTA requires approval of the Title VI Program Plan Update by the County Executive and the County Board prior to the submittal deadline of October 1, 2017. The MCTS 2017 Title VI Program Plan Update is available at: <https://www.ridemcts.com/about-mcts/title-vi>

The MCTS 2017 Title VI Update includes:

- An updated Public Participation Plan with an emphasis on outreach to minority populations.
- Updated Limited English Proficiency Plan, which describes language assistance efforts that will be used to engage with populations that have limited proficiency in the English language.
- A demographic analysis of transit services provided in 2014, 2015, and 2016 including maps.
- Demographic Ridership and Travel Patterns study (2016).
- A description of system-wide service standards and policies, and monitoring thereof.
- An analysis of major service changes and fare changes.

MCTS carefully analyzes the impacts of service and fare changes on minority, and low-income populations. The Title VI Program Plan Update is inclusive of the analyses conducted in the past three years, and identifies efforts and actions taken to mitigate unintended impacts on minority populations or disproportionate burdens on low-income individuals. Examples of the analyses included in the 2017 Program Plan Update follow:

- In 2015, MCTS reduced the number of transit fare media outlets because of the added convenience of M-Card on-line. To mitigate impacts on minority populations and a disproportionate burden on low-income populations MCTS reviews the distribution of M-Card Recharge Units throughout the County and seeks to site new units in minority, and low-income census tracts when feasible.

- In 2015, as GO Pass was being implemented, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) evaluated the program and found no disparate impact or disproportionate burden from the program as long as fares do not need to be raised as a result of providing free fares to seniors and people with disabilities. In 2017, some MCTS fares were increased; however, GO Pass eligibility criteria were also modified to focus on low-income populations.
- In 2017, Freeway Flyer fares were increased as well as the cost of 7-day and 31-day passes. Surveys showed that the MCTS 7-day pass is used disproportionately by minority populations; therefore, the percent increase in the cost of the 7-day pass was reduced in comparison to the percent increase for other fares to mitigate its impact.
- In 2016, Route 279 service ended due to low ridership. Although the service was used by minority, and low-income passengers, the availability of other routes funded by the Zoo Litigation Settlement in the same geographic area with a similar purpose mitigates unintended disparate impacts on minority populations and any disproportionate burden on low-income populations.

FISCAL EFFECT

There is no Fiscal Impact from approving of the MCTS 2017 Title VI Program Plan Update.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve MCTS 2017 Title VI Program Plan Update.

Prepared by:

Dan Boehm, President & Managing Director, MCTS

Approved by:



Brian Dranzik

Director, Department of Transportation

cc: Chris Abele, County Executive
Michael Mayo, Sr., Chairperson, Transportation, Public Works & Transit Committee
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
Steve Kreklow, Budget Director, DAS - PSB
Steve Cady, Research Director, Office of the Comptroller
Jonathan Schatz, Fiscal and Budget Analyst, DAS-PSB