

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-office Communication

Date: 5/21/2026

To: Marcelia Nicholson-Bovell, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Joseph Lamers, Director, Department of Transportation; Steve Fuentes, President & CEO, Milwaukee County Transit System

Subject: From the Director, Department of Transportation and the President & CEO, Milwaukee County Transit System providing an action report regarding Title VI Equity Analysis, and Service and Fare Equity Analysis. This Action Report is also responsive to Reference File 26-26.

File Type: Action 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. This Action Report is also responsive to Reference File 26-26.

BACKGROUND

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires transit providers to 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 prior to the submittal deadline of October 1, 2026. 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 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.

RECOMMENDATION

The Director, Department of Transportation recommends approval of and submission of the MCTS 2026 Title VI Program Plan Update to the Federal Transit Administration prior to the October 1, 2026, deadline.

FISCAL EFFECT

There is no fiscal impact of this report.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Joe Lamers, Director, Department of Transportation

John Rodgers, Deputy Director, Department of Transportation

Steve Fuentes, President & CEO, MCTS, sfuentes@mcts.org

Ruben Salas, Vice-President & Deputy CEO, MCTS, rsalas@mcts.org

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PREPARED BY:

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Dan Adams, Planning Manager, Department of Service Development, MCTS

APPROVED BY:



Joseph Lamers, Director, Department of Transportation

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution
Fiscal Note
PowerPoint

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