

## COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE Inter-office Communication

DATE: 6/24/2022  
TO: Marcelia Nicholson, Chair, County Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation  
SUBJECT: 2022 MCTS Title VI Equity Analysis Review Report  
FILE TYPE: Informational 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. Under **File #20-407** MCTS submitted its latest Title VI Update in 2020, and it is available for review at <http://www.ridemcts.com/about-us/title-vi-policy>. Next year, MCTS will present an updated Title VI Program Plan to the Committee and County Board for approval before submitting it to the FTA.

The purpose of the Title VI Plan 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 MCTS Title VI Program Plan Update available on our website includes the following:

- 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

In addition to the reporting requirements noted above, the MCTS Title VI Plan includes service standards and policies, demographic data of minority and low-income populations served, Title VI monitoring program, public engagement process regarding major service change policy, disparate impact policy and disproportionate burden policy and finally, results of recent service and fare equity analyses.

As major service changes are contemplated and recommended between submittals of program updates, a Title VI service equity analysis is prepared and presented to the Committee and County Board. For example, see **File #21-32**, regarding a review of the temporary suspension of freeway flyers titled: Suspension of Freeway Flyer Service during COVID-19 (Title VI Report). The analysis concluded that the impact on minority and low-income communities from discontinuing Freeway Flyers was not disparate nor disproportionate, respectively. In part, this finding aided MCTS in making the decision this year to re-suspend those services.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) also requires large transit systems perform a fare equity analysis when there is any change to fares or to the fare system. For example, See **File #22-603** from May of this year and recall that MCTS developed strategies to mitigate the disparate impact on the minority population of fare changes.

Finally, to the extent that future budgets will be impacted by the on-going funding crises and looming cost-to-continue and budget gap for transit, as described in **File #22-457**, MCTS will have to initiate a review of the service impacts resulting from plans for service or fare changes that may have to be recommended so that the appropriate equity analyses can be performed and shared with the Committee, the Board and public.

#### ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Describe how the item aligns to the strategic plan:

- 2C: Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions.
- 3A: Invest “upstream” to address root causes of health disparities.
- 3B: Enhance the County’s fiscal health and sustainability.
- 3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities.

#### RECOMMENDATION

This report is for informational purposes unless otherwise directed.

#### FISCAL EFFECT

#### TERMS (If applicable)

[Include specific term start and end dates, renewal options, automatic renewals, and termination clauses.]

#### VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Dan Boehm ([dboehm@mcts.org](mailto:dboehm@mcts.org)), Tom Winter ([twinter@mcts.org](mailto:twinter@mcts.org)) and Jesus Ochoa ([jochoa@mcts.org](mailto:jochoa@mcts.org)) should receive Microsoft Team invites to present this file.

#### PREPARED BY:

Prepared By: Dan Boehm, President & Managing Director, MCTS

#### APPROVED BY:

Donna Brown-Martin

Donna Brown-Martin  
Director, Department of Transportation

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