

July 23, 2018

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee  
From: Ellen Currier  
Subject: Item 6.a: Central Lane MPO Title VI and Environmental Justice Program Plan

**Action Recommended:** Conduct public hearing. Provide feedback to staff.

### **Background**

As a recipient of state and federal funds, the Central Lane MPO is subject to the provisions of Title VI, including environmental justice. Title VI refers to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the intent of this provision is to eliminate barriers and conditions that prevent minority, low income, and other disadvantaged groups and persons from receiving access, participation and benefits from Federally assisted programs, services and activities.

Any entity that receives federal financial assistance must comply with the provisions of Title VI. Compliance entails ensuring that the methods in which programs or activities are delivered do not deny benefit of, or access to, those programs or activities because of a person's race, color, national origin, and disability, age, gender, or income status.

Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people—regardless of race, ethnicity, income or education level—in environmental decision making, including transportation. Further, environmental justice ensures that no population is forced to shoulder a disproportionate burden of the negative human health and environmental impacts of pollution or other environmental hazards.

### **Title VI Plan Update**

The Central Lane MPO originally adopted the Title VI Plan in 2009 and was updated in 2015. The Plan addresses how the MPO is integrating nondiscriminatory practices into transportation planning, public participation, and decision making; and considers opportunities to enhance current efforts.

As stated in the ODOT Title VI Local Agency Guidelines the Central Lane MPO Title VI Plan shall be regularly updated with current information including names and titles of staff, organizational charts and any other updates, as needed. The Central Lane MPO must submit substantive revisions (as noted below) to the ODOT Office of Civil Rights for review and approval.

The update to the MPO's Title VI Plan includes the following substantive revisions (as defined by the ODOT Guidelines):

- Administrative changes in the local agency's Title VI Program Plan administrative structure and staffing
- Update of the demographic profile and maps
- Update of the state and federal authorities

The updates to the demographic profile and maps were also added to the MPO's data portal. These data visualizations are available to improve public access to data.

### **Public Review**

The MPO's Public Participation Plan (PPP) does not specifically identify the public involvement tools to be utilized for the Title VI Plan. Based upon a review of tools and approaches used for other plans, staff is recommending the following tools be used for providing public review opportunities for the Title VI Plan:

- A public hearing;
- A 30-day public comment period;
- Notice to interested parties; and
- Web notice

The 30-day public comment period for the Draft Title VI plan will begin on August 1, 2018 and run until August 30, 2018. More than 400 transportation stakeholders will be included in the public notification. The Draft Title VI Plan will be posted on the MPO's website and the LaneVoices platform, and will also be available as a link from the MPC meeting page on the LCOG website. Staff has also scheduled a public hearing for the August MPC meeting.

### **Actions Requested**

- Conduct public hearing.
- Provide feedback to staff.

As stated above, the public comment period for the Draft Title VI plan will remain open through August 30. Staff anticipate requesting MPC adoption of the Title VI Plan at the September 6th MPC meeting.

### **Attachments**

1. Draft Title VI Plan