



September 26, 2022

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee
From: Ellen Currier
Subject: Title VI and Environmental Justice Program Plan Update

Action Recommended: Provide input and hold public hearing about Title VI and Environmental Justice Program Plan

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 its Title VI Plan in 2009 and updates the plan on a regular basis. The last update was in 2019. 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 demographic information, 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.

This 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 to contracting procedures
- 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

With the release of the plan to MPC, the public comment period is open from September 29th-October 31st, 2022. Public comment can be submitted via email, phone, or mail. Directions for this process can be found [here](#).

Action Requested

- Hold Public hearing for the 2022 Title VI and Environmental Justice Plan

Attachments

1. Draft Title VI and Environmental Justice Program Plan