

Public Hearing on Proposed Updates for Title VI Compliance Initiatives



Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) and Title VI Compliance

- Proposed Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Title VI compliance regulation Circular **4702.1B**
- Proposed compliance regulation requires updates to existing Title VI compliance policies:
 - Service and Fare Change Evaluation Policy
 - System-Wide Service Standards and Policies
 - Public Involvement Plan

New Compliance Regulation

- Proposed FTA compliance regulation requires public transit agencies to determine a new “threshold” for service and fare changes.
- The FTA requires OCTA to engage the public in the decision-making process for determining the service and fare change policy threshold.

Major Service “Threshold” Definitions

What is the major service change threshold?

- The major service change threshold is a set standard percentage for the level of service increases or decreases that requires a Title VI equity analysis.

- **Major Service Change**

- A major service change occurs when proposed service reductions and/or increases exceeds the set standard percentage or “threshold” of the existing level of service.
- When the proposed service reductions or increases exceed the set standard percentage or “threshold,” a Title VI equity analysis is conducted to evaluate the potential impact on minorities and low-income communities.

Fare Change “Threshold” Definitions

- Fare Change
 - No threshold for fare increases and decreases.
 - A Title VI equity analysis is required for all fare increases and decreases to evaluate the potential impact on minorities and low-income communities.

New FTA Definitions

Disparate Impact Thresholds

- Disparate impact on minority and low-income populations
 - Major Service Change
 - Route alignment reduction or elimination
 - Route alignment extension or new route
 - Route-level service hour change
 - System-wide service hour change
 - Fare Change
 - Price change by fare type

Title VI Service Standards (Mandated by FTA)

- **Target Loading Standards** (Riders on board bus to scheduled seats)
 - **Current:** Weekday peak 60 minute period: 100% to 125% seated capacity depending on type; peak and off-peak periods (weekends): 100% all types
 - **Proposed:** Weekday peak period: 100% to 130% depending on type; off-peak, weekends: 100% all types
- **Target Headway Standards** (minutes between trips; also frequency)
 - **Current:** Peak weekday periods (6-9 A.M., 3-6 P.M.) 30-minutes (except Express/rail feeder); off-peak, weekends 30-60 minutes depending on type
 - **Proposed:** Peak weekday periods 30-60 minutes depending on type (except Express/rail feeder); off-peak weekends 30-60 minutes depending on type

Title VI Service Standards (Mandated by FTA)

Continued...

- **On-Time Performance Standards** – OCTA defines on-time as not more than 5-minutes late - (percentage of trips meeting definition)
 - **Current:** No public advertised standards
 - **Proposed:** 85% of departure times will be on-time
- **Access to Bus Service Standards** (percentage of population in proximity to bus service)
 - **Current:** Percentage of population within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of bus route – increment: 10% to 50% depending on type; cumulative: 50% to 90% depending on type
 - **Proposed:** Percentage of service area population within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of bus route: 80% or higher; percentage of service area jobs within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of bus route: 80% or higher

Minority and Low-Income Definitions

- Minority Person
- Minority Area
- Minority Route
- Low-Income Persons
- Low-Income Area
- Low-Income Route

FTA Requirement Public Engagement

- Public Involvement Plan is a strategic plan to engage the public in the decision-making process for:
 - Major Service Change
 - Fare Change
 - Policy Change
 - Community Advisory Board Recruitment

Public Involvement Plan

- Assess program impact
- Address language barriers
- Identify effective channels of communication
- Select accessible meeting locations
- Develop mechanism for receiving input

Public Involvement Plan Update

- Public Hearing Process
 - Process for conducting a Public Hearing was deleted from 2010 Service Change Policy and updated in 2012 Public Involvement Plan.
 - Allows for public hearing process to be engaged in other outreach efforts.

Public Engagement

- Four Community Meetings
- OCTA Informational Title VI Website
 - Links to Proposed Policies/Plans
 - On-line survey for comments
- 35,000 information brochures distributed
- Public Hearing to be conducted at the August 13, 2012