

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 25-5512 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION'S TITLE VI PLAN AND DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Date: July 30, 2025
Department: Planning, Development & Research
Meeting Date: September 18, 2025

Prepared by: Alfredo Haro,
Senior Regional Planner, 971-804-4989,
Alfredo.Haro@oregonmetro.gov

ISSUE STATEMENT

The US Department of Transportation (USDOT) requires compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its Title VI statute. Metro's 2025 Title VI Plan, previously updated in October 2022, describes the agency's Title VI implementation efforts prohibiting discrimination based on race, color or national origin in programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. The current update of Metro's Title VI Plan is now before Council for approval.

FHWA and ODOT have requested a triennial Title VI Plan update that also satisfies the Portland-Vancouver Transportation Management Area (TMA) Certification findings. Further, the 2025 recertification of Metro as the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) included a corrective action that requires approval of the Title VI Plan by the MPO's Policy Committees — specifically, the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) and the Metro Council.

On June 6, 2025, Metro's Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee (TPAC) recommended that JPACT approve Resolution No. 25- 5512 and the 2025 Title VI Plan. On July 17, 2025, JPACT approved resolution No. 25-5512, the 2025 Title VI Plan and submitted it to the Metro Council for approval.

ACTION REQUESTED

Metro Council approval of Resolution No. 25-5512 and the 2025 Title VI Plan as recommended by TPAC and JPACT.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

Consistent with federal requirements and Metro's values, the 2025 Title VI Plan details how Metro's planning processes and transportation investments are non-discriminatory and do not disproportionately harm minority or low-income communities. The Plan outlines how Metro teams encourage full and fair participation of historically underserved communities, including minority or Limited English Proficiency (LEP) individuals and people with disabilities in program activities and decision-making processes. For example, the 2025 Title VI Plan details how individuals with LEP have meaningful access to Metro programs and activities through free interpretation and translation services.

The JPACT and subsequent Metro Council approval of Resolution No. 25-5512 and 2025 Title VI Plan will allow Metro staff to continue implementing Title VI, as follows:

- Metro Council adoption of the Title VI Plan in a form substantially like the document attached as Exhibit A;
- Metro Council delegation of authority to Metro's Chief Operating Officer to make administrative revisions to the Title VI Plan and any related documents as needed; and
- Submission of the Title VI Plan to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) by the required date of October 1, 2025.

POLICY QUESTION(S)

1. Should Metro Council adopt Metro's Title VI plan in a form substantially like the document attached as Exhibit A?
2. Should Metro Council delegate authority to Metro's Chief Operating Officer to make administrative revisions to the Title VI plan and any related documents as needed?

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

1. Approve Resolution No. 25-5512 and Title VI Plan as recommended by TPAC and JPACT.
2. Do not approve Resolution No. 25-5512 or the 2025 Title VI Plan.

JPACT and Metro Council adoption of the resolution and Title VI Plan will demonstrate agency commitment to not disproportionately harming communities based on race, color or national origin. Endorsement of the 2025 Title VI Plan is a necessary step to receive Title VI Plan compliance approval from FHWA and ODOT. Similarly, approving the resolution addresses corrective actions and recommendations identified during Metro's Transportation Management Area (TMA) Certification process.

If the Metro Council does not endorse the resolution and Title VI Plan, the Title VI Designated Official and Title VI Coordinator will work to understand and address policymakers' concerns before bringing the Title VI back to Metro Council.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Approve Resolution No. 25-5512. Approval of the resolution and Title VI Plan endorses Metro's nondiscrimination compliance efforts which are required in any programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The 2025 Title VI Plan maintains Metro's commitment to Civil Rights law. Notably, the Civil Rights Act of 1987 further mandates that if any part of an entity receives federal funding, all of its operations must comply with relevant civil rights laws. Therefore, the 2025 Title VI Plan details agency wide nondiscrimination best practices including promoting broad participation, ensuring meaningful access, preventing discrimination, and promoting accountability with Metro's organizational structure.

BACKGROUND

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlines protections for millions of people in the United States regarding public accommodations, employment, public education, access to federally assisted programs and voting rights. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act further prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in any programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. In step with federal compliance and Metro's values, Metro ensures its planning processes and transportation investments are non-discriminatory and do not disproportionately harm minority or low-income communities. Metro's nondiscrimination responsibilities, compliance mechanisms, and policies are outlined in its triennial 2025 Title VI Plan.

Metro staff have developed the 2025 Title VI Plan in collaboration with the Office of the Chief Operating Officer, Office of Metro Attorney and the Planning, Development and Research department. On June 6, 2025, TPAC recommended that JPACT approve this Title VI Plan and resolution. On July 17, 2025, JPACT approved the Title VI Plan and resolution and submitted the documents for Metro Council approval. Metro Council will consider JPACT's action in September 2025.

ATTACHMENTS

None