



September 16, 2021

To: Legislative and Communications Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: 2021 Title VI Plan Triennial Report

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority is required to submit a Title VI Plan Report reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors to the Federal Transit Administration's Regional Office of Civil Rights once every three years. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 provides that "no person in the United States shall, on the grounds 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." To fulfill this basic civil rights mandate, each federal agency that provides financial assistance for any program is authorized and directed by the United States Department of Justice to apply provisions of Title VI to each program by issuing generally applicable rules, regulations, or requirements.

Recommendations

- A. Review, approve, and direct staff to submit the 2021 Title VI Plan Triennial Report to the Federal Transit Administration's Regional Office of Civil Rights on or before October 1, 2021.
- B. Review and approve the results of the Service Standards and Policies monitoring in Section 4 of the 2021 Title VI Plan Triennial Report.

Background

Since 1972, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has required recipients of federal assistance to certify compliance with the requirements of Title VI (49 CFR part 21) as part of the funding eligibility process. Effective October 1, 2012, Circular 4702.1B provides recipients of FTA financial assistance with guidance and instructions necessary to carry out the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) Title VI regulations and to integrate anti-discrimination practices into its transit-related programs, services, and activities. FTA financial

recipients who operate more than 50 fixed-route transit vehicles in peak service and in an urbanized area of 200,000 or more population are required to submit a five section Title VI Plan Triennial Report (Report) once every three years. The purpose of this Report is to document OCTA's practices and operations for compliance with Title VI. The Report documents the steps OCTA has taken and will take to ensure that all services, programs, and activities supported by federal financial assistance are implemented without regard to race, color, or national origin and eliminate any additional barriers such as language or low-income status that may inhibit the use of the OCTA transit system.

Discussion

The Title VI reporting requirements are prepared in five main sections. Section One summarizes compliance with Chapter III "General Requirements and Guidelines" of Circular 4702.1B to ensure all programs, policies, and activities comply with DOT Title VI regulations. As required, this section includes a copy of OCTA's notice of Title VI protection and methods for filing a complaint of discrimination, a list of Title VI complaints and investigations, a plan to engage public involvement, a Limited English Proficiency Plan, a demographic table of non-elected advisory councils or committee membership by ethnicity, and a narrative description of the efforts made to ensure Title VI compliance for all sub-recipients.

Sections Two through Five summarize compliance with Chapter IV "Requirement and Guidelines for Fixed-Route Transit Providers" of Circular 4702.1B. Section Two describes how OCTA's System-Wide Service Standards and Policies are designed to ensure high-quality and safe levels of service to the public. Section Three is a series of collected demographic data and service profile maps that are useful both for describing the current composition of neighborhoods in terms of minority and low-income residents, and for understanding the spatial relationships of these areas in the context of the services that OCTA provides. Section Four evaluates the extent to which OCTA has met its service standards and the levels of service provided to the various communities served by OCTA. Section Four also must include documentation confirming the OCTA Board of Directors (Board) was informed of the results of the service monitoring program prior to submitting the Plan to the FTA. Section Five is a summary of the public engagement efforts, methodology, and results of any service and fare changes during the three-year reporting cycle.

Lastly, the Report must include a Board resolution, meeting minutes, or similar documentation that demonstrates the Board reviewed and approved the Report prior to its submittal to the FTA Regional Office of Civil Rights.

In the event the Report is not submitted by the October 1, 2021, published due date, OCTA may be subject to the loss or reduction in federal financial assistance or a delay in the approval of existing funding.

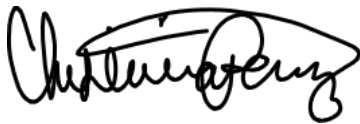
Summary

The final 2021 Report has been prepared and is being provided for Board review and approval. The final plan document incorporates all of the guidance and requirements from FTA Circular 4702.1B to summarize OCTA's Title VI anti-discrimination practices for transit-related programs, services, and activities for the last three years. Upon Board approval, staff will submit the final 2021 Report to the FTA Regional Office of Civil Rights on or before October 1, 2021.

Attachment

A. 2021 Title VI Plan Triennial Report

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Approved by:



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