



DATE: April 21, 2014

TO: Transit Task Force Members

FROM: Carlos de Leon
Deputy Director, Transportation

SUBJECT: Transit Fare and Service Equity Analyses

At the next Transit Task Force meeting, staff will present the results of the Title VI Fare and Service Equity Analysis for proposed fare and bus service for FY2015 and an updated Sun Link Pre-Revenue Service Implementation Fare and Service Equity Analysis.

Staff Recommendation – Staff asks the Transit Task Force provide feedback to staff on the conclusions identified in the May 6, 2014 Title VI Fare and Service Equity Analysis and the May 6, 2014 Sun Link Pre-Revenue Service Implementation Fare and Service Equity Analysis Update. Staff is planning to present the analyses to Mayor and Council on May 6 and will be recommending that these analyses be placed on the May 20 Mayor and Council meeting for approval to submit to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for review.

Staff will present recommendations on proposed fare and bus changes for FY2015 to the Transit Task Force on May 12. Staff is scheduling the May 20 Mayor and Council Study Session to provide final recommendations to Mayor and Council on the fare and bus service changes for FY2015. Based on Mayor and Council direction, a public hearing would be scheduled in June to approve any fare or service changes for FY2015.

Background – At the February 19, 2014 Mayor and Council Study Session, Mayor and Council directed staff to initiate the public comment process/Title VI service equity analysis in March 2014 for proposed FY2015 bus service and fare changes as recommended in the Sun Tran Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA), the Bus/Rail Interface Review and as provided as part of the Proposed Transit Fare Policy presentation.

The City’s adopted policies and procedures for solicitation and consideration of public comment on fare and major service changes, which comply with the latest FTA Title VI regulations, require a Title VI equity analysis for major service changes, which would add or eliminate more than 25% or more revenue miles, revenue hours or ridership on any individual route. In addition, a Title VI fare equity analysis is required for any transit fare change.

The purpose of the service and fare equity analysis “...is to determine whether the planned changes will have a disparate impact on the basis of race, color or national origin.” The FTA Circular 4702.1B states the following:

“Low-income populations are not a protected class under Title VI. However, recognizing the inherent overlap of environmental justice principles in this area, and because it is

important to evaluate the impacts of service and fare changes on passengers who are transit-dependent, FTA requires transit providers to evaluate proposed service and fare changes to determine whether low-income populations will bear a disproportionate burden of the changes.”

“Upon completion of a service or fare equity analysis, the transit provider shall brief its board of directors, top executive, or appropriate governing entity or official(s) responsible for policy decisions regarding the service and/or fare change(s) and the equity impacts of the service and/or fare change(s). The transit provider shall submit documentation such as a board resolution, copy of meeting minutes, or similar documentation with the Title VI program as evidence of the board or governing entity or official’s consideration, awareness, and approval of the analysis.”

The service and fare equity analysis is also required to describe actions to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects of the proposed service or fare change on minority and low income populations.

Federal regulations allow transit agencies to implement fare and service changes, even if the change results in disparate impact upon minorities and/or disproportionate burden to low income populations as long as the agency has a legitimate justification for the action that is non-discriminatory.

On January 8, 2014, Mayor and Council approved the Sun Link Streetcar Pre-revenue Service Implementation Fare and Service analysis, which was required per FTA requirements to be completed six months prior to the start of Sun Link’s revenue service.

Present Consideration - The Fare and Service Equity Analysis document, which is provided in Attachment A, incorporates a comparison of current and proposed fares, current and proposed bus service levels and provisions, reviews passenger demographic data, and describes the public outreach efforts made to gain public input and summarizes the comments received.

The attached Title VI Fare and Service Equity Analysis concludes that the potential fare change does not result in disparate impact to minorities or disproportionate burden to persons with low incomes. The Title VI Fare and Service Equity Analysis also concludes that the proposed COA bus service changes, individually and system-wide, do not result in disparate impact or disproportionate burden.

The Sun Link Pre-Revenue Service Implementation Fare and Service Equity Analysis Update Report, which is provided in Attachment B, incorporates revised data based upon the Bus/Rail Interface proposal to change select Sun Tran routes. The Sun Link Update Report concludes that the proposal does not result in disparate impact to minorities or disproportionate burden to persons with low incomes.

These analyses conclude that the City has a legitimate, non-discriminatory rationale for the proposed fare and bus service changes.

Financial Considerations – While the proposed fare and service changes have financial considerations, the approval of the two Title VI fare and service equity analyses has no financial impact.

Legal Considerations – FTA regulations require that Mayor and Council approve the Title VI fare and service equity analysis prior to taking action to implement a fare or service change. Once approved, the document will be submitted to the FTA for compliance. The two analyses will be scheduled for May 20 Mayor and Council meeting for approval.

Please contact me at 791-4371 if you have any questions about the above item.

cc: Daryl W. Cole, Transportation Director
Albert Elias, Assistant City Manager

Attachments: A. May 6, 2014 Title VI Fare and Service Equity Analysis
B. May 6, 2014 Sun Link Pre-Revenue Service Implementation Fare and Service Equity Analysis Update Report