

NOTICE OF TITLE VI POLICIES AND PROCEDURES UPDATE

Title VI is a federal statute that states **“no person 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.”** Along with Title VI, Executive Order 12898 directs each federal grant recipient to include environmental justice as part of the analysis relating to activities and policies. Environmental justice evaluates whether a policy or activity will have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on minority and low-income populations.

On October 1, 2012, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) published Circular FTA C 4702.1B, updating Title VI requirements and guidelines for federal transit grant recipients. As part of the new guidance new and existing service standards and policies should address how service is distributed across the system. The policies also should ensure that service design and operating practices do not result in discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin. Also, STA is required to evaluate the effects of all fare changes on low-income populations as well as the Title VI-protected populations. This requires development of a policy for measuring disparate impact to determine whether minority riders are bearing a disproportionate impact of the change between the existing cost and the proposed cost. The adopted policy also must determine whether riders who live on a low income are bearing a disproportionate burden of the change between the existing fare and the proposed fare.

Spokane Transit believes it is important to consider input from the public regarding service design and fare standards and policies. To this end, STA is seeking your input and/or suggestions on the draft policies and standards. If you would like to comment or need more information, please contact the Planning Department at 509-325-6058, or via email at ghowell@spokanetransit.com. In addition, the STA Board of Directors is holding a public hearing on March 21, 2013 on the draft Title VI policies and procedures. Please see the Public Hearing Notice for more details.

Spokane Transit recognizes that people with limited English proficiency (LEP) may need assistance with providing input on the proposed policies and standards. If translation services are required, please contact the Community Ombudsman at Spokane Transit Authority at 325-6094 (TTY WA Relay 711) or email smillbank@spokanetransit.com

Upon request, alternative formats of documents will be produced for people with disabilities. For these and other accommodations, please call 325-6094 (TTY WA Relay 711) or email smillbank@spokanetransit.com at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance.