

2021 TITLE VI PROGRESS REPORT OF PROGRAMS AND POLICIES

The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA), as the public transit provider in Pinellas County, is required to submit to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) a Title VI update that documents the level and quality of transit service provided for minority and low-income areas, pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. This report is submitted every three years and is intended to demonstrate compliance with Title VI requirements that preclude discrimination in the provision of transit service and transit-related amenities.

As part of the Title VI regulations in circular FTA C 4702.1B, PSTA is required to make our new Major Service Policies, Disparate Impact Policy, and Disproportionate Impact Policy available for review to the public and take public comment.

Section 2-6 of the 2021 Title VI Update is below. If you have comments regarding these new policies, please contact PSTA either in writing, by telephone (727-540-1800), or by email:

Planning Department
Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority
3201 Scherer Drive
St. Petersburg, FL 33716
Email: Title6Coordinator@psta.net
Phone: (727) 540-1800 (ext. 1977)

PSTA values your opinions, and we thank you for taking the time to review this very important document.

2-6 MAJOR SERVICE POLICY

Requirement: Submit a description of the public engagement process for setting the “major service change policy” and disparate impact policy, with verification of Board approval of those policies.

Major Service Policy

PSTA conducts a Title VI analysis on all Major Service Changes. PSTA defines a Major Service Change as any modification that affects 25 percent or more of any individual route’s revenue hours and/or miles. When any change exceeds the established threshold, PSTA will proceed with posting the appropriate public notices and conducting public hearings in compliance with the Public Participation Plan detailed previously in this Title VI Program Update.

The adverse effect will be measured by the change between the existing and proposed service levels that would be deemed significant. Additions to service may also result in disparate impacts, if the addition is at the expense of reductions to other routes.

Disparate Impact Policy

Disparate impacts will be examined both when a Major Service Change is undertaken and/or a fare change is implemented. PSTA defines a disparate impact as any time there is a difference in impacts between minority and total populations of plus or minus ten percent that negatively impacts the minority population. For example, if the minority population makes up 30 percent of the overall population, but would bear 45 percent of the adverse impacts, there may be a disparate impact since the minority group bears 15 percent more than its expected share. The Disparate Impact Policy will be applied uniformly to all modes of service operated by PSTA.

Disproportionate Burden Policy

The Disproportionate Burden Policy applies to adverse effects on low-income populations as a result of Major Service Changes and all fare changes. PSTA defines a disproportionate burden as any time there is a difference in impacts between low-income and total populations of plus or minus ten percent that negatively impacts the low-income population. For example, if the low-income population makes up 30 percent of the overall population, but would bear 45 percent of the impacts, there may be a disproportionate impact since the low-income group bears 15 percent more than its expected share. The Disproportionate Burden Policy will be applied uniformly to all modes of service operated by PSTA.