

To: Marketing, Planning, & Legislative Committee

Date: November 24, 2014

From: Laramie Bowron, Manager of Planning

Reviewed by:

SUBJECT: Title VI Service Availability Standard Update

Background:

At the November MP&L Committee meeting, staff presented the Title VI Systemwide Service Standards and Policies that require Board adoption prior to County Connection's Title VI Update Report in February 2015.

Below is a summary of the proposed standards and policies:

System-wide Service Standards

- Vehicle Load - Maximum of 1.25 during peak and 1.00 during off-peak times
- Vehicle Headways - Maximum of 2-hours
- On-time Performance - 95 percent
- Service Availability - Goal of ensuring 70 percent of county residents live within three quarters of a mile of a bus stop

System-wide Service Policies

- Vehicle Assignment - All buses have the same level of amenities (i.e. air conditioning, wheelchair lifts, automated stop announcements), available to riders. Buses are not assigned to specific communities within County Connection's service area based on vehicle age, but rather to serve specific routes that call for vehicles of differing lengths based street limitations. Many of the routes serve multiple communities with diverse populations. Given County Connection's strict standards with respect to maintenance, age does not serve as a viable proxy for diminished quality.
- Transit Amenities – Transit Amenities are distributed on a system-wide basis. Transit amenities include shelters and benches. The location of transit amenities is determined by factors such as ridership, individual requests, staff recommendations, and vendor preference (in the case of shelters which feature advertisements). Staff seeks to distribute benches and shelters to match the distribution of minority Census tracts.

Summary of Issues:

At the November Board meeting, staff was directed to provide additional details regarding the Service Availability Standard. Specifically, the difference between using a half mile and three quarters of a mile.

The map and table below illustrates the difference between the using a 0.5 mile buffer and a 0.75 mile buffer.

The population of County Connection’s service area was determined by calculating the percentage of area that each Census Tract was overlapped by the service area. The total population of that Census Tract was then multiplied by that percentage. The population of each buffer was then determined by calculating the percentage that each buffer overlapped each Census Tract. The population of that Census Tract was then multiplied by that percentage. The table below shows the resulting populations.

Service Area Population	515,991	
0.75 Mile Buffer Population	381,222	73.88%
0.5 Mile Buffer Population	323,554	62.71%

This analysis assumes that the population of each Census Tract is distributed equally. This represents the most basic analysis and results in the most conservative estimate. Further analysis will be completed for the Title VI Report that will add population density to each tract, resulting in higher percentages of population coverage.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the committee review the map and table and forward this along with the previously reviewed Title VI Systemwide Standards and Policies to the Board for adoption.

