

Fall Service Change Equity Analysis

Capital Metro Board of Directors

February 14, 2022



The mission of the Capital Metro is to **connect people and communities to jobs and opportunities** by providing quality transportation choices. Through the provision public transit service as an essential public service, the Board of Directors further notes it is Capital Metro's goal to provide **safe, equitable, reliable and cost-effective public transit to improve mobility and stimulate economic development**. The mobility Capital Metro provides ensures access to jobs, healthcare, education, worship, entertainment and much more.

Capital Metro is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in the delivery of our programs, projects and services and to demonstrating our commitment through transparency and accountability.



— *Board of Directors Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy Statement*

CapMetro DEI Definitions:

Diversity

The range of human differences, including but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, social class, physical or mental disability or attributes, religion, national origin and political beliefs

Equity

Fairness in process, distribution or resources, opportunity and provision of varying levels of support based upon need, to achieve greater fairness

Racial Equity

In acknowledgement of historical inequity based on race, where race no longer determines one's socioeconomic outcomes and when everyone has what they need to thrive

Inclusion

Involvement and empowerment, where everyone feels welcomed, respected, supported and valued

Key Points

- Capital Metro is committed to making service decisions through an equity lens
- Service equity metrics to be broader in the future as part of our Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Program with input from Community Advisory Group
- The Title VI Service Equity Analysis with specific requirements used to assess Fall service changes

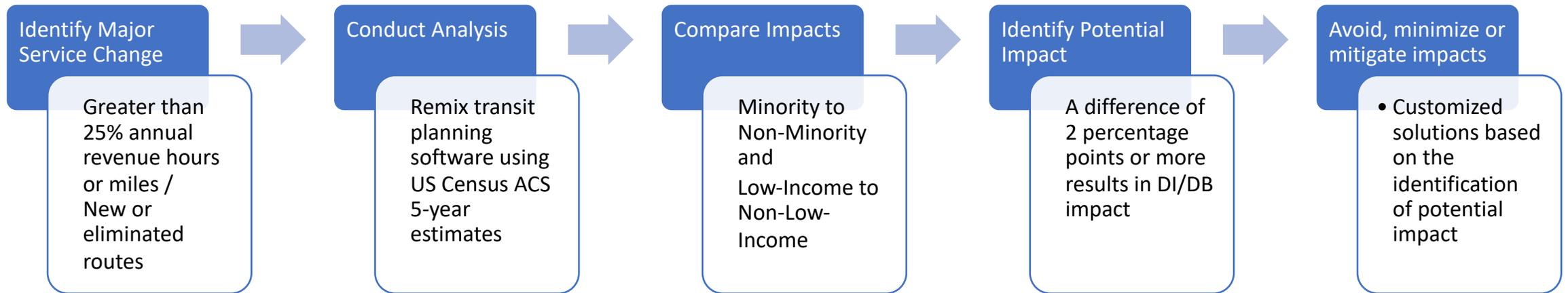
What is Title VI Service Equity Analysis

- Only one component in Capital Metro's approach to equity
- Foundation in Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
 - Prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin
 - Capital Metro must ensure that it provides its service without discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin.
- Legally required by Federal Transit Administration Title VI Circular 4702.1B
 - Applies to transit providers that have greater than 50 fixed-route vehicles in peak service
 - Requires agencies to conduct equity analyses on service or fare changes that meet the agency's definition of Major Service Change
 - Looks for impacts of a service or fare change that may be borne disproportionately by minority or low-income populations
- The Board's approval of service equity analyses must be properly documented for the next triennial Title VI Program update.

What Requires Title VI Analysis?

- Service levels have varied in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic
- Service changes lasting longer than one year require a service equity analysis
- The following changes were identified as major service changes:
 - Commuter bus service
 - University routes service

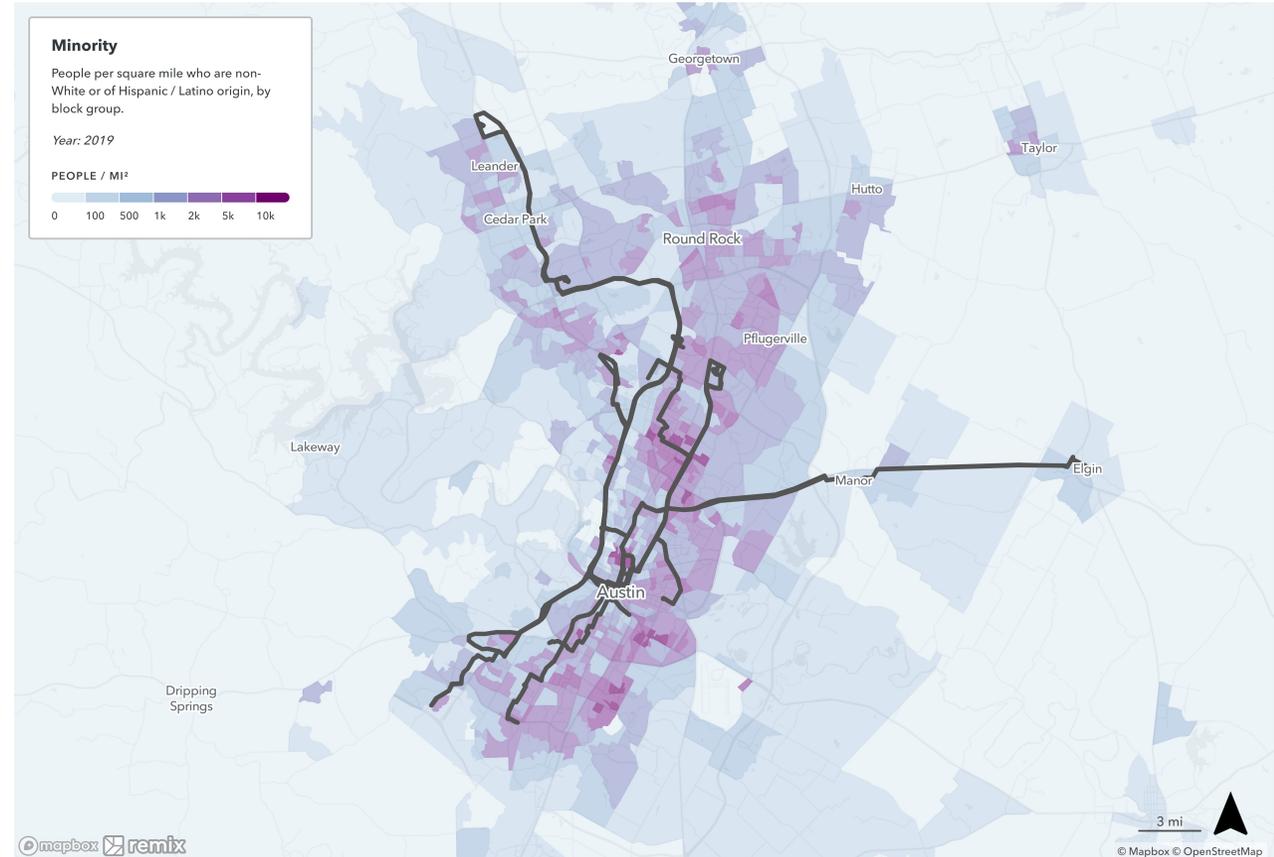
Service Equity Analysis Process



Conducted in accordance with Title VI policies adopted by the board on June 28, 2021

Commuter Bus: Service Changes

- All commuter routes experienced a major service change
- Reduced service on 10 of 12 commuter routes
- 2 routes suspended:
 - Routes 981 & 987
- Daily trips decreased to 300 daily from 3,400 (90% decrease)
- Demand remains low due to changing work preferences



Commuter Bus Service: Equity Analysis

- Minority Communities: No disparate impact identified: -1.1%
- Low-Income Communities: Disproportionate burden identified: 4.2%
 - *Greater than the Capital Metro 2% threshold*
- Action: Minimized impact to low-income communities by
 - Retaining popular trips that serve traditional work schedules
 - Identifying the Red Line as an alternative for commuters coming from the north
- Changes to the commuter bus service were made to prioritize our limited resources for routes that have maintained high ridership during the pandemic
- The commuter bus service changes can proceed since impacts were minimized

University Routes: Service Changes

- 5 of the 12 routes serving University of Texas experienced a major change
- Eliminated 3 combination routes that operated on Sundays and weekday evenings
- Additional evening and Sunday service added to other routes serving the UT
- Changes planned in collaboration with UT



University Service Routes – Equity Analysis

- Minority Communities: No disparate impact identified: -1.3%
- Low-Income Communities: No disproportionate burden identified:-3.4%

Summary

- No disparate impact to minority populations
- Disproportionate burden to low-income populations identified for commuter bus service change.
- These disproportionate burden impacts to low-income users minimized by:
 - Parallel Red Line service for express bus commuters from the northwest service area
 - Alternative express bus service for suspended Routes 981 & 987
 - Maintaining trips that let commuters arrive/depart at the start/end of traditional workday
- Planning monitors ridership daily for changes
- Capital Metro will return to the regular service change process beginning with Summer 2022 service change



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THANK YOU!