

Historical Perspective

Disproportionate burden refers to a neutral policy or practice that disproportionately affects low-income populations more than non-low-income populations.

A finding of disproportionate burden for major service and fare changes requires Metro to evaluate alternatives and mitigate burdens where practicable:

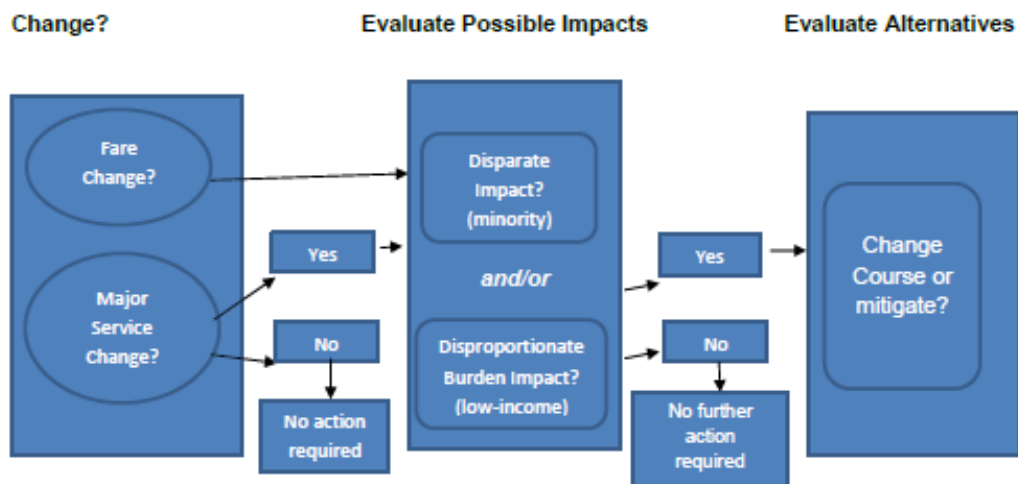
- A. For major service changes, a disproportionate burden will be deemed to exist if an absolute difference between percentage of low-income adversely affected by the service change and the overall percentage of low-income persons is at least five percent (5%);
- B. For fare changes, a disproportionate burden will be deemed to exist if an absolute difference between the percentage of low-income adversely affected and the overall percentage of low-income is at least five percent (5%).

Metro Disproportionate Burden Policy

FTA Circular 4702.1B, revised in 2012, requires transportation agencies to develop policies to assist in the evaluation of impacts to minority and low-income riders when considering service and fare changes.

Testing for Disproportionate Burden evaluates potential effects on low-income riders or populations, which Metro defines as \$41,500 which represents the median income of a three-person household in Los Angeles County. The line and system level evaluations are identical to those used to determine potential disparate impacts but compare low-income and non-low-income populations rather than minority and non-minority.

Figure 1: Overview of Metro’s Title VI Equity Analysis process



All changes in service meeting the definition of “Major Service Change” and any change in fares and/or fare media are subject to a Title VI Service Equity Analysis prior to Board approval of the change. A Title VI Equity Analysis will be completed for all Major Service Changes and all fare and/or fare media changes (increase or decrease). The results of the Title VI Equity Analysis will be presented to the Board for its consideration and the results will be included in the subsequent Metro Title VI Program Update with a record of action taken by the Board. Service changes considered “Minor” due to not meeting the thresholds of a Major Service Change are also analyzed and alternatives considered are documented, however, a Service Equity Analysis is not performed.

For the 2019 FTA Title VI Program Update:

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