

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION POLICY

(FOR STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDED MASS TRANSIT PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS)

I. GENERAL POLICY

This policy is prepared for the purpose of obtaining and considering public comment on basis fare increased and major service reductions (which shall include but are not limited to the reduction of or cancellation of alternative transit services, fixed bus route or stops, hours of service or programs participation eligibility) of state and federal mass transit programs and projects.

II. WRITTEN CITIZEN PARTICIPATION POLICY

This written policy is prepared in accordance with Federal Transit Administration requirements.

III. SCOPE OF PARTICIPATION

METRO shall review and consider all comments from all sources, including but not limited to: affected citizens, private mass transportation service providers and local elected officials.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Notice of proposed fare increases or major service reduction will be given by METRO by publication in a local newspaper of general circulation not less than ten (10) nor more than twenty (20) days prior to final action being taken. A major service reduction shall be any (10) percent reduction in any individual route or service hours. Said notice shall state that any affected citizen, private transportation provider or local elected official interested in being afforded the opportunity for a public hearing or to examine and submit comments on the proposed fare increases or major service reduction shall be encouraged to contact METRO's office, 1137 E. 5000 N. Rd., Bourbonnais, Illinois, 60914, no later than ten (10) days from the publication of said notice; and, unless written comments are received within the specified time period or further notice is published, final action will be taken by METRO on the proposed fare increase or major service reduction.

V. PUBIC HEARING

Upon receipt of a written request for public hearing, a public hearing will be scheduled in accordance with the provisions of Section IV above.

Written notification of the scheduled hearing will be sent to the person(s) requesting the public hearing.

All meetings and hearings regarding proposed fare increases or major service reductions for mass transit programs and projects shall be open to the public and held in accordance with local, state and federal law.

Notice of such public hearings will be given by METRO for publication to local newspapers of general circulation not less than ten (10) nor more than twenty (20) days in advance of the scheduled hearing date. Such notice shall state the purpose, place, date and time of public hearing.

VI. **CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTIONS TO FARE INCREASED AND MAJOR SERVICE REDUCTION**

Any person who wishes to object to proposed fare increases or major service reduction pertaining to mass transit programs and projects may either: (1) attend the public hearing, if requested in accordance with the provision of Section V. above, and be heard, or submit comments in writing to the METRO offices, 1137 E. 5000 N. Rd., Bourbonnais, Illinois, 60914, on or before the scheduled hearing date; or (2) if no public hearing is requested, may notify METRO in writing, at the above address, within ten (10) days of the date which METRO publishes notice of the proposed fare increase or major service reduction until at least ten (10) days after the publication of said notice.

Any objections to proposed fare increases or major service reductions, whether presented in writing or in person at the public hearing will be reviewed and considered by METRO prior to taking final action on the matter.

Written notification of METRO's actions on proposed fare increases or major service reductions will be sent to the person(s) that have submitted written objections or which have requested the public hearing, within ten (10) days of such action being taken.