

KY 163 ALTERNATIVES STUDY METCALFE COUNTY

Environmental Justice Report Item No. 3-129.00

January 2007



Barren River Area Development District

**For
Division of Planning
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet**



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document is an assessment of the community characteristics for the proposed improvements outlined in the KY 163 Corridor Study located in Metcalfe County (Appendix 3). The data used in this report has been compiled from a various number of sources including the U.S. Census Bureau *Census 2000*, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Division of Planning, Kentucky State Data Center, local officials meeting, stakeholder meetings, and field observations of the project area. The information and results are intended to assist the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet in making informed and prudent transportation decisions in the project area, especially with regard to the requirements of Executive Order 12898¹, to ensure equal environmental protection to all groups potentially impacted by this project.

The following document outlines *Census 2000* statistics for the KY 163 Corridor Study in Metcalfe County using data tables and maps.

Census data was also compiled for Census divisions directly in and around the portion of the study area located in Metcalfe County. Statistics are provided for minority, low-income, and elderly populations for the project area, nation, state, region, census tracts, and block groups.

2.0 WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?

The U.S. EPA Office of Environmental Justice (EJ) defines EJ as:

“The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socio-economic group should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local and tribal programs and policies.”

A disproportionately high and adverse effect on a minority or low-income population means an adverse effect that:

1. Is predominately borne by a minority population and/or low-income population, or
2. Will be suffered by the minority population and/or low-income population and is appreciably more severe or greater in magnitude than the adverse effect that will be suffered by the non-minority population and/or non-low-income population.

2.1 Definitions

USDOT Order 5610.2 on EJ, issued in the April 15, 1997 Federal Register defines what constitutes low income and minority populations.

- **Low-Income** is defined as a person whose median household income is at or below the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines.

¹ Executive Order 12898 signed on February 11, 1994 states “...each Federal agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations...”

- **Minority** is defined as a person who is: (1) Black (a person having origins in any black racial groups of Africa); (2) Hispanic (a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race); (3) Asian American (a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands); or (4) American Indian and Alaskan Native (a person having origins in any of the original people of North America and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition).
- **Low-Income Population** is defined as any readily identifiable group of low-income persons who live in geographic proximity, and, if circumstances warrant geographically dispersed/transient persons who will be similarly affected by a proposed DOT program, policy or activity.
- **Minority Population** is defined as any readily identifiable group of minority persons who live in geographic proximity, and if circumstances warrant, geographically dispersed/transient persons who will be similarly affected by a proposed DOT program, policy or activity.

EO 12898 and USOT Order 5610.2 do not address consideration of the elderly population. However, the U.S. DOT encourages the study of these populations in EJ discussions and in accordance with EJ, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's advocacy of inclusive public involvement and equal treatment of all persons this study includes statistics for persons age 65+ that are within the project and comparison areas.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

For this study, data was collected by using the method outlined by the KYTC document, "Methodology for Assessing Potential Environmental Justice Concerns for KYTC Planning Studies".

The primary sources of data were the U.S. Census Bureau *Census 2000*, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Division of Planning, Kentucky State Data Center, local officials meeting, stakeholder meetings, and field observations of the project area. Statistics were compiled to present a detailed analysis of the community conditions for the KY 163 Corridor Study.

4.0 CENSUS DATA ANALYSIS

The U.S. Census Bureau defines geographical units as:

- **Census Tract (CT)** – "A small, relatively permanent statistical subdivision of a county or statistically equivalent entity delineated for data presentation purposes by a local group of census data users or the geographic staff of a regional census center in accordance with Census Bureau guidelines. CTs generally contain between 1,000 and 8,000 people. CT boundaries are delineated with the intention of being stable over many decades, so they generally follow relatively permanent visible features. They may also follow governmental unit boundaries and other invisible features in some instances; the boundary of a state or county is always a census tract boundary."
- **Block Group (BG)** - "A statistical subdivision of a CT. A BG consists of all tabulation blocks whose numbers begin with the same digit in a CT. BGs generally contain between 300 and 3,000 people, with an optimum size of 1,500 people."

- **Census Block (CB)** – “An area bounded on all sides by visible and/or invisible features shown on a map prepared by the Census Bureau. A CB is the smallest geographic entity for which the Census Bureau tabulates decennial census data.”

The project and comparison area analysis include the percentages for minorities, low-income and elderly population levels for the census tract block group, Metcalfe County, the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the United States.

5.0 STUDY FINDINGS

This Environmental Justice and Community Impact Report are to be used as a component of a Planning Study for the proposed highway transportation improvements to KY 163 in Metcalfe County between the KY 90/KY 163 Intersection and the Louie B. Nunn Parkway. This study is intended to help define the location and purpose of the project and better meet federal requirements regarding consideration of environmental issues as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The 2000 Census identifies two Census Tracts in this study area. These tracts are listed below and are illustrated in Appendix 4.

Census Tract 9602
Census Tract 9603

6.0 STUDY FINDINGS / POPULATION BY RACE

6.1 Metcalfe County

The defined study area in Metcalfe County encompasses portions of the following Census Tracts: 9602 and 9603. Following the review of key information, BRADD Staff met with local officials and community members to review maps and Census data related to the study area. The intent of these discussions was to confirm previous conclusions and solicit input into the process of developing this Environmental Justice Report.

The majority of Census Tracts and Block Groups in the study area contain minority populations that are considerably less than the national, state, and county averages; however, there are a few particular Block Groups in the study area that warrant further discussion.

Census Tract 9602 has the highest percentage of black population with 1.08%, which is comparable to the county average of 1.12%, but is considerably less than the national and state average of 12.21% and 7.27% respectively. Block Group 2 in Tract 9602 contains a percentage of black population of 2.27% and Block Group 2 in Tract 9603 contains a percentage of black population of 1.95%, while the other Block Groups in Tract 9602 and 9603 located in the study area have percentages well below the county average.

Meetings with local officials and community members resulted in the conclusion that additional concentrations of minorities are not located in the study area; therefore, it is anticipated that the implementation of this project would not have a disproportionate effect on minorities residing in the proposed study area.

BRADD Staff will continue to monitor racial composition in the study area and report any changes and/or developments that may occur in the future that could alter the findings of this report.

7.0 STUDY FINDINGS / POPULATION BY POVERTY LEVEL

7.1 Metcalfe County

The defined study area within Metcalfe County encompasses portions of the following Census Tracts: 9602 and 9603. Census Tract 9602 has a percentage of persons below poverty level of 19.16%, which is significantly higher than the state average of 15.37% and well above the national average of 12.05%. Census Tract 9603 has a percentage of 24.20%, the highest percentage of the population below the poverty level in Metcalfe County, which is twice that of the national average. This is not totally unexpected considering the entire study area and the percentages of all the Block Groups. An overall review of the data shows that all Block Groups in the study area are at or exceed the state and national averages for the percentage of population below the poverty level, and these percentages range from 18.51% to 26.39%. The State average is 15.37 % and the national average is 12.05 %.

It is evident that a high percentage of population below the poverty level is an issue that occurs throughout the entire county and that the chance of encountering significant concentrations of populations falling under this distinction is very likely. It should also be noted that these percentages are indeed comparable to many surrounding counties in this particular section of southern Kentucky. All of the counties within this study area are often identified as economically distressed due to high unemployment rates that can be attributed to the unavailability of quality employment opportunities. Discussions with local officials and community members resulted in the conclusion that additional concentrations of persons below the poverty level are not located in the study area; therefore, it is anticipated that the implementation of this project would not have a disproportionate effect on the population of persons below poverty level residing in the proposed study area.

The improvement of the KY 163 Corridor route is viewed by many local officials and community members as a project that could potentially be beneficial for further economic growth and development; thereby improving conditions for the population of the county that currently fall below the poverty level.

BRADD Staff will continue to monitor poverty levels in the study area and report any changes and/or developments that may occur in the future that could alter the findings of this report.

8.0 STUDY FINDINGS / POPULATION BY AGE GROUP

8.1 Metcalfe County

The defined study area within Metcalfe County encompasses Census Tracts 9602 and 9603. Census Tract 9602 percentages for the aging population are consistent with those of the state, and the nation. Census Tract 9603 has a higher percentage of persons 65 and over at 17.02%. Block Groups: 3 and 4 of Census Tract 9603 in the study area have percent persons 65 and over of 13.35% and 13.11% respectively, which is below the county average of 14.98%. Based on the census data and other discussions, there seem to be no significant concentration of a specific age group in this study area.

Discussions with local officials and community members resulted in the conclusion that additional concentrations of persons age 65 and over are not located in the study area; therefore, it is anticipated that the implementation of this project would not have a disproportionate effect on the population of persons age 65 and over residing in the proposed study area.

9.0 CONCLUSION

Following an extensive review of data obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau for income, race and age, discussions with local officials, and field observations, Barren River Area Development District staff has concluded that a defined Environmental Justice community does not exist within the study area in Metcalfe County.

Analysis of the minority population data showed several of the block groups as having an identified concentration of some sort. Some were significant, some were only minor. The more significant concentrations identified were noted in the narrative analysis of the county. All areas within this study should be given full consideration in the planning process to achieve the goals put forth by the U. S. Department of Transportation (DOT). The concentrations identified in Metcalfe County should not be affected by improvements to this route.

The high percentage of the population below poverty level is alarming. However, based on the economic status of this rural depressed county, these percentages are not uncommon for this area. Discussions with local officials and a field review came to the conclusion that no concentration of individuals below the poverty level will be disproportionately affected by this project.

There appear to be few small concentrations of populations by age Metcalfe County. Age analysis indicates that the distribution of elderly residents in Census Tract 9602 closely resembles the national and state average. Census Tract 9603 has a slightly higher concentration of elderly, but the concentrations identified in Metcalfe County should not be affected by improvements to this route.

Efforts were made to identify any high concentrations of a specific population. Community citizens, other ADD planners, local officials, and statistical data were all used in this process.

BRADD staff will continue to monitor the progress of this project and reevaluate the Environmental Justice Report to document any demographic and/or socioeconomic changes that may occur in and around the study area throughout the development of the project.

APPENDIX 1

PLANNING STUDY CONTACT LIST

Greg Wilson
Metcalf County Judge Exec.
P.O. Box 149
Edmonton, KY 42129

Harold Stilts
City Superintendent
City Hall Box 374
Edmonton, KY 42129

Jeff Moore
Dept. Of Highways District 3
900 Morgantown Road
Bowling Green, KY 42102

Mayor Howard D. Garrett
City Hall Box 374
Edmonton, KY 42129

Sheriff Ronald Shirley
Metcalf County Courthouse
Edmonton, KY 42129

Darla Hardy
Community Action of Southern
Kentucky
P.O. Box 90014
Bowling Green, KY 42102

APPENDIX 2

Methodology for Assessing Potential Environmental Justice Concerns for KYTC Planning Studies

Reviewed: December 2006

The demographics of the affected area should be defined using U.S. Census data (Census tracts and block groups) and the percentages for minorities, low-income, elderly, or disabled populations should be compared to those for the following:

- Other nearby Census tracts and block groups,
- The county as a whole,
- The entire state, and
- The United States.

Information from PVA offices, social service agencies, local health organizations, local public agencies, and community action agencies can be used to supplement the Census data. Specifically, we are interested in obtaining the following information:

- Identification of community leaders or other contacts who may be able to represent these population groups and through which coordination efforts can be made.
- Comparison of the Census tracts and block groups encompassing the project area to other nearby Census tracts and block groups, county, state, and United States percentages.
- Locations of specific or identified minority, low-income, elderly, or disabled population groups within or near the project area. This may require some field reviews and/or discussions with knowledgeable persons to identify locations of public housing, minority communities, ethnic communities, etc., to verify Census data or identify changes that may have occurred since the last Census. Examples would be changes due to new residential developments in the area or increases in Asian and/or Hispanic populations.
- Concentrations or communities that share a common religious, cultural, ethnic, or other background, e.g., Amish communities.
- Communities or neighborhoods that exhibit a high degree of community cohesion or interaction and the ability to mobilize community actions at the start of community involvement.
- Concentrations of common employment, religious centers, and/or educational institutions with members within walking distance of facilities.
- Potential effects, both positive and negative, of the project on the affected groups as compared to the non-target groups. This may include, but are not limited to:
 1. Access to services, employment or transportation.
 2. Displacement of persons, businesses, farms, or non-profit organizations.
 3. Disruption of community cohesion or vitality.
 4. Effects to human health and/or safety.

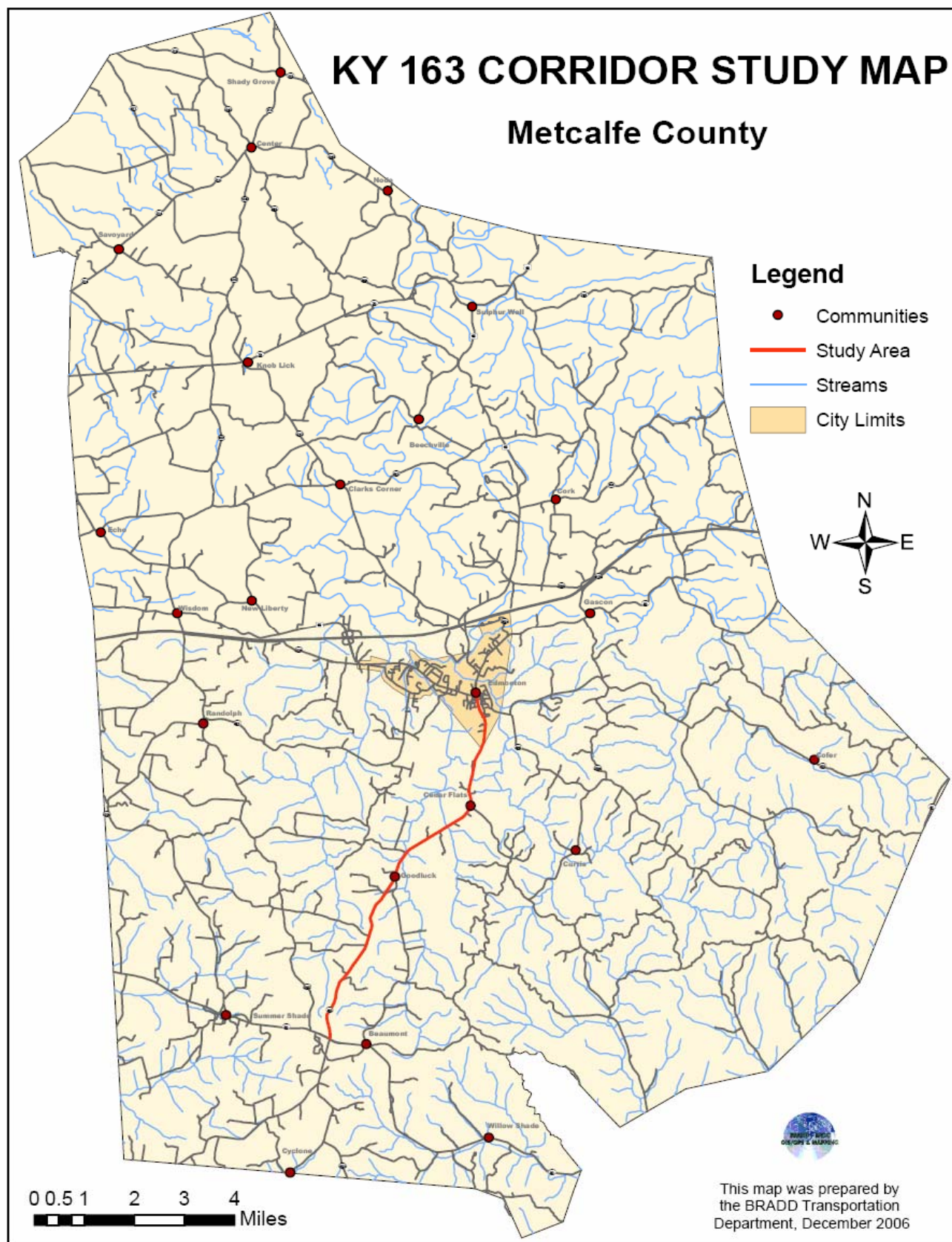
- Possible methods to minimize or avoid impacts on the target population groups.

If percentages of these populations are elevated within the project area, it should be brought to the attention of the Division of Planning immediately so that coordination with affected populations may be conducted to determine the affected population's concerns and comments on the project. Also, with this effort, representatives of minority, elderly, low-income, or disabled populations should be identified so that, together, we can build a partnership for the region that may be incorporated into other projects. Also, we hope to build a Commonwealth-wide database of contacts. We are available to participate in any meetings with these affected populations or with their community leaders or representatives.

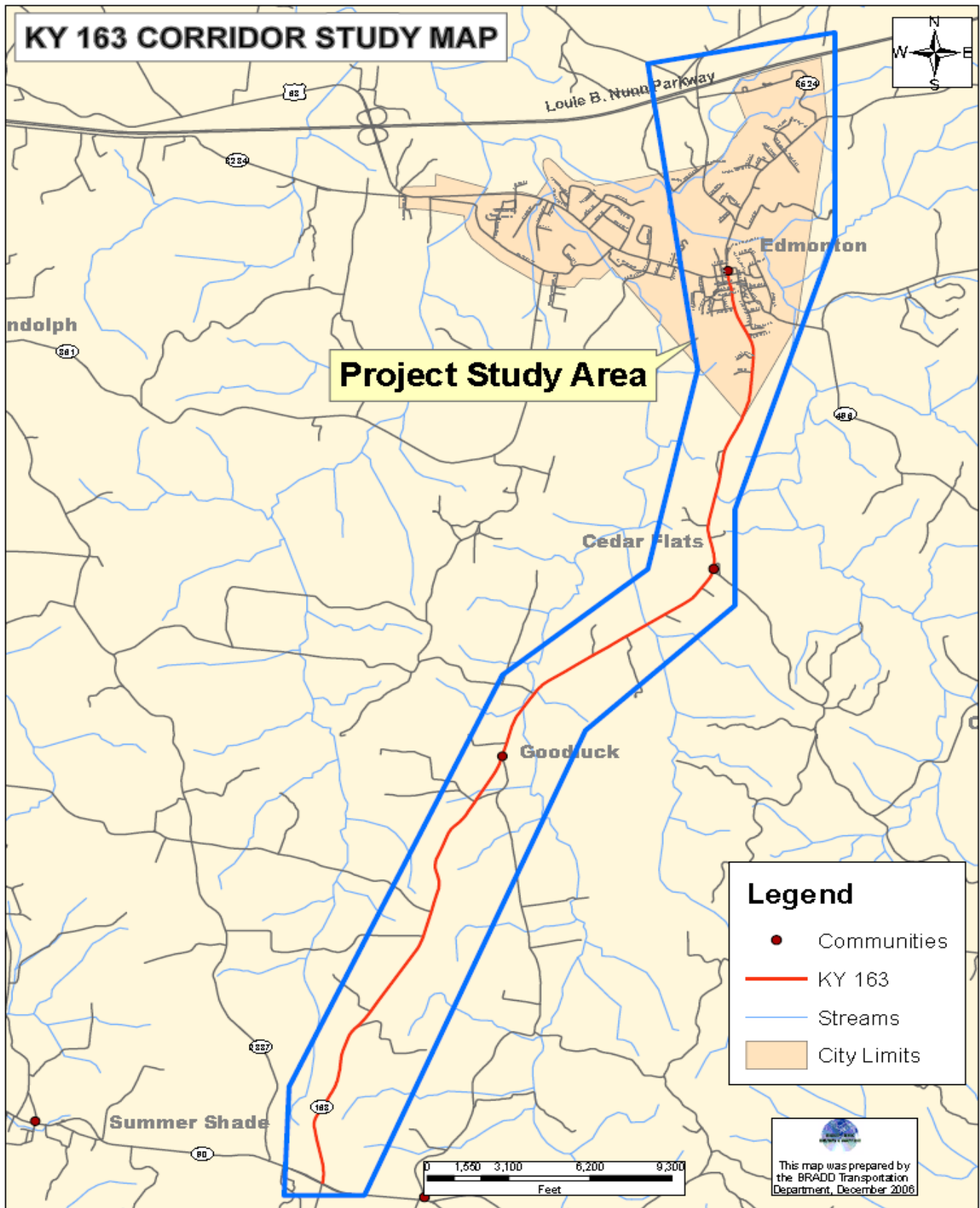
In identifying communities, agencies may consider as a community either a group of individuals living in geographic proximity to one another, or a geographically dispersed/transient set of individuals (such as migrant workers or Native Americans), where either type of group experiences common conditions of environmental exposure or effect. The selection of the appropriate unit of analysis may be a governing body's jurisdiction, a neighborhood, census tract, or other similar unit that is to be chosen so as not to artificially dilute or inflate the affected population. A target population also exists if there is (1) more than one minority or other group present and (2) the percentages, as calculated by aggregating all minority persons, exceed that of the general population or other appropriate unit of geographic analysis.

Maps should be included that show the Census tracts and block groups included in the analysis as well as the relation of the project area to those Census tracts and block groups.

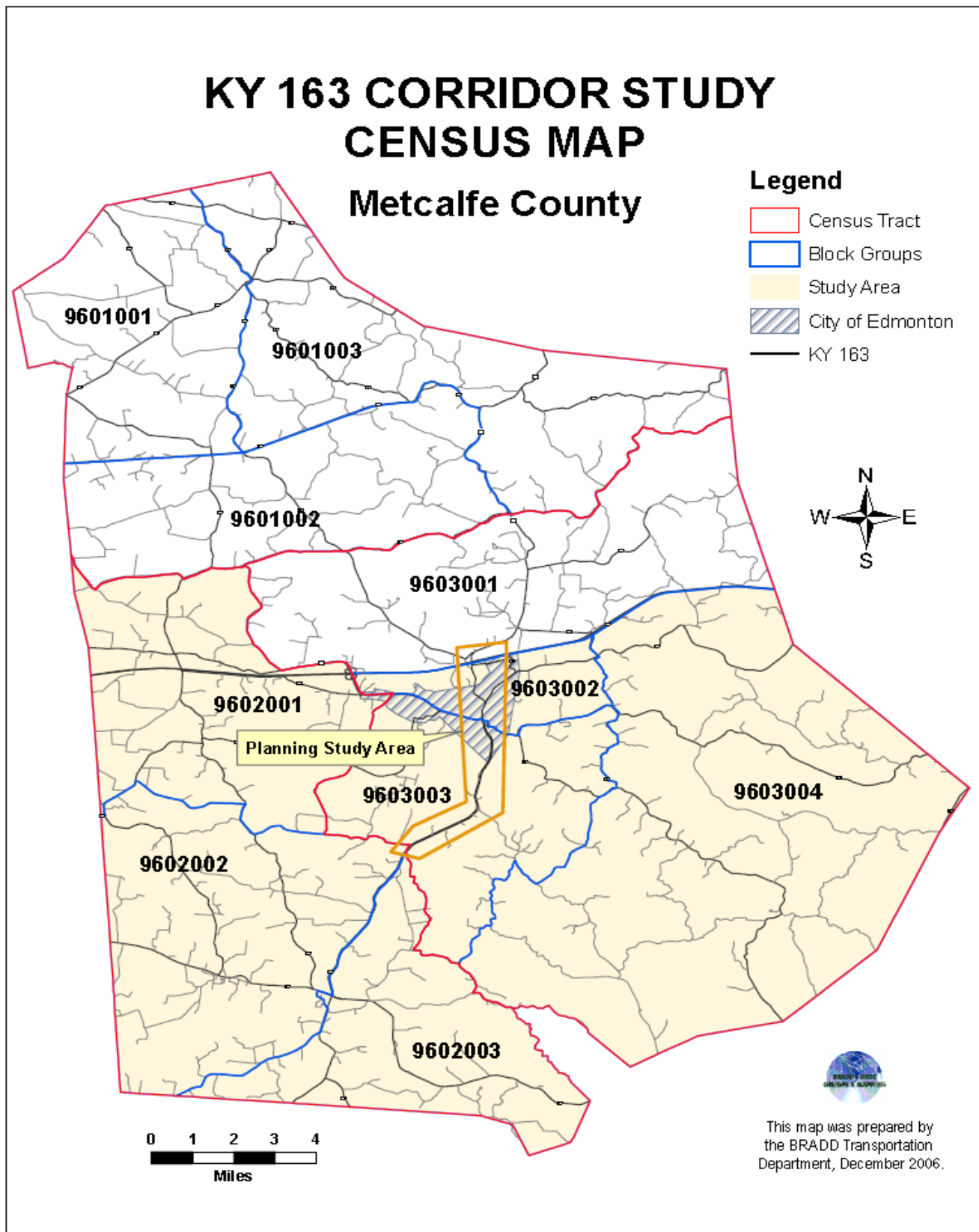
APPENDIX 3



APPENDIX 4



APPENDIX 5



APPENDIX 6: METCALFE COUNTY CENSUS DATA

METCALFE COUNTY											
REGION	TOTAL POPULATION	WHITE ALONE	PERCENT WHITE ALONE	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE	PERCENT BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE	AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE ALONE	PERCENT AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE ALONE	ASIAN ALONE	PERCENT ASIAN ALONE	NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER ALONE	PERCENT NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER ALONE
United States	281,421,906	211,353,725	75.10%	34,361,740	12.21%	2,447,989	0.87%	10,171,820	3.61%	378,782	0.13%
Kentucky	4,041,769	3,639,168	90.04%	293,915	7.27%	9,080	0.22%	28,994	0.72%	1,155	0.03%
Metcalfe Co.	10,037	9,690	96.54%	112	1.12%	54	0.54%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Census Tract 9602	2,970	2,914	98.11%	32	1.08%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Block Group 1	1,097	1,091	99.45%	6	0.55%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Block Group 2	1,147	1,097	95.64%	26	2.27%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Block Group 3	726	726	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Census Tract 9603	4,590	4,408	96.03%	37	0.81%	54	1.18%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Block Group 1	811	770	94.94%	0	0.00%	25	3.08%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Block Group 2	1,182	1,140	96.45%	23	1.95%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Block Group 3	1,491	1,432	96.04%	14	0.94%	2	0.13%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Block Group 4	1,106	1,066	96.38%	0	0.00%	27	2.44%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%

Source: www.census.gov

Summary File 3 (SF3)

Detailed Tables: P.6-Race, P.8-Sex by Age, P.87-Poverty Status in 1999 by Age

Summary File 3 (SF3)

Hispanic or Latino Origin was found on Table: P7. Hispanic or Latino by Race

APPENDIX 6: METCALFE COUNTY CENSUS DATA (Continued)

METCALFE COUNTY										
REGION	SOME OTHER RACE ALONE	PERCENT SOME OTHER RACE ALONE	TWO OR MORE RACES	PERCENT TWO OR MORE RACES	HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN	PERCENT HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN	PERSONS 65 AND OVER	PERCENT PERSONS 65 AND OVER	PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL	PERCENT PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL
United States	15,436,924	5.49%	7,270,926	2.58%	35,238,481	12.52%	34,978,972	12.43%	33,899,812	12.05%
Kentucky	22,116	0.55%	47,341	1.17%	59,939	1.48%	488,248	12.08%	621,096	15.37%
Metcalfe Co.	40	0.40%	141	1.40%	57	0.57%	1,504	14.98%	2,335	23.26%
Census Tract 9602	0	0.00%	24	0.81%	0	0.00%	359	12.09%	569	19.16%
Block Group 1	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	109	9.94%	203	18.51%
Block Group 2	0	0.00%	24	2.09%	0	0.00%	143	12.47%	220	19.18%
Block Group 3	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	107	14.74%	146	20.11%
Census Tract 9603	15	0.33%	76	1.66%	27	0.59%	781	17.02%	1,111	24.20%
Block Group 1	0	0.00%	16	1.97%	0	0.00%	97	11.96%	214	26.39%
Block Group 2	0	0.00%	19	1.61%	7	0.59%	340	28.76%	310	26.23%
Block Group 3	15	1.01%	28	1.88%	20	1.34%	199	13.35%	310	20.79%
Block Group 4	0	0.00%	13	1.18%	0	0.00%	145	13.11%	277	25.05%

Source: www.census.gov

Summary File 3 (SF3)

Detailed Tables: P.6-Race, P.8-Sex by Age, P.87-Poverty Status in 1999 by Age

Summary File 3 (SF3)

Hispanic or Latino Origin was found on Table: P7. Hispanic or Latino by Race