

## IV. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE OVERVIEW

The US 431 project area covers portions of four Kentucky counties and has the potential to impact the diverse populations living there. An Environmental Justice overview was prepared jointly by the Barren River, Green River, and Pennyriple Area Development Districts (ADD) in 2004 to provide information about these populations in order to assist the KYTC in

### Environmental Justice

“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.”

--US EPA

making informed and prudent transportation decisions in the project area. Data on race, poverty levels, age groups, and disability status were compiled from the US Census Bureau, the KYTC Division of Planning, conversations with local officials in the study area, and field reviews. The following sections outline the findings of this investigation. A full text version of the Environmental Justice Report is located in **Appendix D**.

### A. Phase I Environmental Justice

Phase I of the US 431 Programming Study extends from the Tennessee state line at Logan County to the Ford Parkway in Muhlenberg County. The study corridor is defined along the existing US 431 alignment, 2,000 feet on either side.

Logan County contains small concentrations of minority and low-income groups located within Russellville from Rhea Boulevard to Ninth Street. There is also an identified concentration of low-income persons in Lewisburg, just east of US 431. In Adairville, two elderly/low-income housing complexes (the Adairville Arms and Robert L. Staggers Manor) and a mobile home community are located just east of US 431. No clusters of disabled persons were identified although one Tract exhibited a higher population percentage of disabled persons than national, state, or county rates.

Muhlenberg County south of the parkway contains minority population levels below national, state, and county levels. Minority population clusters were identified in small neighborhoods in Drakesboro west of US 431 and in Cleaton just beyond the study corridor to the east. Low income population concentrations are elevated for all Tracts within this county but no specific concentrations were identified; this reflects the high poverty rate of the county overall, which has one of the highest unemployment rates in the state. Likewise, no concentrations of elderly or disabled persons were identified.

## **B. Phase II Environmental Justice**

Phase II of the US 431 Programming Study extends from the Ford Parkway in Muhlenberg County to the US 60 Bypass in Owensboro, Daviess County, approaching the Indiana state line. The study area is again defined as a 4,000 foot wide corridor centered on the existing US 431 alignment.

Muhlenberg County north of the parkway contains the Green River Correctional Complex, contributing to elevated minority population levels. Additionally, a predominantly African American neighborhood was identified in Central City west of the existing US 431 alignment. No low income concentrations were determined, but both a nursing home and an apartment complex in Central City do contain concentrations of elderly persons. Block Group 4 in Tract 9602 (southwestern Central City) exhibits an elevated percentage of disabled persons, but no concentrations were identified; further study is recommended for this particular Block Group.

McLean County contains multiple low-income housing units in Livermore near Prells Lane, Sixth Street, and Ridge Court. The Sixth Street area also hosts concentrations of elderly and disabled persons. Two nursing homes lie within the town of Livermore. There is an increased percentage of disabled persons in both Tracts in McLean County; further study is recommended to identify likely concentrations.

Daviess County contains higher percentages of multiple minority groups – Asian, Hispanic, African American, and ‘Other’ – with a concentration appearing in an apartment complex on the edge of the study corridor. A senior citizen’s personal care home and some low-income housing developments were identified as concentrations of elderly, disabled, and/or low-income populations, but are located far enough from US 431 that it is unlikely they will be impacted. Due to high concentrations of minority, elderly, disabled, and low-income populations, Block Group 4 of Tract 17.01 is recommended for additional study.