

SOCIOECONOMIC STUDY

FOR THE KY 1747 IMPROVEMENT STUDY

JEFFERSON COUNTY, KY

ITEM NO. 5-555

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Prepared by Qk4

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1 Introduction

This document includes a review of the socioeconomic characteristics in the study area (**Figure 1**) for the KY 1747 Hurstbourne Parkway Improvement Study in Jefferson County. Data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2018 American Community Survey (ACS) has been utilized for the analysis of the study area. Please see the Census website¹ for more information, data limitations, and an explanation of the methodology used to obtain the data.

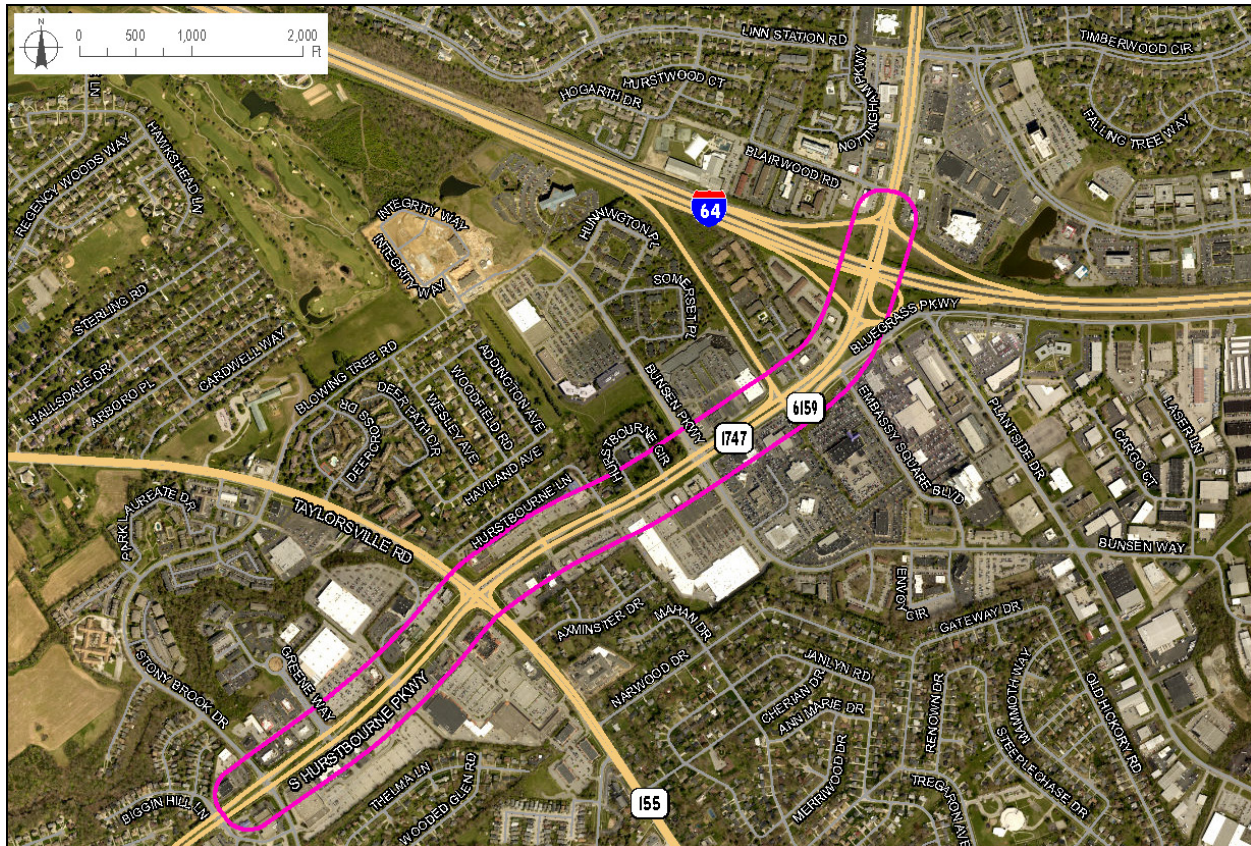


Figure 1: Study Area Boundary

The intent of this review is to assist the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) in making informed and prudent transportation decisions in the study area, especially with regard to the requirements of *Executive Order 12898: Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations* (signed February 11, 1994).

This report uses the 2018 ACS 5-year estimates and data tables to compare the populations of the census divisions within the study area at the county, state, and national levels. Statistics are provided on minority, low-income, elderly, disabled, and limited English proficiency populations for the census tracts within the study area.

¹ <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/>

2 What is Environmental Justice?

The US Environmental Protection Agency (US 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.”

Further, it describes fair treatment: “Fair treatment means that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socio-economic groups 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.”

The National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) suggestions for meaningful public involvement include: 1) encourage public participation in all aspects of environmental decision making, 2) encourage active community participation, 3) institutionalize public participation, 4) recognize community knowledge, and 5) utilize cross-cultural formats and exchanges.

While exact thresholds or benchmarks have not been established and there is no further guidance on what “elevated” percentages of disadvantaged populations mean, for the purpose of this study “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 population.

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.

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.

Elderly and disabled populations (also used in this analysis) are not specifically recognized under the definition of an Environmental Justice community. However, the USDOT specifically encourages the early examination of potential populations of the elderly, children, disabled, and other populations protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related nondiscrimination statutes.

Limited English Proficient (LEP) refers to any person age 5 and older who reported speaking English less than "very well" as classified by the U.S. Census Bureau. The term English proficient refers to people who reported speaking English "very well."

3 Methodology

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

The primary source of data for this report was assembled from the ACS 2018 Five-Year Estimates from the Census Data website.² Specific table references are noted throughout subsequent discussions.

In reviewing each Census block group for target populations, an analysis range was determined based on the reference threshold in each of the five census categories reviewed in this report. For this study, the threshold established was the county percentage for each population.

The methodologies used in this planning document are appropriate for identifying possible areas of concern in small urban areas and potential project corridors. However, during future phases of project development, a more detailed and robust analysis would be required for the NEPA documentation when assessing the potential for adverse and disproportionate impacts to low-income and minority populations.

4 Census Data Analysis

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

Census Tract—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. Tracts generally contain between 1,000 and 8,000 people. Tract 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—A statistical subdivision of a Census Tract. A block group consists of all tabulation blocks whose numbers begin with the same digit in a tract. Block Groups generally contain between 300 and 3,000 people, with an optimum size of 1,500 people.

² <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>

5 Study Findings

This Socioeconomic Study is to be used as a component of the *KY 1747 Hurstbourne Parkway Improvement Study* currently being conducted the KYTC Division of Planning. This report is intended to help define the location of the project and meet the Federal requirements regarding the possible environmental issues as defined in the *National Environment Policy Act* (NEPA).

According to the 2018 ACS, there are three Census tracts and five block groups that encompass the population of the study area (**Figure 2**). It should be noted that the properties within the study area limits, abutting KY 1747 right-of-way, are almost entirely commercial properties.

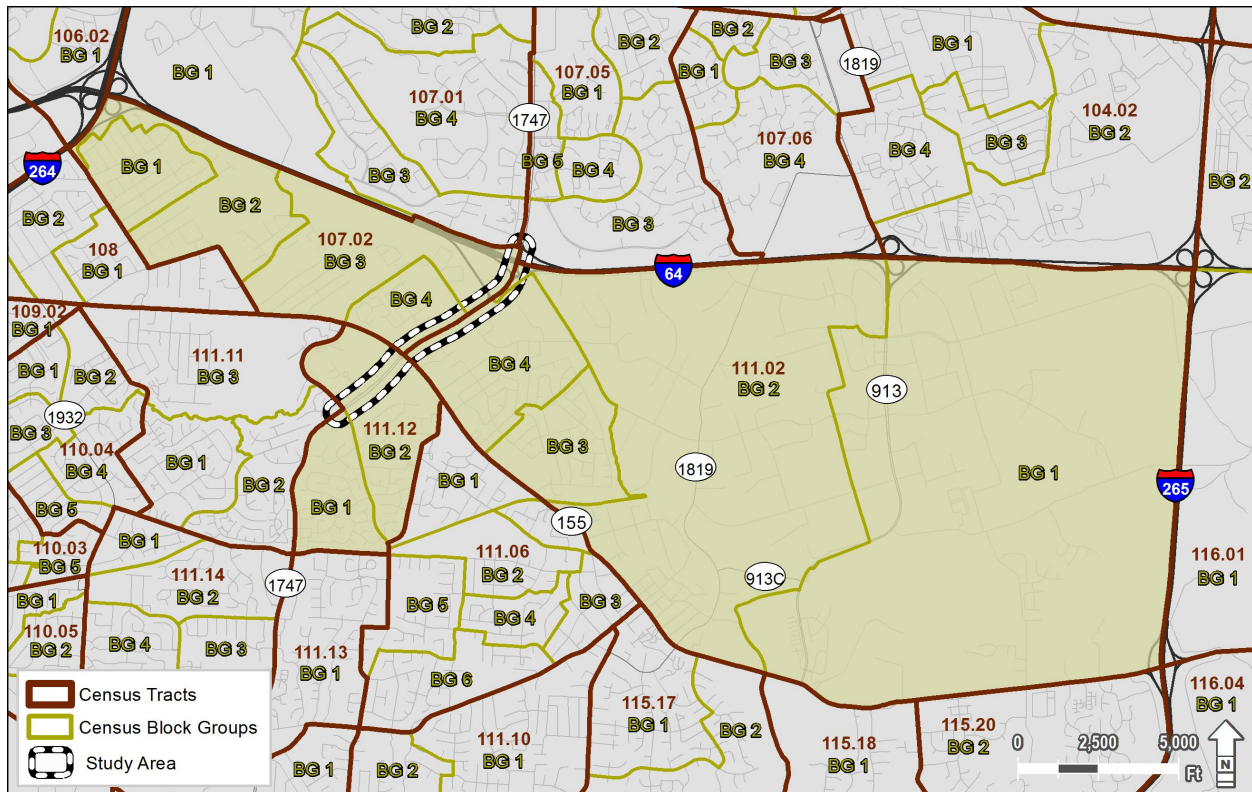


Figure 2: Census Statistical Geographies within and around the Study Area

6 Population of Persons by Minority Origin

Summarized in **Table 1**, Jefferson County has a total minority population of 28.1%, which served as the reference threshold for this category. Four of the five block groups containing the project exceed this reference threshold. Results are mapped in **Figure 3**.

- Tract 107.02 Block Group 3—bounded by I-64, KY 1747, Bunsen Parkway, Blowing Tree Road, KY 155, Lowe Road, Regency Woods Way, Hawkshead Lane, Limehouse Lane, and Oxmoor Avenue—represents over 30% minority, primarily Asian (18%) populations.
- Tract 107.02 Block Group 4—bounded by KY 1747, Bunsen Parkway, Blowing Tree Road, and KY 155—represents over 50% minority, including 38% Asian population.

- Tract 111.02 Block Group 2—bounded by I-64, Plantside Drive, Chenoweth Run Creek, the railroad, KY 155, Chenoweth Run Road, KY 913, Blankenbaker Road, Decimal Drive, Bluegrass Parkway, and KY 913—represents over 38% minority, including 21% African American and 16% other populations.
- Tract 111.12 Block Group 2—bounded by KY 155, Stony Brook Drive, and Six Mile Lane—represents over 37% minority, including 30% African American population.

Table 1: Population by Race

Geography	Total Population	Minority	% Minority
Kentucky	4,468,402	593,379	13.3%
Jefferson County	767,154	215,614	28.1%
Census Tract 107.02	5,492	1,249	22.7%
Census Tract 111.02	6,990	1,226	17.5%
Census Tract 111.12	3,298	882	26.7%
Block Group 3, Tract 107.02	2,165	653	30.2%
Block Group 4, Tract 107.02	1,027	540	52.6%
Block Group 2, Tract 111.02	1,216	470	38.7%
Block Group 4, Tract 111.02	1,368	58	4.2%
Block Group 2, Tract 111.12	1,666	623	37.4%

Source: 2018 ACS 5-year estimates Table B02001

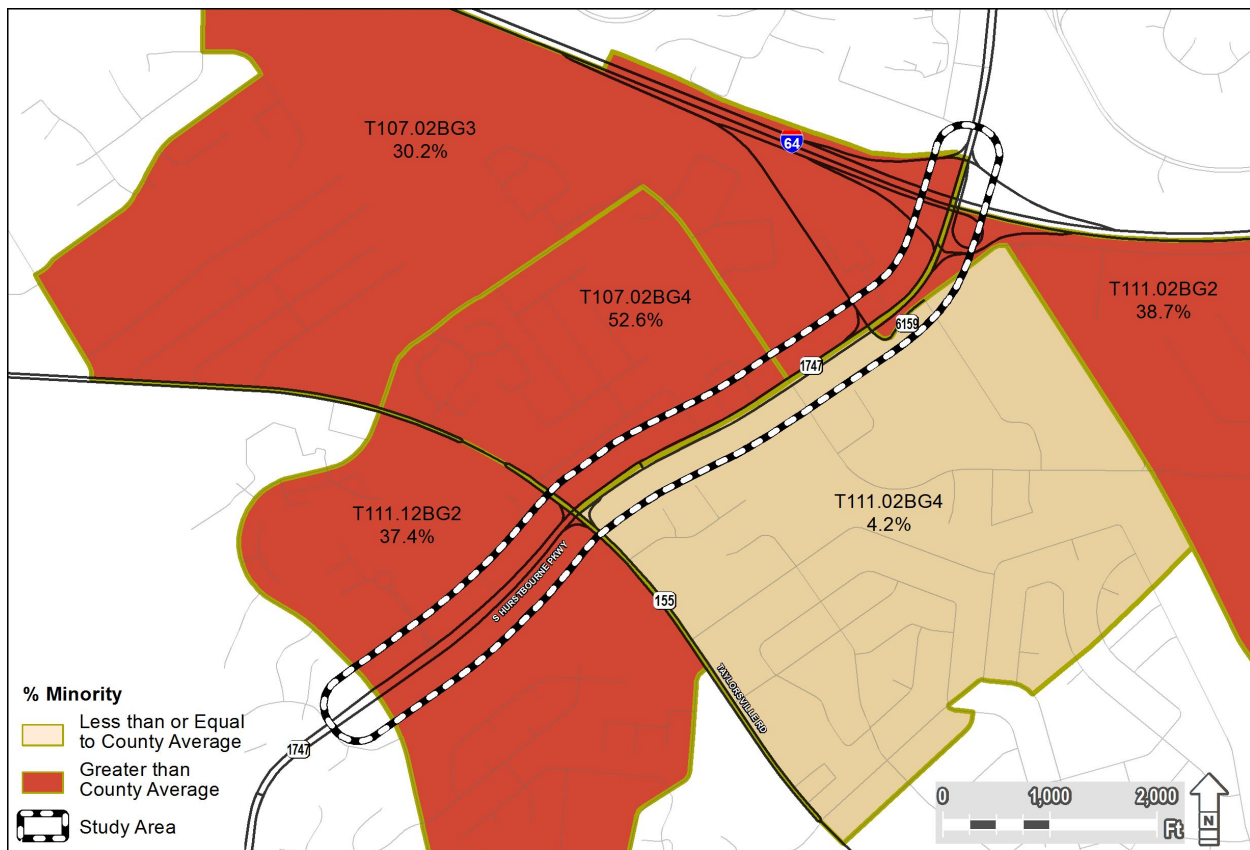


Figure 3: Persons of Minority Origin

7 Population by Poverty Status

In Jefferson County, 14.8% of the population falls below the poverty level, which served as the reference threshold for this category. As shown in **Table 2**, one of the five block groups containing the project exceeds this reference threshold: Tract 111.12 Block Group 2 at 21.8%. Results are mapped in **Figure 4**.

Table 2: Population by Poverty Level

Geography	% Below Poverty Level
Kentucky	16.9%
Jefferson County	14.8%
Census Tract 107.02	6.6%
Census Tract 111.02	3.4%
Census Tract 111.12	13.0%
Block Group 3, Tract 107.02	5.4%
Block Group 4, Tract 107.02	3.6%
Block Group 2, Tract 111.02	0.0%
Block Group 4, Tract 111.02	0.7%
Block Group 2, Tract 111.12	21.8%

Source: 2018 ACS 5-year estimates Table B17021

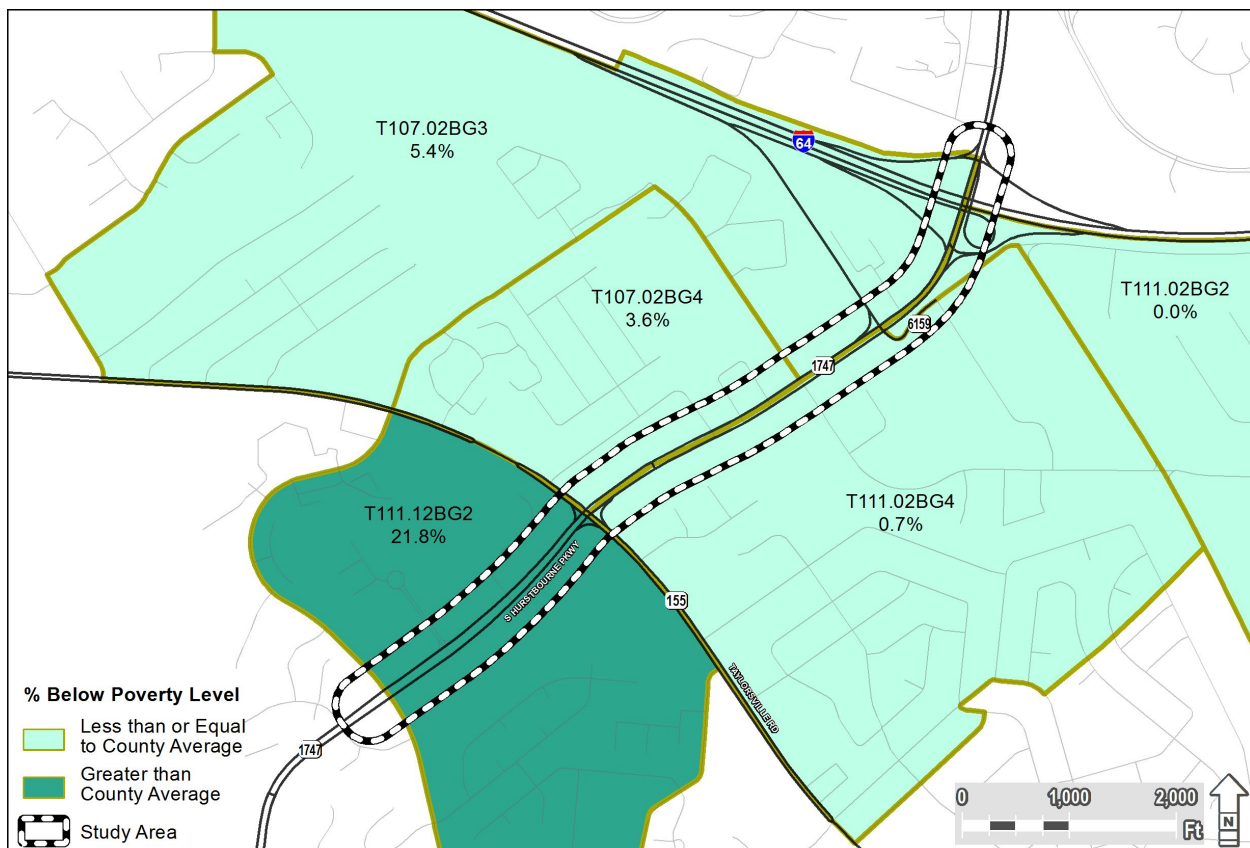


Figure 4: Persons Below Poverty Level

8 Population by Persons Age 65 and Over

Summarized in **Table 3**, an estimated 15.3% of the population is over age 65, which served as the reference threshold for this category. All three tracts and four of the five block groups containing the project exceed this reference threshold. Results are mapped in **Figure 5**.

- Tract 107.02 Block Group 4 represents over 17% low-income population.
- Tract 111.02 Block Group 2 represents over 20% low-income population.
- Tract 111.02 Block Group 4—bounded by KY 1747, KY 155, Harmony Road extended, and Plantside Drive—represents over 22% low-income population.
- Tract 111.12 Block Group 2 represents 16.6% low-income population.

Table 3: Population by Age

Geography	Population	Age <18	Ages 18-64	Age >65
Kentucky	4,468,402	22.6%	61.1%	16.4%
Jefferson County	767,154	22.4%	62.2%	15.3%
Census Tract 107.02	5,492	17.4%	64.4%	18.2%
Census Tract 111.02	6,990	21.9%	57.4%	20.7%
Census Tract 111.12	3,298	19.7%	64.9%	15.4%
Block Group 3, Tract 107.02	2,165	17.4%	73.0%	9.6%
Block Group 4, Tract 107.02	1,027	13.0%	69.8%	17.2%
Block Group 2, Tract 111.02	1,216	23.3%	56.0%	20.7%
Block Group 4, Tract 111.02	1,368	24.8%	52.8%	22.4%
Block Group 2, Tract 111.12	1,666	17.9%	65.5%	16.6%

Source: 2018 ACS 5-year estimates Table B01001

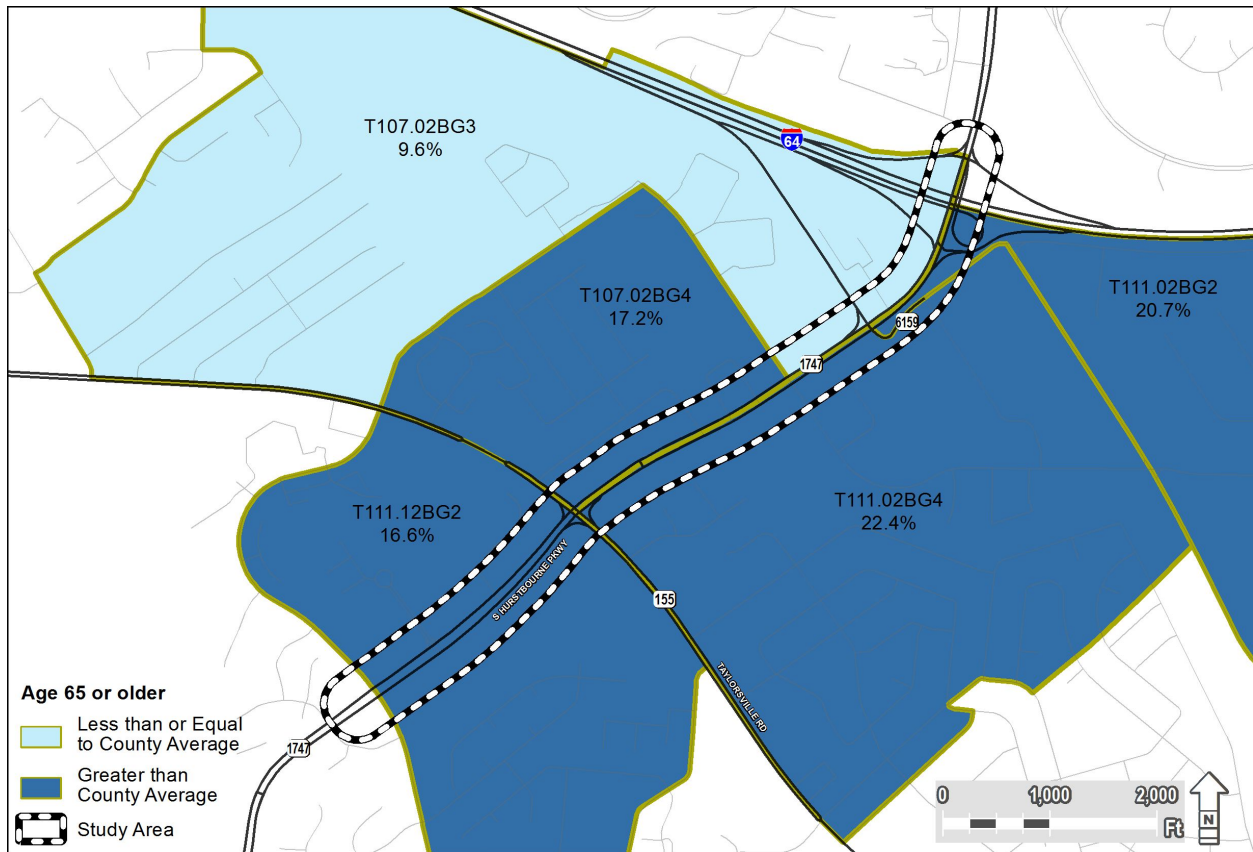


Figure 5: Elderly Populations

9 Population by Disability Status

In Jefferson County, 12.4% of the population has a disability, which served as the reference threshold for this category. It should be noted that block group level statistics were not available through the Census website at the time of this analysis. As shown in **Table 4**, none of the three tracts containing the project exceeds this reference threshold; results are mapped in **Figure 6**.

Table 4: Population by Disability

Geography	% Disability
Kentucky	15.6%
Jefferson County	12.4%
Census Tract 107.02	4.5%
Census Tract 111.02	8.8%
Census Tract 111.12	8.5%

Source: 2018 ACS 5-year estimates Table C18120

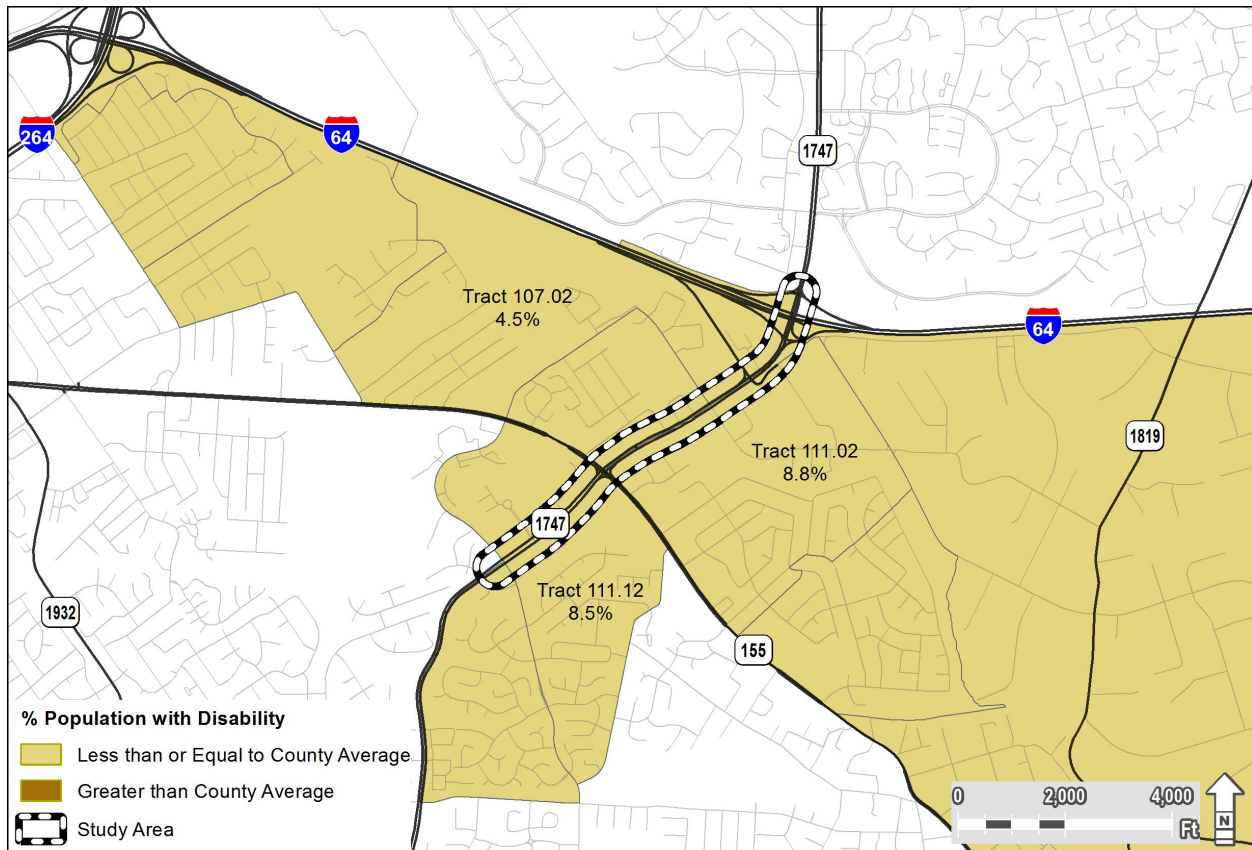


Figure 6: Persons by Disability

10 Population by Language

The total limited English-speaking population in Jefferson County is 2.6%, which served as the reference threshold for this category. As shown in **Table 5**, two of the five block groups containing the study area exceed this threshold.

- In Tract 107.02 Block Group 3, 4.5% of the population is limited English-speaking. This represents an estimated 32 persons speaking Indo-European languages (excluding Spanish) and 13 persons speaking Asian-Pacific Islands languages.
- In Tract 111.02 Block Group 2, 7.7% of the population is limited English-speaking. This represents 40 persons speaking Spanish.

Results are mapped in **Figure 7**.

Table 5: Population by Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

Geography	LEP Persons	LEP %
Kentucky	23,680	1.4%
Jefferson County	8,095	2.6%
Census Tract 107.02	57	2.3%
Census Tract 111.02	40	1.5%
Census Tract 111.12	8	0.6%
Block Group 3, Tract 107.02	45	4.5%
Block Group 4, Tract 107.02	12	2.3%
Block Group 2, Tract 111.02	40	7.7%
Block Group 4, Tract 111.02	0	0.0%
Block Group 2, Tract 111.12	0	0.0%

Source: 2018 ACS 5-year estimates Table 16002

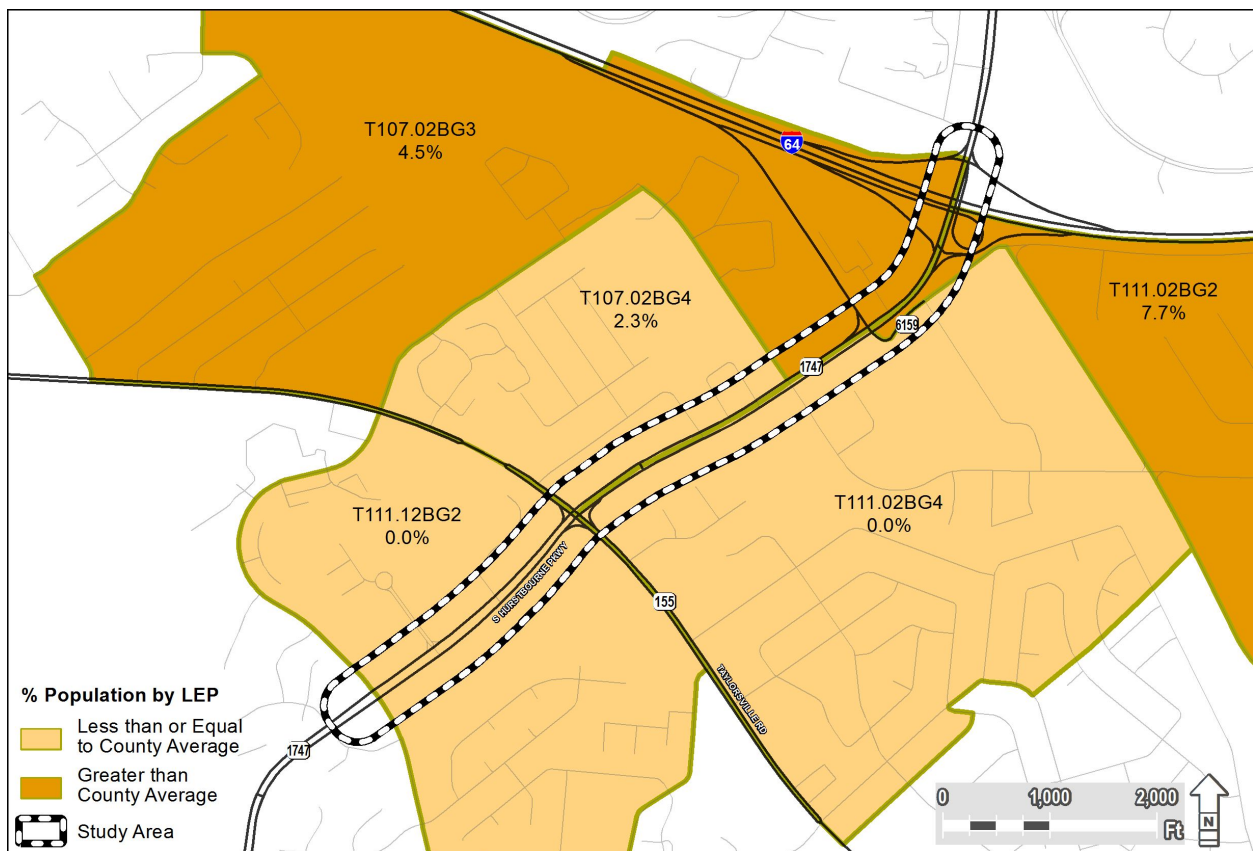


Figure 7: Limited English-speaking Persons

11 Conclusion

Each of the five categories examined had at least one statistical geographic area exceeding the county threshold. However, it should be noted that the properties within the study area limits are almost entirely commercial properties.

- Tract 107.02 Block Group 3—bounded by I-64, KY 1747, Bunsen Parkway, Blowing Tree Road, KY 155, Lowe Road, Regency Woods Way, Hawkshead Lane, Limehouse Lane, and Oxmoor Avenue—includes minority and LEP population concentrations above countywide reference thresholds.
- Tract 107.02 Block Group 4—bounded by KY 1747, Bunsen Parkway, Blowing Tree Road, and KY 155—includes minority and elderly population concentrations above countywide reference thresholds.
- Tract 111.02 Block Group 2—bounded by I-64, Plantside Drive, Chenoweth Run Creek, the railroad, KY 155, Chenoweth Run Road, KY 913, Blankenbaker Road, Decimal Drive, Bluegrass Parkway, and KY 913—includes minority, elderly, and LEP population concentrations above countywide reference thresholds.
- Tract 111.02 Block Group 4—bounded by KY 1747, KY 155, Harmony Road extended, and Plantside Drive—includes elderly population concentrations above countywide reference thresholds.
- Tract 111.12 Block Group 2—bounded by KY 155, Stony Brook Drive, and Six Mile Lane—includes minority, low-income, and elderly population concentrations above countywide reference thresholds.

It should be noted that disability statistics were not available at the block group level; however, no tracts exceeded the countywide reference threshold.