

**KY 163 ALTERNATIVES STUDY
MONROE COUNTY**

Environmental Justice Report

April 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 Monroe 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 Monroe 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 Monroe 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, Monroe 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 Monroe County from south of Tompkinsville to the Tennessee state line. 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 9903

Census Tract 9904

Census Tract 9903 encompasses the southwestern portion of Tompkinsville and extends to the southern portion of Monroe County to the Tennessee line. Census Tract 9904 encompasses the northeastern portion of Tompkinsville and covers the remainder of Monroe County to the Cumberland County line. See Appendix 5.

6.0 STUDY FINDINGS / POPULATION BY RACE

6.1 Monroe County

The defined study area in Monroe County encompasses portions of the following Census Tracts: 9903 and 9904. 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.

Within Monroe County the predominate minority population is black or African American. Census Tract 9903 has the highest percentage of black population with 7.30%, which is comparable to the state average of 7.27%, but is considerably less than the national of 12.21%. Block Groups 1 and 2 in Tract 9903 contain a percentage of black population of 13.61% and 12.00% respectively. This is considerably higher than the state average. Block Group 1 of Census Tract 9904 has a small concentration of black or African American population of 7.14%, which is higher than the county average, but slightly lower than the state average. While this percentage

is not as alarming as that of Block Groups 1 and 2 of Census Tract 9903, it should however be noted that a small concentration does exist.

While the predominate minority population in Monroe County is African American, there are other minority groups that raise concern. Block Group 4 of Census Tract 9904 has a percent of Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander alone of 1.01%, which is well above the county, state and, national average of 0.15%, 0.03%, and 0.13% respectively.

Census Tract 9904 has a percent of Hispanic or Latino origin of 2.48%, which is slightly higher than the county and state average of 1.75% and 1.48%, but well below the national average of 12.52%. Within Census Tract 9904 Block Group 4 has a 3.04% persons Hispanic or Latino origin. It should be noted that a concentration of Hispanic population exists within Block Group 4. This concentration is located along the southern portion of the KY 163 Corridor and is found near the two lumberyards situated along KY 163 and the areas to the east of KY 163. .

Meetings with local officials and community members resulted in the conclusion that small concentrations of the three minorities identified are located in the study area; therefore, it is anticipated that the implementation of this project may 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 Monroe County

The defined study area within Monroe County encompasses portions of the following Census Tracts: 9903 and 9904. Census Tract 9903 has a percentage of persons below poverty level of 24.48%, which is significantly higher than the state average of 15.37% and well above the national average of 12.05%, but slightly only higher than the county average of 23.02%. Census Tract 9904 has a percentage of 23.89%, like Census Tract 9903 is significantly higher than the state average of 15.37% and well above the national average of 12.05%; however this figure closely resembles the county average of 23.02%.

When the two Census Tracts are broken down into Block Groups, a more complex picture emerges. Block Group 1 of Census Tract 9903 has a percentage of persons below the poverty level of 33.85%. This is significantly high. Block Groups 1, 3, and 4 of Census Tract 9904 are higher than the national, state, and county average. Block Group 1 has a percentage of persons below the poverty level of 36.39%, the highest percentage of the population below the poverty level in Monroe County. Block Group 3 has a percentage of 31.48% persons below the poverty level. Block Group 1 and 3 are well above the national and state average of 12.05% and 15.37%. Block Group 4 has a percentage of persons below the poverty level of 23.35%, which is higher than the national and state averages, but is only slightly higher than the county average of 23.02%. Block Groups 2 and 3 of Census Tract 9903 and Block Group 2 of Census Tract 9904 have percent persons below the poverty level that is significantly lower than the county average and are comparable to national and state averages.

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. A small cluster of mobile homes are located on the KY 163 Corridor positioned around the two logging companies that are located along KY 163. Discussions with local officials and community members resulted in the conclusion that concentrations of persons below the poverty level are located in the study area; therefore, it is anticipated that the implementation of this project may 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 Monroe County

The defined study area within Metcalfe County encompasses Census Tracts 9903 and 9904. Census Tract 9903 percentages for the aging population are consistent with those of the county, state, and nation. %. Based on the census data and other discussions, there seem to be no significant concentration of a specific age group in this Census Tract.

Census Tracts 9904 has a higher percentage of persons 65 and over at 20.34%, which exceeds the county percentage of 15.23%, the state percentage of 12.08%, and the national percentage of 12.43%. Block Groups 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Census Tract 9904 in the study area all have percent persons 65 and over well above the county, state, and national. It should be noted that concentrations of elderly are present.

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 the following population concentrations were identified for concern the study area in Monroe 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 and are noted as follows: Census Tract 9903, Block Groups 1 and 3 and Census Tract 9904, Block Groups 1 and 4. 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). Although the minority concentrations identified above in this report have a higher percentage of

population above the county, state and national average of minorities, there appears to be only small concentrations within the study area.

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 Monroe County. Age analysis indicates that the distribution of elderly residents in Census Tract 9903 closely resembles the national and state average. Census Tract 9904 has a higher concentration of elderly, but the concentrations identified in Monroe 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

Wilbur Graves
Monroe County Judge Exec.
200 N. Main Street, Suite C
Tompkinsville, KY 42167

Mayor Eldon Veach
City of Fountain Run
202 Main Street
Fountain Run, KY 42133

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

Mayor Bev McClendon
City of Tompkinsville
206 N. Magnolia Street
Tompkinsville, KY 42167

Sheriff Jerry Gee
200 N. Main Street, Suite C
Tompkinsville, KY 42167

Mayor Roger Gerald
City of Gamaliel
P.O. Box 126
Gamaliel, KY 42140

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

Debbie McCarty
BRADD Director of Aging Services
P.O. Box 90005
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.

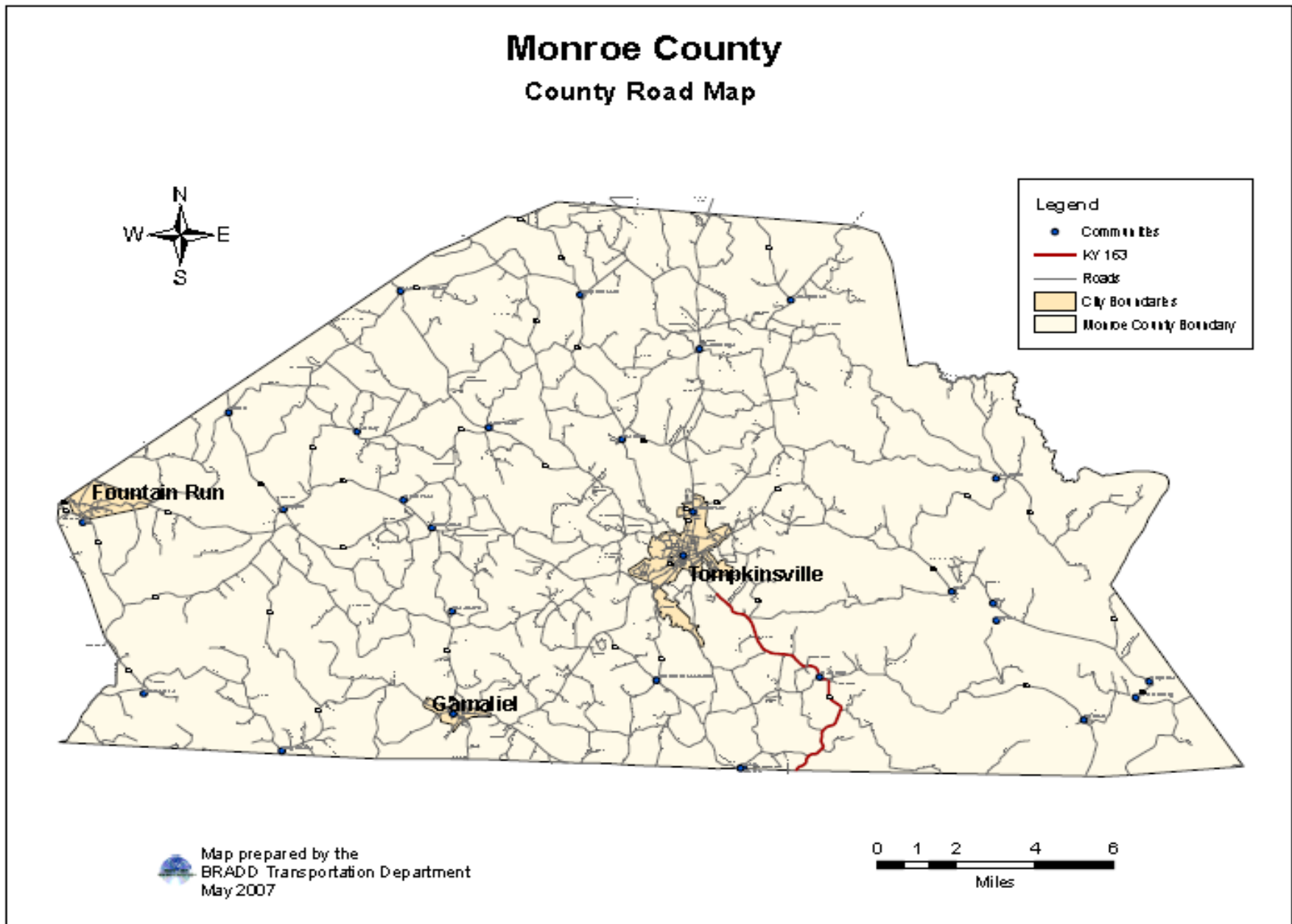
- Possible methods to minimize or avoid impacts on the target population groups.

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.

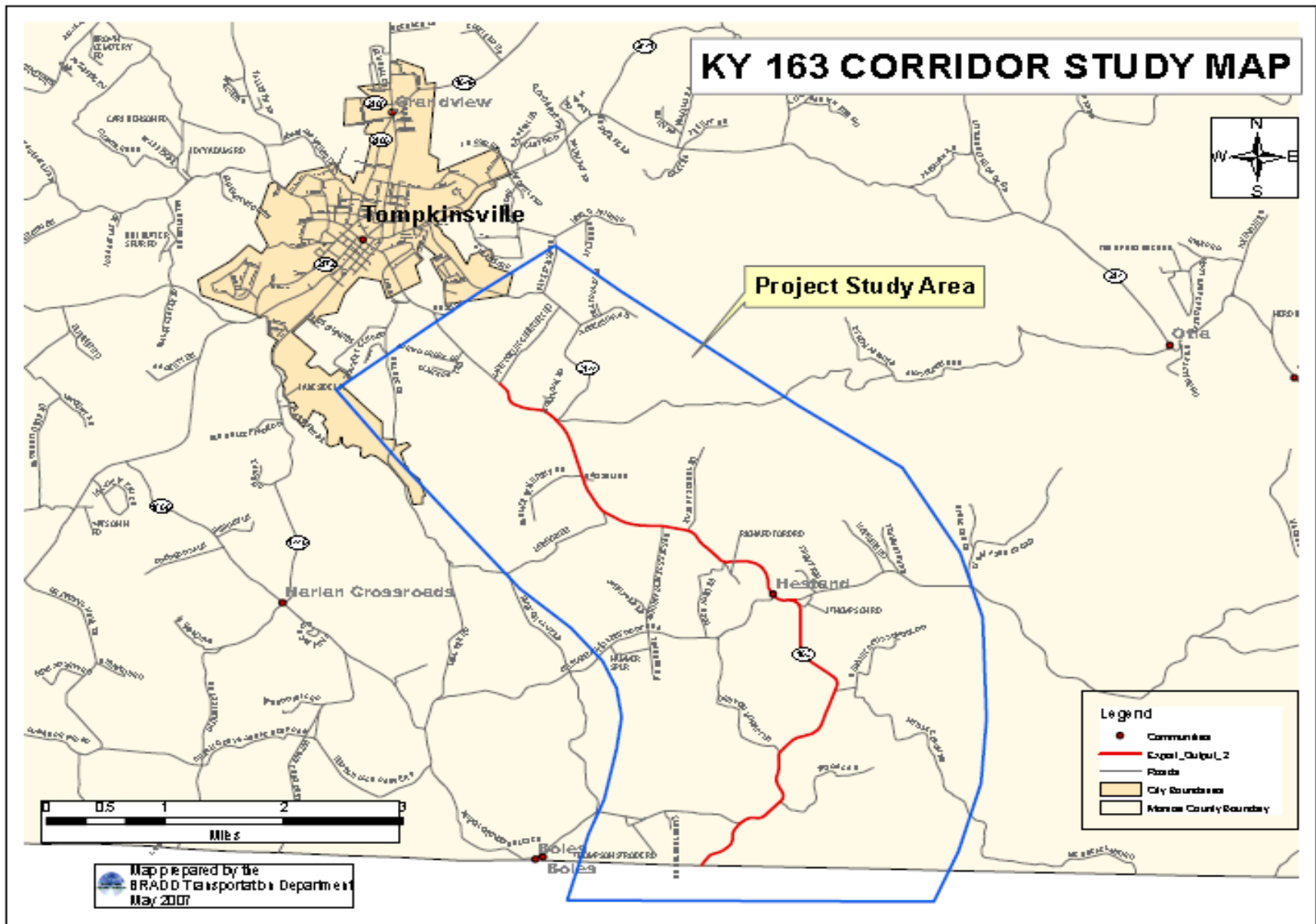
In identifying communities, agencies may consider as a community either a group of individuals living in geographic proximity to one another, or a geographically dispersed/transient set of individuals (such as migrant workers or Native Americans), where either type of group experiences common conditions 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.

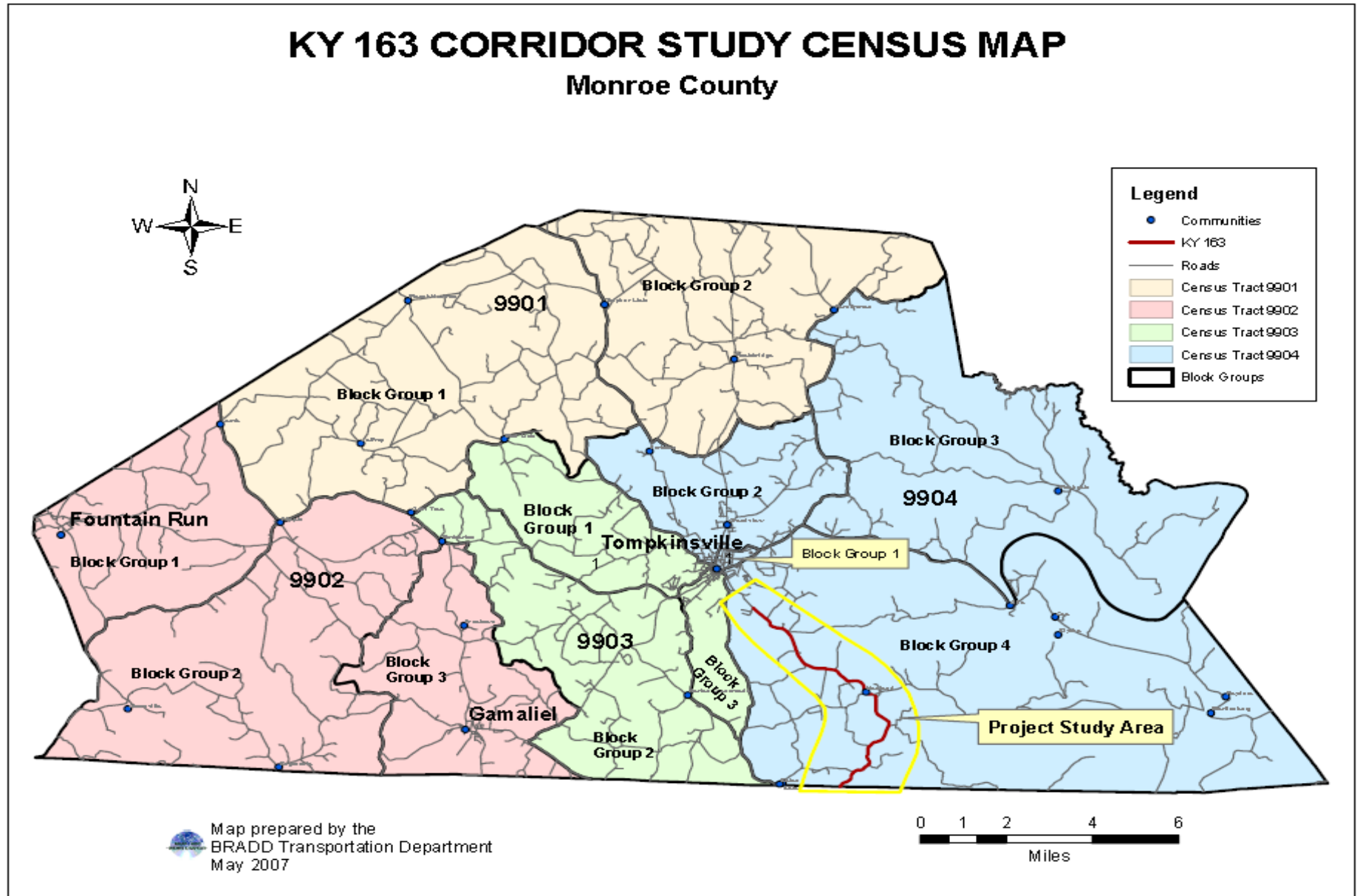
APPENDIX 3



APPENDIX 4



APPENDIX 5



APPENDIX 6: MONROE COUNTY CENSUS DATA

MONROE 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%
Monroe Co.	11,756	11,193	95.21%	333	2.83%	8	0.07%	12	0.10%	18	0.15%
Census Tract 9901	1,982	1,959	98.84%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	12	0.60%	0	0.00%
Block Group 1	1,006	995	98.90%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Block Group 2	976	964	98.77%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	12	1.23%	0	0.00%
Census Tract 9902	2,306	2,170	94.10%	33	1.43%	8	0.35%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Block Group 1	649	605	93.22%	16	2.47%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Block Group 2	673	589	87.51%	13	1.93%	8	1.19%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Block Group 3	984	976	99.19%	4	0.40%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Census Tract 9903	2,998	2,761	92.09%	219	7.30%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Block Group 1	1,102	952	86.39%	150	13.61%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Block Group 2	1371	1347	98.25%	6	0.44%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Block Group 3	525	462	88.00%	63	12.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Census Tract 9904	4,470	4,303	96.26%	81	1.81%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	18	1.01%
Block Group 1	588	546	92.86%	42	7.14%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Block Group 2	1,438	1,418	98.61%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Block Group 3	667	667	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Block Group 4	1,777	1,672	94.09%	39	2.19%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	18	1.01%

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: MONROE COUNTY CENSUS DATA (Continued)

MONROE 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%
Monroe Co.	145	1.23%	47	0.40%	206	1.75%	1791	15.23%	2707	23.02%
Census Tract 9901	11	0.55%	0	0.00%	16	0.80%	197	9.93%	424	21.39%
Block Group 1	11	1.09%	0	0.00%	16	1.59%	120	11.93%	293	29.12%
Block Group 2	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	77	7.89%	131	13.42%
Census Tract 9902	60	2.60%	35	1.61%	79	3.43%	323	14.00%	481	20.86%
Block Group 1	20	3.08%	8	1.23%	20	3.08%	111	17.10%	86	13.25%
Block Group 2	40	5.94%	23	3.42%	59	8.77%	62	9.21%	233	34.62%
Block Group 3	0	0.00%	4	0.40%	0	0.00%	150	15.24%	162	16.46%
Census Tract 9903	12	0.40%	6	0.20%	0	0.00%	361	12.04%	734	24.48%
Block Group 1	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	143	12.98%	373	33.85%
Block Group 2	12	0.88%	6	0.44%	0	0.00%	145	10.58%	287	20.90%
Block Group 3	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	73	13.90%	74	14.10%
Census Tract 9904	16	0.36%	6	0.13%	111	2.48%	909	20.34%	1,068	23.89%
Block Group 1	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	133	22.62%	214	36.39%
Block Group 2	20	1.39%	0	0.00%	57	3.96%	311	21.63%	229	15.92%
Block Group 3	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	109	16.34%	210	31.48%
Block Group 4	42	2.36%	6	0.34%	54	3.04%	356	20.03%	415	23.35%

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