

Kentucky River Area Development District



Mountain Parkway Extension/ KY 114 Programming Study Segment 1B Wolfe County

Environmental Justice and Community Impacts Report

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Division of Planning Kentucky Transportation Cabinet



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document is an assessment of the socioeconomic characteristics for study area for Segment 1B of the Mountain Parkway Extension/ KY 114 Programming Study in Wolfe County (Appendix 3). The data used in this report has been compiled from various sources including the U.S. Census Bureau *Census 2000*, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Division of Planning, Kentucky State Data Center, local officials meeting, 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 federal environmental justice 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 Mountain Parkway Extension/ KY 114 Programming Study in Wolfe 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 on the Bert T. Combs Mountain Parkway between Milepost 46 near Campton and Milepost 57 near KY 205 interchange in Wolfe County. Statistics are provided and compared 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.

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...”

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.
- **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, discussions with local officials, and field observations of the project area. Statistics were compiled to present a detailed analysis of the community conditions for the Mountain Parkway Extension/ KY 114 Programming 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, disabilities, and elderly population levels for the census tract block group, Wolfe County, the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the United States.

5.0 STUDY FINDINGS

This Environmental Justice and Community Impacts Report is to be used as a component of a Planning Study for the proposed highway transportation improvements to the Bert T. Combs Mountain Parkway in Wolfe County between Milepost 46 near Campton and Milepost 57 near the KY 205 Interchange. 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 all three Census Tracts in Wolfe County are in this study area. The tracts are listed below and are illustrated in Appendix 4:

Wolfe County: Census Tract 9901
 Census Tract 9902
 Census Tract 9903

Menifee, Morgan, and Magoffin Counties border Census Tract 9901 which is covers the eastern portion of Wolfe County. Census Tract 9902 encompasses the western portion of Wolfe County and borders the Menifee, Powell, Lee, and Breathitt County lines. Census Tract 9903 covers the southern part of Wolfe County and borders Breathitt County.

6.0 STUDY FINDINGS / POPULATION BY RACE

The defined study area in Wolfe County encompasses portions of Census Tract 9901, 9902, and 9903. Following the review of key information, KRADD Staff met with local officials and community members to review maps and Census data related to the study area. Staff also drove the corridor for potential environmental justice concerns. The intent of these discussions was to confirm previous conclusions and solicit input into the process of developing this Environmental Justice Report.

Census Tracts 9901, 9902, and 9903 contains a minority population similar to the county average, and is considerably less than the state and national average. The Block Groups for each Tract warrant further discussion. Four of the seven Block Groups in the Census Tracts cover the study area (See Appendix 5). Approximately 50% of the study area is located in Census Tract 9901 with 45% in Tract 9903, and 5% Tract 9902.

Within Wolfe County, the dominate minority population is Asian, which comprises 0.4% of the county population (See Appendix 6). Census Tract 9902 has a percentage of Asian population of 0.71%, which is somewhat higher than the county average. The Census Tract percentage is comparable to that of the state average of 0.72%. Block Group 4 contains the Asian population for the Census Tract of 0.41%. Census Tracts 9901 and 9903 represent a zero percentage of Asians. Since approximately 5% of the project area lies within Census Tract 9902, it does not appear likely that the project will have a major impact on the Asian population that exists.

Hispanics or Latinos are also represented as a minority in Wolfe County as well as Black or African Americans (See Appendix 6). A percentage of Hispanics or Latinos is only present in Block Group 1 of Census Tract 9903; 1.88%. The percentage of Black or African Americans is represented as 0.98% in Block Group 2 of Census Tract 9901. Although the project area lies mostly in Tracts 9901 and 9903, no major impact is expected on the Hispanic or Latino or Black or African American population.

Discussions with local officials and community members resulted in the conclusion that a small concentration of minorities are located in the study area; however, the concentration is small and it is not anticipated that the implementation of this project may have a disproportionate effect on minorities residing in the proposed study area.

7.0 STUDY FINDINGS / POPULATION BY AGE GROUP

Census Tract 9902 percentage for the aging population is consistent with those of the county, state and nation. Census Tract 9901 and 9901 Block Group 2 percentages are slightly higher at 14.41% and 15.38% respectively. Census Tract 9903 percentages is slightly lesser at 9.81%. Based on the census data and other discussions, there seem to be no significant concentration of a specific age group in this Census Tracts.

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.

8.0 STUDY FINDINGS/ POPULATION BY DISABILITIES

The percentage for persons with disabilities over the age of 5 is 31.68% for the United States and 41.73% for Kentucky. Wolfe County's rate of 68.29% is higher than that of the state and nation. The Census Tracts in the study area also have a rate in close relation to the county. The percentage for persons with disabilities over the age of 5 is 89.88%, 58.84%, and 70.74% for Tract 9901, 9902, and 9903 respectively.

It should also be noted that these percentages are certainly comparable to many surrounding counties in this section of eastern Kentucky. Discussions with local officials and community members resulted in the conclusion that concentrations of persons with disabilities are located in the study area; however, it is not anticipated that the completion of this project may have an erratic effect on the population of persons with disabilities residing in the proposed study area. Nonetheless, future project development efforts should be sensitive to this issue.

9.0 STUDY FINDINGS / POPULATION BY POVERTY LEVEL

The percentage of persons below the poverty level for Census Tracts 9902 and 9903 are 38.41% and 40.50% respectively, which is only slightly higher than the county percentage of 35.22%. Tract 9902 Block Groups 1 and 4 and Tract 9903 Block Group 1 have a percentage of persons below the poverty level of 35.26%, 33.64%, and 40.50% respectively. Block Group 2 in Census Tract 9901 is only somewhat lower than the county percentage at 33.22%. The data is considerably higher than the national percentage of 12.05% and the state percentage of 15.37%. Census Tract 9903 has the highest percentage of persons below poverty in Wolfe County. It should be noted that a high concentration of persons below the poverty level exist in all Block Groups identified.

It should also be noted that these percentages are indeed comparable to many surrounding counties in this particular section of eastern Kentucky. 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; however, it is not anticipated that the implementation of this project may have an irregular effect on the population of persons below poverty level residing in the proposed study area. Nonetheless, future project development efforts should be sensitive to this issue.

10.0 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, Kentucky River Area

Development District staff has concluded that the following population concentrations were identified for concern the study area in Wolfe County.

Analysis of the minority population data showed three of the four block groups as having an identified concentration of some sort. This concentration identified was noted in the narrative analysis of the county. There is only a small concentration within the study area; no adverse affects are expected.

There appear to be a small concentration of populations by age in Wolfe County. Age analysis indicates that the distribution of elderly residents in Census Tract 9901, 9902, and 9903 is consistent with that of the county, state, and nation. The concentrations identified in Wolfe County should not be affected by improvements to this route.

There is a high concentration of persons below poverty level and those with disabilities reported in the study area. The percentage is considerably higher than the state and national average; this should be noted. Discussions with local officials and a field review came to the conclusion that no concentration of individuals below the poverty level or persons with disabilities will be disproportionately affected by this project.

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

KRADD 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

PROGRAMMING STUDY CONTACT LIST

Judge Executive Raymond Hurst
Wolfe County Fiscal Court
PO Box 429
Campton, KY 41301

Deweese Wilson
Wolfe County Magistrate District #1
3160 Upper Gilmore Road
Campton, KY 41301

Marvin J. Carson
Wolfe County Magistrate District #2
3025 Baptist Road
Campton, KY 41301

Garrett Denniston
Wolfe County Magistrate District #3
135 Black Street
Campton, KY 41301

Mayor Gay Campbell
City of Campton
PO Box 35
Campton, KY 41301

APPENDIX 2

Methodology for Assessing Potential Environmental Justice Concerns for KYTC Planning Studies

Updated: February 1, 2002

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.

Methodology for Assessing Potential Environmental Justice Concerns for KYTC Planning Studies

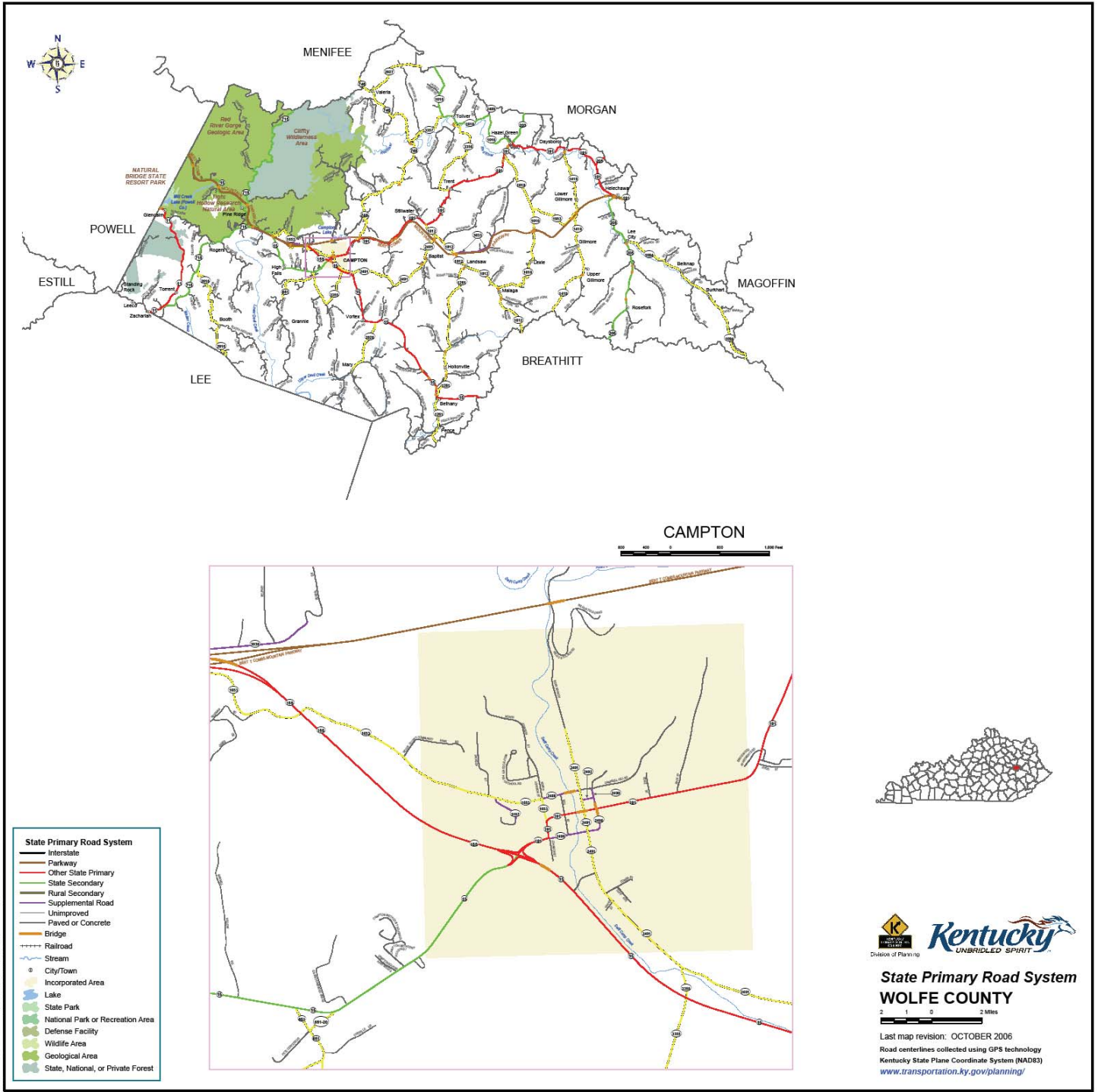
If percentages of these populations are elevated within the project area, it should be brought to the attention of the Division of Planning immediately so that coordination with affected populations may be conducted to determine the affected population's concerns and comments on the project. Also, with 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.

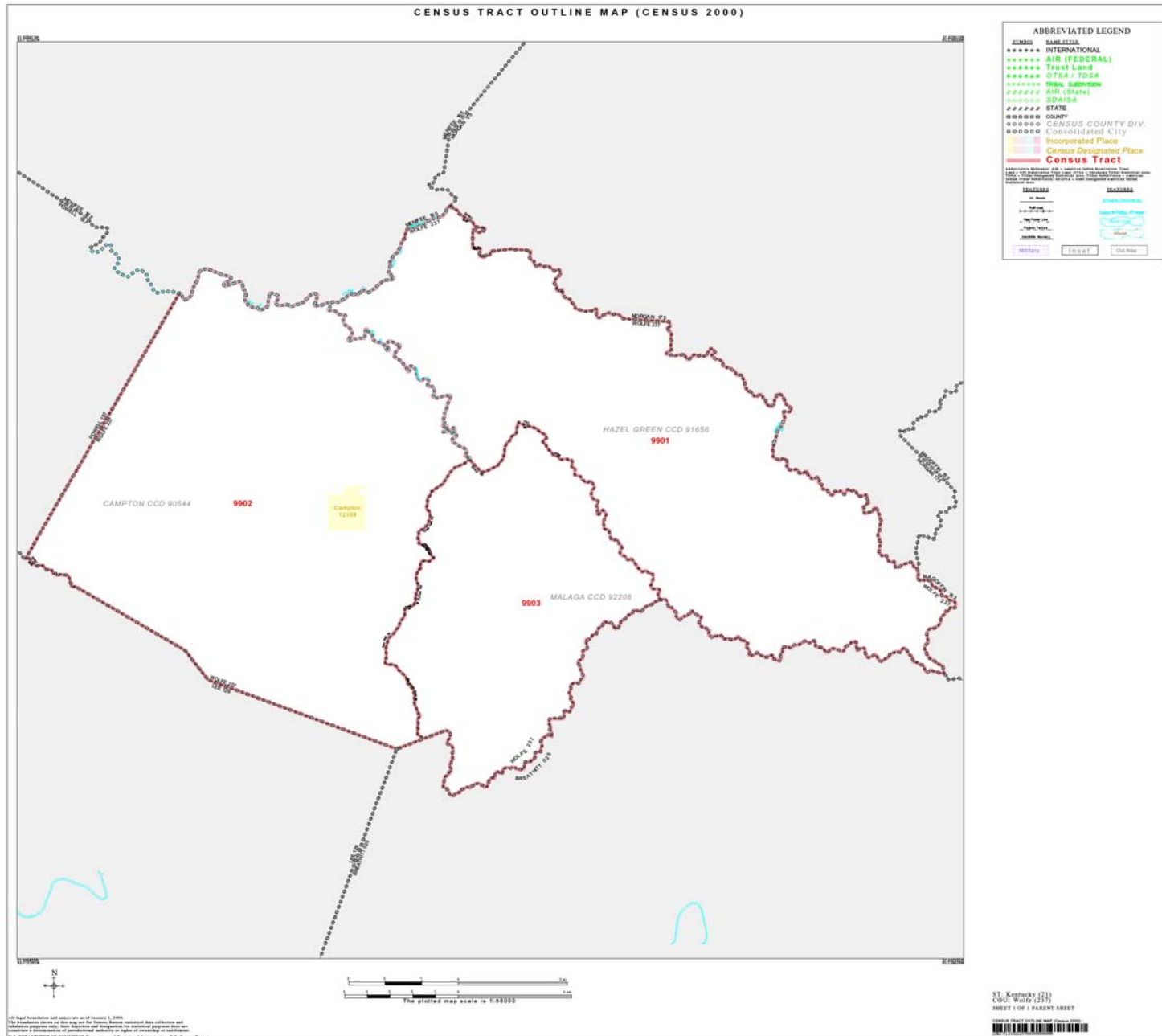
In identifying communities, agencies may consider as a community either a group of individuals living in geographic proximity to one another, or a geographically dispersed/transient set of individuals (such as migrant workers or Native Americans), where either type of group experiences common conditions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

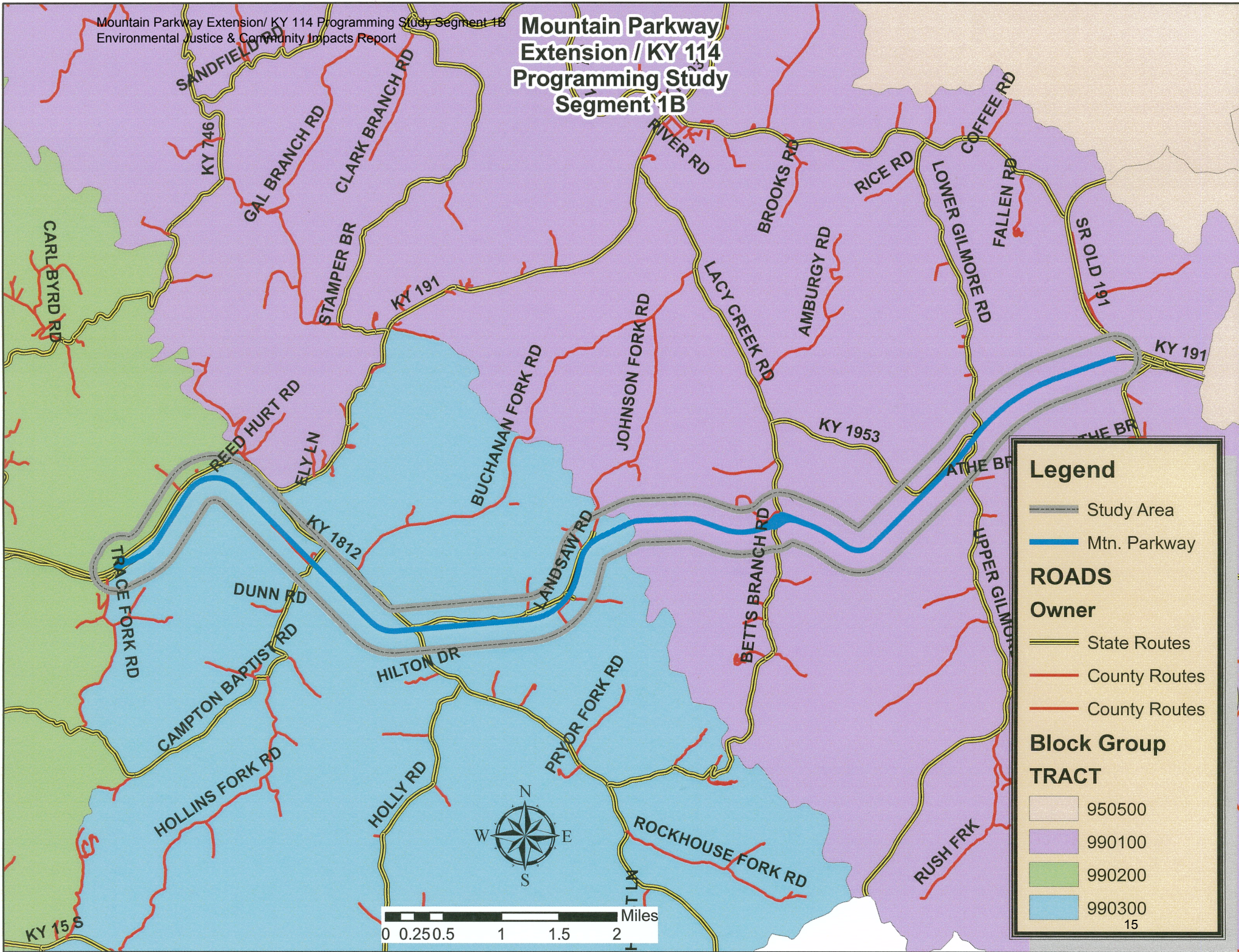


APPENDIX 4



APPENDIX 5

Mountain Parkway Extension / KY 114 Programming Study Segment 1B



KY 15 S

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

APPENDIX 6: CENSUS DATA

	UNITED STATES	KENTUCKY	WOLFE COUNTY	CENSUS TRACT 9901		CENSUS TRACT 9902			CENSUS TRACT 9903	
				Tract	Block Group 2	Tract	Block Group 1	Block Group 4	Tract	Block Group 1
Total Population	281,421,906	4,041,769	7,065	2,144	611	3,963	1,109	1,210	958	958
White	211,353,725	3,639,168	7,013	2,138	605	3,935	1,109	1,205	940	940
Percent White	75.10%	90.04%	99.26%	99.72%	99.02%	99.29%	100.00%	99.59%	98.12%	98.12%
Minority	82,598,812	339,083	52	6	6	28	0	5	18	18
Percent Minority	29.35%	8.39%	0.74%	0.28%	0.98%	0.71%	0.00%	0.41%	1.88%	1.88%
Persons 65 and Over	34,978,972	488,248	894	309	94	491	99	236	94	94
Percent Persons 65 and Over	12.43%	12.08%	12.65%	14.41%	15.38%	12.39%	8.93%	19.50%	9.81%	9.81%
Disabilities 5 and over	89,142,962	1,686,789	4,825	1,927	586	2,332	484	856	566	566
Percent Disabilities 5 and Over	31.68%	41.73%	68.29%	89.88%	95.91%	58.84%	43.64%	70.74%	59.08%	59.08%
Persons Below Poverty Level	33,899,812	621,096	2,488	578	203	1,522	391	407	388	388
Percent Persons Below Poverty Level	12.05%	15.37%	35.22%	26.96%	33.22%	38.41%	35.26%	33.64%	40.50%	40.50%

Source: www.census.gov

Summary File 3 (SF3)

Detailed Tables: P.6-Race, P.7 Hispanic or Latino, P.8-Sex by Age, P.41-Disability, P.87-Poverty Status in 1999 by Age

MINORITY	UNITED STATES	KENTUCKY	WOLFE COUNTY	CENSUS TRACT 9901		CENSUS TRACT 9902		CENSUS TRACT 9903	
				Tract	Block Group 2	Tract	Block Group 4	Tract	Block Group 1
Black or African American Alone	34,361,740	239,915	6	6	6	0	0	0	0
Percent Black or African American Alone	12.21%	5.94%	0.08%	0.28%	0.98%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	2,447,989	9,080	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Percent American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	0.87%	0.22%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Asian Alone	10,171,820	28,994	28	0	0	28	5	0	0
Percent Asian Alone	3.61%	0.72%	0.40%	0.00%	0.00%	0.71%	0.41%	0.00%	0.00%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone	378,782	1,155	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Percent Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone	0.13%	0.03%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Hispanic or Latino Origin	35,238,481	59,939	18	0	0	0	0	18	18
Percent Hispanic or Latino Origin	12.52%	1.48%	0.25%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.88%	1.88%

Source: www.census.gov
 Summary File 3 (SF3)

Detailed Tables: P.6-Race, P.7-Hispanic or Latino, P.8-Sex by Age, P.41-Disability, P.87-Poverty Status in 1999 by Age