

Standard Attachment for Environmental Justice Analysis Data

Introduction

Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations, dated February 11, 1994, directed " 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 in the United States. The proposed project has federal funding and federal permit requirements and is considered a federal project for purposes of compliance with the Executive Order."

FHWA Order 6640.23A FHWA Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations establishes policies and procedures for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to use in complying with Executive Order 12898. FHWA issued Order 6640.23A on June 14, 2012.

Step 1. Identify Environmental Justice Study Area

The Environmental Justice (EJ) study area is the geographic area where the proposed project has potential for human health or environmental effects.

A typical study area boundary consisting of the area approximately one-quarter mile from the project area was applied for this analysis per MnDOT guidance.¹ All Census Block Groups and Census Blocks that were partially or completely located within the study area were included in the analysis. Figure 1 depicts the EJ study area.

The proposed project includes construction of a new two-lane divided highway connecting CSAH 30 to TH 610 via a new interchange with I-94. TH 610 is proposed as a four-lane divided roadway. The project limits extend from CSAH 30 approximately one-half mile east of CSAH 101 to the intersection of TH 610 and Maple Grove Parkway. The project also connects future TH 610 to I-94 via a ramp from eastbound CSAH 610 to eastbound I-94 and a loop from westbound I-94 to westbound TH 610.

CSAH 30 would be realigned to form a new signalized, full-movement intersection with TH 610. Lawndale Lane would be closed from south of TH 610 to 101st Avenue North. Auxiliary lanes are proposed for eastbound and westbound I-94 from the TH 610 interchange to Maple Grove Parkway.

¹ Minnesota Department of Transportation. Highway Project Development Process (HPDP) Environmental Justice Subject Guidance. November 1, 2017. <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/planning/hpdp/>

Step 2. Are there readily-identifiable minority or low income populations in the EJ Study Area

Environmental Justice (EJ) populations include minority and low-income populations.

Minority is defined in the DOT Order on Environmental Justice (Order 5610.2(a)) as including “Black or African American, Hispanic, Asian American, American Indian/Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.” Minority Population means any readily identifiable groups of minority persons who live in geographic proximity, and if circumstances warrant, geographically dispersed/transient persons (such as migrant workers or Native Americans) who will be similarly affected by a proposed DOT program, policy, or activity.

Minority populations were identified from the American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates (2015-2019) at the Census Block Group level. A minority community is generally defined as a community in which the minority population is either 10 percentage points above the county average, or at least 50 percent of the total geographic unit. Minority populations were determined by comparing the percentage of the minority population for each Census Block Group in the study area to that of Hennepin County.

Low-income population is defined in the DOT Order as meaning “any readily identifiable group of low-income persons who live in geographic proximity, and, if circumstances warrant, geographically dispersed/transient persons (such as migrant workers or Native Americans) who will be similarly affected by a proposed DOT program, policy or activity.

Low-income populations were identified using income data for households collected from the 2015-2019 American Community Survey (ACS) at the Census Block Group level. For the purposes of this analysis, a low-income community is defined as a community in which the low-income population is either 10 percentage points above the county average, or at least 50 percent of the total geographic unit. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) defines “low-income” geographies where the median household income is at or below the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) poverty guidelines. Poverty thresholds are updated each year by the Census Bureau and vary based on family size and composition. The 2021 poverty threshold for a family of four with two children was \$26,500.

The EJ study area was investigated for the presence of readily-identifiable:

- minority and/or low-income populations residing in the EJ study area,
- community facilities in the EJ study area that serve minority and/or low-income populations, and
- businesses in the EJ study area that are owned by, employ and/or serve minority and/or low-income populations.

The investigation included review of demographic data, field review, consultation with knowledgeable local representatives, and public outreach activities, as described below.

Step 2-A: Compile Demographic Data

Data sources used: EPA’s EJ Screen Tool Census Data

Table 1: 0.25 Mile Ring around the Project, Demographic Data (Minority Population)

Census Tract, Block Group, Block	Category	Selected Variable	Value
Census Tract 267.08, Block Group 1	ACS 2015-2019	Minority population as a % of total population	33%
Census Tract 267.08, Block Group 5	ACS 2015-2019	Minority population as a % of total population	4%
Census Tract 267.14, Block Group 1	ACS 2015-2019	Minority population as a % of total population	17%
Census Tract 267.14, Block Group 3	ACS 2015-2019	Minority population as a % of total population	26%

Source: American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates (2015-2019)

Table 2: 0.25 Mile Ring around the Project, Demographic Data (Low-income Population)

Census Tract, Block Group	Category	Low Income Selected Variable	Value
Census Tract 267.08, Block Group 1	ACS 2015-2019	Percent of households below poverty	15%
Census Tract 267.08, Block Group 5	ACS 2015-2019	Percent of households below poverty	0%
Census Tract 267.14, Block Group 1	ACS 2015-2019	Percent of households below poverty	7%
Census Tract 267.14, Block Group 3	ACS 2015-2019	Percent of households below poverty	6%

Source: American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates (2015-2019)

Table 3: Hennepin County and City of Maple Grove Demographic Data

County/City	Category	Selected Variable	Value
Hennepin County	Demographic (2015-2019 ACS)	Percent minority population	28%
City of Maple Grove	Demographic (2015-2019 ACS)	Percent minority population	16%
Hennepin County	Demographic (2015-2019 ACS)	Percent of households below poverty	10%
City of Maple Grove	Demographic (2015-2019 ACS)	Percent of households below poverty	3%

Source: American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates (2015-2019)

2-b./2-c. Field Review and Consultation

The area within the EJ study area is comprised of suburban residential and commercial land uses. No community facilities and businesses that are readily identifiable as serving EJ populations are present within the EJ study area. No manufactured home communities, low-income public housing complexes, or EJ population-oriented businesses are located within the study area.

A field review and/or consultation with local representatives knowledgeable about community demographics identified the following facilities that may be impacted by the project:

- Community facilities, businesses readily-identifiable as serving EJ populations

- Affordable housing types

There are no documented affordable housing units within the EJ study area. Eight affordable/low-income properties in Maple Grove are registered in the HUD Database at <https://resources.hud.gov/#>. All of these are located outside of the EJ study area.

2-d. Public Outreach

- Additional public outreach with a special effort for engagement with potentially affected EJ populations was necessary.
- Based on the results of steps 2A-2C, no additional public outreach was necessary because there is not an EJ population in or near the EJ study area.

2-e. Summary

Based on the data collection above:

- There is not an identifiable EJ population in the EJ study area. No further study is needed. **Go to Environmental Justice Finding.**
- There is an identifiable EJ population in the EJ study area. **Go to Step 3.**

Step 3: Avoidance/Minimization Measures

Not applicable (N/A)

Step 4: Impacts

N/A

Step 5: Off-Setting Benefits

N/A

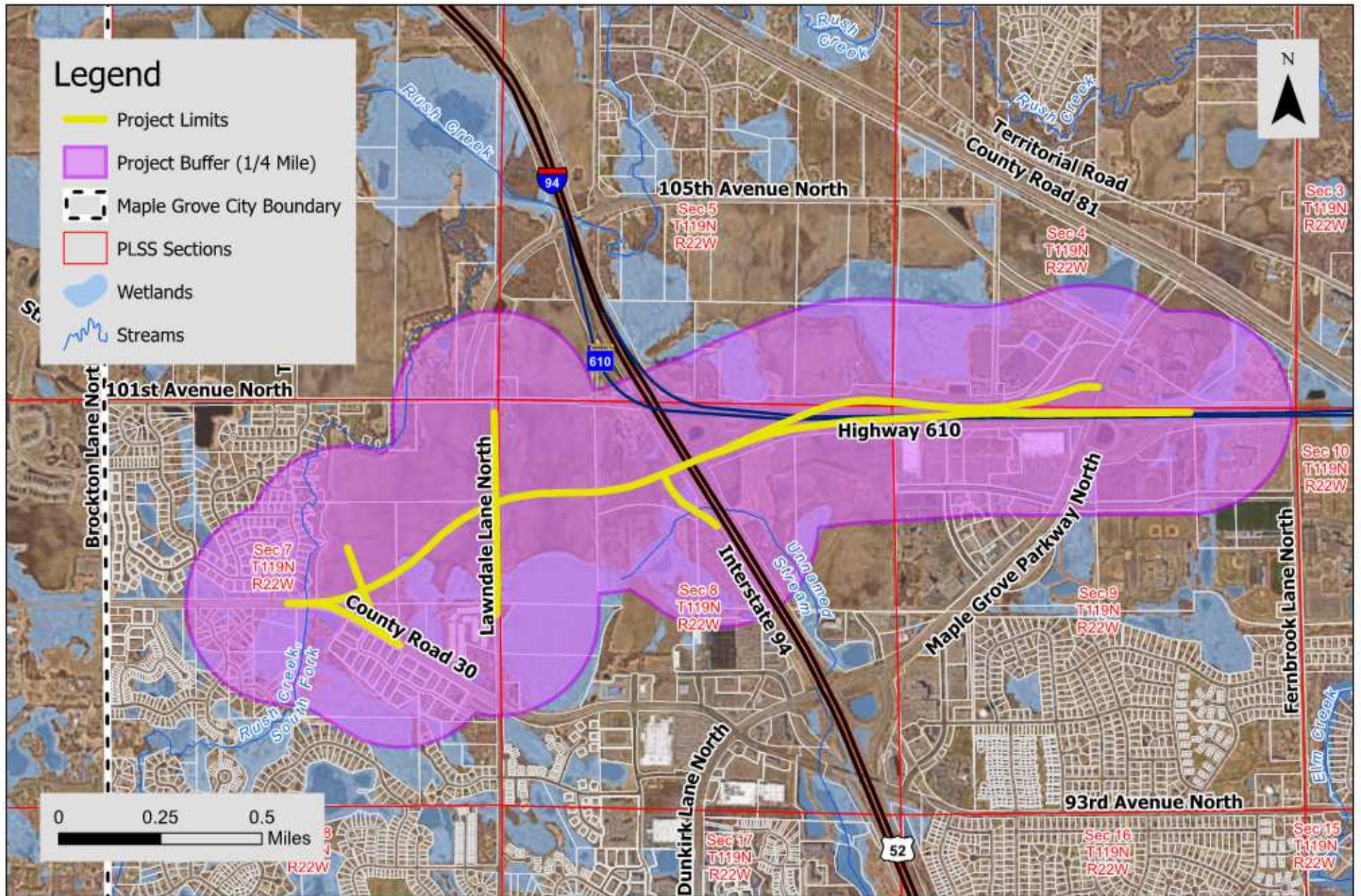
Step 6: Project refinements and/or Additional Mitigation

N/A

Environmental Justice Finding

The purpose of Executive Order 12898 is to identify, address, and avoid disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations. There are no readily identifiable minority or low-income populations affected by the project.

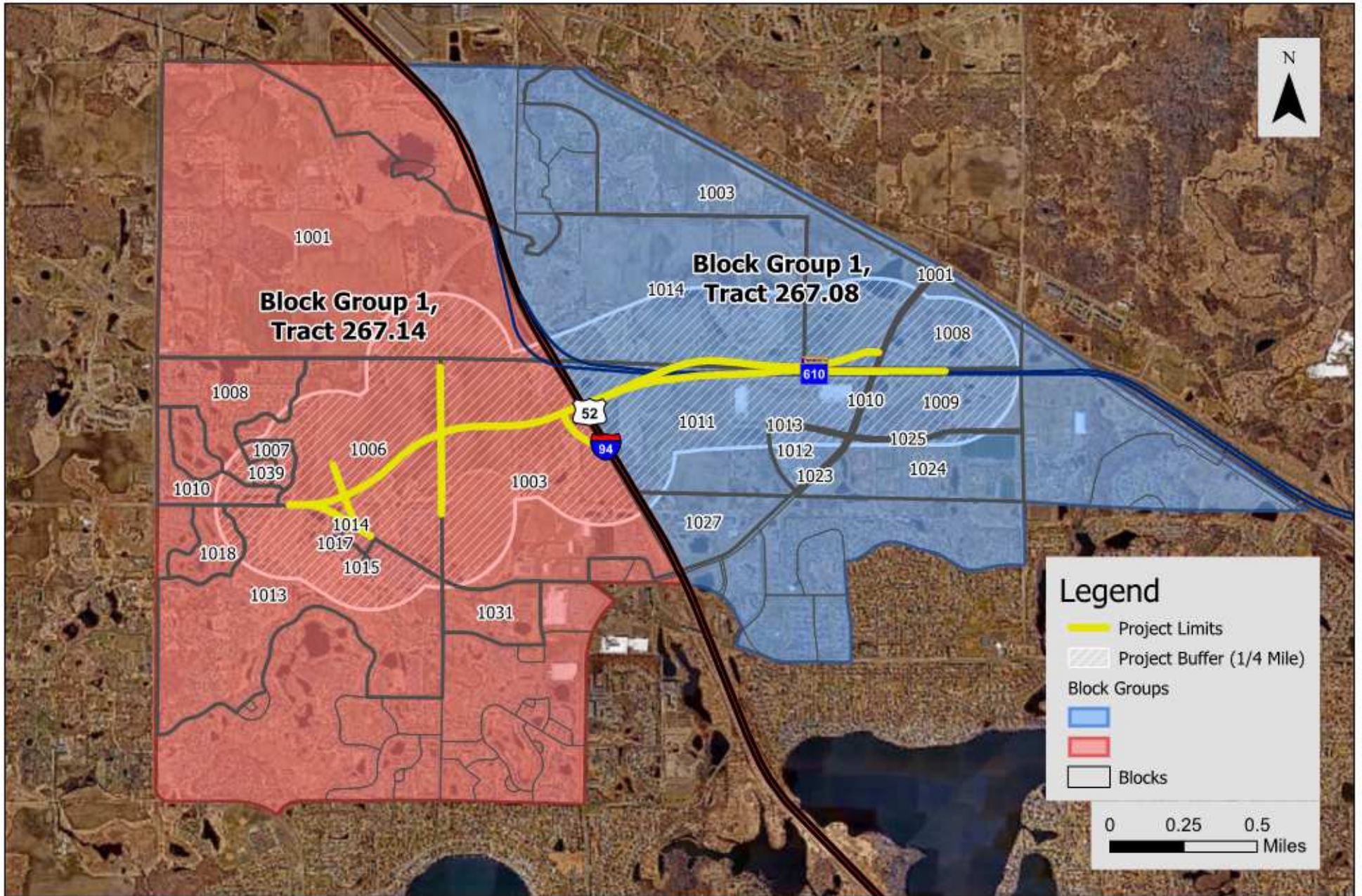
Based on the demographic analysis described in Step 2, minority and low-income populations within the study area are less than or similar to the proportion of minority and low-income populations at the county level. Minority and low-income populations within the study area are not individually or cumulatively of a size and scope to constitute an environmental justice population. Therefore, in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 12898 and FHWA Order 6640.23, it is not anticipated that this project will result in impacts to environmental justice populations.



Study Area

610 Extension Project
 City of Maple Grove
 SP 189-143-001, SP 2780-105

Figure 1



Census Tracts, Blocks, and Groups

Figure 2

610 Extension Project
 City of Maple Grove
 SP 189-143-001, SP 2780-105



Affordable HUD Properties

Figure 3

610 Extension Project
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