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Subject: Environmental Justice, Franklin Boulevard Design Refinement and Environmental Classification Project

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICIES

Executive Order 12898

Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, was issued by President Clinton in 1994. Its purpose is to focus attention on the environmental and human health effects of federal actions on minority and low-income populations with the goal of achieving environmental protection for all communities.

Executive Order 12898 directs each federal agency to take the appropriate and necessary steps to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse effects of federal projects on the health or environment of minority and low-income populations to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law.

Federal Highway Administration Policy Implementing Executive Order 12898

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issued *Guidance on Environmental Justice and NEPA*, on December 16, 2011, that advises FHWA offices on the process for addressing environmental justice during National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review. The FHWA memorandum defines disproportionate effects to environmental justice populations as follows:

As per FHWA Order 6640.23, a disproportionately high and adverse effect on a minority or low-income population means the adverse effect is predominantly borne by such population or is appreciably more severe or greater in magnitude on the minority or low-income population than the adverse effect suffered by the non-minority or non-low-income population.

The FHWA memorandum describes steps for identifying environmental justice populations and disproportionately high and adverse effects, and provides direction on how to proceed when there are disproportionately high and adverse effects on environmental justice populations (FHWA 2011).

Federal Transit Administration Policy Implementing Executive Order 12898

The Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Circular 4703.1, *Environmental Justice Policy Guidance for FTA Recipients*, which became effective August 15, 2012, is the FTA's stand-alone guidance that addresses the intent of Executive Order 12898. The circular is meant to ensure that FTA funding recipients avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority and low-income populations. FTA funding recipients are also required to incorporate environmental justice principles into transportation planning and decision-making processes, as well as project-specific environmental reviews (FTA 2012).

ENVIRONMENTAL POPULATIONS IN PROJECT AREA

Minority Populations

On its website, FHWA defines "minority" as a person who is:

- Black (having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa)

- Hispanic (of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race)
- Asian American (having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands)
- American Indian and Alaskan Native (having origins in any of the original people of North America and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition) (FHWA 2013)

FHWA's 2011 Memo and FTA's 2012 Circular vary slightly from this definition in that these documents call out "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander" separately from other Asian American groups.

The U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 Decennial Census shows that minorities represent a relatively small portion of the population in Lane County, the Eugene-Springfield Metro Area, the City of Springfield, and Census Tract 36 Block Group 1, where the Franklin Boulevard Project Area is located (Figure 1). The largest minority group in each of these geographies is Hispanic or Latino persons, regardless of race, which represents approximately 8.6 percent of the population in Block Group 1, as shown in Table 1 below. Minorities represent approximately 16.4 percent of the total population in the Block Group 1, which is slightly lower than the minority population of the City of Springfield (19.5 percent), but similar to Lane County as a whole (15.3 percent).

Figure 1 Project Area, Census Tract 36, and Census Tract 36 Block Group 1

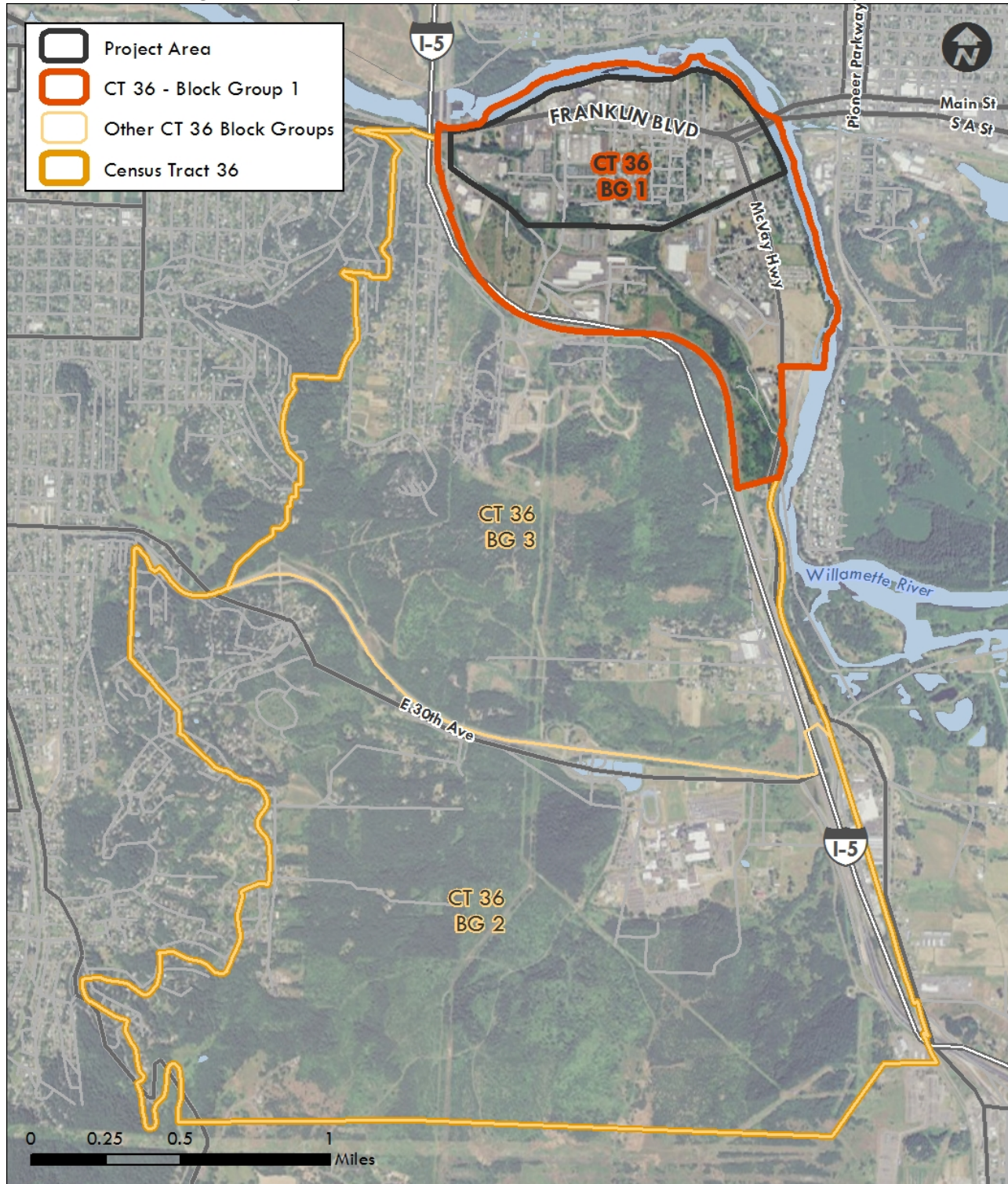


Table 1 Minority Populations

Minority Populations																			
Geographic Area	Total Pop.	Black or African American		American Indian and Alaska Native		Asian		Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander		Some Other Race		Two or More Races		Hispanic or Latino (of any race)		All Minorities (Non-White and/or Hispanic or Latino)		Non-Minority Population (White, not Hispanic or Latino)	
		Pop.	%	Pop.	%	Pop.	%	Pop.	%	Pop.	%	Pop.	%	Pop.	%	Pop.	%	Pop.	%
Lane County/ Eugene-Springfield Metro Area	351,715	3,369	1.0	4,070	1.2	8,322	2.4	769	0.2	9,837	2.8	14,663	4.2	26,167	7.4	53,907	15.3	297,808	84.7
City of Springfield	59,403	649	1.1	851	1.4	758	1.3	189	0.3	3,112	5.2	2,839	4.8	7,194	12.1	11,576	19.5	47,827	80.5
Census Tract 36	3,544	31	0.9	35	1.0	125	3.5	1	<0.1	59	1.7	153	4.3	189	5.3	521	14.7	3,023	85.3
Census Tract 36 Block Group 1	1,048	5	0.5	20	1.9	14	1.3	0	0.0	46	4.4	46	4.4	90	8.6	172	16.4	876	83.6

Note: The Eugene-Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area encompasses all of Lane County, so the data for these two areas are the same.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau. 2010. 2010 Decennial Census. Table DP-1 Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics and Table QT-P4 Race, Combinations of Two Races, and Not Hispanic or Latino.

Low-Income Population

FHWA and FTA define a “low-income” individual as a person whose household income is at or below the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) poverty guidelines (FHWA 2011 and FTA 2012). Poverty levels vary depending on the number of adults and children in a household. FTA also encourages its funding recipients “to use a locally developed threshold, such as that used for FTA’s grant program, or a percentage of median income for the area, provided that the threshold is at least as inclusive as HHS poverty guidelines” (FTA 2012).

The U.S Census Bureau’s 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-year estimates provide the most current estimate of low-income populations. As shown in Table 2, Census Tract 36 Block Group 1, in which the Project Area is located, has a substantially higher low-income population (27.4 percent) than Census Tract 36, the City of Springfield, and Lane County (22.8, 20.6, and 18.8 percent, respectively). Block Group 1 includes eight mobile home parks, which can be indicative of the presence of low-income residents because mobile homes are often a low-cost housing option. Two mobile home parks are located in the Project Area, as shown in Figure 1: Ponderosa Mobile Village (48 units) and Midway Mobile Manor (89 units) (City of Springfield 2009). The Midway Mobile Manor is a senior community for residents 55 years and older.

Table 2 Low-Income Population

Geographic Area	Total Population (MOE)	Individuals Below Poverty Level	
		Population (MOE)	Percent
Lane County/ Eugene-Springfield Metro Area	344,262 (±633)	64,705 (±2,531)	18.8
City of Springfield	58,878 (±196)	12,143 (±1,022)	20.6
Census Tract 36	3,438 (±310)	783* (±310)	22.8
Census Tract 36 Block Group 1	992 (±219)	272* (±122)	27.4

Note: 1. The Eugene-Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area encompasses all of Lane County, so the data for these two areas are the same.
2. The total population for this data is the population for which poverty status is determined. This differs from the total population reported in Table 1 above because this data comes from the 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, which is based on a sample of the total population, while the data in Table 1 comes from the 2010 Decennial Census, which is a 100 percent count.
3. American Community Survey data is based on a sample of the total population, so there is a range of uncertainty in the data. There are substantial margins of error (MOE) for smaller geographies, such as block groups. All published American Community Survey MOEs are based on a 90 percent confidence level. The MOE can be interpreted roughly as providing a 90 percent probability that the interval defined by the estimate minus the margin of error and the estimate plus the margin of error (the lower and upper confidence bounds) contains the true value. There is no MOE for decennial census data since it is based on a 100 percent count rather than a sample.
4. The MOE provided by the U.S. Census Bureau can be used to calculate coefficients of variation (CV). The CV provides an indication of the reliability of the American Community Survey data. CVs less than 15 percent are considered generally statistically reliable. Estimates that have a CV between 15 percent and 30 percent are somewhat less reliable and are noted with an asterisk (*). CVs above 30 percent are considered not statistically reliable (NSR). All data in Table 2 has a CV below 30 percent.
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau. 2012. American Community Survey 2008-2012 5-Year Estimates. Table S1701 Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months and B17021 Poverty Status of Individuals in the Past 12 Months by Living Arrangement.

Please see the Socioeconomics Baseline Memorandum for further information on the socioeconomics of Project Area residents, data on minority employees of businesses along the Project Corridor, and neighborhood characteristics and land uses, including community resources for environmental justice populations.

REFERENCES

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