

# EVANSVILLE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## FTA TITLE VI REPORT

Including Environmental Justice  
and Limited English Proficiency Plan

2011

# **Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization**

## **Title VI Report**

**2011**

### **Title VI Program**

The Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization (EMPO) will submit a Title VI Program as outlined in FTA Circular 4702.1A.

### **Title VI Complaint Procedures:**

#### **Submission of Complaints**

A person that believed he or she, individually, or a member of any specific class of persons, has been subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin may file a written complaint with Evansville MPO. This written complaint can be hand delivered to the office, mailed, or e-mailed.

The Evansville MPO Title VI Coordinator will provide the complainant or his/her representative with a written acknowledgement that Evansville MPO has received the complaint within 10 working days.

The complaint will be reviewed by the Title VI Coordinator and Legal Counsel. It will then be forwarded to the Evansville MPO Executive Director and Evansville MPO Policy Committee. The complaint will then be submitted to the FTA for investigation and resolution.

Corrective measures would then be initiated by Evansville MPO to prevent discrimination complaints from occurring in the transportation planning process in the future.

The public has an opportunity to submit discrimination complaints directly to the FTA for resolution. Should a citizen request this procedure, citizens would be given the FTA regulations regarding the discrimination complaint process upon request.

## **Record of Title VI Investigations, Complaints, or Lawsuits**

### **List of Active Lawsuits**

There have been no lawsuits or complaints alleging discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin filed against the Evansville MPO within the past five years.

## **Provide Meaningful Access to Limited English Proficiency Persons**

### **Implementation of the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan**

#### **Identifying LEP individuals who need language assistance**

- There are no records of any instances when language assistance was needed for LEP individuals; however that does not mean there will be no instances in the future. All EMPO staff have been told of the possibility that there is a small segment of the public that are Limited English Proficient and that they should be sensitive to and constantly aware of that fact.
- It will be documented whenever an LEP individual inquires about the planning process. A file with pertinent information such as name, address, questions etc. will be kept in the EMPO office of any LEP inquiry.
- EMPO staff should greet all participants at every public event in order to gauge an individual's English proficiency. This may lead to further contact with these individuals.
- The EMPO will reach out to any organizations that have some contact with LEP individuals and meet with these organizations. There are several in the area. Unfortunately, the only Hispanic publication in the Evansville Area has ceased publication.

#### **Language Assistance Measures**

The EMPO has identified several ways that services can be provided to LEP individuals in the Evansville Urbanized Area.

- The EMPO's website has a "Spanish" translation button.
- The EMPO Title VI Policy and LEP Plan will be posted at the EMPO office and the EMPO website.
- When requested, any material the EMPO produces will be translated into Spanish.
- When requested, any public meeting held by the EMPO will employ a Spanish translator.

## **Staff Training**

Training will be provided to the EMPO staff at least annually. Training will include:

- A summary of staff responsibilities regarding the LEP Plan and LEP individuals
- How to handle a language assistance request and document the request
- Description of language assistance services offered
- How to handle a complaint

## **Outreach and Providing notice to LEP Persons**

The EMPO will attempt to reach, educate and provide notice to LEP persons regarding transportation planning. However, there are no “other than English language” publications in the Evansville Urbanized Area. This makes outreach and providing notice to LEP persons difficult. Techniques to provide outreach and notice include:

- Notice of public meetings will be posted on the EMPO website which will allow it to be translated to Spanish. An interpreter will be provided if an advanced notice request is given to the EMPO.
- The EMPO will reach out to any organization that may have contact with LEP individuals. The EMPO will meet with these organizations.

## **Monitoring and Updating the LEP Plan**

The LEP Plan will be reviewed and if needed, updated annually. However, at a minimum it will be updated every three years. The review and update will include analyzing the following:

- The number of LEP person contacts occurring annually
- How LEP needs have been addressed
- The overall effectiveness of the Plan and modifications needed to improve it
- Determine if there are significant changes to the LEP population

## **Conclusion**

The EMPO has implemented an LEP Plan to address the identified needs of the LEP population. Despite the small population of LEP individuals in the Evansville Urbanized Area the EMPO has taken responsible steps to provide meaningful access to its services.

## **Notifying Beneficiaries of their Rights under Title VI**

The Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization (EMPO) hereby gives public notice that it is the policy of the agency to assure full compliance with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Right Restoration Act of 1987, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities.

Title VI requires that no person in the United State of America shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which the EMPO receives federal financial assistance.

Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by an unlawful discriminatory practice under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint with the EMPO. The entire Title VI complaint procedure can be found in the EMPO's Title VI Report. Any such complaint must be in writing and filed with the EMPO's Title VI Coordinator within one hundred eighty (180) days following the date of the alleged discriminatory occurrence.

## **Requirement to Provide Addition Information upon Request**

The EMPO will provide any additional information that is requested in writing, concerning Title VI compliance.

## **Construction Projects**

The EMPO conducted no construction projects since the last Title VI Report.

## **Inclusive Public Participation**

The EMPO endeavors to seek out and consider the opinions of minority, low-income, and LEP populations when conducting public outreach and involvement activities. The EMPO's Public Participation Plan strives to offer early and continuous opportunities for the public to be involved in transportation decisions. The EMPO Public Participation provides more detailed and specific information regarding the EMPO public outreach program.

The EMPO staff meets with many and varied groups including minority, civic, advocacy, and neighborhood groups. These meetings increase the minority and low-income's public input necessary to the EMPO decision making processes. It also serves to explain the responsibilities of the EMPO and the importance of citizen participation in the planning process.

Members of minority organizations, neighborhood groups and organization that serve low-income individuals are represented on the EMPO's Technical and Advisory committees.

Through electronic and print media, transportation planning information is disseminated by the EMPO staff on a regular basis, thereby providing the public an opportunity for input. For example, the Evansville MPO Policy Board meeting is televised live and re-aired 3 more times throughout the month. It also can be viewed live via the internet. The televised meetings have closed captioning capability. Minutes of the Technical and Policy Committees are available in audio and text format on the Evansville MPO website. Also, at both Technical and Board meetings, the opportunity for the public to comment on any transportation related items is available to them.

In addition, the EMPO's website has a comment button which the public can use and their comment will be sent via e-mail to EMPO staff. The EMPO website has a Spanish translation button feature for those who need it. The Evansville MPO publishes Notices of Public Hearing in the "Evansville Courier and Press", and the "Henderson Gleaner". The Spanish newspaper "La Palabra" is no longer in publication.

Lastly, any person is welcome to come into the Evansville MPO office to inquire about transportation projects. The Evansville MPO keeps a log of the citizens who come in and the projects they inquire about.

# Program Specific Guidance for Metropolitan Planning Organizations

## Demographic Profile of the Evansville Metropolitan Area

In order to identify and analyze traditionally underserved socioeconomic groups, including low-income and minority populations, the EMPO used data from the US Census Bureau. Selected data tables estimated the number of people in the following five categories: households below poverty; individuals age 65 or more; minority individuals; individuals who speak English “not well” or “not at all”; and individuals age 5 and over with a disability.

Using these five categories and data from all 69 census tracts in Vanderburgh, Warrick, and Henderson counties, the average percentage for each category was determined. To identify the census tracts that have large numbers of the traditionally underserved, EMPO applied a multiplier to the regional average and thus created a priority level for each category. The table below shows the three-county, or regional, average for each category, the multipliers selected for each category, and the resulting priority level for each category.

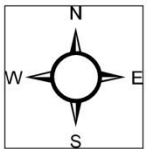
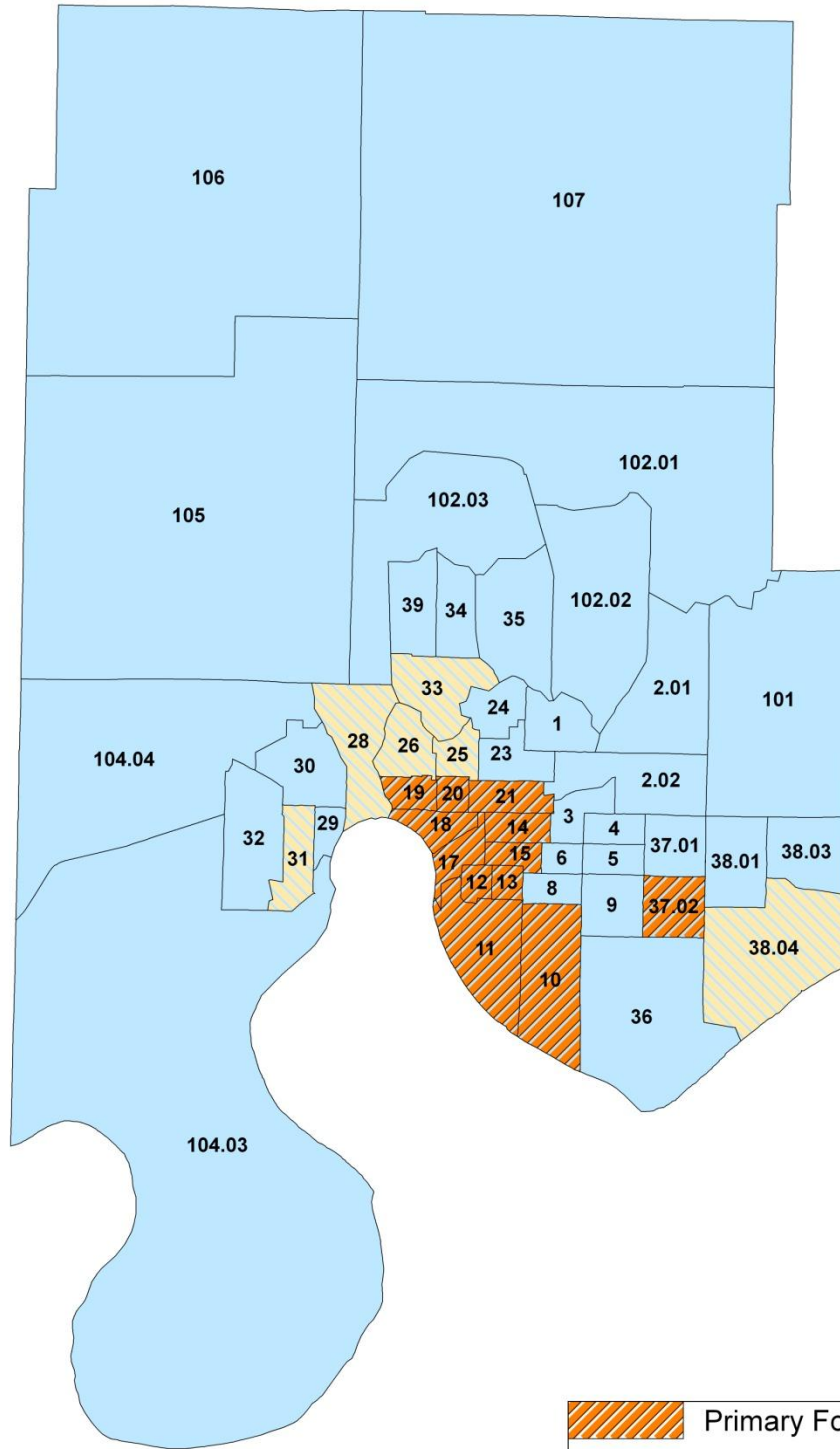
County Averages by Census Tracts	Vanderburgh	Warrick	Henderson	Regional Average (mean)	Multiplier	Priority Level
Percentage below poverty	7.06	5.68	15.72	9.49	2.00	18.98
Percentage age 65 and over	16.10	11.09	14.02	13.74	1.50	20.61
Percentage of minorities	10.23	2.72	12.05	8.33	2.00	16.66
Percentage who speak little or no English	0.52	0.50	0.25	0.42	2.00	0.84
Percentage with a disability, age 5 and over	22.70	18.44	25.52	22.22	1.00	22.22



Maps on the following pages show the location of the various census tracts by county.

Regional Census Tracts	County	Pop.	Residents below poverty	Residents age 65 and over	Minority residents	Residents who speak little or no English	Residents with a disability, age ≥ 5	Primary & Secondary Focus Areas
Average	All		9.49%	13.74%	8.33%	4.20%	22.22%	
<b>10</b>	Vanderburgh	4,308	18.69%	10.94%	20.24%	0.00%	27.10%	<b>P</b>
<b>11</b>	Vanderburgh	3,115	19.00%	12.76%	47.30%	1.25%	28.90%	<b>P</b>
<b>12</b>	Vanderburgh	2,233	26.11%	8.50%	37.88%	0.36%	30.10%	<b>P</b>
<b>13</b>	Vanderburgh	2,341	25.16%	13.27%	51.74%	2.01%	31.20%	<b>P</b>
<b>14</b>	Vanderburgh	1,998	27.53%	16.50%	48.98%	0.30%	36.80%	<b>P</b>
<b>15</b>	Vanderburgh	2,161	20.13%	13.88%	64.15%	0.23%	31.00%	<b>P</b>
<b>17</b>	Vanderburgh	2,423	30.50%	18.05%	36.20%	0.74%	26.00%	<b>P</b>
<b>18</b>	Vanderburgh	388	39.95%	29.23%	23.78%	0.00%	32.60%	<b>P</b>
<b>19</b>	Vanderburgh	1,413	38.43%	10.87%	7.03%	0.78%	39.50%	<b>P</b>
<b>20</b>	Vanderburgh	1,271	21.79%	29.21%	9.79%	0.00%	47.00%	<b>P</b>
<b>21</b>	Vanderburgh	2,569	20.59%	12.62%	4.37%	0.62%	31.90%	<b>P</b>
<b>25</b>	Vanderburgh	2,137	16.00%	11.26%	2.29%	0.66%	36.4	<b>S</b>
<b>26</b>	Vanderburgh	3,547	33.83%	12.70%	9.80%	0.34%	32.9	<b>S</b>
<b>28</b>	Vanderburgh	2,263	10.91%	25.77%	1.27%	0.00%	24.4	<b>S</b>
<b>31</b>	Vanderburgh	2,746	10.96%	14.96%	0.25%	0.58%	27.9	<b>S</b>
<b>33</b>	Vanderburgh	3,888	17.75%	25.67%	4.19%	0.49%	29.6	<b>S</b>
<b>37.02</b>	Vanderburgh	4,604	21.18%	18.56%	17.52%	0.33%	24.00%	<b>P</b>
<b>38.04</b>	Vanderburgh	5,910	14.42%	13.22%	9.94%	0.73%	15.0	<b>S</b>
<b>201</b>	Henderson	1,647	21.51%	20.87%	18.75%	0.00%	34.60%	<b>P</b>
<b>202</b>	Henderson	1,638	25.37%	13.72%	13.29%	0.00%	29.00%	<b>P</b>
<b>203</b>	Henderson	1,834	21.97%	12.71%	23.18%	0.00%	35.30%	<b>P</b>
<b>204</b>	Henderson	2,417	29.72%	14.84%	22.80%	0.46%	37.90%	<b>P</b>

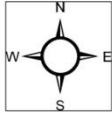
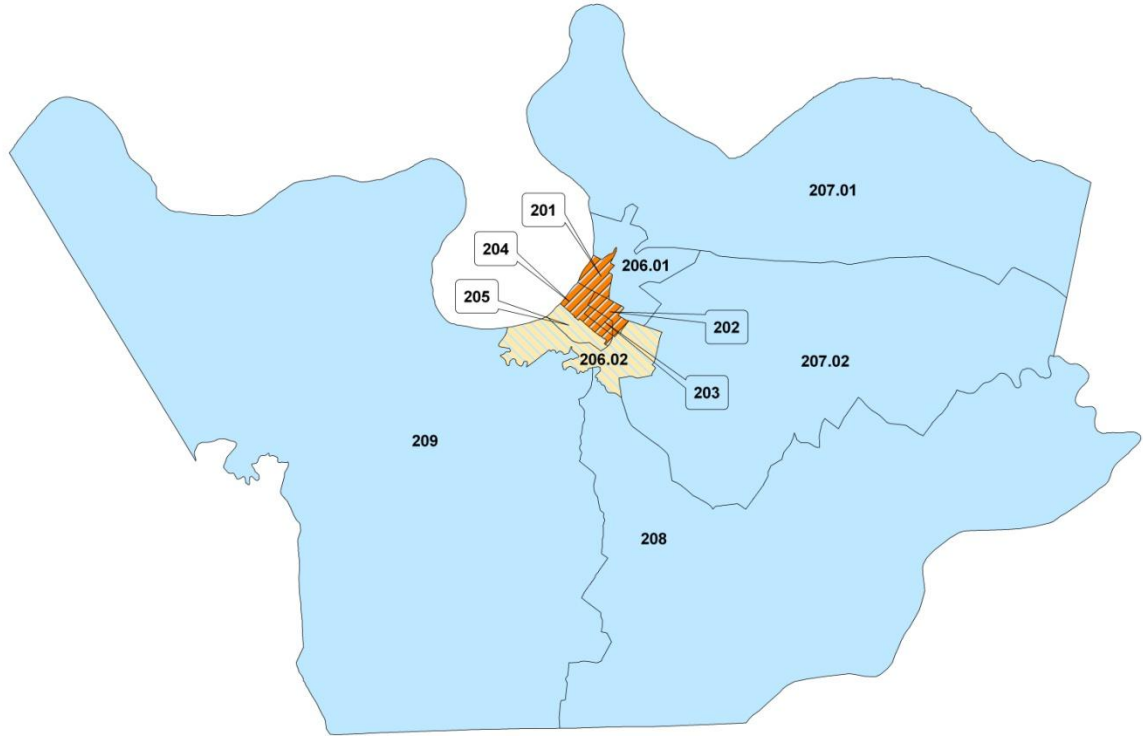
<b>205</b>	Henderson	2,346	18.45	19.37	14.65	0.00	28.30	<b>S</b>
<b>206.02</b>	Henderson	3,809	20.61%	11.97%	14.45%	0.61%	24.40%	<b>S</b>
<b>304</b>	Warrick	3,190	13.95%	11.13%	1.60%	0.58%	26.60%	<b>S</b>



# Vanderburgh County Census Tracts

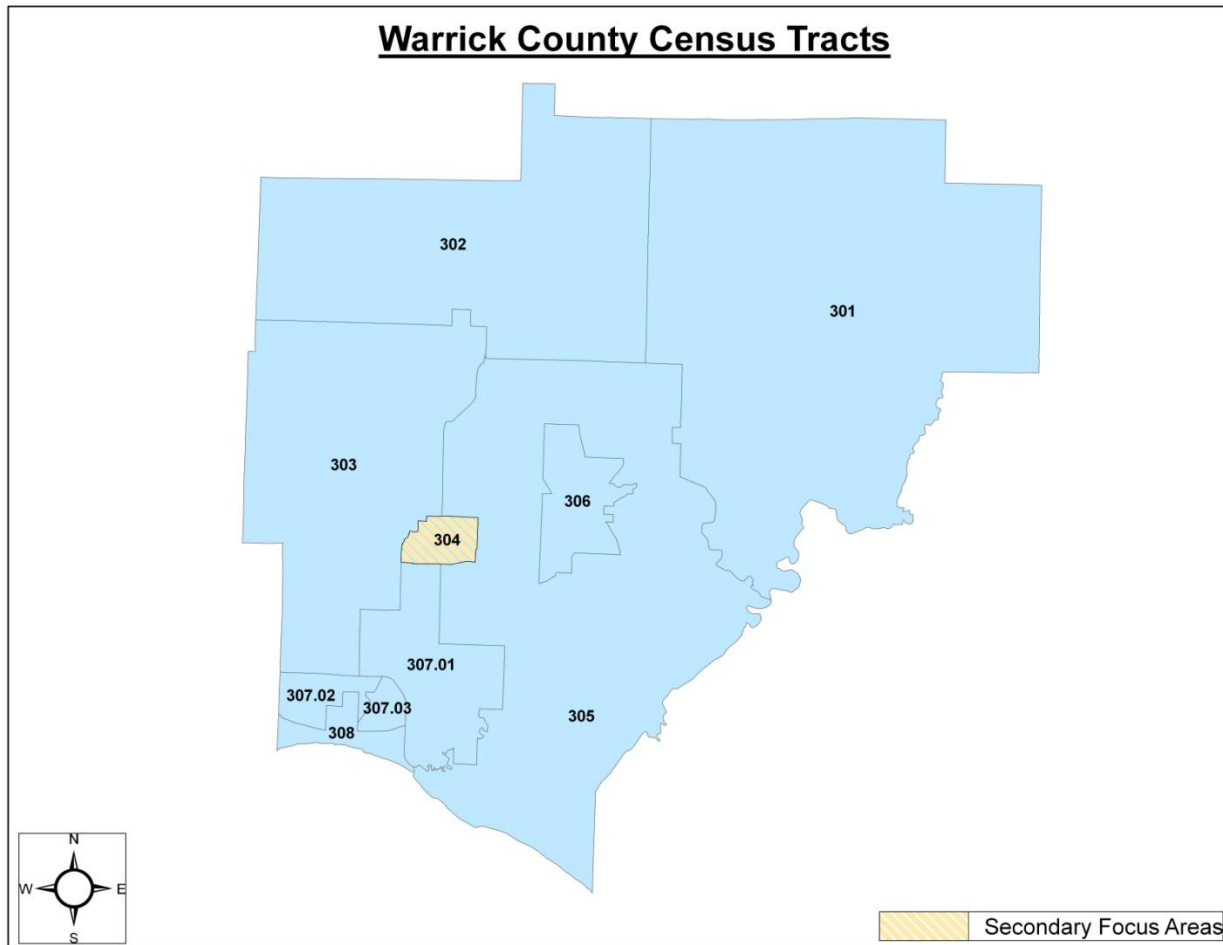


 Primary Focus Areas  
 Secondary Focus Areas

**Henderson County Census Tracts**



 Primary Focus Areas  
 Secondary Focus Areas



Through the public participation activities outlined in Title VI Report document and more specifically detailed in the EMPO Public Participation Plan, the EMPO works to proactively identify the needs and concerns of low-income and minority populations during planning by giving those groups the opportunity to comment in many various and different ways.

With the maps and the data above, the EMPO can identify and analyze geographic areas of low income and minority populations. Using these tools along with the TIP, Transportation Plan, Public Participation Plan, and the Limited English Proficiency Plan, the EMPO can identify the potential benefits, burdens and imbalances of metropolitan transportation system investments for different socioeconomic groups.