

## IV. SUMMARY

---

As stated previously, there are three main principals associated with environmental justice. The success of the Janesville Area MPO in meeting the principles is the basis for evaluating the overall impact of the recommended projects on the target groups. The discussion is broken down into a response to each principle. They are as follows:

1. To avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority populations and low-income populations.
2. To ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process.
3. To prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority and low-income populations.

### **Principle 1 & 3:**

- To avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority populations and low-income populations.
- To prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority and low-income populations.

The recommended projects are dispersed in an even fashion across the MPO area. While the expansion projects do intersect several target areas, they serve as local and regional connections, increasing opportunities for travel into and out of the areas, and in the case of the preservation projects, increase the quality of the road system within the neighborhood. The projects would change the access to job opportunities and retail centers at only one site, and the new project would continue to provide the same fashion of access. The potential harm caused by increased noise when I-39 is expanded will be mitigated by using noise barriers throughout the residential areas of Janesville.

All of the residential portions of the target areas are currently served by transit and the majority have a bike trail within their boundaries or within  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of them. The new trail connections are designed to run through the target areas or provide connections to them, supplying the occupants with greater mobility and recreation opportunities. The transit service provided allows residents of the target areas to reach major destinations, such as shopping, job centers, schools, and medical care within 5 to 25 minutes, on average. When using transit, most residents need to walk no more than 3-5 blocks to reach their stop or destination.

### **Principle 2:**

- To ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process.

The MPO realizes the importance of involving all segments of the community in the decision making process and a special effort was made to alert the public of the status of the Long Range Plan and the multiple opportunities for involvement. The public had the opportunity to comment at each of the Technical Advisory Committee meetings when the planned projects were being discussed among the committee members. To facilitate this, all materials were displayed at the public libraries, the Community Services Department, and on the City's website. In addition, the meetings were advertised in the Gazette, and meeting announcements were sent to each of the business and individuals listed on the MPO's public participation mailing list for the Long Range Plan; the list totals 149. Public meetings were held at the Municipal Building, a location served by public transit. Staff was available to answer any questions presented in person at the City Services Department, over the phone, or by email.

## V. REFERENCES

---

An Overview of Transportation and Environmental Justice. FHWA. May 2000. Accessed November 2005. <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/ej2000.htm>

*Toolkit for Assessing Potential Allegations of Environmental Injustice.* Environmental Protection Agency. November 2004.

*Environmental Justice Guidance Under the National Environmental Policy Act.* Council on Environmental Quality. December 1997