

Appendix E

Environmental Justification Technical Memo

Technical Memorandum

Date: Friday, July 31, 2020

Project: I-29 Exit 130 (20th Street South) Interchange, EM 0295(45)130, PCN 020V, Brookings, SD

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Subject: Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice and Related Requirements

Project Description

The City of Brookings has been awarded a federal “Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development” (BUILD) grant to construct a new interchange at Interstate 29 (I-29) and 20th Street South in Brookings, South Dakota (the Project). The BUILD Grant requires that all grant funding be obligated by September 30, 2021, which requires the final construction plan set be ready for letting prior to September 15, 2021.

The Project would improve connections for intracity and intercity commuters and freight traffic and create access to over 400 acres of planned commercial and residential development while reducing congestion and accidents along the city’s two primary transportation corridors - 6th Street and 22nd Avenue. **Figure 1** identifies the project location and depicts future growth directions as well as employment and commerce centers.

The requested BUILD grant funds are being used to construct a full interchange at the intersection of Interstate 29 (I-29) and 20th Street South. Specifically, the Project includes:

- A grade-separated overpass structure with 3-12’ lanes. Three lane and five lane options were evaluated with the three lane option being the recommended alternative.
- Interstate access ramps, constructed within existing right-of-way, connecting I-29 to 20th Street South.
- Roadway extensions on either side of the overpass connecting 22nd Avenue to the west and 34th Avenue to the east. (Approx. 2,500’ each direction from the I-29 ROW).

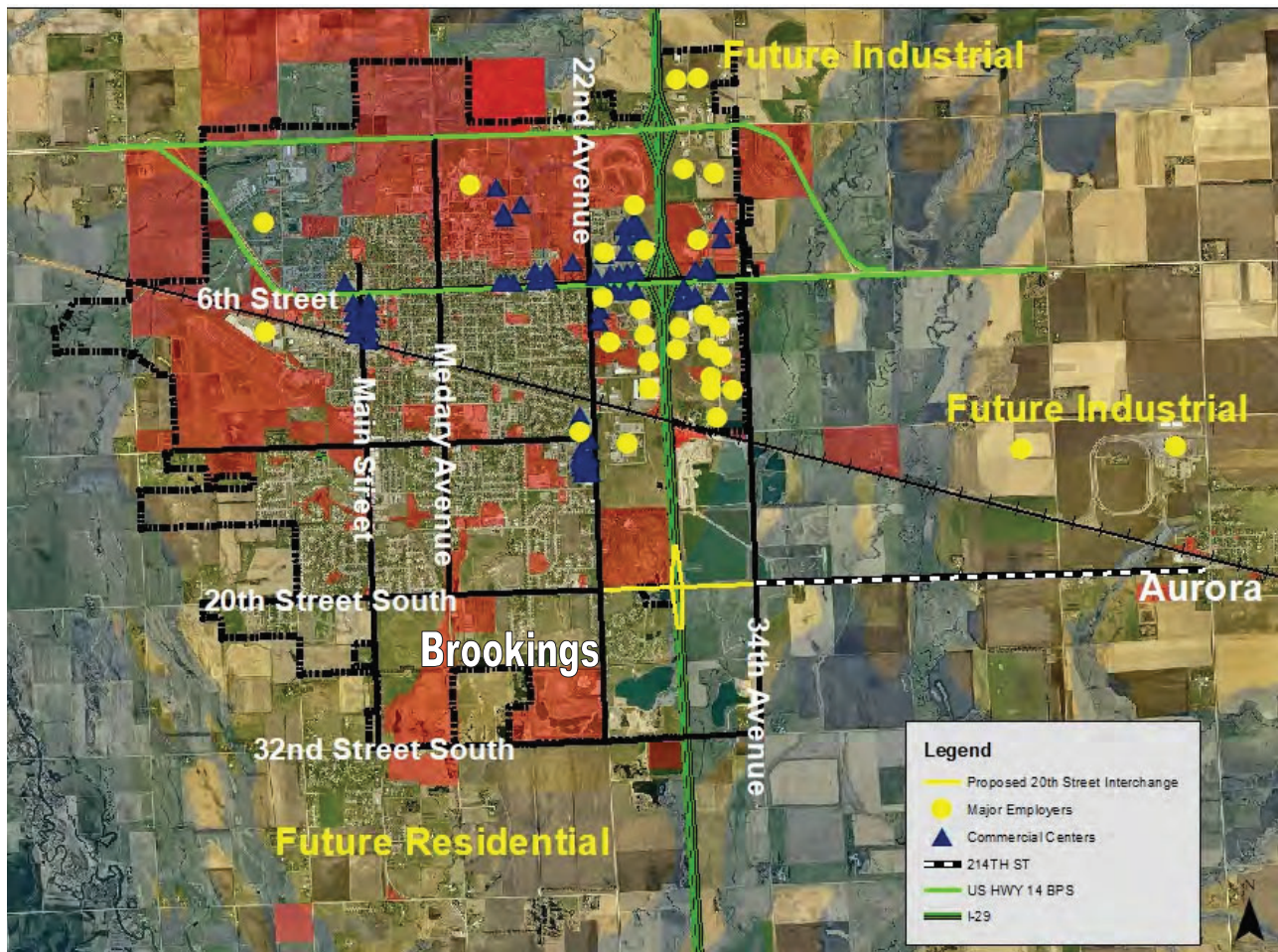


Figure 1. Project Location Identifying Future Growth Directions, Employment, and Commerce Centers.

Environmental Justice Laws, Regulation, and Policy

For all federally funded programs and activities, the issue of equality must be addressed in compliance with Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act (Title VI) and Environmental Justice (EJ) Executive Order (EO) 12898. Additionally, federal agencies must comply with EO 13166, Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP). This technical memorandum describes the review of the regulations of Title VI pertinent to EJ, EO 12898, EO 13166, and the analysis of minority, low-income populations, vulnerable age, and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) populations with regard to the potential adverse environmental and socioeconomic impacts associated with the Project.

Title VI states that “No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

EO 12898 requires each Federal agency to “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.” Recently, the US Department of Transportation (DOT) and FHWA issued guidance addressing minority, low-income, and vulnerable age populations and how they should be considered during planning for transportation projects:

- DOT Order 5610.2(A), Final DOT Environmental Justice Order, issued May 2, 2012 is used by DOT to comply with Executive Order 12898.
- FHWA issued Order 6640.23A, FHWA Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, on June 14, 2012.

It is the policy of DOT to promote the principles of environmental justice through the incorporation in all programs, policies, and activities. This will be done by fully considering environmental justice principles throughout planning and decision-making processes in the development of programs, policies, and activities, using the principles of the NEPA, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, (URA), and other DOT statutes, regulations and guidance that address or affect infrastructure planning and decision-making; social, economic, or environmental matters; public health; and public involvement.

Though senior citizens (also referred to as “elderly” at age 65 and above) and children (under age 18) are not specifically defined as EJ populations according to EO 12898, they are considered vulnerable age groups identified in Title VI and related nondiscrimination statutes and should be included in environmental justice analysis (FHWA, June 4, 2012). In accordance with EO 13045, Protection of Children From Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks, each Federal agency shall make it a high priority to identify and assess environmental health risks and safety risks that may disproportionately affect children, and shall ensure that its policies, programs, activities, and standards address disproportionate risks to children that result from environmental health risks or safety risks. EO 12898 directs that “each Federal agency shall work to ensure that public documents, notices, and hearings relating to human health or the environment are concise, understandable, and readily accessible to the public.” On August 11, 2000, President Clinton signed EO 13166, which requires Federal agencies to examine the services they provide, identify any need for services to those with LEP, and develop and implement a system to provide those services so LEP persons can have meaningful access to them.

Methodology

The methodology for this analysis addresses the area for study, the methods for determining minority, low-income, vulnerable age, and LEP populations, the approach for evaluating potential impacts of those populations, and proposed actions to avoid, minimize, and mitigate for potential impacts.

In accordance with DOT Order 5610.2(A) and FHWA Order 6640.23A, **minority** is defined as:

- Black: a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa;
- Hispanic or Latino: a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race;¹
- Asian American: a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent;
- American Indian and Alaskan Native: a person having origins in any of the original people of North America, South America (including Central America), and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition; or
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander: a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands (FHWA, June 14, 2012).

DOT and FHWA do not define children or elderly; the U.S. Census definitions of children and elderly are used in this memorandum. Children are defined as age 17 years and under; elderly are defined as age 65 years and above.

¹ The U.S. Census Bureau states that Hispanics and Latinos may be of any race.

DOT and FHWA define **low-income** as:

- A person whose median household income is at or below the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) poverty guidelines. Poverty guidelines are a simplification of the poverty thresholds for administrative purposes—for instance, determining financial eligibility for certain federal programs. Poverty thresholds are used mainly for statistical purposes—for instance, preparing estimates of the number of Americans in poverty each year. Poverty population data is calculated using the poverty thresholds, not the guidelines.
- A 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 and transient persons (such as migrant workers or Native Americans) who will be similarly affected by a proposed FHWA program, policy, or activity (FHWA, June 14, 2012).

DOT defines **LEP** as individuals for whom English is not their primary language who have a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English.

It is recognized that benefits will be experienced beyond the area identified as the Study Area. Much of the population living in Brookings, SD that regularly travel east of I-29 via 22nd Avenue and 6th Street and also for those living in Aurora, SD that regularly travel west of I-29 to areas in the central and southern portions of Brookings will benefit by reducing travel times. Congestion along 22nd Ave and 6th Street between 22nd Ave and the Highway 14 bypass will also experience reduced traffic congestion during peak hours and therefore indirectly benefit the larger Brookings and rural commuters. For this reason, the area of study for this analysis was confined to the overlapping census cartographic boundaries that overlap or are in close proximity to Study Area boundary which includes only the immediate and nearby areas where the population may experience benefits and burdens as a result of the Project. The scale of the U.S. Census Bureau cartographic boundary files for which demographic and socioeconomic data are tracked allows for a two tiered approach to the analysis at various scales. The 2010 Decennial U.S. Census was analyzed to determine the characteristics (minority, and age) of the population in and near the Study Area. Data was analyzed to the smallest geographic unit available, the Census block, for minorities and vulnerable ages.² The Census block boundaries which are generally small and confined to neighborhoods. For this reason, the level of analysis for minority and vulnerable age populations was focused on just those in close proximity to the Project.

The American Community Survey (ACS), an ongoing survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, compiles income and language data annually. The smallest geographical unit available for ACS data is the Census block group.³ Data for income were collected for the Study Area using 5-year averages (2014 to 2018) at the block group level while Limit English Speaking household data was gathered at census tract geographic units. For this reason, the level of analysis for these socioeconomic variables will be evaluated in a broader context. The census cartographic boundaries expand beyond the boundaries of the Study Area, particularly the block groups and tracts, consequently the total population of the Census blocks analyzed for the Study Area is larger than the actual population in the Study Area.

² Census blocks are statistical areas bounded by visible features, such as streets, roads, streams, and railroad tracks, and by non-visible boundaries, such as selected property lines and city, township, school district, and county limits. Generally, Census blocks are small in area; for example, a block in a city bounded on all sides by streets. Census blocks in suburban and rural areas may be large, irregular, and bounded by a variety of features, such as roads, streams, and transmission lines. While there are no defined populations within blocks, they typically contain from 0 to 100 people.

³ Block Groups (BGs) are statistical divisions of census tracts, and are generally defined to contain between 600 and 3,000 people. A block group consists of clusters of blocks within the same census tract that have the same first digit of their four-digit Census block number.

In accordance with FHWA Order 6640.23A, any **readily identifiable group** of minority or 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 FHWA program, policy, or activity were identified. The population characteristics (minority, age, language spoken, and income) of the Study Area were compared to the characteristics of Brookings County to determine if there are substantial populations of minority, vulnerable age, LEP, or low-income residents.

FHWA defines a **disproportionately high and adverse effect** on minority and/or low-income populations as an adverse effect that:

- is predominately borne by a minority population and/or a low-income population, or
- would 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 would be suffered by the non-minority population and/or non-low-income population (FHWA, June 14, 2012).

FHWA Order 6640.23A does not define “any readily identifiable group.” Guidance developed by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), who along with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), has oversight responsibility for implementing EO 12898,⁴ identifies a minority and low income populations when:

- The percentage of minorities or low-income residents, respectively, exceeds 50 percent of the population in the area affected by the Project, or
- The minority population percentage of the affected area is meaningfully (or substantially) greater than the minority population percentage in the general population or other appropriate unit of geographic analysis (CEQ, December 10, 1997).⁵

FHWA Order 6640.23A and other FHWA guidance do not use the term “meaningfully greater.” FHWA only uses the term “readily identifiable group” with regard to identifying a minority and/or low-income population. Based on CEQ and FHWA guidance, a three-step process was used to identify minority, low-income, and/or vulnerable age populations in the Study Area:

- Minority, low-income, and vulnerable age populations were initially evaluated to determine if the percentage of the population in the Study Area exceeds 50 percent of the total population.
- Minority, low-income, and vulnerable age populations were also evaluated by comparing their percentage in the Study Area to the percentage in the County to determine if the minority, low-income, and/or vulnerable age populations in the Study Area is high and/or disproportionately greater than the same populations in the surrounding region. The Study Area was further analyzed at the Census block group and block levels to determine the distribution of any minority, low-income, and vulnerable age populations within the Study Area; the proximity of these populations to the proposed project was determined to evaluate the potential significance of environmental impacts. Census block groups and blocks were determined to contain “substantial” minority, low-income, and vulnerable age populations if any of the these populations exhibited concentrations that were at least 40 percent higher than the County’s percentage of the same minority, low-income, and vulnerable age

⁴ Certain oversight functions in EO 12898 are delegated to the Deputy Assistant to the President for Environmental Policy. Following the merger of the White House Office on Environmental Policy with CEQ, the Chair of CEQ assumed those functions. EPA has lead responsibility for implementation of the Executive Order as Chair of the Interagency Working Group (IWG) on Environmental Justice.

⁵ Neither CEQ nor EPA’s guidance define “meaningfully greater”, but leave it to the professional judgment of the NEPA analyst based on the circumstances in the area affected by the project and the surrounding community.

population. A 40 percent threshold represents a rounded value that is approximately the population within one standard deviation (34 percent) from the mean of a typical normal bell shape distribution curve.

- In accordance with FHWA Order 6640.23A, further analysis of minority, low-income, and/or vulnerable age populations was conducted to determine if there are any other readily identifiable groups within the Study Area that are not statistically significant when considering the Study Area as a whole. Potential small concentrations or clusters of minorities and/or vulnerable age were identified by analyzing individual Census blocks to determine if the percentage of minorities or vulnerable age in any of these blocks is above the average percentage of minority, low-income, and or vulnerable age individuals in the Study Area. Census block group data for income were analyzed to determine if the percentage of low-income populations are above the average percentage of low-income populations in the Study Area.
- **A minimum of 10 minorities, low-income or vulnerable age individuals was the threshold for identifying either substantial populations or readily identifiable groups within either a Census block or block group.**

LEP populations were identified to determine if there are any barriers to effective communication within the Study Area. Census Tract data for languages spoken were analyzed to determine the percentage of individuals for whom English is not their primary language who speak English very well.

Population Characteristics of the Study Area

Population density in and near the interchange is rather low. East of I-29 there are no residents within near the interchange while west of I-29 there is a golf course to the north of 20th Street. Located south of 20th Street is a development known as Western Estates that comprised of primarily mobile homes and modular homes known. Immediately west of 22nd Ave and south of 20th Street is the Hillside Mobile Home park. Immediately north of 20th Street and west of 22nd Ave is an apartment complex surrounded by newer single family homes. Beyond the immediate vicinity of the interchange, the Study Area is primarily comprised of commercial landuse along 22nd Avenue with some residential to the west of 22nd Avenue. High density multi-family residential is located to the north of 6th Street and west of I29 while commercial land use is the dominant use along 6th Street. **Table 1** summarizes the minority, and age characteristics of the population of the County and the Study Area.

Table 1. Demographics Overview

Demographic	Brookings County	Study Area
Total Population	31,965	2,824
White, Not Hispanic	29,513	2,530
Black, Not Hispanic	246	55
American Indian and Alaska Native, Not Hispanic	272	16
Asian, Not Hispanic	866	139
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, Not Hispanic	9	0
Hispanic	636	43
Total Minority	2,029	253
Percent Minority	6.3%	9.0%
Children	6,038	415
Percent Children	18.9%	14.7%
Elderly	3,170	371
Percent Elderly	9.9%	13.1%

Source: U.S. Census 2010, Tables P5 and P12, U.S. Census Bureau, Retrieved April 14, 2020

Based on the U.S. Census blocks, 2,824 people lived in the 95 Census blocks intersecting the Study Area in 2010 (U.S. Census Bureau. 2010). As noted previously, this estimate includes all people living within the Census block boundaries that intersect the Study Area and thus many contain adjacent neighborhoods to the Project where most residences are outside the Study Area boundary.

Minority, Vulnerable Age, Low-Income, and LEP

In accordance with FHWA guidance, minority, low-income, and vulnerable age populations in the Study Area were identified to determine the potential for these populations to be disproportionately affected by the Project. Additionally, LEP populations were identified as part of the requirement to meet the requirements of EO 13166 and DOT Order 5610.2(A).

Minorities

The total number of minorities in the Study Area was determined to be 272, of which 56 identified themselves to be of Hispanic or Latino origin. The percentages of minority populations within the Study Area (9.0%) is substantially greater (>40% more) than that of the percentage within Brookings County (6.3%). Of the 95 Census blocks, 46 were populated and 20 had at least one minority individual. Only two Census blocks met the threshold of having substantial populations with more than 10 minority individuals and comprise 169 of the total 253 minority individuals within the Study Area. Of the 169 minorities in those two Census blocks, one of those blocks comprised 155 of the minorities. **Figure 2** shows the locations of substantial minority populations within the Study Area.

- Block 2060, Census Tract 9590 (14 minority of which all are Hispanic and Latino)
- Block 5014, Census Tract 9589 (155 minority of which 42 are Black, 7 are American Indian, 94 are Asian, and 12 are Hispanic all are Hispanic and Latino)

Vulnerable Age

The percentage of elderly is greater in the Study Area in comparison to the percentage in Brookings County but not substantially greater. The percentage of children is less in the Study Area in comparison to the percentage in Brookings. Fourteen Census blocks contained readily identifiable groups of children (i.e. more than Study Area percentage) with five meeting the criteria for being

substantial. Ten Census blocks contain readily identifiable groups of elderly all which meet the criteria for having a substantial elderly population. **Table 2** and **Table 3** summarize Census blocks with readily identifiable and substantial vulnerable age populations. **Figure 2** shows the locations of substantial populations of vulnerable age groups.

Table 2. Census Blocks With Readily Identifiable and Substantial Children Populations.

Block	Children Population	Percent Children
Block 1000, Block Group 1, Census Tract 9590	12	20.69%
Block 2004, Block Group 2, Census Tract 9590	11	22.92%
<i>Block 2005, Block Group 2, Census Tract 9590</i>	73	<i>29.08%</i>
Block 2024, Block Group 2, Census Tract 9590	41	18.06%
Block 2037, Block Group 2, Census Tract 9590	13	24.53%
<i>Block 2042, Block Group 2, Census Tract 9590</i>	19	<i>31.15%</i>
Block 2048, Block Group 2, Census Tract 9590	28	19.72%
<i>Block 2060, Block Group 2, Census Tract 9590</i>	23	<i>33.33%</i>
Block 2105, Block Group 2, Census Tract 9586	10	18.52%
Block 3005, Block Group 3, Census Tract 9589	18	23.08%
<i>Block 3022, Block Group 3, Census Tract 9589</i>	26	<i>35.14%</i>
Block 3030, Block Group 3, Census Tract 9589	20	25.97%
Block 3035, Block Group 3, Census Tract 9589	24	22.64%

*Italicized Blocks are substantial populations. Non-italicized Blocks are readily identifiable populations.

Table 3. Census Blocks With Substantial Elderly Populations.

Block	Elderly Population	Percent Elderly
<i>Block 1006, Block Group 1, Census Tract 9590</i>	34	<i>54%</i>
<i>Block 2005, Block Group 2, Census Tract 9590</i>	65	<i>26%</i>
<i>Block 2023, Block Group 2, Census Tract 9590</i>	10	<i>56%</i>
<i>Block 2048, Block Group 2, Census Tract 9590</i>	21	<i>15%</i>
<i>Block 3002, Block Group 3, Census Tract 9589</i>	41	<i>37%</i>
<i>Block 3003, Block Group 3, Census Tract 9589</i>	58	<i>44%</i>
<i>Block 3005, Block Group 3, Census Tract 9589</i>	14	<i>18%</i>
<i>Block 3018, Block Group 3, Census Tract 9589</i>	10	<i>71%</i>
<i>Block 3030, Block Group 3, Census Tract 9589</i>	17	<i>22%</i>
<i>Block 3035, Block Group 3, Census Tract 9589</i>	22	<i>21%</i>

*All Blocks are substantial populations.

Low Income

The southwest quadrant of the I-29 and 20th Street area is comprised of the Hillside Mobile Home Park and Western Estates which has many mobile homes (Low-Income Housing). The low-income population and the percentage of the total population identified as a low-income population are listed in **Table 4**. Overall, the percentage of low-income population is less in the Study Area than the County. Block Group 5, Census Tract 9589 contains a substantial low-income population. This Block Group comprises high density multifamily residential units to the north of 6th Street and west of I-29, including university campus housing. Much of this Block Group is located outside the Study Area.

Table 4. Low-Income Population

Area	Total population	Income below poverty level	Percent
Brookings County	30,791	4,735	15.4%
Block Group 2, Census Tract 9586	595	105	17.6%
Block Group 3, Census Tract 9586	1,103	126	11.4%
Block Group 2, Census Tract 9590	4,575	459	10.0%
Block Group 3, Census Tract 9589	1,497	119	7.9%
Block Group 5, Census Tract 9589	1,478	555	37.6%
Total Study Area	9,428	390	14.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved April 14, 2020

Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

DOT defines LEP as individuals for whom English is not their primary language who have a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English.⁶ LEP populations in the Study Area and the City are listed in **Table 5**.

The percentage is less than the FHWA criteria of 5 percent for LEP outreach.

⁶ DOT and FHWA do not define a threshold for determining the LEP population in an area. Reference is made in the guidance to both those who speak English less than well and less than very well. U.S. Census does not define very well, well, or not well with regard to the ability to speak English by those whose primary language is not English. LEP data for specific languages is available only for those who speak English very well or less than very well. Therefore, to be conservative, this memo addresses LEP as those whose primary language is not English who speak English less than very well.

Table 5. Limited English Proficiency (Individuals 5 Years and Older)

Area	Population	Speak Spanish, speak English less than very well	Speak other Indo-European languages, speak English less than very well	Speak Asian and Pacific languages, speak English less than very well	Speak other languages, speak English less than very well	Total, speak English less than very well	Percent, speak English less than very well
Census Tract 9586	3,549	72	7	26	8	113	3.18%
Census Tract 9590	5,374	148	0	37	15	200	3.72%
Census Tract 9589	7,551	8	145	41	57	251	3.32%
Total Study Area	16,474	228	152	104	80	564	3.42%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved April 14, 2020

Potential Disproportionate Impact Analysis

DOT Order 5610.2(A) and FHWA Order 6640.23A define an adverse effect as the totality of significant individual or cumulative human health or environmental effects, including interrelated social and economic effects, which may include, but are not limited to: bodily impairment, infirmity, illness or death; air, noise, and water pollution and soil contamination; destruction or disruption of human-made or natural resources; destruction or diminution of aesthetic values; destruction or disruption of community cohesion or a community's economic vitality; destruction or disruption of the availability of public and private facilities and services; vibration; adverse employment effects; displacement of persons, businesses, farms, or nonprofit organizations; increased traffic congestion, isolation, exclusion or separation of minority or low-income individuals within a given community or from the broader community; and the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of, benefits of FHWA programs, policies, or activities.

In accordance with the above referenced DOT and FHWA orders, all reasonably foreseeable adverse social, economic, and environmental effects on minority and/or low-income populations must be identified and addressed in environmental documentation as part of project planning and development. Consequently, construction and operation of the Project will be assessed for the following potential impacts:

- Bodily impairment, infirmity, illness, or death
- Air, noise, and water pollution and soil contamination
- Destruction or disruption of man-made or natural resources
- Destruction or diminution of aesthetic values
- Destruction or disruption of community cohesion or a community's economic vitality
- Destruction or disruption of the availability of public and private facilities and services
- Vibration
- Adverse employment effects
- Displacement of persons, businesses, farms, or nonprofit organizations

- Increased traffic congestion, isolation, exclusion, or separation of minority or low-income individuals within a given community or from the broader community
- The denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of, benefits of DOT programs, policies, or activities.

The Project is not anticipated to adversely affect the occurrence of bodily impairment, infirmity, illness, or death. All construction activities would be carried out in accordance with all applicable regulations and standards, including worker safety.

Brookings County is in attainment with National Ambient Air Quality Standards and nothing about the nature of the Project suggest it would contribute to the increase in pollutants in excess of these standards. There will likely be temporary increase in particulates during construction that would be minimized through best management practices.

The Project would alter noise levels along the corridor and a noise analysis will be conducted during the NEPA process to determine if and what type(s) of mitigation measures are necessary to comply with current regulation. Sensitive noise receivers would be identified using FHWA Noise Abatement Criteria (NAC) and procedures used in the planning and evaluation of noise from traffic on new or modified roadways (forth in Title 23 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 772). Consequently, no long-term disproportionate impacts to minority, low-income, or vulnerable age populations are anticipated.

No man-made resources (such as historic structures) are known to be present at this time; however, will be surveyed and evaluated as part of the Project. Any discoveries will be evaluated to determine their eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and impacts will be avoided, minimized, or mitigated as part of the Section 106 process.

Aesthetics would be changed as part of the Project; however, considering that I-29 is present and existing vegetative screening in the form of trees of the closest residents living in the Western Estates development, diminution of aesthetics would be minimal for nearby residents. Aesthetics would change the most from Edgebrook golf course; however, such impact is not anticipated to result in disproportionate impacts to minority, low-income, or LEP individuals.

Community cohesion or community economic vitality would not be disrupted in either the short term or long term. The Project would result in providing an additional transportation option therein improving connectivity and reduce commuting time and distance of those living in south Brookings and working east of I-29. Also, those that live east of Brookings in neighboring rural areas including Aurora that commute to work or businesses west of I-29 in Brookings. This would also contribute to positive employment effects and decreased traffic congestion for minorities, low-income individuals, as well as the broader community that travels east-west over I-29 using 6th Street. Based on a review of residences on Google Earth, it appears as though there are 15 residences (including three apparent empty lots for either mobile or modular homes) located on an exit road from Western Estates development onto 20th Street S. During construction, if 20th Street S. is temporarily closed off, those residents would have to exit Western Estates on 22nd Ave. This would only increase travel distance and time by approximately 0.4 miles or one minute for most trips within Brookings. Upon completion of the Project, they would receive the beneficial effects of improved connectivity and reduced travel time to businesses, employment, and services east of I-29 as well as access to I-29 itself. There were no substantial minority, low-income, or vulnerable age populations within the Census blocks or blockgroups immediately along 20th Street S. Consequently, no long-term disproportionate impacts to minority, low-income, or vulnerable age populations are anticipated.

The Project would not result in the destruction or disruption of the availability of public and private facilities and services. No access would be cut off from public or private services temporarily. The Project would improve access to public or private services upon completion. Consequently, no long-term disproportionate impacts to minority, low-income, or vulnerable age populations are anticipated.

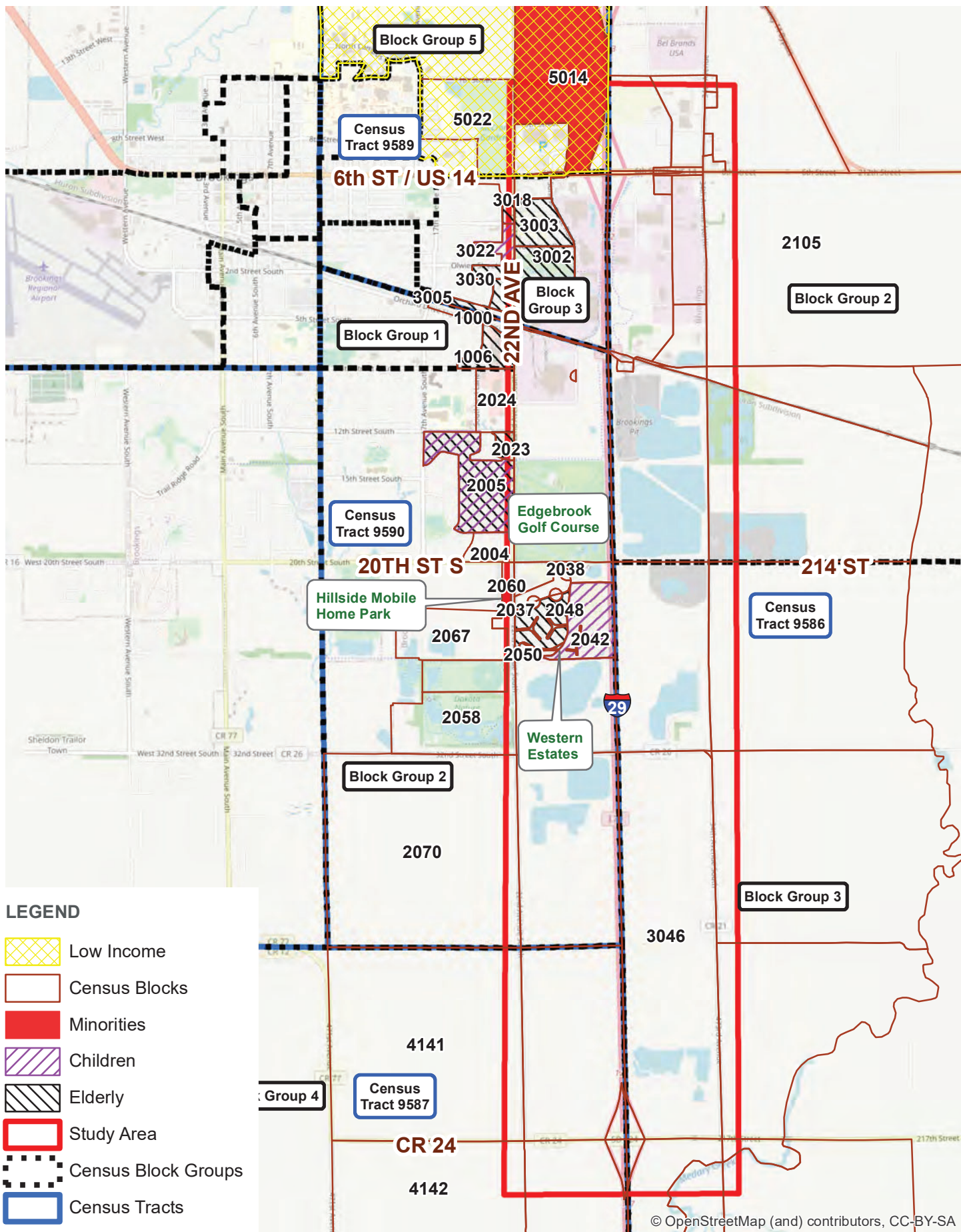
The Project would not result in the displacement of businesses, farms, or non-profit organizations. If an individual's home needs to be acquired to complete the Project, the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 would apply. The Project would not result in the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of, benefits of DOT programs, policies, or activities. Consequently, no long-term disproportionate impacts to minority, low-income, or vulnerable age populations are anticipated.

Conclusions

Minority (Hispanic), vulnerable age, low-income, and LEP populations were identified in the Study Area. Minority populations were identified in 20 of 46 populated U.S. Census blocks. The population of children within the Study Area is less than within the County; however, readily identifiable groups and substantial clusters of children and elderly populations were identified. One low-income population was present in a Block Group comprised of high density multi-family housing located to the north of 6th Street and west of I-29. No adverse impacts would occur in this area, thus there is no data that suggests impacts would be disproportionate to this low-income population.

As discussed above, potential impacts that would disproportionately highly and adversely affect minority, low-income, and vulnerable age are not apparent. The population of LEP individuals does not exceed the FHWA criteria of 5 percent for LEP outreach. Unless unforeseen concerns are recognized later or brought forward during public involvement efforts during the NEPA process, mitigation efforts do not appear to be warranted.

All identified impacts would be temporary, only occurring during construction. Such impacts would affect both non-protected and protected populations. The Project, in its completion, would benefit all populations.



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CENSUS BLOCKS WITH SUBSTANTIALLY GREATER MINORITIES AND VULNERABLE AGE POPULATIONS

I-29 & 20TH STREET INTERCHANGE



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U.S. Census Bureau. 2010 Census Summary File 1. Retrieved April 14, 2020.

1) Table P5. Hispanic or Latino Origin by Race

- https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=P5&tid=DECENNIALSF12010.P5&vintage=2010&hidePreview=false&layer=VT_2010_100_00_PY_D1&q=0500000US46011,46011.100000

2) Table P12. Sex by Age:

- <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=P3&q=0500000US46011.100000&tid=DECENNIALSF12010.P3&hidePreview=true>

U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey 2014 to 2018. Retrieved April 14, 2020.

1) Table B16001 – Language Spoken at Home

- <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=0500000US46011.140000&tid=ACSST5Y2018.S1601&hidePreview=true&t=Language%20Spoken%20at%20Home&vintage=2018&moe=false&tp=true>

2) Table C17002 – Ratio of Income to Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months

- <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?y=2018&text=C17002&tid=ACSDT5Y2018.C17002&hidePreview=true&q=0500000US46011.150000>