

Environmental Justice Analysis

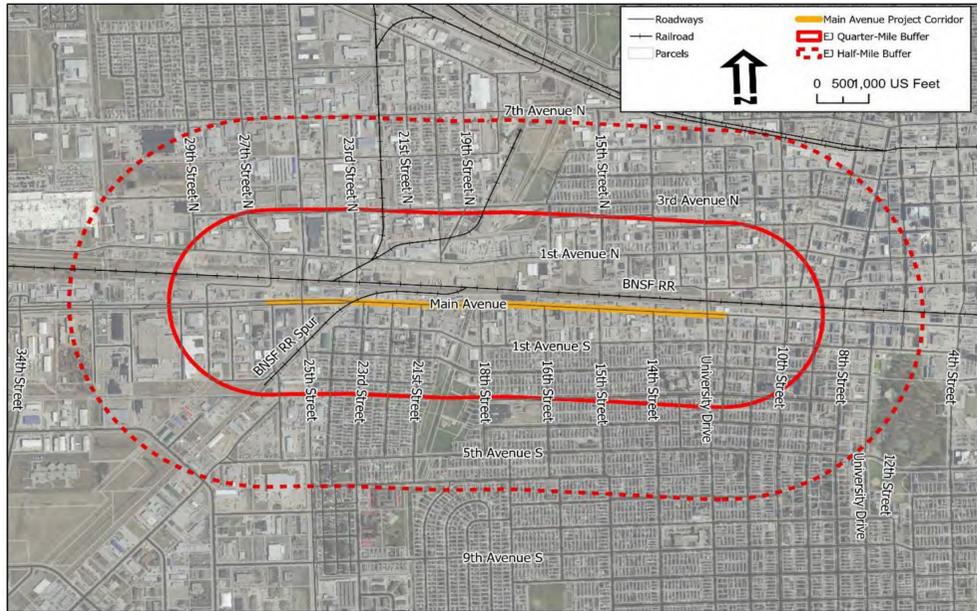
MAIN AVE RECONSTRUCTION

What is an Environmental Justice Analysis?

An environmental justice (EJ) analysis is done to identify, address, and avoid disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations.

How do we identify Environmental Justice populations?

The EJ study area is a ¼ mile buffer of the corridor project area from 25th Street to University Drive. An additional ½-mile buffer was used to examine potential effects to the greater community context.



Demographic	Project Study Area (including 0.25-mile buffer)	City of Fargo
Minority Population	29%	19%
Low-Income Population	57%	30%

Are Readily Identifiable Minority or Low-Income Populations within the study area?

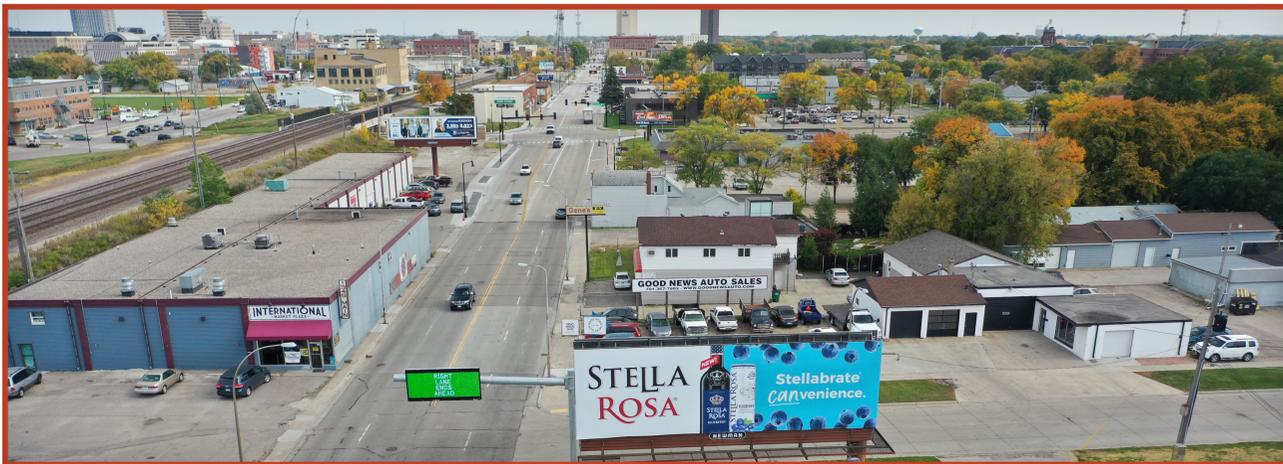
Yes. The EJ study area was investigated for the presence of readily identified low-income and/or minority populations, community facilities that serve low-income and/or minority populations, and businesses that are owned by, employ, and/or serve low income and/or minority populations. The following were identified within a 0.50-mile of the project limits:

- ✓ 6 - Multifamily Assisted Facilities
- ✓ 6 - Low Income Housing Tax Credit Facilities
- ✓ 1 - Public Housing Authority
- ✓ 8 - Public Housing Facilities
- ✓ 1 - Public Housing Development
- ✓ 1 - Housing and Urban Development Office
- ✓ Several readily identifiable businesses owned by, and/or serving minority and/or low-income populations.
- ✓ Several community facilities that provide service to minority and/or low-income populations.

How will an Environmental Justice Study influence NDDOT decision-making?

Because low-income and minority populations were identified within the EJ study area, a full EJ analysis was completed. Each project alternative was assessed for its potential human health and environmental impacts for all EJ populations, including minimization, avoidance, and benefits.

The Preferred Alternative, Alternative C2, is a direct project refinement to minimize and remove building impacts associated with Alternative C1. Alternative C2 (Preferred Alternative) would avoid disproportionately high or adverse impacts to EJ populations.



Environmental Justice Analysis Findings

Within the study area, the minority population is 10 percentage points higher than the City and the low-income population is 27 points higher than the City. The minority and low-income populations within the study area are strong indicators of the presence of an EJ population because both are more than 10 percentage points higher than the City. Additionally, the low-income population within the EJ study area is greater than 50 percent.

- Alternative C1 would have disproportionately high or adverse impacts to EJ populations within the study area due to impacts at 1345 Main Avenue, the International Market Plaza, and 1328 Main Avenue, Bonjour Fargo.
- Within the study area there is a prevalence of non-vehicular modes of transportation for the identified EJ population. Alternative A would impact these populations due to no pedestrian improvements being made.
- Alternative C2 (Preferred Alternative) and Alternative D would avoid disproportionately high or adverse impacts to EJ populations.

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 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 of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to use in complying with Executive Order 12898. FHWA issued Order 6640-23A on June 14, 2012.