

US 62 from KY 3155 to KY 224

Grayson County Item No. 4-8303

Environmental Justice and Community Impact Report



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Prepared By:
Lincoln Trail Area Development District
613 College Street Rd.
P.O. Box 604
Elizabethtown, KY 42702
(270) 769-2393



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1.0 Introduction

The following document is an assessment of the community demographics and characteristics related to the defined project study area of US 62 from Leitchfield to Clarkson in Grayson County. This project is listed as Item Number 4-8303.00 in the Kentucky Six-Year Highway Plan FY 2007-2012 and is currently in the Planning phase.

The resources used to compile the data contained herein are the U.S. Census Bureau, Kentucky State Data Center, local elected officials, community leaders, and field observations of the study area. The information and results are intended to assist the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet in making informed and prudent decisions in the study area, particularly as it pertains to the requirements of Executive Order 12898¹, to ensure equal environmental protection to all groups potentially impacted by both short and long-term improvement strategies for this section of US 62.

This report includes data tables comparing the populations of the census divisions directly in and around the study area at the county, state, and national levels. Statistics are provided for minority, elderly, and low-income populations for census tracts, block groups, and census blocks except where not available. For ease of analysis, maps are included that highlight areas of interest at the block group and census block level.

2.0 What is Environmental Justice?

The U.S. EPA Office of Environmental Justice (EJ) defines EJ as:

“The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socio-economic group should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local and tribal programs and policies.”

A disproportionately high and adverse effect on a minority or low-income population means an adverse effect that:

1. is predominately borne by a minority population and/or low-income population, or
2. will 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

¹ Executive Order 12898 signed on February 11, 1994 states “...each Federal agency shall 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...”

will be suffered by the non-minority population and/or non-low-income population.

2.1 Definitions

USDOT Order 5610.2 on EJ, issued in the April 15, 1997 Federal Register defines what constitutes low-income and minority population.

- **Low-Income** is defined as a person whose median household income is at or below the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines.
- **Minority** is defined as a person who is: (1) Black (a person having origins in any black racial groups of Africa); (2) Hispanic (a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race); (3) Asian American (a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands); or (4) American Indian and Alaskan Native (a person having origins in any of the original people of North America and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition).
- **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/transient persons who will be similarly affected by a proposed DOT program, policy or activity.
- **Minority Population** is defined as any readily identifiable group of minority persons who live in geographic proximity, and if circumstances warrant, geographically dispersed/transient persons who will be similarly affected by a proposed DOT program, policy or activity.

EO12898 and USDOT Order 5610.2 do not address consideration of the elderly population. However, the U.S. DOT encourages the study of these populations in EJ discussions and in accordance with EJ, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's advocacy of inclusive public involvement and equal treatment of all persons this study includes statistics for persons age 65 and over that are within the study and comparison areas.

3.0 Methodology

For this study, data was collected by using the method outlined by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet document, "Methodology for Assessing Potential Environmental Justice Concerns for KYTC Planning Studies." (See Appendix B.)

The primary sources of data used in the compilation of this report were the U.S. Census Bureau's 2000 Census, Kentucky State Data Center, local elected officials, community leaders, and field observations. Statistics were compiled to present a detailed analysis of the community conditions for the project study area.

4.0 Census Data Analysis

The U.S. Census Bureau defines geographical units as:

- **Census Tract (CT)** – A small, relatively, permanent statistical subdivision of a county or statistically equivalent entity delineated for data presentation purposes by a local group of census data users or the geographic staff of a regional census center in accordance with Census Bureau guidelines. CTs generally contain between 1,000 and 8,000 people. CT boundaries are delineated with the intention of being stable over many decades, so they generally follow relatively permanent visible features. They may also follow governmental unit boundaries and other invisible features in some instances; the boundary of a state or county is always a census tract boundary.
- **Block Group (BG)** – A statistical subdivision of a CT. A BG consists of all tabulation blocks whose numbers begin with the same digit in a CT. BGs generally contain between 300 and 3,000 people, with an optimum size of 1,500 people.
- **Census Block (CB)** – An area bounded on all sides by visible and/or invisible features shown on a map prepared by the Census Bureau. A CB is the smallest geographic entity for which the Census Bureau tabulates decennial census data.

The census data tables include percentages for minority, elderly, and low-income populations in the United States, Kentucky, Grayson County, Census Tracts, Block Groups, and Census Blocks located in and around the study area, except where not available. This data was separated into similar geographical census units to obtain accurate measures of demographic data.

5.0 Study Findings

This Environmental Justice and Community Impact Report is to be used as a component of a programming study currently being conducted by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Division of Planning for the identification of short and long-term improvement strategies for the defined section of US 62. This study is intended to help define the location and purpose of the project and meet federal requirements regarding consideration of environmental issues as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

According to the 2000 Census, there are five (5) Census Tracts and sixteen (16) Block Groups that encompass the population of the defined study area. These are listed below. (See Map 11.1 for geographic location.)

Grayson County Total Population	24,053
Study Area Total Populations	18,091

Census Tract 9501	2,619
Block Group 1	933
Block Group 2	800
Block Group 3	886
Census Tract 9502	3,055
Block Group 1	1,293
Block Group 2	861
Block Group 3	901
Census Tract 9503	3,744
Block Group 1	1,301
Block Group 2	909
Block Group 3	1,534
Census Tract 9504	6,081
Block Group 1	1,339
Block Group 2	1,500
Block Group 3	1,331
Block Group 4	1,235
Block Group 5	676
Census Tract 9505	2,592
Block Group 1	761
Block Group 2	1,831

6.0 Study Findings / Population by Persons of Minority Origin

As described in the census data, the “White Alone” population for the state of Kentucky is 90.1%, which is much higher than the national percentage of 75.1%. The total minority population for the state has been calculated and found to be 9.9%. The minority percentage for Grayson County is much lower than this value at 1.7%, while the percentage for the study area is 2.0%.

An analysis of block groups in the area reveals that BG 2 and 3 in CT 9503 and BG 5 in CT 9504 have a relatively high concentration of minority populations. Census Tract 9503 BG 2 has a percentage of 2.6%, BG 3 has a percentage of 5.5%, and CT 9504 BG 5 has the highest concentration at 6.5%. However, as is evident from Map 10.1, CT 9504 lies outside of the programming study area of interest.

Data at the census block level provides further explanation. In relation to the area defined in the programming study, three census blocks stand out: CT 9503 BG 2 CB 2011 (40%); BG 3 CB 2036 (16.7%); and CT 9502 BG 2 CB 2023 (57.1%). The total population of these blocks, however, are low: 10, 12, and 7, respectively.

In accordance with the USDOT definition of *Minority*, all races were included in the minority concentration analysis. It is worth noting, though, that of the total minority population in Grayson County, 40.6% are of Two or More Races and 28.6% are Black or African American. For the defined study area, 37.9% are of Two or More Races and 31.4% are Black or African American. All of the other races have very low concentrations at the county, census tract, and block group levels. Therefore, the areas indicated are highly representative of the Two or More Races and Black or African American populations in the study area.

Also worth mentioning is the fact that Hispanic or Latino Origin persons may be of any race. When analyzed separately, though, these individuals were found to make up 0.9% of the total population in the defined study area.

Maps 10.2 and 10.2.2 display the minority concentrations geographically.

7.0 Study Findings / Population by Persons 65 and Over

As described in the census data, the population percentage of Persons 65 and Over are very consistent at the national and state levels – 12.4% and 12.5%, respectively. The only variation is at the county level, which has a slightly higher percentage of 14.0%.

When comparing block groups in the area, five groups have percentages equal to or above the Grayson County value of 14.0%: CT 9502 BG 1 (14.7%); BG 2 (14.8%); CT 9503 BG 3 (19.8%); CT 9504 BG 2 (17.5%); and BG 5 (18.5%). The most significant, though, again is CT 9503 BG 3 due to the programming study scope. It has a total population of 1,534, almost 20% of which are 65 and over.

Upon further analysis, six census blocks have high percentages of minority populations: CT 9502 BG 2 CB 2011 (23.1%); CB 2016 (21.4%); CT 9503 BG 2 CB 2000 (20.0%); CB 2004 (30.8%); CB 2012 (33.3%); and CB 2036 (25.0%). The total populations of these blocks are 13, 14, 30, 13, 3, and 12, respectively.

Maps 10.3 and 10.3.2 display the 65 and over concentrations geographically.

8.0 Study Findings / Population by Persons Below Poverty Level

As described in the census data, the percentage of persons below the poverty level in Kentucky is 15.4% and in Grayson County 17.7% – both well above the national level of 12.0%.

As illustrated in Map 10.4 and the Census Data table in Appendix C, eleven of sixteen block groups have percentages well above the state level. Three of those have percentages above the county's level: CT 9503 BG 2 (20.4%); BG 3 (19.7%); and CT

9504 BG 5 (33.6%). Again the two of significance are CT 9503 BG 2 and 3. These have populations of 909 and 1,534, respectively.

Data at the census block level was not available for analysis.

Map 10.4 displays the concentration of persons below the poverty level geographically.

9.0 Conclusion

After a comprehensive analysis of the US 62 study area, there do not appear to be any areas of concern at the Block Group and Census Block level in regard to race, age, and income level. The areas that had elevated percentages have been described in the *Study Findings* sections of this report and can be deduced from the respective maps.

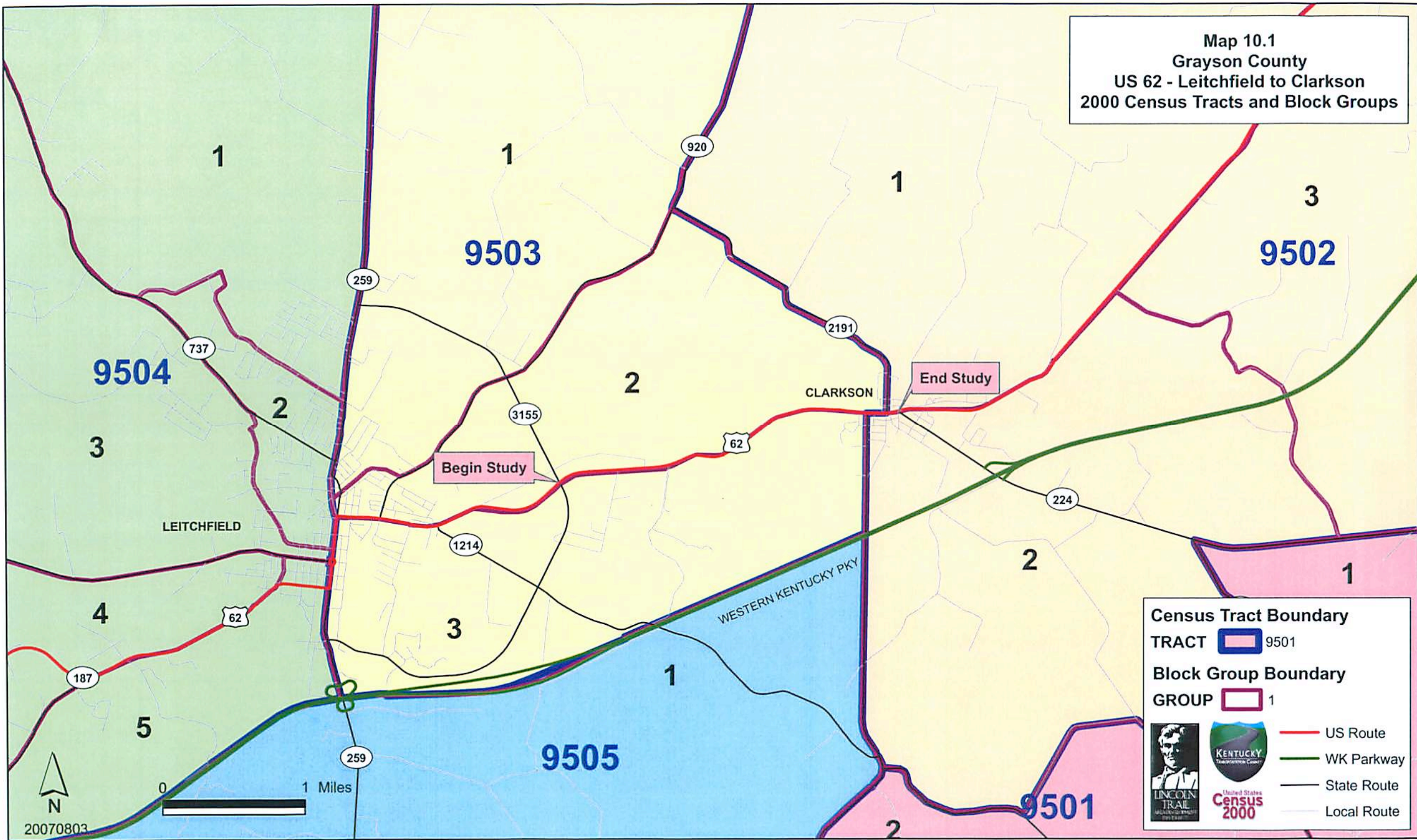
A meeting was held in Leitchfield to find out more information about these areas. In regard to persons of minority origin, the three blocks of interest were found to have very low numbers of minority persons. The same was true of the six blocks with high percentages of persons 65 and over. As data were not available at the census block level for persons below the poverty level, this was not as easily explained.

The two block groups of significance described in section 8.0 were found to have high percentages of about 20%. However, due to the larger geographic area, this was found to include neighborhoods at both ends of the financial spectrum. The prevalence of high poverty within the study area and Grayson County, though, indicates that these people are not confined to any one locale.

Based on the comments of the local officials and other community members who attended the meeting, a transportation improvement project would not adversely affect any group located along this corridor. Most of the land adjacent to this section of US 62 is of commercial use with more residential properties located closer to Clarkson.

The LTADD staff will continue to monitor those locations indicated on the study area maps, as well as the surrounding study area for demographic and/or socioeconomic changes that may occur throughout the development of the project.

Map 10.1
Grayson County
US 62 - Leitchfield to Clarkson
2000 Census Tracts and Block Groups




MINORITY PERCENTAGE


	0.00 - 1.69		2.50 - 4.49
	1.70 - 2.49		4.50 - 6.99

Block Group Boundary


GROUP 1




LINCOLN TRAIL
WILLIAMSBURG



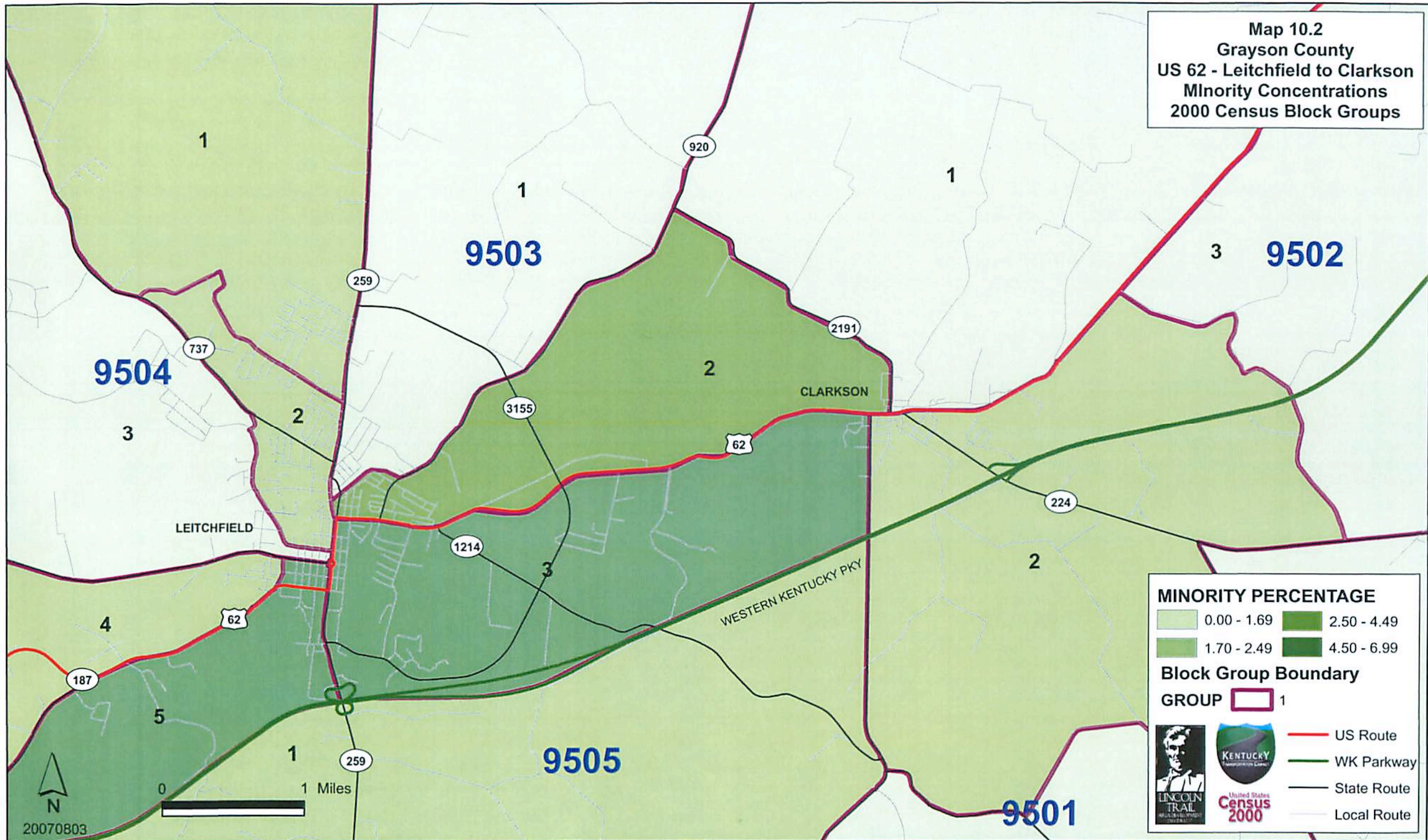
KENTUCKY
TRANSPORTATION CENTER



United States
Census
2000

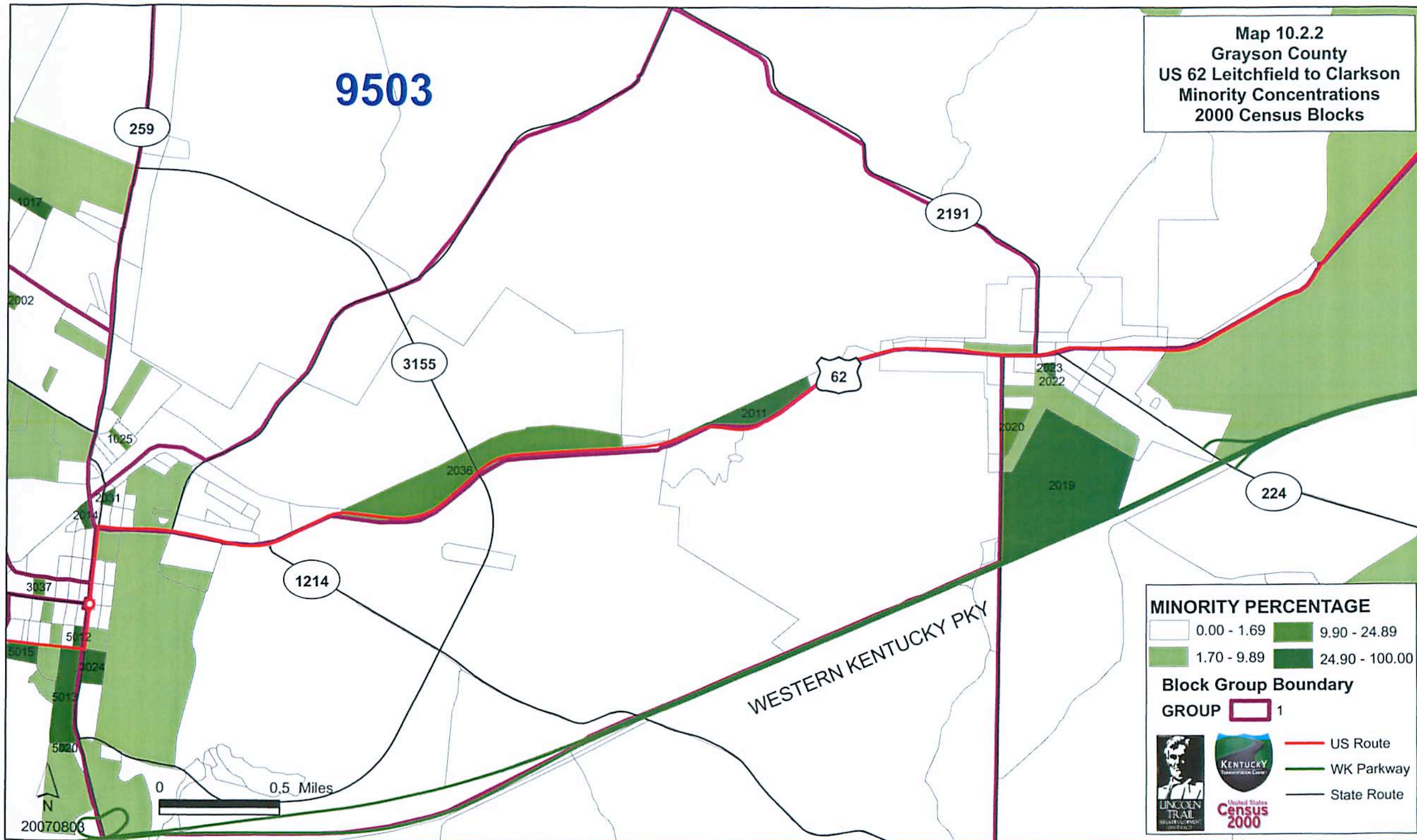


— US Route
— WK Parkway
— State Route
— Local Route

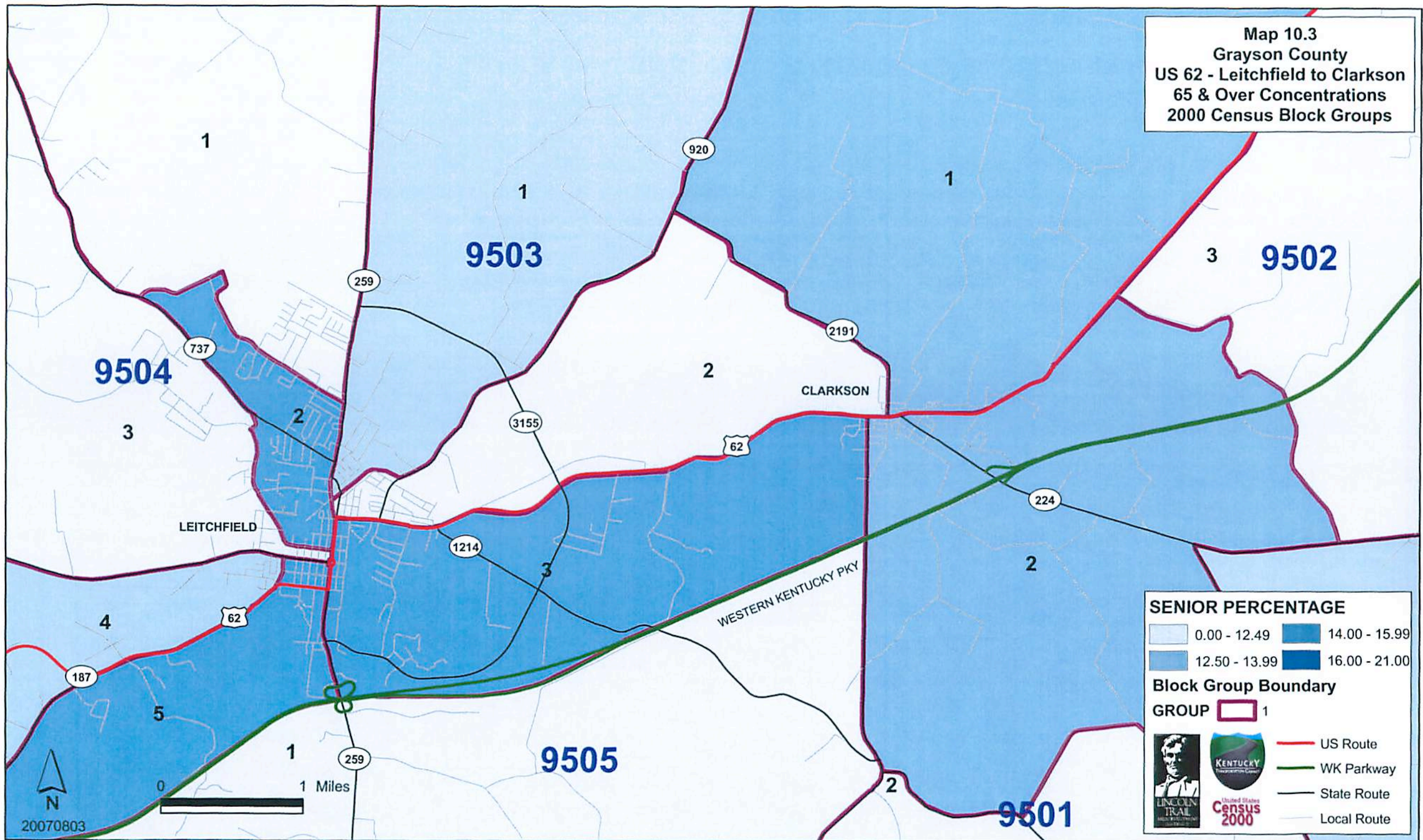


9503

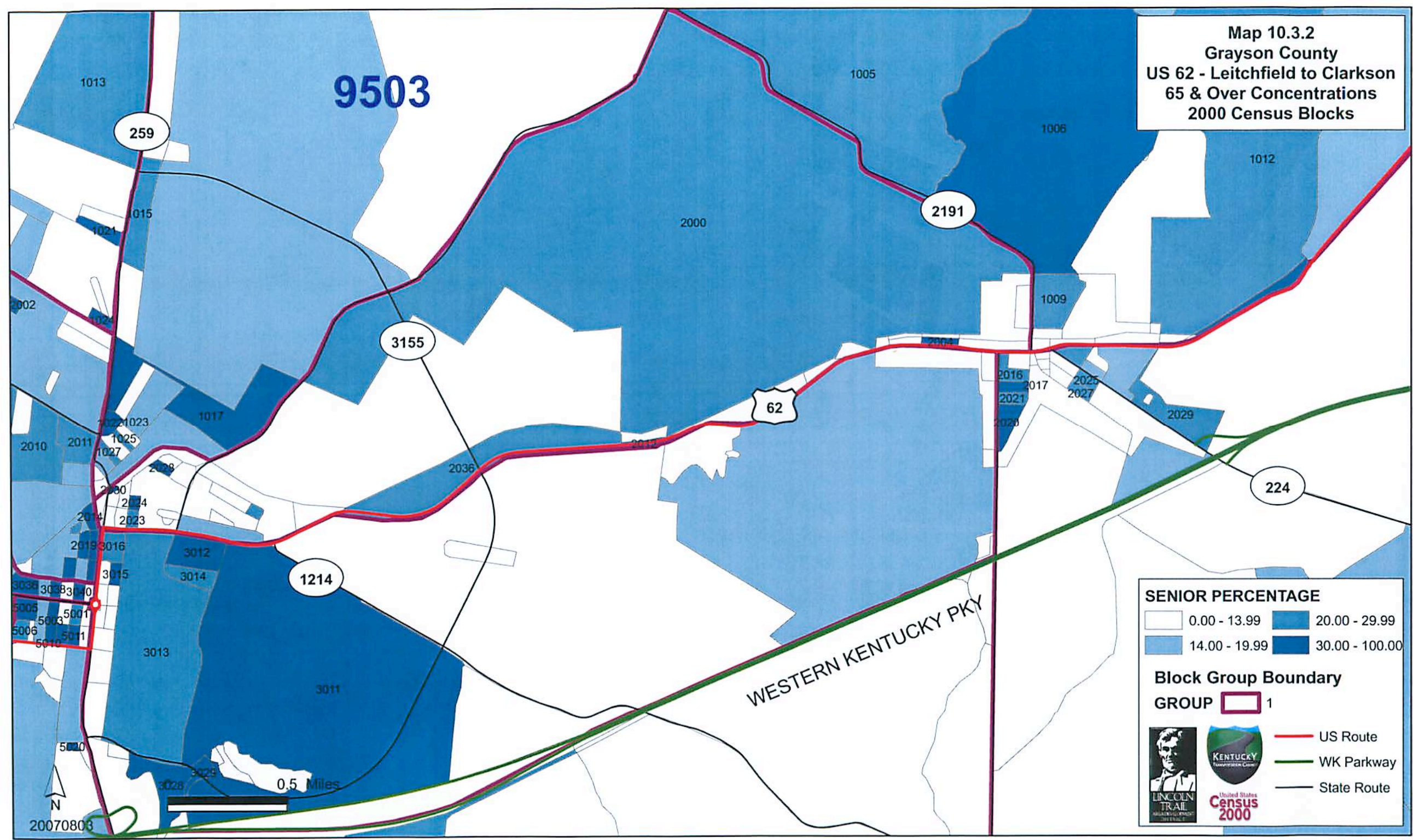
Map 10.2.2
Grayson County
US 62 Leitchfield to Clarkson
Minority Concentrations
2000 Census Blocks



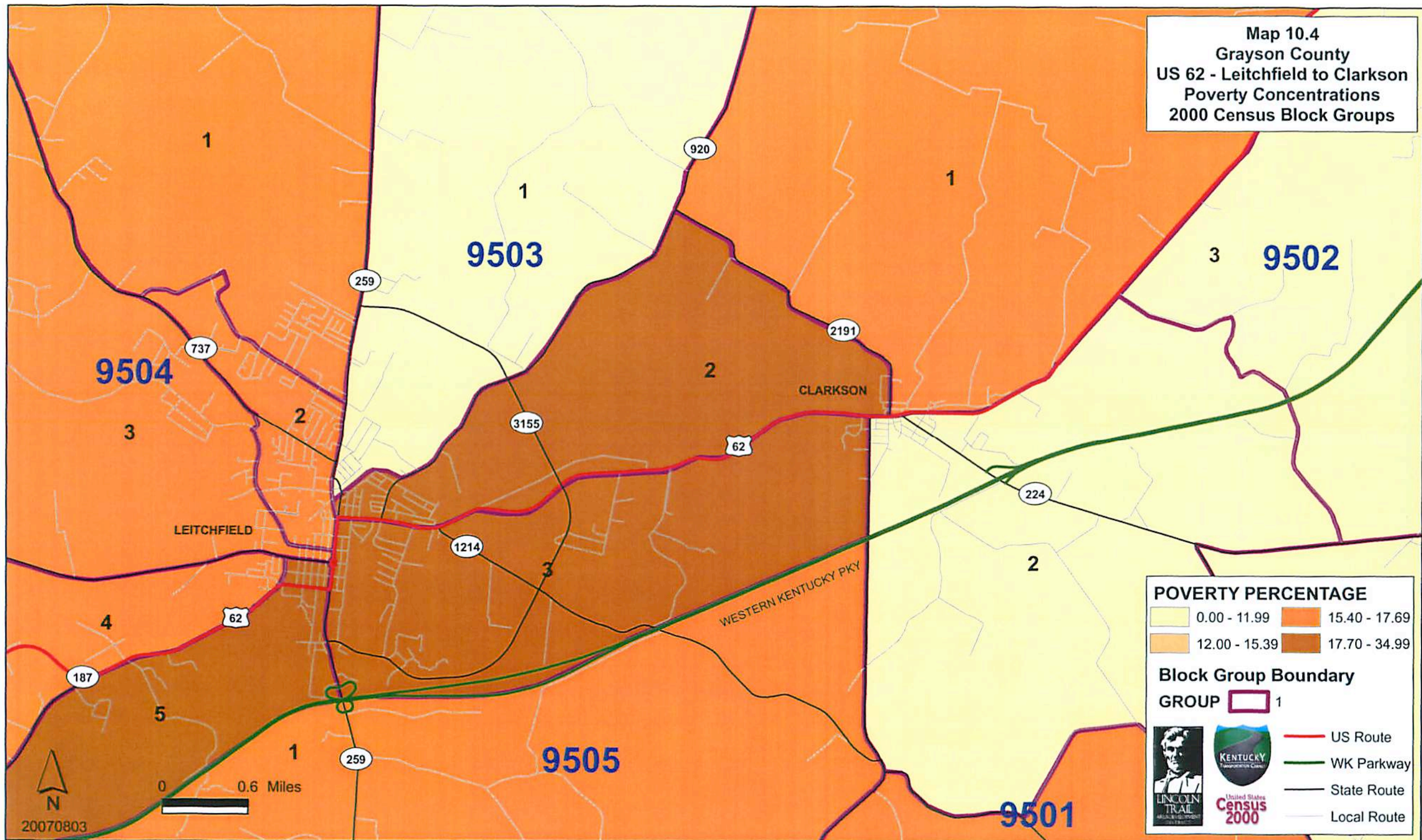
Map 10.3
Grayson County
US 62 - Leitchfield to Clarkson
65 & Over Concentrations
2000 Census Block Groups



Map 10.3.2
Grayson County
US 62 - Leitchfield to Clarkson
65 & Over Concentrations
2000 Census Blocks



Map 10.4
Grayson County
US 62 - Leitchfield to Clarkson
Poverty Concentrations
2000 Census Block Groups



Appendix A: Planning Study Contact List

Honorable Gary Logsdon
Grayson Co. Judge Executive
10 Court Square
Leitchfield, KY 42754
270.259.3159

Mr. Roger Tomes
Grayson Co. PVA
10 Court Square
Leitchfield, KY 42754
270.259.4838

Mr. William H. Thomason
Mayor of Leitchfield
314 W. White Oak Street
P.O. Box 398
Leitchfield, KY 42755-0398
270.259.4034

Mr. Darrell Harrell, Director
Public Works
314 W. White Oak Street
P.O. Box 398
Leitchfield, KY 42755
270.259.4034

Ms. Bonnie Henderson
Mayor of Clarkson
106 Spring Street
P.O. Box 10
Clarkson, KY 42726
270.242.6997

Mr. Kerry White, City Clerk
314 W. White Oak Street
P.O. Box 398
Leitchfield, KY 42755-0398
270.259.4034

Ms. Donna Wilson
Grayson Co. Community Alliance
125 E. Market Street, Ste 3
Leitchfield, KY 42754
270.259.4000

Ms. Kim Farris
Grayson Co. Senior Center
102-B Watkins Woods Dr
Leitchfield, KY 42754
270.259.4885

Mr. Steve Mahurin
Grayson Co. Road Supervisor
655 W. White Oak Street
Leitchfield, KY 42755
270.259.3093

Methodology for Assessing Potential Environmental Justice Concerns for KYTC Planning Studies

Updated: February 1, 2002

The demographics of the affected area should be defined using U.S. Census data (Census tracts and block groups) and the percentages for minorities, low-income, elderly, or disabled populations should be compared to those for the following:

- Other nearby Census tracts and block groups,
- The county as a whole,
- The entire state, and
- The United States.

Information from PVA offices, social service agencies, local health organizations, local public agencies, and community action agencies can be used to supplement the Census data. Specifically, we are interested in obtaining the following information:

- Identification of community leaders or other contacts who may be able to represent these population groups and through which coordination efforts can be made.
- Comparison of the Census tracts and block groups encompassing the project area to other nearby Census tracts and block groups, county, state, and United States percentages.
- Locations of specific or identified minority, low-income, elderly, or disabled population groups within or near the project area. This may require some field reviews and/or discussions with knowledgeable persons to identify locations of public housing, minority communities, ethnic communities, etc., to verify Census data or identify changes that may have occurred since the last Census. Examples would be changes due to new residential developments in the area or increases in Asian and/or Hispanic populations.
- Concentrations or communities that share a common religious, cultural, ethnic, or other background, e.g., Amish communities.
- Communities or neighborhoods that exhibit a high degree of community cohesion or interaction and the ability to mobilize community actions at the start of community involvement.
- Concentrations of common employment, religious centers, and/or educational institutions with members within walking distance of facilities.
- Potential effects, both positive and negative, of the project on the affected groups as compared to the non-target groups. This may include, but are not limited to:
 1. Access to services, employment or transportation.
 2. Displacement of persons, businesses, farms, or non-profit organizations.
 3. Disruption of community cohesion or vitality.
 4. Effects to human health and/or safety.
- Possible methods to minimize or avoid impacts on the target population groups.

If percentages of these populations are elevated within the project area, it should be brought to the attention of the Division of Planning immediately so that coordination with affected populations may be conducted to determine the affected population's concerns and comments on the project. Also, with this effort, representatives of minority, elderly, low-income, or disabled populations should be identified so that, together, we can build a partnership for the region that may be incorporated into other projects. Also, we hope to build a Commonwealth-wide database of contacts. We are available to participate in any meetings with these affected populations or with their community leaders or representatives.

In identifying communities, agencies may consider as a community either a group of individuals living in geographic proximity to one another, or a geographically dispersed/transient set of individuals (such as migrant workers or Native Americans), where either type of group experiences common conditions of environmental exposure or effect. The selection of the appropriate unit of analysis may be a governing body's jurisdiction, a neighborhood, census tract, or other similar unit that is to be chosen so as not to artificially dilute or inflate the affected population. A target population also exists if there is (1) more than one minority or other group present and (2) the percentages, as calculated by aggregating all minority persons, exceed that of the general population or other appropriate unit of geographic analysis.

Maps should be included that show the Census tracts and block groups included in the analysis as well as the relation of the project area to those Census tracts and block groups.

US 62 Study Area Census Data

	Total	White Alone	White Alone	Black or African American alone	Black or African American alone	American Indian and Alaska Native alone	American Indian and Alaska Native alone	Asian alone	Asian alone	Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander alone	Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander alone
United States	281,421,906	211,460,626	75.1%	34,658,190	12.3%	2,475,956	0.9%	10,242,998	3.6%	398,835	0.1%
Kentucky	4,041,769	3,640,889	90.1%	295,994	7.3%	8,616	0.2%	29,744	0.7%	1,460	0.0%
Grayson Co.	24,053	23,634	98.3%	120	0.5%	40	0.2%	34	0.1%	2	0.0%
Tract 9501	2,619	2591	98.9%	1	0.0%	5	0.2%	1	0.0%	1	0.0%
Block Group 1	933	927	99.4%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Block Group 2	800	787	84.4%	0	0.0%	2	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Block Group 3	886	877	99.0%	1	0.1%	2	0.2%	1	0.1%	0	0.0%
Tract 9502	3,055	3017	98.8%	1	0.0%	2	0.1%	11	0.4%	0	0.0%
Block Group 1	1,293	1285	99.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.2%	0	0.0%
Block Group 2	861	843	97.9%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%	9	1.0%	0	0.0%
Block Group 3	901	889	98.7%	1	0.1%	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Tract 9503	3,744	3626	96.8%	63	1.7%	12	0.3%	5	0.1%	1	0.0%
Block Group 1	1,301	1291	99.2%	1	0.1%	3	0.2%	2	0.2%	0	0.0%
Block Group 2	909	885	97.4%	4	0.4%	6	0.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Block Group 3	1,534	1450	94.5%	58	3.8%	3	0.2%	3	0.2%	1	0.1%
Tract 9504	6,081	5934	97.6%	48	0.8%	7	0.1%	11	0.2%	0	0.0%
Block Group 1	1,339	1311	97.9%	14	1.0%	0	0.0%	4	0.3%	0	0.0%
Block Group 2	1,500	1469	97.9%	6	0.4%	4	0.3%	3	0.2%	0	0.0%
Block Group 3	1,331	1314	98.7%	5	0.4%	0	0.0%	2	0.2%	0	0.0%
Block Group 4	1,235	1208	97.8%	3	0.2%	0	0.0%	2	0.2%	0	0.0%
Block Group 5	676	632	93.5%	20	3.0%	3	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Tract 9505	2,592	2554	98.5%	3	0.1%	10	0.4%	3	0.1%	0	0.0%
Block Group 1	761	748	98.3%	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Block Group 2	1,831	1806	98.6%	2	0.1%	10	0.5%	3	0.2%	0	0.0%

US 62 Study Area Census Data

	Some other race alone	Some other race alone	Two or more races	Two or more races	Hispanic or Latino Origin	Hispanic or Latino Origin	Persons 65 and Over	Persons 65 and Over	Persons Below Poverty Level	Persons Below Poverty Level
United States	15,359,073	5.5%	6,826,228	2.4%	35,238,481	12.5%	34,991,753	12.4%	33,899,812	12.0%
Kentucky	22,623	0.6%	42,443	1.1%	56,414	1.4%	504,793	12.5%	621,096	15.4%
Grayson Co.	53	0.2%	170	0.7%	186	0.8%	3,372	14.0%	4,267	17.7%
Tract 9501	6	0.2%	14	0.5%	29	1.1%	382	14.6%	332	12.7%
Block Group 1	2	0.2%	2	0.2%	9	1.0%	119	12.8%	93	10.0%
Block Group 2	3	0.3%	8	0.9%	11	1.2%	86	10.8%	141	15.1%
Block Group 3	1	0.1%	4	0.5%	9	1.0%	177	20.0%	98	11.1%
Tract 9502	7	0.2%	17	0.6%	20	0.7%	411	13.5%	390	12.8%
Block Group 1	1	0.1%	5	0.4%	5	0.4%	190	14.7%	222	17.2%
Block Group 2	0	0.0%	8	0.9%	8	0.9%	127	14.8%	78	9.1%
Block Group 3	6	0.7%	4	0.4%	7	0.8%	94	10.4%	90	10.0%
Tract 9503	8	0.2%	29	0.8%	34	0.9%	562	15.0%	597	15.9%
Block Group 1	3	0.2%	1	0.1%	16	1.2%	165	12.7%	110	8.5%
Block Group 2	3	0.3%	11	1.2%	5	0.6%	94	10.3%	185	20.4%
Block Group 3	2	0.1%	17	1.1%	13	0.8%	303	19.8%	302	19.7%
Tract 9504	21	0.3%	60	1.0%	57	0.9%	847	13.9%	1125	18.5%
Block Group 1	1	0.1%	9	0.7%	5	0.4%	142	10.6%	226	16.9%
Block Group 2	0	0.0%	18	1.2%	18	1.2%	263	17.5%	241	16.1%
Block Group 3	4	0.3%	6	0.5%	16	1.2%	151	11.3%	215	16.2%
Block Group 4	4	0.3%	18	1.5%	9	0.7%	166	13.4%	216	17.5%
Block Group 5	12	1.8%	9	1.3%	9	1.3%	125	18.5%	227	33.6%
Tract 9505	2	0.1%	20	0.8%	19	0.7%	314	12.1%	472	18.2%
Block Group 1	1	0.1%	11	1.4%	2	0.3%	78	10.2%	129	17.0%
Block Group 2	1	0.1%	9	0.5%	17	0.9%	236	12.9%	343	18.7%