

## Appendix D: Environmental Justice Analysis

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In accordance with Section 601 of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order (EO) 12898 Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, and DOT 5610.2, the LAPC completes an “environmental justice” (EJ) analysis in all of its planning and programming activities to determine if minority or low-income persons are being adversely affected by the transportation activities supported by the LAPC.

As defined in DOT 5610.2, a disproportionately high and adverse effect is one that:

- ⇒ Is predominately borne by a minority population or low-income population; or
- ⇒ Will be suffered by a minority or low-income population and is appreciably more severe or greater in magnitude than the adverse effect on the rest of the population.

### Methodology

To ensure the greatest level of data reliability at a locally meaningful geographic scale, the Census tract<sup>48</sup> is the geography of choice to calculate the percentages of the populations of interest.

American Community Survey (ACS) data for planning area communities and tracts in La Crosse County, Houston County, Winona County and surrounding counties were obtained from data.census.gov for 2014-2018:

- ⇒ B03002 Hispanic or Latino by Race
- ⇒ S1601 Language Spoken at Home
- ⇒ C17002 Ratio of Income to Poverty

The population for the planning area for each of the populations of interest was calculated by summing the estimates of each of the planning area communities<sup>49</sup> and calculating a new margin of error. The planning area percentages<sup>50</sup> and margins of error were then calculated.

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<sup>48</sup> Because the planning area is significantly White, tracts provide a more reliable estimate of minority and limited-English proficient populations.

<sup>49</sup> None of the estimates include the population in the very tiny area of the town of Bergen, Vernon County because the data are not available at the block level, which would have very high margins or error due to low sampling.

<sup>50</sup> Calculated by using the universe of the population of interest, not from B01003 Total Population. Universes: B03002, Total Population; S1601, Population 5 Years and Over; C17002, Population for whom poverty status has been determined.

A tract is identified as having a “high percentage” of minority, LEP, or low-income<sup>51</sup> population if the lower bound of the tract (percentage estimate minus margin of error) is greater than the higher bound of the planning area (percentage estimate plus margin of error). This method accounts for the sampling error and allows for a more reliable identification of areas with high populations, comparatively speaking, of populations of interest.

## Demographic Profiles

The profiles for minority, LEP, and low-income populations for the planning area and its constituent communities are shown in tables 38, 39, and 40, respectively.

The total population estimates are based on the universe of the sample. B03002 Hispanic or Latino by Race (minority) has the total population as its universe; S1601 Language Spoken at Home (LEP), population five and older; and C17002 Ratio of Income to Poverty (low-income), the population for whom poverty status is determined.

### Minority Population

Table 38 shows that the planning area has an estimated minority population of  $11,743 \pm 1,119$ , which means that we are 90 percent confident that the total minority population in the planning area ranges between 10,624 and 12,862. This calculates to  $9.93\% \pm 0.95\%$  (8.98% to 10.88%) of the planning area population identified as minority.

The city of Onalaska has the highest percentage of minorities at  $13.05\% \pm 2.81$ , followed by the village of Holmen ( $12.77 \pm 5.44$ ) and the city of La Crosse ( $11.07 \pm 1.01$ ). Although Onalaska has the highest percentage of its population identified as minority, it has a relatively low estimate ( $2,421 \pm 522$ ) when compared to La Crosse ( $5,743 \pm 523$ ). La Crosse has  $48.91\% \pm 6.44\%$  of the minority population residing in the planning area. The influence of La Crosse on the planning area—yet having less than half of the estimate for the planning area—results in no community having an upper bound higher than the lower bound of the planning area.

An analysis of Census tracts shows that Tract 1 in north La Crosse (Figure 60) has a high percentage of minority population ( $21.93\% \pm 7.83$ ) compared to the planning area ( $9.93\% \pm 0.95\%$ ).

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<sup>51</sup> Established as 150% of the poverty line to align with the eligibility requirements for the Wisconsin Employment Transportation Assistance Program (WETAP).

Table 38: Minority Population Profile of the LAPC Planning Area and its Constituent Communities

Community	Total Population Estimate	Total Population MOE <sup>1</sup>	Minority <sup>2</sup> Population Estimate	Minority Population MOE	Percent Minority Estimate	Percent Minority MOE
<b>Cities</b>						
La Crescent, MN	5,021	36	300	117	5.97	2.33
La Crosse, WI	51,866	43	5,743	523	11.07	1.01
Onalaska, WI	18,546	30	2,421	522	13.05	2.81
<b>Villages</b>						
Holmen, WI	9,909	32	1,265	539	12.77	5.44
West Salem	5,013	23	317	156	6.32	3.11
<b>Towns/Townships</b>						
Barre, WI	1,304	135	63	184	4.83	14.10
Campbell, WI	4,360	14	263	179	6.03	4.11
Dresbach, MN	397	82	12	116	3.02	29.21
Greenfield, WI	1,992	213	142	285	7.13	14.29
Hamilton, WI	2,517	24	92	65	3.66	2.58
Holland, WI	3,715	37	213	101	5.73	2.72
La Crescent, MN	1,307	157	45	224	3.44	17.13
Medary, WI	1,737	190	86	254	4.95	14.61
Onalaska, WI	5,731	27	368	193	6.42	3.37
Shelby, WI	4,866	25	413	226	8.49	4.64
<b>Planning Area</b>	<b>118,281</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>11,743</b>	<b>1,119</b>	<b>9.93</b>	<b>0.95</b>

<sup>1</sup>Margin of error.

<sup>2</sup>A person who identifies as Hispanic and/or a race other than White.

Source: B03002 Hispanic or Latino by Race, 2014-2018.

NOTE: The LAPC has a very small section of the town of Bergen in Vernon County, but this population is not included in any of our estimates because the data are not available at the block level, which would be needed to calculate estimates and their margins of error.

### Limited-English Proficient Population

Table 39 shows that the planning area has an estimated LEP population of 3,388 ± 582, which means that we are 90 percent confident that the total LEP population in the planning area ranges between 2,806 and 3,970. This calculates to 3.02% ± 0.52% (2.50% to 3.54%) of the planning area population identified as LEP.

Here again, the city of Onalaska has the highest percentage of LEP at 4.54% ± 2.11, followed by the city of La Crosse (3.84 ± 0.80) and the town of Medary (3.67 ± 2.34), but Onalaska's share of LEP in the planning area is relatively small (23.70% ± 10.26%) compared to La Crosse

(55.99% ± 6.59%). When compared to the planning area, no community has a higher percentage of LEP persons.

An analysis of Census tracts shows that tract 4 (8.90% ± 4.20%) in north La Crosse (Figure 57) has a high percentage of LEP persons compared to the planning area (3.02% ± 0.52%).

**Table 39: Limited-English Proficiency Profile of the LAPC Planning Area and its Constituent Communities**

Community	Population 5 and older Estimate	Population 5 and older MOE <sup>1</sup>	LEP Population Estimate	LEP Population MOE	Percent LEP Estimate	Percent LEP MOE
<i>Cities</i>						
La Crescent, MN	4,851	84	37	56	0.76	1.15
La Crosse, WI	49,352	217	1,897	395	3.84	0.80
Onalaska, WI	17,681	164	803	374	4.54	2.11
<i>Villages</i>						
Holmen, WI	9,098	188	217	138	2.39	1.52
West Salem	4,749	95	133	96	2.80	2.02
<i>Towns/Townships</i>						
Barre, WI	1,233	125	8	12	0.65	0.97
Campbell, WI	4,272	73	0	9	0.00	0.21
Dresbach, MN	386	72	0	9	0.00	2.33
Greenfield, WI	1,862	204	27	37	1.45	1.98
Hamilton, WI	2,342	68	10	11	0.43	0.47
Holland, WI	3,530	73	87	39	2.46	1.10
La Crescent, MN	1,254	157	3	4	0.24	0.32
Medary, WI	1,606	147	59	38	3.67	2.34
Onalaska, WI	5,372	117	44	56	0.82	1.04
Shelby, WI	4,657	86	63	56	1.35	1.20
<b>Planning Area</b>	<b>112,245</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>3,388</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>3.02</b>	<b>0.52</b>

<sup>1</sup>Margin of error.

Source: S1601 Language Spoken at Home, 2014-2018.

NOTE: The LAPC has a very small section of the town of Bergen in Vernon County, but this population is not included in any of our estimates because the data are not available at the block level, which would be needed to calculate estimates and their margins of error.

### Low-Income Population

Table 40 shows that the planning area has an estimated low-income population of 23,144 ± 1,490, ranging from 21,654 and 24,634. This calculates to 20.46% ± 1.31% (19.15% to 21.77%) of the planning area population identified as low income.

The city of La Crosse has the highest percentage of low-income population ( $33.48\% \pm 2.42$ ) when compared to other communities as well as having  $68.14\% \pm 2.30\%$  of low-income persons living in the planning area.

An analysis of Census tracts shows that tracts 2 ( $34.13\% \pm 10.53\%$ ), 3 ( $53.73\% \pm 11.69$ ), 4 ( $80.03 \pm 10.11$ ), 5 ( $79.66 \pm 8.29$ ), and 8 ( $30.90 \pm 8.16$ ) in north and downtown/south La Crosse (Figure 57) have a high percentage of low-income persons compared to the planning area ( $20.46\% \pm 1.31\%$ ). The high percentage of low-income in tracts 4, 5, and 8 is primarily due to a significant population of college students.

**Table 40: Low-Income Population Profile of the LAPC Planning Area and its Constituent Communities**

Community	Total Population Estimate <sup>1</sup>	Total Population MOE <sup>2</sup>	Low-Income Population Estimate	Low-Income Population MOE	% Low-Income Estimate	% Low-Income MOE
<i>Cities</i>						
La Crescent, MN	4,971	65	644	230	12.96	4.62
La Crosse, WI	47,292	363	15,832	1,150	33.48	2.42
Onalaska, WI	18,399	70	2,199	599	11.95	3.26
<i>Villages</i>						
Holmen, WI	9,876	43	834	293	8.44	2.97
West Salem	4,760	79	706	248	14.83	5.20
<i>Towns/Townships</i>						
Barre, WI	1,304	135	75	35	5.75	2.62
Campbell, WI	4,356	15	664	241	15.24	5.53
Dresbach, MN	397	82	65	55	16.37	13.43
Greenfield, WI	1,980	211	301	125	15.20	6.10
Hamilton, WI	2,502	30	154	67	6.16	2.68
Holland, WI	3,694	49	310	228	8.39	6.17
La Crescent, MN	1,307	157	60	25	4.59	1.83
Medary, WI	1,733	190	246	124	14.20	6.98
Onalaska, WI	5,691	59	761	416	13.37	7.31
Shelby, WI	4,849	34	293	128	6.04	2.64
<b>Planning Area</b>	<b>113,111</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>23,144</b>	<b>1,490</b>	<b>20.46</b>	<b>1.31</b>

<sup>1</sup>The population for whom poverty status is determined.

<sup>2</sup>Margin of error.

Source: C17002 Ratio of Income to Poverty, 2014-2018.

NOTE: The LAPC has a very small section of the town of Bergen in Vernon County, but this population is not included in any of our estimates because the data are not available at the block level, which would be needed to calculate estimates and their margins of error.

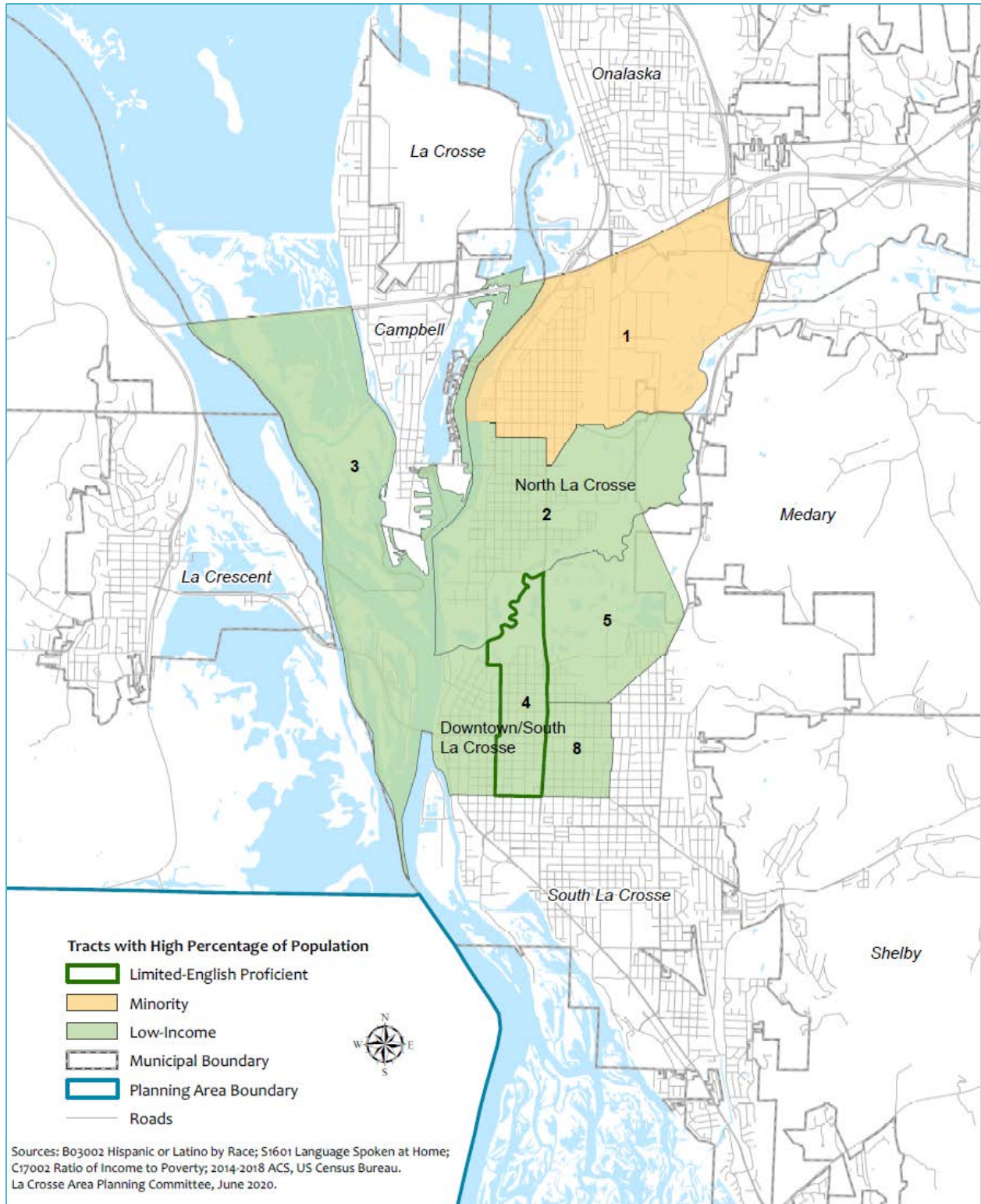


Figure 60: Census tracts with a high percentage of minority, limited-English proficient, and/or low-income populations.