



Technical Memorandum

To Mark D'Andrea, City of Tacoma
From: Brett Bures, SCJ Alliance
Date: September 26, 2018
Project: Taylor Way Rehabilitation
Subject Environmental Justice Analysis

In compliance with the Presidential Executive Order 12898, DOT Order 5610.2 and FHWA Order 6640.23, an Environmental Justice (EJ) Analysis was conducted for the Taylor Way Rehabilitation Project. The results of the EJ Decision Matrix and EJ data collection show that a minority population does exist within a one-half mile of the project site but that EJ populations will not be directly affected by the project. The analysis complies with approved WSDOT guidance and procedures.

Project Description

The project will improve the Taylor Way corridor from the Fife/Tacoma border (approximately 300 feet east of SR 509) to the intersection at E. 11th St. and Alexander Ave., and along Lincoln Ave. from Taylor Way to Alexander Ave. (including approximately 400' east and west of the Lincoln/Alexander intersection). Improvements include reconstructing the roadway surface to heavy haul standards (Fife to E. 11th St.), widening the SR 509/Taylor Way intersection to include dedicated thru and turn lanes, removing or upgrading existing railroad crossings, upgrading traffic and pedestrian signals, installation of communication fiber, new street lighting, sidewalks, upgrading non-compliant curb ramps, upgrading utilities (storm, wastewater, water, etc.), rechannelization of E. 11th St./Alexander Ave., and other intelligent transportation system (ITS) improvements.

Demographics Data

A determination of the presence of an EJ population was conducted using the EJSCREEN ACS Summary Report and the EJSCREEN Census 2010 Summary Report. Table 1 summarizes 2010 census data for the area within ½ mile each side of centerline of the project.

Table 1: Population by Race

Minority	Number of Persons	Percentage
White Alone	205	72%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	23	8%
American Indian and Alaskan Native Alone or in Combination	5	2%
Black or African American Alone or in Combination	11	4%
Asian Alone or in Combination	34	12%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone or in Combination	2	1%
Some Other Race Alone or in Combination	11	4%
TOTAL POPULATION	286	

Source: EJScreen web site Census 2010 Summary Report attached. Note: numbers have been adjusted to account for rounding.

The closest elementary school is Northeast Tacoma Elementary School. The school demographic data is shown in Table 2 and does verify the census data, in summary. However, due to the location of Taylor Way as being a major transportation arterial into the Port of Tacoma with no known housing units within the project site, the population demographics are slightly skewed.

Table 2: Northeast Tacoma Elementary School Demographic Data

	Enrollment	Percentage
White	166	42.3%
Hispanic or Latino	85	21.7%
American Indian and Alaskan Native	1	0.3%
Black or African American	33	8.4%
Asian	36	9.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	11	2.8%
Two or More Races	60	15.3
Free or Reduced – Price Meal Participation	187	46.8%
Transitional Bilingual Education	80	20%

Source: Washington State Office of Public Instruction [Washington State Report Card](#) website. Report attached. Note numbers have been adjusted to account for rounding.

Decision Matrix

Per WSDOT requirements, the Decision Matrix for Small Project was used to determine if analysis is warranted for small project that are unlikely to have environmental impacts to EJ population. It was determined that additional analysis was necessary due to right-of-way acquisition and potential impacts to the minority population present in the study area.

Further analysis per Chapter 458, WSDOT Environmental Manual, Social and Community Effects Decision Matrix (458-1) was used. The matrix identified that this project did not provide impacts to EJ populations that warranted additional analysis. According to the analysis this project has met the criteria for projects unlikely to affect social, economic, or environmental justice resources. In addition to the social and economic analysis the following reports have been prepared in support of the project unlikely to have environmental impacts to EJ populations:

- Air Quality
- Critical and Sensitive Areas (Wetlands and Stream)
- Cultural Resources and Historic Structures
- Hazardous and Problem Wastes
- Water Quality and Stormwater

Project Effects

Taylor Way is located in the City of Tacoma and serves as the primary transportation facility for services at the Port of Tacoma. There are no known residential properties along Taylor Way, between Marine View Drive and 11th Street. Most, if not all the housing within the study is located to the north and east of the project site.

The acquisition of right-of-way is proposed at the intersection of Taylor Way and Marine View Drive. Neither residential housing properties nor industrial business properties will be acquired, relocated, or have changes in access, travel times, or travel patterns upon completion of the project.

Short-term social effect for the project will be during the construction effort. Short-term effects will be noise from construction equipment, traffic control, and dust. The short-term effects will be mitigated during construction. The short-term effects will equally impact all populations and will not be disproportionate to EJ populations. There are no known long-term social effects for the completed project.

Determination

No minority or low-income populations have been identified that would be adversely affected by this project as determined above. Therefore, this project has met the provisions of Executive Order 12898, as it is supported by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

Attachments:

- Completed EJ Decision Matrix for Taylor Way Rehabilitation
- Completed 458-1 Social and Community Effects Decision Matrix
- 2010 Census Summary Report
- 2012-2016 ACS Summary Report
- Northeast Tacoma Elementary School OSPI Washington State Report Card Summary Report