

# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE REPORT SUMMARY

In 1994, an Executive Order (Number 12898) directed every Federal agency including the U.S Department of Transportation (DOT) to identify and address the effects of all programs, policies, and activities on "minority populations and/or low-income populations". This Order was consistent with Title VI in considering fundamental environmental justice principles affecting low income and minority populations. The three fundamental environmental justice principles are:

- To avoid, minimize or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects on minority populations and low-income populations.
- To ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities.
- To prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority and low-income populations.

In order to address the three environmental justice principles in the LRTP, the following summary approach was taken by staff according to guidelines developed by the U.S. DOT, FHWA and FTA:

- Minority populations and low-income populations were identified.
- An extensive public outreach effort was conducted.
- Economic investments in the transportation system were analyzed to assess whether minority and/or low-income populations were adversely affected in the receipt of transportation system benefits.

The Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission (GCMPC) conducted an Environmental Justice (EJ) analysis for the proposed projects in the 2035 LRTP. The analysis undertaken by GCMPC supports principles and requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), the Executive Order (E.O.) 12898 and the 1997 U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Order to Address Environmental Justice.

# Environmental Justice Zones

An EJ Zone was established wherever the percentages of identified populations per each Census Block Group meet or exceed the average Threshold Percentage for Genesee County, as seen in Figure 4-6. Of the total 649 square miles that make up Genesee County, there are 373 square miles (57%) identified as EJ Zones. Each EJ Zone is depicted in beige. Staff utilized this information in order to assess the significance of transportation projects on identified population groups.

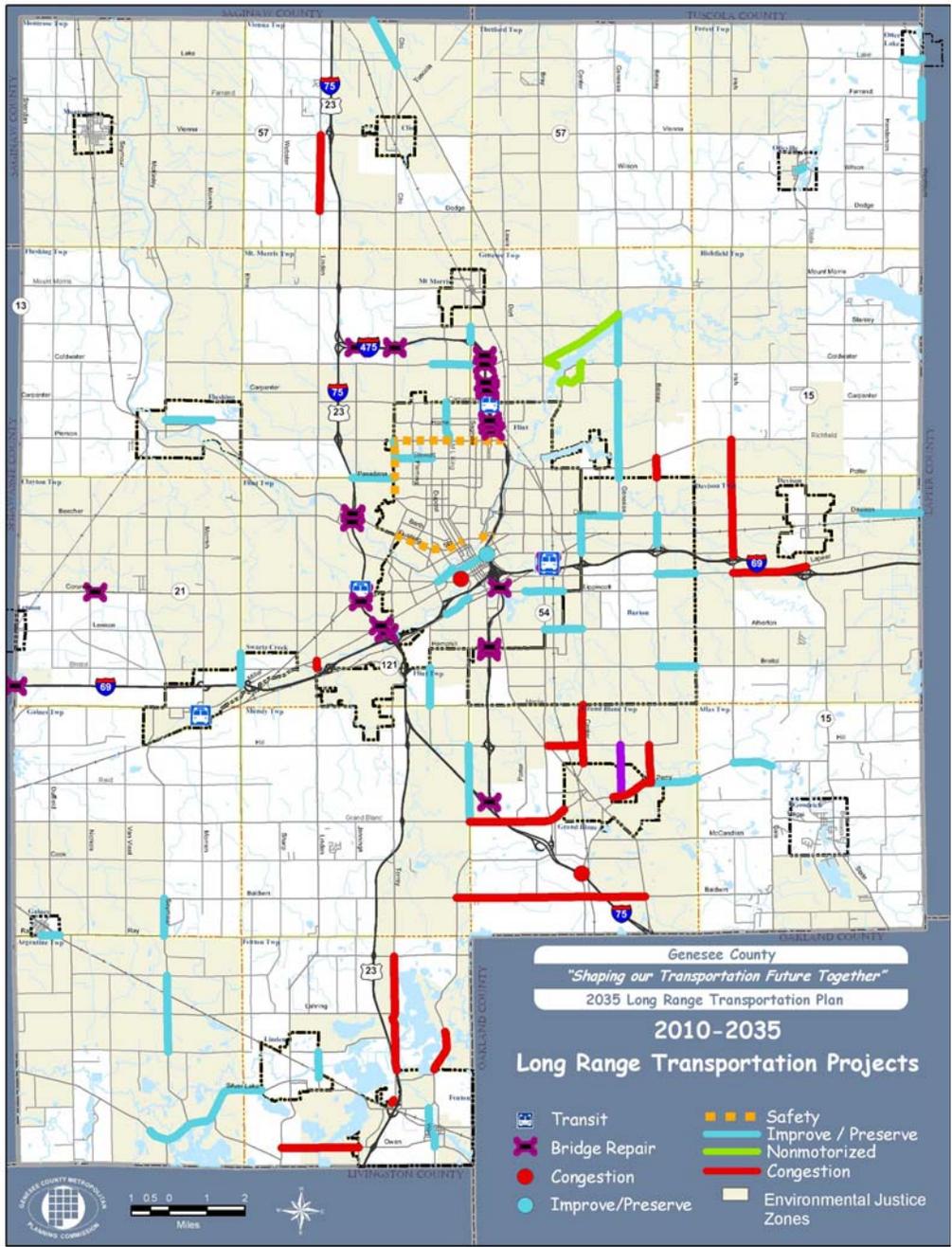


Figure 4-6

## 2035 LRTP Projects

The 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan contains 140 projects which are broken down into seven different categories as seen in the table below.

Of the total 140 projects, 118 of the projects are located within an EJ Zone. The total transportation investment equals \$1,852,403,854 over the next twenty-five years.

For purposes of this analysis, staff makes the assumption that the improvement of the condition of the transportation system through preserve projects, improvement projects, transit services, non-motorized projects, preliminary engineering, or safety projects, is improving the overall well being of the community.

Type of Project	# of Projects
Preservation	47
Congestion	21
Bridge	19
Transit	34
Safety	11
Non-Motorized	7
Study	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>

Projects which are an expansion of the transportation system may have potential adverse impacts to the community through the displacement or relocation of individuals, economic hardship and/or a lack of a sense of community. 17 of 21 of the congestion projects are located within or touching an EJ Zone. These projects will have a minor impact on the community and will result in no displacement of residents. In addition, these projects will improve travel time and access for the residents within the EJ zone and provide a measure of congestion relief.