June 2024



Title VI Program with Environmental Justice Considerations and Limited English Proficiency Plan

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission456 Fulton Street, Suite 401
Peoria, Illinois 61602

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

Title VI Program with Environmental Justice Consideration and Limited English Proficiency Plan

"No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."



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Acknowledgements

This document was prepared by Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC or Tri-County) staff in collaboration with its member agencies, partnership organizations, and local stakeholders.

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Executive Summary

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires that "no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." This document reviews the Title VI requirements for organizations that receive federal funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as outlined in 49 CFR Part 21 and FTA Circular 4702.1B.

Following the requirements laid out in 49 CFR 21 and FTA Circular 4702.1B, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission is required to prepare a Title VI Program comprised of the twelve general requirements, which outline the certain reporting conditions necessary for ensuring no discrimination in the federal transportation planning process. The FTA Circular 4702.1B outlines additional requirements for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to fulfill, most notably a demographic profile of the metropolitan area.

This report also reviews Environmental Justice (EJ) as outlined in Executive Order 12898 "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Population and Low-Income Populations." EJ builds on Title VI activities by considering impacts to low-income and minority populations within transportation planning and decision-making processes.

As part of the Title VI requirements, Tri-County also prepared a Public Participation Plan and Language Assistance Plan concurrently, both of which are included appendices of this document.

Introduction

Section 601 of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires that "no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

All programs which receive funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are required to follow the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Title VI regulations of 49 CFR Part 21. As a recipient of USDOT financial assistance, the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) is required to prepare a Title VI Program as stipulated in the FTA Circular 4702.1B. The objectives of Circular 4702.1B are to provide FTA recipients with the direction, guidance and procedures to: 1) Ensure that the level and quality of the transportation planning process is provided in a nondiscriminatory manner; 2) Promote full and fair participation in transportation decision-making without regard to race, color, or national origin; and 3) Warrant meaningful access to transportation planning-related programs and activities by persons with limited English proficiency.

Following the requirements laid out in Circular 4702.1B, TCRPC is required to prepare a Title VI Program comprised of: 1) A public notice of protection against discrimination, 2) Procedures to filing a Title VI discrimination complaint, 3) Public Participation Plan (PPP), 3) Language Assistance Plan (LAP), 4) Racial composition of membership on non-elected boards or committees, and 5) Demographic profile of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) planning area. This demographic profile includes: a) Identification of minority population locations, b) Description of how minority populations' mobility needs are identified and considered within the planning process, c) Demographic maps that overlay minority/non-minority populations. These maps analyze the impacts of State and Federal transportation fund distribution and an analysis of disparate impacts on the basis of race, color, or national origin. The Title VI program must be approved by the MPO and submitted to FTA every three years.

This Title VI program was approved by the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission on June 24, 2021. A copy of the Policy Committee resolution can be found in **Appendix A.**

Metropolitan Planning Organization

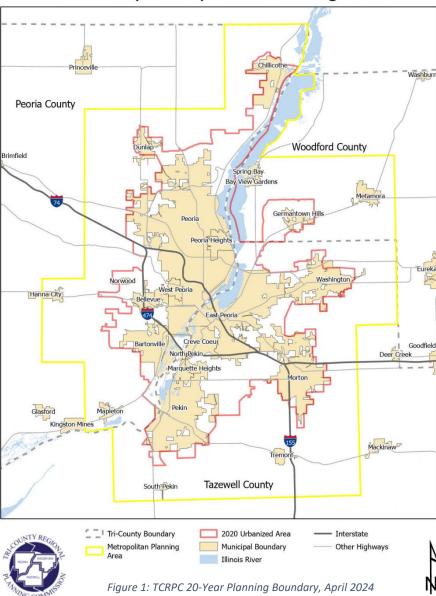
Congress passed the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1962, introducing Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). This Act required the formation of MPOs in urbanized areas (UZAs) with a population of 50,000+ to provide multi-modal

transportation planning. Furthermore, all UZAs with 200,000+ in population are classified as Transportation Management Areas (TMAs). MPOs were created to ensure that existing and future expenditures for transportation projects and programs are based on a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive (3C) planning process. Federal funding for transportation projects and programs in a metropolitan area is allocated through the MPO.

As a result, TCRPC was designated as the federally recognized MPO for the Greater Peoria area by Illinois Governor Dan Walker in 1976. As the MPO, Tri-County is responsible for the multimodal transportation planning process outlined in Title 23 Code of Federal Regulations Part 450 Subpart C. The transportation planning process brings together local governments, transportation authorities, citizens, and other interested parties to assist in creating transportation policy. These stakeholders help develop comprehensive plans that reflect the area's transportation vision for the future.

The same year Tri-County was federally designated as the MPO for the Greater Peoria area (1976), TCRPC created the Peoria-Pekin Urbanized Area Transportation Study (PPUATS) to carry out the work of the MPO. PPUATS was comprised of two committees: the Policy Committee and the Technical Committee.

Tri-County Metropolitan Planning Area



From 1976 to 2021, the PPUATS Policy Committee functioned as the MPO. On July 1, 2021, the PPUATS Policy Committee merged with TCRPC. Following the merger, the Full Commission assumed the MPO's role, duties, and responsibilities. Tri-County's Full Commission is made up of elected officials representing their respective communities. The Commission's function is to determine transportation policy within the framework of the urban transportation planning process. The Commission also votes on the Technical Committee's recommendations. The Technical Committee is made up of individuals appointed by their respective MPO communities. Most of the individuals are public works and engineering staff. Throughout the year, the Technical Committee reviews and recommends planning policies and measures to the Commission for approval. The members of the TCRPC's Commission and Technical Committee can be found on the **Acknowledgements** page of this document.

The MPO consists of the UZA and the 20-Year Planning Boundary, which is expected to become urbanized in the future. Together, the UZA and 20-Year Planning Boundary make up the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA). The MPA boundary includes portions of Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford counties and refers to the geographical area in which the metropolitan transportation planning process must be carried out. **Figure 1** illustrates the TCRPC's UZA and the 20-year planning boundary.

It is the job of Tri-County staff to update federally mandated transportation planning documents, including the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). No federal funding can be applied towards transportation improvement projects, transportation services, or transportation studies in the 20-Year Planning Boundary unless the project, service, or study is included in one or more of the above transportation planning documents.

Representation for the MPO is drawn from elected officials and staff of local municipalities and counties, along with the Greater Peoria Mass Transit District (GPMTD/CityLink), and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). Other entities such as the Federal Highway Administration and IDOT's Office of Planning and Programming serve as advisory members to TCRPC.

General Requirements

As part of the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) Title VI Program, TCRPC maintains certain reporting requirements and provides the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) the following information regarding these reporting requirements: In addition to the first 12 General Requirements below, which are required of all recipients of Federal aid, Metropolitan Planning Organizations must respond to additional requirements related to planning of federally funded transportation projects and program administration. The general and MPO requirements can be found in FTA Circular 4702.1B.

Requirement to Provide Title VI Assurances

In accordance with 49 CFR Section 21.7(a), every application for financial assistance from IDOT, FHWA, or FTA must be accompanied by an assurance that the application will carry out the program in compliance with Title VI regulations. This requirement shall be fulfilled when the applicant/recipient submits its annual Certifications and Assurances. Primary recipients shall collect Title VI assurances from subrecipients prior to passing through FHWA/FTA funds.

TCRPC will remain in compliance with this requirement by annual submission of Certifications and Assurances as required by funding programs. A copy of the Title VI Assurances included in the TCRPC annual Certifications and Assurances submission to FTA is included in **Appendix B** of this document.

Requirements for First-Time Applicants

TCRPC is not a first-time applicant for IDOT, FHWA, or FTA funding. The following is a summary of TCRPC's federal and state funding:

Current and Pending IDOT Funding

- 1. FY 2023 State Planning Funds- \$93,100
- 2. FY 2024 State Metropolitan Planning Funds-\$233,815.73
- 3. FY 2025 State Metropolitan Planning Funds-\$243,633.76
- 4. FY 2024 & FY2025-Human Service Transportation Plan-\$136,638

Current and Pending FHWA Funding

- 1. FY 2022 Safe Streets and Roads for All-\$400,000
- 2. FY 2023 Statewide Planning and Research-\$372,400
- 3. FY 2023 Statewide Planning and Research-\$240,083.08
- 4. FY 2024 Carbon Reduction Program-\$594,496
- 5. FY 2024 Statewide Planning and Research-\$384,000
- 6. FY 2024 Surface Transportation Block Grant-\$4,385,696.99
- 7. FY 2024 Transportation Alternative-\$585,160
- 8. FY 2024 Planning Funds-\$935,262.92
- 9. FY 2025 Planning Funds-\$974,535.02

Years of FTA Funding

- 1. FY 2023 Section 5310 Funds –\$367,205 (full apportionment), \$201,962.75 (IDOT), \$165,242.25 (TCRPC)
- 2. FY 2024 Section 5310 Funds \$352,798 (full apportionment), \$194,038.90 (IDOT), \$158,759.10 (TCRPC)*

*Partial funding for this year (October 1, 2023-March 1, 2024) – As of the publication of this document, the Federal Transit Administration released only partial FY2024 apportionment amounts, which apply to the first six months of the federal fiscal year. Tri-County estimates that these funds will be the same for the last six months of the federal fiscal year. Therefore, staff doubled the partial FY 2024 funding amount to come up with the estimated total FY 2024 Section 5310 amount.

As an MPO, TCRPC is a Co-Designated Recipient of Section 5310 funding, along with IDOT, for the Greater Peoria area. IDOT receives 55 percent of the funding allotment for its statewide Consolidated Vehicle Procurement (CVP) program. The remaining 45 percent of funding is allocated to TCRPC to be programmed for capital and operational expenses.

The FHWA, FTA, and IDOT completed a Title VI compliance review of TCRPC planning process in 2022. TCRPC has not been found to be in noncompliance with any civil rights requirements. The following is a summary of the compliance review:

- Date of the compliance review March 2 – 3, 2022
- Purpose for the review
 Federal Certification Review of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process

- 3. Agency that conducted the review FHWA and FTA, with IDOT assistance
- 4. Summary of findings
 The FHWA and FTA jointly certify the TCRPC transportation planning process until the next compliance review in 2026; found the MPO is in compliance with the Title VI laws and has not had any complaints to date.

Requirement to Prepare and Submit a Title VI Program

TCRPC will prepare, approve, and submit its Title VI Program to FTA every three years and Title VI Certifications to FHWA and IDOT on an annual basis, through the TIP process, to ensure compliance with Title VI. A copy of the adoption resolution signed by the Commission Chair is included in **Appendix A** of this document.

Requirement to Notify Beneficiaries of Protection Under Title VI

TCRPC will notify the public of the protections afforded them under the USDOT Title VI regulations and include the notice and where it is posted in the Title VI Program document.

The TCRPC Title VI notice to the public is posted within the <u>Legal & FOIA</u> link on Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's website. The notice is also posted within the public reception area of TCRPC's offices. A legal disclaimer is also present on all MPO meeting agendas: "The MPO receives federal funding and may not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, or national origin according to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For more information or to obtain a Title VI complaint form, call 309-673-9330."

To view a copy of TCRPC Title VI notice to the public, please see **Appendix C**.

Requirement to Develop Title VI Complaint Procedures and Complaint Form

TCRPC has developed procedures and a form for Title VI complaints that may be filed against the agency in its role as the MPO. Title VI complaint procedures are available to the public on TCRPC's website within Legal & FOIA and upon request. MPO subrecipients shall be required to have such procedures and shall be encouraged to adopt the MPO complaint procedures.

Any person who believes they have been discriminated against on the basis of race, color or national origin by TCRPC may file a Title VI complaint by completing and submitting the agency's Title VI Complaint Form. Please refer to **Appendix D** for this form. TCRPC investigates complaints received no more than 180 days after the alleged incident. TCRPC will process complaints that are complete. TCRPC may extend the time for filing or waive the time limit in the interest of justice, specifying in writing the reason for so doing.

How to File a Complaint to TCRPC

A person with a Title VI or other complaint may submit the complaint to TCRPC using the following procedures:

- 1. A complaint may be submitted in writing and must include the name and contact information of the person filing the complaint (complainant), the date of the incident, the circumstances surrounding the claimed discrimination, and the identity of the person, department, or service that caused the complaint. Written complaints shall be signed by the complainant and/or the complainant's representative. Complaints may be sent via mail, email, or hand delivered. The Complaint Form can be found in **Appendix D**.
- 2. A complaint may be taken verbally and must include the person's name and contact information, the date of the incident, the circumstances surrounding the claimed discrimination, and the identity of the person, department or service that caused the complaint. If a person makes a verbal complaint of discrimination to an officer or employee of TCRPC, the complainant may be interviewed by the Executive Director. If necessary, the Executive Director or their designee will assist the complainant in reducing the complaint to writing and submit the written version of the complaint to the complainant for signature.
- 3. A complainant may request a neutral third party to hear a verbal complaint or assist with a written complaint. The selection of the neutral third party shall be made cooperatively between TCRPC and the complainant.
- 4. All complaints shall be addressed to the TCRPC Executive Director.

TCRPC/ Complaint Procedure

- 1. Within 10 days, the Executive Director will:
 - a. Acknowledge receipt of the allegation,
 - b. Inform the complainant of action taken or proposed action to process the allegation, and
 - c. Inform the complainant that the complaint may be either filed directly with TCRPC or with other appropriate departments such as the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The contact information for those agencies will be provided should the person opt to file directly with them. TCRPC's Executive Director shall be responsible for follow-up and monitoring FTA action.
- 2. If the complainant opts to file the complaint with TCRPC, the Executive Director will direct the complaint to the appropriate Program Manager for a fact-finding review.
- 3. Within 60 days, the Program Manager will investigate the allegation and, based on the information obtained, will render a recommendation for action in a report of findings to TCRPC's Executive Director and Personnel Committee. The complaint should be resolved by informal means whenever possible. Such informal attempts and their results will be summarized in the report of findings.
- 4. If the complaint is valid and supported by facts, the Executive Director and Personnel Committee will order corrective action to be taken. The Executive Director will also provide the appropriate federal agency with a copy of this decision and a summary of findings upon completion of the investigation.
- 5. Within 90 days of receipt of the complaint, TCRPC will notify the complainant in writing of the final decision reached. If the proposed remedy is acceptable to the complainant, the matter is concluded.
- 6. If the proposed remedy is not acceptable, TCRPC will advise the complainant how to file the complaint with the FTA. To file a Title VI complaint or to request additional information about TCRPC's non-discrimination obligations and policies, contact:

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Attention: Executive Director 456 Fulton Street, Suite 401 Peoria, IL 61602 (309) 673-9330 Federal Transit Administration Office of Civil Rights
Attention: Title VI Program Coordinator
East Building, 5th floor – TCR
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, D.C., 20590

Requirement to Record and Report Title VI Investigations, Complaints, and Lawsuits

In compliance with 49 CFR Section 21.9(b), TCRPC and all subrecipients shall prepare and maintain a list of any active investigations conducted by entities other than the FTA or FHWA, lawsuits, or complaints naming TCRPC or subrecipient alleging discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin. This list shall include the date that the investigation, lawsuit, or complaint was filed and received by the MPO, a summary of the allegation(s), the status of the investigation, lawsuit or complaint, and actions taken by the MPO or subrecipient in response to the investigation, lawsuit, or complaint.

TCRPC has never received a Title VI complaint or been subject to a lawsuit or investigation. If TCRPC does receive a complaint or is subject to a lawsuit or investigation, the agency will record the information on the table shown in **Appendix E** of this document.

Promoting Inclusive Public Participation

The content and consideration of Title VI, the Executive Order on Limited English Proficiency (LEP), and the USDOT LEP Guidance are integrated into the Public Participation Plan (PPP) for the TCRPC region. TCRPC dedicatedly provides access to the transportation planning process and associated MPO planning documents to all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, socioeconomic status, English proficiency, or disability. The PPP helps provide a variety of tools for TCRPC planners to use to inform the public, receive input, and consider such input during the planning process. To view the PPP, please see **Appendix F**.

Requirement to Provide Meaningful Access to LEP Persons

TCRPC will remain consistent with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, USDOT's implementing regulations, and Executive Order 13166, "Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency" (65 FR 50121, Aug. 11, 2000). In doing so, TCRPC will take responsible steps to ensure meaningful access to benefits, services, information, and other important key portions of its programs and activities for individuals who have limited English proficiency (LEP).

Four Factor Analysis

To ensure meaningful access to programs and activities, TCRPC utilized a Four Factor Analysis to determine the specific language services that are appropriate to provide. The Four Factor Analysis is an individualized assessment that balances the following factors: (1) The number or proportion of LEP persons eligible to be served or likely to be encountered by the program or recipient; (2) The frequency with which LEP persons encounter the program; (3) The nature and importance of

the program, activity, or service provided to people's lives; and (4) The resources available to the recipient for LEP outreach and the costs of that outreach. TCRPC utilizes the USDOT "safe harbor" to determine if any language group meets the Title VI LEP threshold. The safe harbor threshold constitutes five percent (5%) or 1,000 persons, whichever is less. If there are fewer than 50 persons in a language group that reaches the five percent (5%) threshold, TCRPC is not required to translate vital Title VI documents.

The number or proportion of LEP persons eligible to be served or likely to be encountered by the program or recipient. TCRPC has undertaken an analysis of the languages spoken in the three counties comprising the tri-county region and the Urbanized Area, the estimated number of residents with LEP, and their distribution by language group and county. **Figure 2** shows data taken from the 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates for language spoken at home by ability to speak English for the population 5 years of age and over. The table summarizes the languages spoken at home in all three counties and the UZA with 50 or more LEP persons. Within the Tri-County region and UZA there is one language that meets the safe harbor threshold for limited English proficiency, which is Spanish.

	Spanish	<u>LEP</u>	French, Ha Cajun L		German or West Gerr languag	manic	Other In Europe languages	<u>an</u>	Korean	<u>LEP</u>	Chinese (Mandar Cantonese	in,
	Population	LEP %	Population	LEP %	Population	LEP%	Population	LEP %	Population	LEP %	Population	LEP %
Tri-County Region	4844	1.47%	150	0.05%	86	0.03%	386	0.12%	160	0.05%	645	0.20%
Peoria- Pekin UZA	2125	0.87%	149	0.06%	48	0.02%	384	0.16%	50	0.02%	645	0.26%

	Vietname	Vietnamese LEPTagalog (incl. Filipino)Other Asian and PacificLEPIsland languages LEP				Arabic LEP		Other and unspecific languages LEP		
	Population	LEP %	Population	LEP %	Population	LEP%	Population	LEP %	Population	LEP %
Tri-County Region	392	0.12%	155	0.05%	306	0.09%	410	0.12%	85	0.03%
Peoria- Pekin UZA	392	0.16%	155	0.06%	287	0.12%	410	0.17%	63	0.03%

Figure 2: Limited English Proficiency by Language, ACS 2022 five-year estimates

The frequency with which LEP persons encounter the program.

TCRPC conducts public outreach and holds public meetings as part of the transportation planning process. Contact with LEP persons is uncommon but may occur during periods of public comment during regular MPO plan updates, Human Service Transportation Plan (HSTP) updates, or special studies. To date, TCRPC has never received a request for language assistance services. This assistance could involve translation services at a meeting or a request to have a document translated.

The nature and importance of the program, activity, or service provided by the program to people's lives.

TCRPC plans and programs the use of federal funds for future transportation projects. However, TCRPC does not provide direct transportation services or programs to individuals. TCRPC is responsible for informing the public on how federal transportation dollars are spent in the UZA, which impacts every person in the region. It is important that all segments of the population, including LEP persons, have the opportunity to be involved in the transportation planning process.

<u>The resources available to the recipient for LEP outreach, as well as the costs associated with that outreach.</u>

TCRPC will provide written and oral assistance services, upon request, but does not have the resources to translate all documents and provide translation services at all public meetings as a regular course of business. All language assistance resources will be made available from outside consulting services.

TCRPC is federally mandated (Executive Order 13166) to take responsible steps to ensure meaningful access to the benefits, services, information, and other crucial portions of its programs and activities for individuals who are LEP. Tri-County utilized the USDOT LEP Guidance Handbook and preformed the Four Factor Analysis to develop its Limited English Proficiency (LEP) plan. The LEP Plan is included in **Appendix G** of this document.

Minority Representation on Planning and Advisory Bodies

Title 49 CFR Section 21.5(b)(1)(vii) states that a recipient may not, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, "deny a person the opportunity to participate as a member of a planning, advisory, or similar body which is an integral part of the program."

The key bodies for the MPO are the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission board—and Technical Committee. The governing body of the MPO is the commission, which is responsible for all official activities of the MPO. The Commission is made up of elected officials or their designees representing their respective communities. The Technical Committee is

comprised of individuals appointed by their respective MPO communities. Most of these appointees are public works and/or engineering staff from their respective communities. The individuals representing each jurisdiction or agency are selected by those entities and are not chosen at the direction of TCRPC or its staff. The current members for both The Commission and Technical Committee can be found on the **Acknowledgements** page of this document.

Tri-County has been charged with managing the Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) for region five. As a result, TCRPC coordinates and facilitates meetings for the HSTP committee, which consists of a rural and urban subcommittee. According to the HSTP committee bylaws, updated October 17, 2023, Rural Area representatives are appointed by each respective County Board Chair within Region 5, and Urban Area representatives are recommended by the TCRPC Technical Committee and appointed by the Full Commission. The current composition of HSTP Urban is as follows:

Ethnicity: 0 Hispanic or Latino; 9 Not Hispanic or Latino Race: 8 White; 1 Black or African American

Sex: 7 Female; 2 Male

Providing Assistance to Subrecipients

Title 49 CFR Section 21.9(b) states that if "a primary recipient extends federal financial assistance to any other recipient, such other recipient shall also submit such compliance reports to the primary recipient as may be necessary to enable the primary recipient to carry out its obligations under this part." Primary recipients should assist their subrecipients in complying with USDOT's Title VI regulations, including the general reporting requirements. Assistance shall be provided to the subrecipient as necessary and appropriate by the primary recipient.

TCRPC currently only has two subrecipients of FTA 5310 funding: The City of Peoria and GPMTD. TCRPC also enters into contracts with jurisdictions and private consulting firms involving federal funding. These contracts incorporate standard Certifications and Assurances related to Title VI Civil Rights responsibilities.

Monitoring Subrecipients

In accordance with 49 CFR 21.9(b), and to ensure that subrecipients are complying with the USDOT Title VI regulations, primary recipients must monitor their subrecipients for compliance with the regulations. Importantly, if a subrecipient is not in compliance with Title VI requirements, then the primary recipient is also not in compliance.

To ensure the primary and subrecipients comply with Title VI requirements, the primary recipient shall undertake the following activities:

- 1. Document its process for ensuring that all subrecipients are complying with the general reporting requirements of FTA Circular 4702.1B. Additionally, other requirements apply to the subrecipient based on the type of entity and the number of fixed route vehicles it operates in peak service if it is a transit provider.
- 2. Collect Title VI Programs from subrecipients and review programs for compliance.
- 3. At the request of the FTA, in response to a complaint of discrimination, or as otherwise deemed necessary by the primary recipient, the primary recipient shall request that subrecipients who provide transportation services verify that their level and quality of service is provided equitably. Subrecipients that are fixed route transit providers are responsible for reporting as outlined in Chapter IV of FTA Circular 4702.1B.

When a subrecipient is also a direct recipient of FTA funds—that is, applies for funds directly from FTA in addition to receiving funds from a primary recipient—the subrecipient/direct recipient reports directly to FTA and the primary recipient/designated recipient is not responsible for monitoring compliance of that subrecipient. The supplemental agreement signed by both entities in their roles as designated recipient and direct recipient relieves the primary recipient/designated recipient of this oversight responsibility.

Determination of Site or Location of Facilities

Title 49 CFR Section 21.9(b)(3) states, "in determining the site or location of facilities, a recipient or applicant may not make selections with the purpose or effect of excluding persons from, denying them the benefits of, or subjecting them to discrimination under any program to which this regulation applies, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin; or with the purpose or effect of defeating or substantially impairing the accomplishment of the objectives of the Act or this part." Title 49 CFR part 21, Appendix C, Section (3)(iv) stipulates that "the location of projects requiring land acquisition and the displacement of persons from their residences and businesses may not be determined on the basis of race, color, or national origin."

Per the FTA Circular 4702.1B, "Facilities" does not include bus shelters, as these are transit amenities and are covered under Chapter IV of Circular 4702.1B, nor does it include transit stations, power substations, etc., as those are evaluated

during the project development and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Facilities included in this provision include, but are not limited to, storage facilities, maintenance facilities, and operation centers.

TCRPC acknowledges its responsibility to complete a Title VI equity analysis during the planning stage concerning where a project is located or sited to ensure the location is selected without regard to race, color, or national origin. This process would include outreach to persons potentially impacted by the siting of facilities. The Title VI equity analysis must compare the equity impacts of various siting alternatives, and the analysis must occur before the selection of the preferred site.

Requirement to Provide Additional Information Upon Request

Upon request, TCRPC will provide information other than that required by FTA Circular 4702.1B for FTA to investigate complaints of discrimination or to resolve concerns about possible noncompliance with DOT's Title VI regulations.

Metropolitan Planning Organization Requirements

In addition to the General Requirements for all federal funding recipients, FTA Circular 4702.1B identifies the following requirements for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO):

Requirement to Prepare and Submit a Title VI Program

Section 21.9(b) requires recipients to submit reports to FTA for the FTA to ascertain whether the recipient is in compliance with the USDOT Title VI regulations, and recipients must have available "racial and ethnic data showing the extent to which members of minority groups are beneficiaries of programs receiving Federal financial assistance." As stated in Chapter III of FTA Circular 4702.1B, FTA requires that all direct and primary recipients document their compliance by submitting a Title VI Program to their FTA regional civil rights officer once every three years, or as otherwise directed by FTA.

In its regional transportation planning capacity, TCRPC shall submit to the state as the primary recipient, as well as the FTA, the following information in their Title VI Program: Twelve general requirements, demographic profile of the UZA, mobility needs of minority populations, and MPO demographic and project location maps.

Twelve General Requirements

All twelve (12) general requirements for recipients of federal funding are outlined in the section above titled **General Requirements**.

Demographic Profile of the Urbanized Area

A demographic profile of the metropolitan area that includes identification of the locations of minority populations, in the aggregate, is included in this section. Additional maps are included in **Appendix H**.

According to US Census Bureau 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimate data, the total population of the Greater Peoria area is 259,794. The Peoria-Pekin Urbanized Area spans 237 square miles in Central Illinois and is the population and economic center of Greater Peoria, which includes Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford counties. Greater Peoria is located 120 miles southwest of Chicago, 140 miles northeast of St. Louis, and 180 miles northwest of Indianapolis.

<u>Age</u>

The US Census Bureau 2022 ACS-5-year estimate shows a significant parity between many age groups in the UZA. The largest age group of residents is 5 to 9 years old, but all age groups between 0 and 69 years old have very similar population percentages. The 2022 data shows the median age for the UZA was 38.9 years old, up slightly from the median age of 37.6 in 2015, and 37.2 in the 2010 Decennial Census. **Figure 3** is the population pyramid for the UZA.

Race and Ethnicity

A large majority of the UZA's population is white. Residents who identify as some other race, two or more races or Asian saw a percentage increase. Residents that identify as either Black or African American, White, or American Indian and Alaskan Native experienced a decline in their population. The racial composition of the UZA has stayed consistent since 2020.

The UZA saw a minimal increase in the population that identify as Hispanic or Latino, increasing approximately 0.43%. See **Figure 4** for more detailed information on Race and Ethnicity in the urbanized Area.

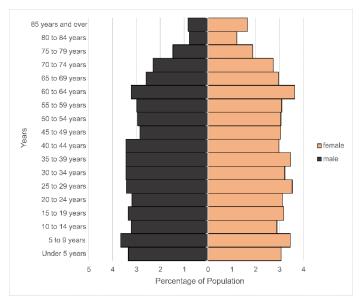


Figure 3: Age and Gender in the Urbanized Area (UZA), 2018-2022 ACS

Race	2020	2022
White	79.30%	77.30%
Black or African American	13.00%	12.70%
American Indian and		
Alaskan Native	0.20%	0.10%
Asian	3.20%	3.50%
Native Hawaiian and Other		
Pacific Islander	0.00%	0.00%
Some Other Race	1.20%	1.40%
Two of More Races	3.10%	4.90%
Ethnicity	2020	2022
Not Hispanic or Latino	95.90%	95.50%
Hispanic or Latino	4.10%	4.53%

Figure 4: Race and Ethnicity in the UZA, 2018-2022 ACS

Disability Status

Identifying segments of the population with limited mobility is essential to building and maintaining an accessible, regional transportation network for the greatest number of residents. A key aspect of planning for transit use is identifying the needs of elderly individuals and people with disabilities. **Figure 5** shows the percentage of residents with a disability by age group.

Education

In 2022, 92.6% of residents of the UZA had a high school diploma or higher. The percentage of UZA residents with at least a bachelor's degree was almost 31.3%. These numbers demonstrate that the UZA has a well-educated population that should continue to become bettereducated in the future. For more details, please See **Figure 6**.

	Percentage with a disability
Total civilian noninstitutionalized population	13.31%
under 18 years	4.83%
18 to 64 years	11.12%
65 and over	32.01%

Figure 5: Disability Status in the UZA, 2018-2022 ACS

Educational Attainment	2022
Less than 9th grade	2.2%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	5.2%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	28.4%
Some college, no degree	22.3%
Associate's degree	10.6%
Bachelor's degree	19.6%
Graduate or professional degree	11.7%
High school graduate or higher	92.6%
Bachelor's degree or higher	31.3%

Figure 6: Education Attainment in the UZA, 2018-2022 ACS

Household Income

Income is a large determinant of available travel options for families. The median household income for the UZA is \$63,714. **Figure 7** shows the percentage of households in each income bracket. The largest household income bracket in the UZA is \$50,000 to \$74,999, with the majority of the households making between \$35,000 and \$149,999.

Figure 8 shows the median household income for all households in the UZA by age group. Generally, incomes are lowest for householders under the age of 25. This number increases in the 25 to 44 and 45 to 64 age groups. As householders retire, income begins to decrease. Due to potential financial constraints, travel options are likely to be limited for householders under 25 and over 64.

Income Brackets	Percentage of Households	
Less than \$10,000	6.20%	
\$10,000 to \$14,999	4.70%	
\$15,000 to \$24,999	8.30%	
\$25,000 to \$34,999	8.10%	
\$35,000 to \$49,999	12.20%	
\$50,000 to \$74,999	18.10%	
\$75,000 to \$99,999	12.70%	
\$100,000 to \$149,999	15.00%	
\$150,000 to \$199,999	7.70%	
\$200,000 or more	7.10%	
Median income (dollars)	\$63,714	
Mean income (dollars)	\$87,560	

Figure 7: Household Income in the US, 2018-2022 ACS

Age of Householder	Median Income		
15 to 24 years	\$36,059		
25 to 44 years	\$77,703		
45 to 64 years	\$73,036		
65 years and over	\$48,947		

Figure 8: Median Income by Age Group in the UZA, 2018-2022 ACS

<u>Poverty</u>

According to the 2022 ACS 5-year estimate, 14 percent of people in the UZA live below the poverty level. In 2022, the largest impoverished population in the UZA included those under five years old, with 16.8 percent. The next highest impoverished group were both older children (5 to 17 years old) and young adults (18 to 34 years old) with 15.6 percent. The age group that was the least impoverished were retirement aged adults (65 and over) with 8.4 percent. See **Figure 9** for more information.

	Percent below the poverty line
Population for whom poverty	2 03 200
status is determined	14.00%
under 5 years	16.80%
5 to 17 years	15.60%
18 to 34 years	15.60%
35 to 64 years	11.00%
65 years and over	8.40%

Figure 10: Language Spoken at Home in the UZA, 2018-2022 ACS

Language Spoken at Home

According to the 2022 ACS, 243,551 people, or 93 percent of the UZA population, only speak English in their home. The remaining 17,122 people, or 7 percent of the population, speaks a language other than English in their home. Of the 17,122 people, 4,730, or 27.6 percent, speak English less than "very well." **Figure 10** details the type of languages spoken at home. **Figure 2** in the

Requirement to Provide Meaningful Access to LEP

Persons
section details
the specific
languages
spoken in the
UZA and TriCounty
region.

	Total	al Percent	Percent of specified language			
			Speaks English only or speaks English "very well"		Speaks English less than "very well"	
			Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Population 5 and over	243,551		238,821	98.10%	4,730	1.90%
Speaks only English	226,429	93.00%				
Speaks a languare other than English	17,122	7.00%	12,392	72.40%	4,730	27.60%
		Speaks a	Language other than Engl	ish	528040, CO.	
Spanish	6,521	2.70%	4,396	67.40%	2,125	32.60%
Other Indo-Eupopean Languages	3,982	1.60%	3,379	84.90%	603	15.10%
Asian and Pacific Island Languages	4,810	2.00%	3,281	68.20%	1,529	31.80%
Other Languages	1,809	0.70%	1,336	73.90%	473	26.10%

Figure 9: Poverty Status by Age in the UZA, 2018-2022 ACS

Means of Transportation to Work

According to the 2022 ACS, 44.7 percent of the working population in the UZA had two vehicles available to them for commuting to work. Only 2.7 percent of the population had no vehicles available to them for a commute to work. In 2022, approximately 80.1 percent of the working population in the UZA drove alone for their commute to work. **Figure 11** details the number of vehicles available and the means of transportation to work.

Number of Vehicles Available	Population Percentage
No vehicle available	2.70%
1 vehicle available	24.90%
2 vehicles available	44.70%
3 or more vehicles available	27.60%
Commute types	Population Percentage
Drove alone	80.10%
Carpooled	7.50%
Workers per car, truck, or van	1.05%
Public transportation (excluding taxicab)	1.00%
Walked	1.90%
Bicycle	0.30%
Taxicab, motorcycle, or other means	0.80%
Worked from home	8.50%

Figure 11: Means of Transportation in the UZA, 2018-2022 ACS

Mobility Needs of Minority Population

TCRPC seeks to identify the mobility needs of minority populations during the transportation planning and programming process through its public outreach process. A summary of TCRPC public participation procedures designed to gather information on the mobility needs of minority populations, individuals with disabilities, and low-income residents is described in the TCRPC Public Participation Plan (PPP), which is located in **Appendix F** of this document.

MPO Demographics and Project Location Maps

To comply with this requirement, TCRPC developed various maps of the UZA with US Census demographic data. These maps can be found in **Appendix H**. Additionally, TCRPC determined the percent minority per block group utilizing the US Census Bureau's 2018-2022 ACS Race and Ethnicity data.

Planning

TCRPC recognizes that all metropolitan transportation planning activities must comply with 49 U.S.C Section 5303, Metropolitan Transportation Planning, as well as subpart C of 23 CFR part 450, Metropolitan Transportation Planning and Programming. As a subrecipient of the State, TCRPC will submit Title VI compliance reports for planning activities to the State.

All MPOs are required to self-certify compliance with all applicable Federal requirements. Planning certification reviews conducted jointly by FTA and FHWA of the metropolitan transportation planning processes of transportation management areas include a review of Title VI compliance. As part of the planning certification review, FTA/FHWA review MPO developed documentation to determine whether MPOs have:

- Analyzed regional demographic data to identify minority populations within the region.
- Where necessary, provided member agencies with regional data to assist them in identifying minority populations in their service area.
- Ensured that members of minority communities are provided with full opportunities to engage in the transportation planning process. This includes actions to eliminate language, mobility, temporal, and other obstacles to allow these populations to participate fully.
- Monitored the activities of subrecipients regarding Title VI compliance, where the MPO passes funds through to subrecipients.

Designated Recipient

MPOs sometimes serve the role of designated recipient. FTA apportions funds each year to the MPO as the designated recipient, and the MPO, in turn, suballocates funds (without receiving the actual funds from FTA) to various entities and/or retains funds to carry out its own projects or activities, or to pass through to subrecipients. If the MPO as the designated recipient simply suballocates the funds to other entities, and those entities apply to FTA directly for the funds, the MPO and each entity to which it suballocates funds enter into a "supplemental agreement." Under such agreement, the direct recipient is responsible for demonstrating compliance with Federal law, including Title VI, and the MPO is not in any manner subject to or responsible for the direct recipient's compliance with the USDOT Title VI regulations.

However, the MPO as the designated recipient is responsible for suballocating FTA funds without regard to race, color, or national origin. Suballocations must be based on project implementation priorities in the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), which includes a robust public participation process. Each MPO must have a locally developed process that establishes criteria for making determinations of funding priorities in a nondiscriminatory manner.

Direct Recipient

An MPO that receives funding directly from FTA for its own activities is a direct recipient and therefore must develop a Title VI Program and report Title VI compliance to FTA for those activities for which it is a direct recipient. As a direct recipient, an MPO may also pass funds through to subrecipients. When an MPO receives funds directly from FTA and then passes funds through to subrecipients, the MPO becomes a primary recipient under the DOT Title VI regulations and is responsible for monitoring the compliance of its subrecipients with Title VI, unless that subrecipient is also an FTA direct recipient.

Requirements for Program Administration

To comply with 49 CFR Section 21.5, the general nondiscrimination provision, the MPO recognizes its responsibility to document that, if federal funds under any FTA or FHWA programs are passed through to sub-recipients, this is done without regard to race, color, or national origin. The MPO must also assure that minority populations are not being denied the benefits of or excluded from participation in these programs. Thus, TCRPC will provide the following information upon request:

- A record of funding requests received from private non-profit organizations, state or local governmental authorities, and Indian tribes. The record shall identify those applicants that would use grant program funds to assist predominantly minority populations. The record shall also indicate which applications were rejected and accepted for funding.
- A description of how the MPO develops its competitive selection process or annual program of projects submitted
 as part of its grant applications. This description shall emphasize the method used to ensure the equitable
 distribution of funds to sub-recipients serving predominantly minority populations, including Native American tribes,
 where present. Equitable distribution can be achieved by engaging in outreach to diverse stakeholders regarding
 availability of funds and ensuring that the competitive process is not itself a barrier to selection of minority
 applicants.
- A description of the MPO's criteria for selecting entities to participate in federal grant programs.

Environmental Justice

On February 11th, 1994, President Bill Clinton issued Executive Order 12898 "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Population and Low-Income Populations." Environmental Justice (EJ) builds on Title VI activities by considering the impacts to low-income and minority populations within transportation planning and decision-making. The guiding principles of Environmental Justice are:

1.	To avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human
	health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects,
	on minority and low-income populations.

2.	To ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected
	communities in the transportation decision-making process.

3.	To prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the	receipt of
	benefits by minority and low-income populations.	

Population Group	Regional Average
Careless Households	7.85%
Households with a Person with	
a Disability	25.44%
Elderly Population	18.12%
LEP	1.75%
Minority	25.13%
Households below Poverty Level	14.07%
Single Households with Children	6.29%

Figure 12: Disadvantaged Population Group Regional Averages

Prior to 2012, Title VI and EJ requirements were included together under one circular. Given the close relationship between Title VI and EJ, the distinctions between the requirements were often confused. As a result, FTA released two separate Circulars, FTA 4702.1B, which outlines Title VI requirements, and FTA 4703.1, with EJ requirements, in 2012. Title VI is a federal statute, and as such, in the event of discrimination, legal action may be sought. Executive Order 12898, however, is not enforceable in court and does not create any legal rights or remedies. While E.O. 12898 does not create a protected class for low-income populations, TCRPC recognizes the close relationship between the two. Therefore, TCRPC deems it important to include the consideration of effects borne by low-income populations and other disadvantaged populations in our Title VI considerations and assessment.

Demographic Data and Methodology

An understanding of regional disadvantaged population groups is needed to ensure the MPO's planning and participation efforts reach all segments of the community. TCRPC utilized U.S. Census Bureau 2022 American Community Survey

(ACS) 5-year estimate data at the Census Tract level to compile a demographic summary of the UZA to determine where Environmental Justice areas, or disadvantaged populations, are in the region. Census Data is gathered from the traditionally underserved and/or under-represented population groups: Carless households, persons with a disability, elderly households, limited English proficiency (LEP) households, minority populations, households in poverty, and single heads of households with children.

To understand the areas with the greatest disadvantage, the percentage of each Census Tract was identified for each of the seven disadvantaged population groups. From there, the regional average of each disadvantaged population group is determined by finding the average percentage. **Figure 12** shows the average percentage for each disadvantaged population group. Each Census Tract above the regional average is considered to be disadvantaged. A map of each population group showing the Census Tracts that exceed the regional average can be found in **Appendix J** of this document.

Each census Tract's severity of disadvantage increases by each population group identified to be over the regional average. **Figure 13** is a map that shows the concentration of disadvantaged population groups identified. The darker the shade on the map, the more population groups that are over the regional average.

Concentration of Disadvantaged Populations by Census Track

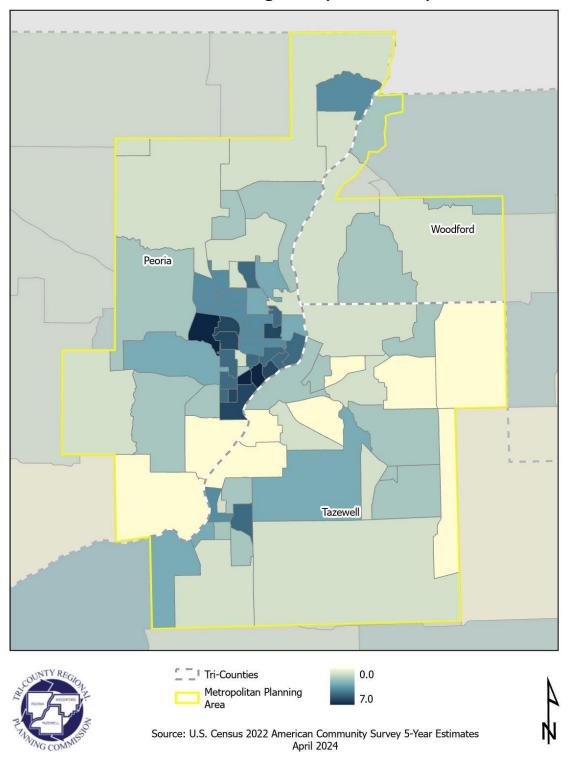


Figure 13: Concentration of Disadvantaged Populations by Census Tract

Appendix A: Adoption Resolutions

RESOLUTION 24-57

A RESOLUTION OF THE TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION TO APPROVE AND ADOPT THE TITLE VI PROGRAM WITH ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONSIDERATION AND LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN.

WHEREAS, the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, hereafter referred to as the Commission, is recognized as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Peoria-Pekin Urbanized Area, and

WHEREAS, all programs and organizations receiving financial assistance from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) are subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and U.S. Department of Transportation's implementing regulations, and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 12898 "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations" builds on to Title VI activities by including the considerations of the impacts to low-income populations in addition to minority populations into transportation planning and decision-making processes, and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 13166 "Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency" states that recipients of federal transportation funds shall take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to benefits, services, information, and other important portions of their programs and activities for individuals who are limited-English proficient (LEP), and

WHEREAS, Commission assures that no person or group of persons on the basis of race, color, or national origin, gender, socioeconomic status, English proficiency, or disability, are subjected to discrimination in the level and quality of transportation planning programs and activities provided by the MPO, whether federally funded or not, and

WHEREAS, Commission has developed an updated Title VI Program with Environmental Justice Consideration and LEP Plan that meets the requirements of FTA Circular 4702.1B (Title VI) and FTA Circular 4703.1 (Environmental Justice).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION that the Commission hereby adopts the 2024 Title VI Program with Environmental Justice Consideration and Limited English Proficiency Plan.

Presented this 5th day of June 2024 Adopted this 5th day of June 2024

Greg Menold, Chairman

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

ATTEST:

Eric Miller, Executive Director

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

RESOLUTION 24-56

A RESOLUTION OF THE TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVING THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN.

WHEREAS, the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, hereafter referred to as Commission, is recognized as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Peoria-Pekin Urbanized Area; and

WHEREAS, urban transportation planning is required of metropolitan planning areas by federal statutes and regulations within the purview of the U.S. Department of Transportation, including Title 23 of the U.S. Code, Section 134 (and its implementing regulations, 23 CFR 450(c)) and Title 49, U.S. Code (Federal Transit Act, as amended); and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation regulations provide for self-certification that the urban transportation planning process is being carried out in conformance with all applicable requirements of Federal law; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation requires the development of a Public Participation Plan (PPP) for all MPOs in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the PPP delineates organizational responsibilities, operating procedures, and strategies to gain input from and distribute information to the public regarding transportation planning and programming processes; and

WHEREAS, the draft *Public Participation Plan 2024 Update* underwent a 45-day public comment period between Wednesday, April 17, 2024, and Friday, May 31, 2024, in which (1) the draft PPP update was sent to 20 public review locations in the Peoria-Pekin Urbanized Area and was placed on Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's website, (2) legal notice announcing the public comment period was placed in the Peoria Journal Star and Pekin Daily Times, and (3) notice announcing the public comment period with a link to the draft PPP was posted to the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's social media accounts.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION that the Commission hereby adopts the Public Participation Plan 2024 Update.

Presented this 5th day of June 2024 Adopted this 5th day of June 2024

Greg Menold, Chairman

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

ATTEST:

Eric Miller, Executive Director

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

Appendix B: Certifications and Assurances

TRI COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION | TCM/TLP | 6196

Summary Applications/Awards TrAMS Users Locations Designated Recipient Related Actions

Certifications & Assurances | FY 2024 C&A Affirmations

Recipient Details

Recipient ID

6196

Recipient Name TRI COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Certification and Assurance Information

Fiscal Year 2024

Assigned Date 2/29/2024 Due Date 5/29/2024 Original Certification Date 3/20/2024 Latest Certification Date 3/20/2024

Published Certifications and Assurances

FTA CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES

Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)

Applicants and recipients of Section 5307 grants and rail transit agencies that are subject to the State Safety Oversight Program must certify to Category 2: Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans (PTASP). The deadline for certification was July 20, 2020, however, in light of the extraordinary challenges presented by the COVID-19 public health emergency, FTA issued a Notice of Enforcement Discretion for the PTASP regulation (49 CFR Part 673). FTA will refrain from taking enforcement action until July 21, 2021 for applicants and recipients unable to certify compliance with the PTASP regulation before July 20, 2021. While applicants and recipients are encouraged to certify compliance as soon as reasonably practicable under the current circumstances caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency, those who do not certify compliance until July 20, 2021 remain eligible for Chapter 53 grant funds.

List of All Applicable Agencies

PTASP Technical Assistance Center

Certifications and Assurances

Certification History

Certification Date: 3/20/2024 | Official: Eric Miller | Attorney: Andrew Keyt Category 1 Title 01 CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES REQUIRED OF EVERY APPLICANT 02 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AGENCY SAFETY PLANS TAX LIABILITY AND FELONY CONVICTIONS 03 LOBBYING 04 05 PRIVATE SECTOR PROTECTIONS 06 TRANSIT ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 07 ROLLING STOCK BUY AMERICA REVIEWS AND BUS TESTING 08 URBANIZED AREA FORMULA GRANTS PROGRAM 09 FORMULA GRANTS FOR RURAL AREAS

10 FIXED GUIDEWAY CAPITAL INVESTMENT GRANTS AND THE EXPEDITE PROJECT DELIVERY FOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT GRANTS PILOT PROGE		
Category	1 Title	Cer
11	GRANTS FOR BUSES AND BUS FACILITIES AND LOW OR NO EMISSION VEHICLE DEPLOYMENT GRANT PROGRAMS	•
12	ENHANCED MOBILITY OF SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITY PROGRAMS	1ES (
13	STATE OF GOOD REPAIR GRANTS	¢
14	INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE PROGRAMS	¢
15	ALCOHOL AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES TESTING	¢
16	RAIL SAFETY TRAINING AND OVERSIGHT	•
17	DEMAND RESPONSIVE SERVICE	¢
18	INTEREST AND FINANCING COSTS	¢
19	CYBERSECURITY CERTIFICATION FOR RAIL ROLLING STOCK AND OPERATIONS	•
20	PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS FORMULA ANI DISCRETIONARY PROGRAM (TRIBAL TRANSIT PROGRAMS)	•
21	EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM	¢
	1-	21 of 21

∨Documents

Existing Documents

Document	Description	Uploaded By	Date	1		
No items available						

Affirmation of Applicant

Affirmation of Applicant BY SIGNING BELOW, on behalf of the Applicant, I declare that it has duly authorized me to make these Certifications and Assurances and bind its compliance. Thus, it agrees to comply with all federal laws, regulations, and requirements, follow applicable federal guidance, and comply with the Certifications and Assurances as indicated on the foregoing page applicable to each application its Authorized Representative makes to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in the federal fiscal year, irrespective of whether the individual that acted on his or her Applicant's behalf continues to represent

> The Certifications and Assurances the Applicant selects apply to each Award for which it now seeks, or may later seek federal assistance to be awarded by FTA during the federal fiscal year.

The Applicant affirms the truthfulness and accuracy of the Certifications and Assurances it has selected in the statements submitted with this document and any other submission made to FTA, and acknowledges that the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986, 31 U.S.C. § 3801 et seq., and implementing U.S. DOT regulations, "Program Fraud Civil Remedies," 49 CFR part 31, apply to any certification, assurance or submission made to FTA. The criminal provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 apply to any certification, assurance, or submission made in connection with a federal public transportation program authorized by 49 U.S.C. chapter 53 or any other statute.

In signing this document, I declare under penalties of perjury that the foregoing Certifications and Assurances, and any other statements made by me on behalf of the Applicant are true and accurate.

Official's Name Eric Miller

l accept the above

Certification Date Feb 29, 2024

Affirmation of Attorney

Affirmation of Applicant's As the undersigned Attorney for the above-named Applicant, I hereby affirm to the Applicant that it has authority under state, local, or tribal government law, as applicable, to make and comply with the Certifications and Assurances as indicated on the foregoing pages. I further affirm that, in my opinion, the Certifications and Assurances have been legally made and

constitute legal and binding obligations on it.

If urther affirm that, to the best of my knowledge, there is no legislation or litigation pending or imminent that might adversely affect the validity of these Certifications and Assurances, or of the performance of its FTA assisted Award.

Attorney's Name Andrew Keyt

Certification Date Mar 20, 2024

CANCEL

Appendix C: Title VI Public Notice

Notifying the Public of Rights Under Title VI and ADA Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission operates its programs and services without regard to race, color, national origin and disability status in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by any unlawful discriminatory practice under Title VI may file a complaint with the **Tri-County Regional Planning Commission**.

For more information on the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's civil rights program, and the procedures to file a complaint, contact Eric Miller, Executive Director, (309) 673-9330; email: emiller@tricountyrpc.org; or visit our administrative office at 456 Fulton Street, Suite 401, Peoria, Illinois 61602. For more information, visit https://tricountyrpc.org/legal/.

Complaints may be filed directly with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Civil Rights Office:

ATTN: Title VI Program Coordinator 69 Washington Street Room 2100

Chicago, IL 60602

or with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA):

ATTN: Title VI Program Coordinator 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE Washington, DC 20590

If information is needed in another language, contact (309) 673-9330. Para información en Español, llame: Debbie Ulrich, Office Manager, (309) 673-9330; email: dulrich@tricountyrpc.org.

Aviso Público Sobre los Derechos Bajo el Título VI Y ADA Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (*y sus subcontratistas, si cualquiera*) asegura cumplir con el Título VI de la Ley de los Derechos Civiles de 1964, Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973 y La Ley de ciudadanos Americanos con Discapacidades de 1990 (ADA). El nivel y la calidad de servicios de transporte serán proveídos sin consideración a su raza, color, país de origen, o discapacidad.

Para obtener más información sobre el programa de Derechos Civiles de **Tri-County Regional Planning Commission**, y los procedimientos para presentar una queja, contacte **Eric Miller, Executive Director (309) 673-9330**; o visite nuestra oficina administrativa en **456 Fulton Street, Suite 401, Peoria, Illinois 61602**. Para obtener más información, visite **https://tricountyrpc.org/legal/**

Una queja puede ser presentada con la oficina de Derechos Civiles del Departamento de Transporte de Illinois (IDOT).

Atención: Title VI Program Manager 69 W. Washington Street Chicago, IL 60602

o con la Administración Federal de Transporte (FTA):

Atención: Title VI Coordinator, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE Washington DC 20590

The above notices are posted within the public reception area of Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's offices and online at https://tricountyrpc.org/legal/.

Appendix D: Title VI Complaint Form

Section I:					
Name:					
Address:					
Telephone (Home):	Telephone (Work	Telephone (Work):			
Email Address:					
	☐ Large Print		☐ Audio Tape		
Accessible Format Requirements?			□ Other		
Coation II.			⊔ Ou	ier	
Section II:					
Are you filing this complaint on your own behalf	•	∃ Yes*		□ No	
*If you answered "yes" to this question, go to $oldsymbol{S}$	ection III.				
If not, please supply the name and relationship					
of the person for whom you are complaining.					
Please explain why you have filed for a third par					
Please confirm that you have obtained the permi] Yes		□No	
aggrieved party if you are filing on behalf of a th	ird party.	ı res		□ NO	
Section III:					
I believe the discrimination I experienced was b	ased on (check all t	hat appl	ly):		
□ Race □ Color □ Nationa	l Origin [□ Disab	ility		
	O		•		
Date of Alleged Discrimination (Month, Day, Ye	ar):				
Explain as clearly as possible what happened and why you believe you were discriminated against. Describe all persons who were involved. Include the name and contact information of the person(s) who discriminated against you (if known) as well as names and contact information of any witnesses. If more space is needed, please use the back of this form.					
				_	
Section VI:					
Have you previously filed a Discrimination Com	plaint with this				
agency?	P-W	□ Ye	S	□ No	
If yes, please provide any reference information	regarding your pre	evious co	omplai	nt.	
21 Jes, preuse provide any reservice information regarding Jour previous complaint.					
Section V:					
Have you filed this complaint with any other Fedor State court?	ieral, State, or local	1 agency	, or w	ith any Federal	
□ Yes □ No					

If yes, check all that apply:	
☐ Federal Agency:	
□ Federal Court:	☐ State Agency:
☐ State Court: Please provide information about a contact personal contact persona	□ Local Agency:
Please provide information about a contact perso filed.	on at the agency/court where the complaint was
Name:	
Title:	
Agency:	
Address:	
Telephone:	
Section VI:	
Name of agency complaint is against:	
Name of person complaint is against:	
Title:	
Location:	
Telephone Number (if available):	
You may attach any written materials or other inform Your signature and date are required below:	ation that you think is relevant to your complaint.
Tour signature and date are required below.	
Signature	Date
Please submit this form in person at the address	below, or mail this form to:
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission	
Eric Miller, Executive Director	
456 Fulton Street, Suite 401, Peoria, Illinois 61	602
(309) 673-9330	
emiller@tricountyrpc.org	

A copy of this form can be found online at https://tricountyrpc.org/legal/

Appendix E: Title VI Investigations, Complaints, and Lawsuits

Tri-County ADA and Title VI List of Complaints, Investigations and LawsuitsThe Tri-County Regional Planning Commission maintains a log to track and resolve all ADA and Title VI complaints, investigations, and lawsuits, pertaining to its transportation-related activities.

Check One:					
\boxtimes	There have been no investigations, complaints, and/or lawsuits filed against TCRPC during the report period.				
	There have been investigations, complaints and/or lawsuits filed against TCRPC (See table below).				

Type Complaint, Investigation, or Lawsuit	Date (Month, Day, Year)	Complainant's Name and	Basis of Complaint	Summary of Allegations	Status	Action(s) Taken/ Outcome if Resolved
or Lawsuit	Day, Year)	Address	Complaint Race, Color, National Origin, or Disability			

Appendix F: Public Participation Plan

Public Participation Plan

The Public Participation Plan is available under a separate cover and was updated and adopted by TCRPC along with this Title VI Program document. This Title VI Program document and the Public Participation Plan can be found on the Tri-County Regional Planning Commissions website at https://tricountyrpc.org/.

Appendix G: Limited English Proficiency Plan

Improving Access for People with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC), which represents Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford counties in Central Illinois and staffs the Greater Peoria Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), has conducted a Four Factor Analysis to meet requirements under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which seeks to improve access to services for persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP). The purpose is to ensure that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Four Factor Analysis

To ensure meaningful access to programs and activities, TCRPC conducted the Four Factor Analysis. This process determined the specific language services that are appropriate to provide in the UZA and the Tri-County region. The Four Factor Analysis assessed the following factors: (1) The number or proportion of LEP persons eligible to be served or likely to be encountered by the program or recipient; (2) The frequency with which LEP persons come into contact with the program; (3) The nature and importance of the program, activity, or service to people's lives; (4) the resources available to the recipient for LEP outreach, as well as the costs associated with that outreach.

TCRPC utilized the United States Department of Transportation "safe harbor" to determine if any language group meets the Title VI LEP threshold. The safe harbor threshold constitutes five percent (5%) or 1,000 persons, whichever is less. If there are fewer than 50 persons in a language group that reaches the five percent (5%) threshold, TCRPC is not required to translate vital Title VI documents. The only language group that meets the five percent or 1,000 persons threshold was the Spanish speaking population.

According to 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, 7,176 individuals speak Spanish in the Tri-County Region. Of the 7,176 individuals, 32.5 percent, or 2,332 individuals, speak English "very well" and 67.5 percent, or 4844, speak English less than "very well." Individuals who speak English less than "very well" are considered LEP persons.

According to the 2022 ACS 5-year estimate data, there are 6,521 Spanish-speakers in the UZA. This means 90 percent of the Spanish-speaking population in the Tri-County region reside in the UZA. Of these 6,521 individuals, 67.4 percent, or 4,396 persons, speak English "very well," and 32.6 percent, or 2,125, speak English less than "very well."

TCRPC, as an MPO, is responsible for planning and programming federal funds for future transportation projects. As part of this effort, staff conducts public outreach and holds public meetings to educate the public and gain insight on the public's viewpoints and priorities. Contact with LEP persons is uncommon because TCRPC is not a transit provider, but engagement may occur during the public outreach process. To date, TCRPC has never received a request for language assistance services, including requests for meeting translations or for document translation. TCRPC will contact a local translation and interpretation service for public meetings when requested.

Identifying LEP Individuals

The Four Factor Analysis will be completed every three years within the Title VI Program update to ensure that all LEP persons receive the necessary assistance.

TCRPC staff rarely comes into direct contact with LEP individuals; however, when and if they do, employees make every reasonable effort to accommodate all persons, regardless of the challenge. To ensure persons of limited English proficiency have meaningful access to the planning process, TCRPC staff should follow the following guidelines:

- Examine requests for language assistance from past meetings or events to anticipate future language service needs.
- At any future outreach meeting, an employee will be at the door or sign-in table to greet people entering the meeting and will also be tasked with identifying any persons of limited English proficiency.
- Keep a tabulation of persons requiring language assistance, including those that find their own interpreting service.

Language Assistance Services

TCRPC currently has no in-house language assistance but will provide written and oral assistance services upon request. All language assistance resources will be made available from outside sources. The following are the procedures that TCRPC staff should utilize to interact with any persons of limited English proficiency:

- Attempt to determine which language is required.
- Use the US Census Bureau's "I Speak" card if necessary.
- If the person can speak some English, try to discern their needs without the help of a language service.
- For help with translating individual words and phrases, visit https://translate.google.com/ or https://www.babelfish.com/ for a free translator.

- If the employee cannot effectively communicate with the person, attempt to refer them to one of the following Community organizations serve minority populations, including those with limited English proficiency:
 - Greater Peoria Hispanic Chamber of Commerce the aim of this collaborative is to connect regional Hispanic businesses within the community "to grow commerce, community, and culture for Latinos in Greater Peoria."
 - Peoria Hispanics this group aims to stimulate the Latino culture in Peoria and the surrounding areas.
 They work to join businesses, organizations, agencies, and individuals to provide a community of support and information related to Hispanic resources and outreach in the area.
 - Peoria Friendship House the Peoria Friendship House has a La Familia (Latino Outreach) program that serves Peoria, Tazewell, Woodford, Marshall, Putnam, and Stark Counties. This program provides ongoing case management and a comprehensive set of services designed to assess Latino individuals and family needs to aid them in becoming productive, self-reliant members of the community. Several translation services are provided, including help with legal, medical, employment, immigration, and tax preparation.
 - o **Illinois Migrant Council** the Illinois Migrant Council is a community-based non-profit organization that seeks to promote employment, education, health, housing and other opportunities for migrant and seasonal farm workers and their families to achieve economic self-sufficiency and stability. The IMC has expanded its services to meet the growing needs of Hispanic/Latino families and individuals in rural communities.
 - Illinois Central College –ICC provides various courses for individuals who speak little to no English.
 Courses include developing skills needed to function in everyday American life, as well as developing basic English vocabulary and grammar skills.
 - Catholic Diocese of Peoria the Catholic Diocese of Peoria serves the Hispanic population by the Office
 of Hispanic Ministry with services such as immigration clinics, community support and spiritual outreach.
 - o El Vista Baptist Church the El Vista Baptist Church in Peoria offers a Spanish ministry.
 - First United Methodist Church the First United Methodist Church in Peoria offers bilingual services as well as church services presented in Spanish.
- Should it be necessary and all other options exhausted, employees may use any other creative means of communicating with the person of limited English proficiency.

Providing notice to LEP persons

Tri-County incorporates a variety of methods to communicate with the public about meetings and activities related to the planning process. These include press releases to local newspapers, announcements on our website, and email communication. TCRPC allows the opportunity for individuals to contact our offices for special accommodation at meetings. Should the need arise, key print materials may be translated to accommodate LEP persons.

Tri-County currently includes a notice on all Full Commission and Technical Committee agendas and public meeting notices in English providing information about individuals' their rights under Title VI and how to request special accommodations, such as interpretation and translation services. The notice reads as follows:

The MPO receives Federal funding and may not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, or national origin according to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For more information or to obtain a Title VI complaint form, call 309-673-9330. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission strives to provide an environment welcoming to all persons regardless of physical or mental challenges, race, gender, or religion. Please call 309-673-9330 to request special accommodations at least two business days in advance.

Monitoring and Updating the LEP Plan

Monitoring and updating of the LEP Plan will be coordinated with the update of the Public Participation Plan and Title VI Program. This plan is meant to be a flexible guide and reference tool for TCRPC staff. It should also be revisited any time new census data becomes available, as this will help identify any new unmet needs.

Future revisions and updates to this plan will be based upon the following:

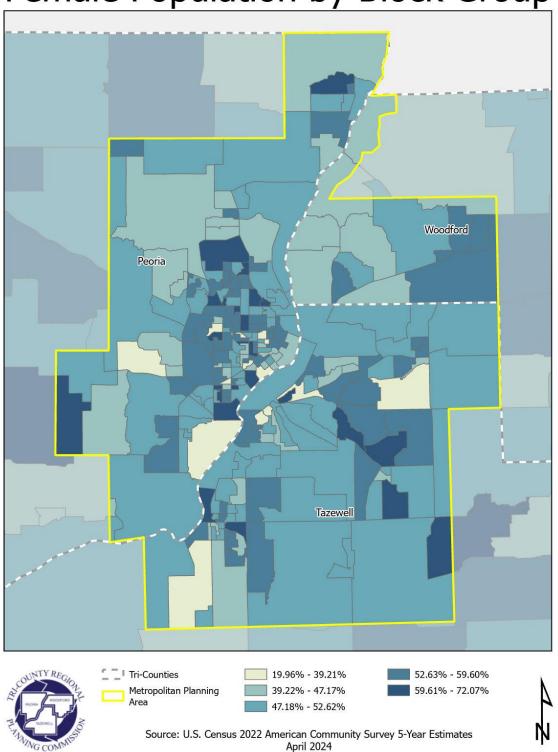
- LEP populations in the region or project area.
- Frequency of encounters with LEP language groups.
- Nature and importance of activities to LEP persons.
- Availability of resources, including technological advances and sources of additional resources, and the costs imposed.
- Whether existing assistance is meeting the needs of LEP persons.
- Whether employees know and understand the LEP plan and how to implement it.
- Whether identified sources for assistance are still available and viable.

Staff LEP Training

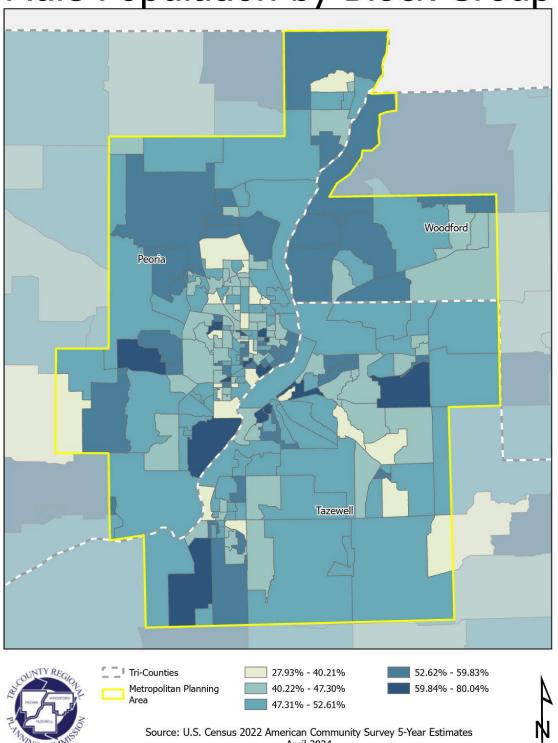
TCRPC staff will be made aware of the Title VI Program, Public Participation Plan, and LEP Plan. Staff will also be given a list of available LEP resources, the procedures on how to process a Title VI/ADA complaint and be directed to keep a record of any language assistance requests. Staff will also be informed about the resources available at https://www.lep.gov/.

Appendix H: Demographic Profile Maps

Female Population by Block Group

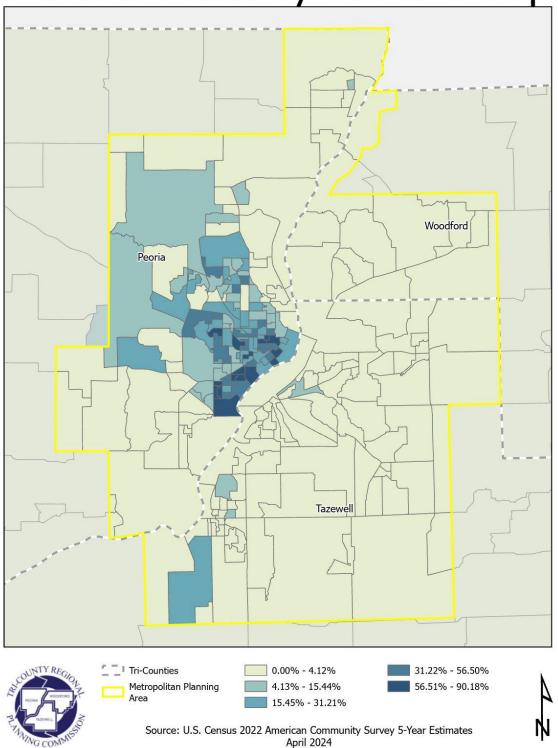


Male Population by Block Group

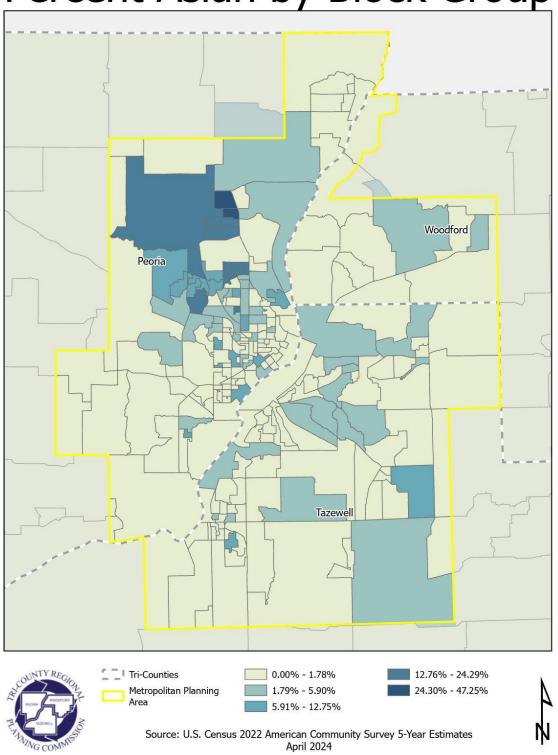


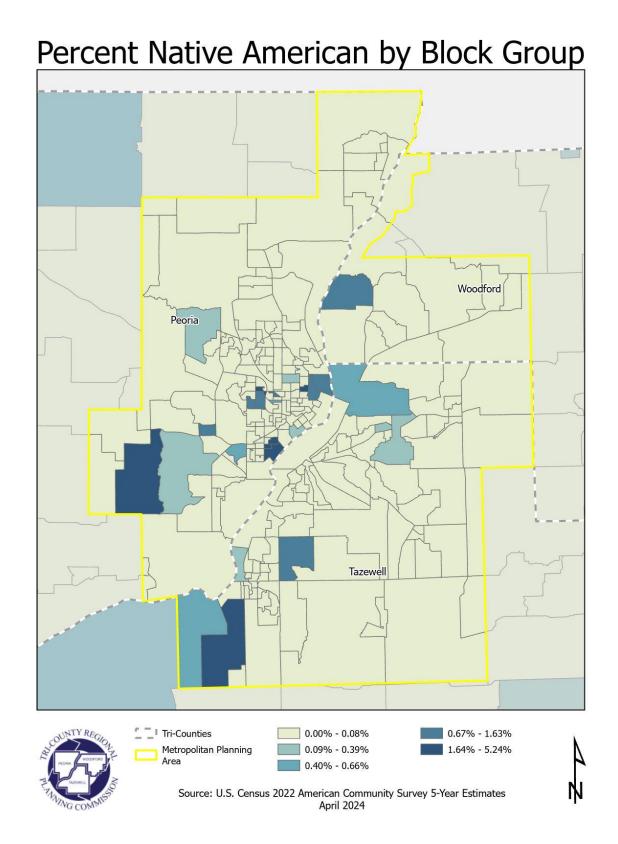


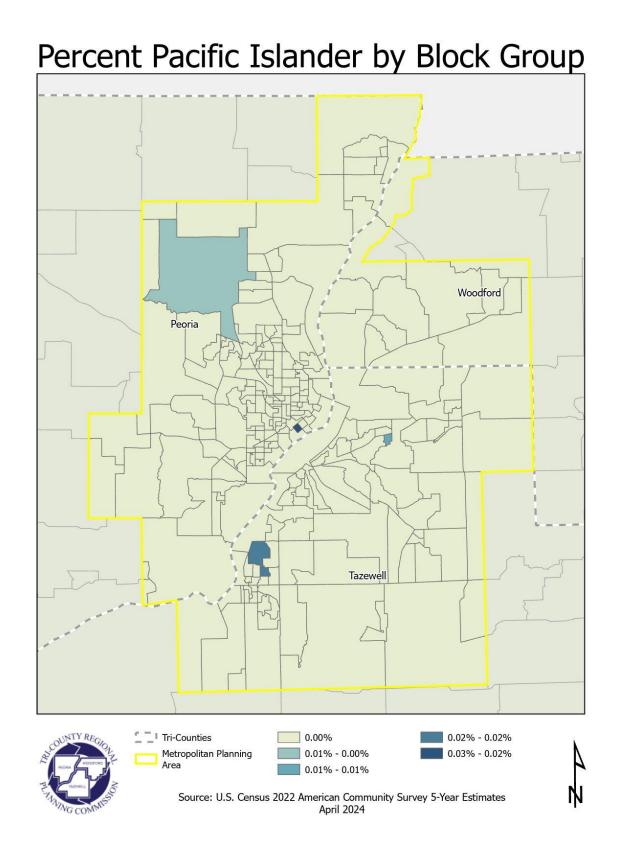
Percent Black by Block Group



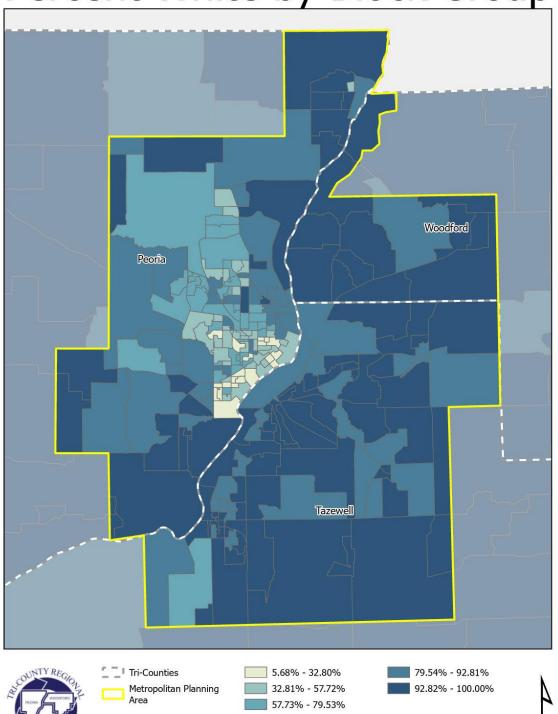
Percent Asian by Block Group







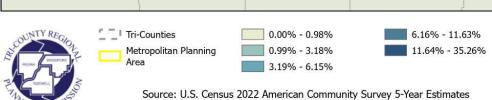
Percent White by Block Group





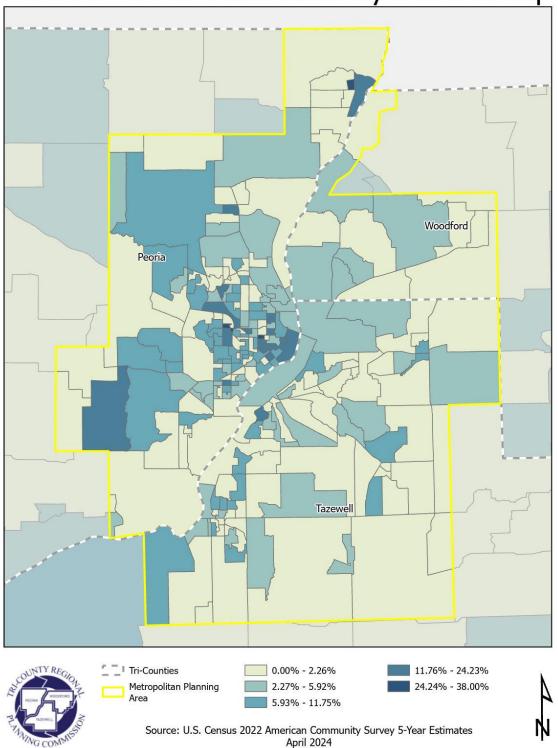
Source: U.S. Census 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates April 2024

Percent Some Other Race by Block Group Woodford Peoria Tazewell

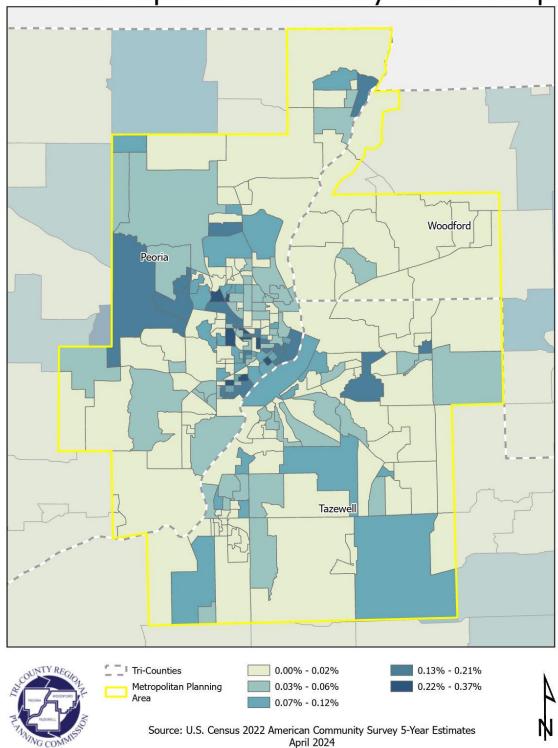




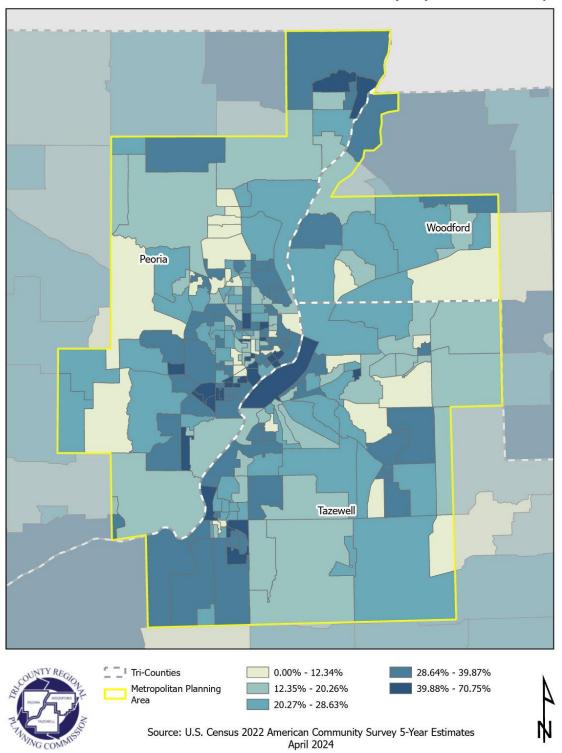
Percent Two or More Race by Block Group



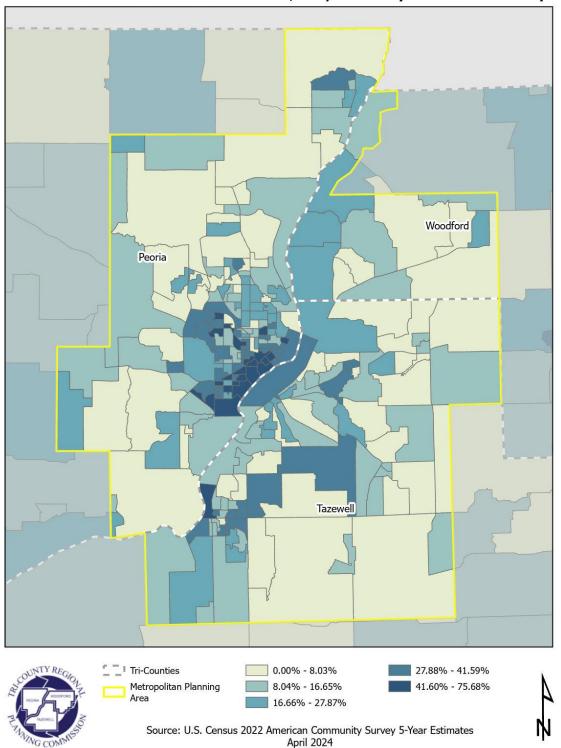
Percent Hispanic or Latino by Block Group



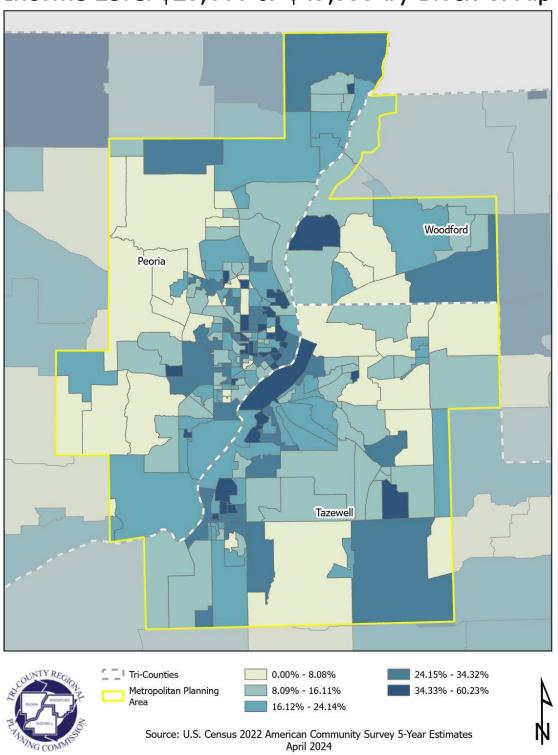
Households with a Person with a Disability by Block Group



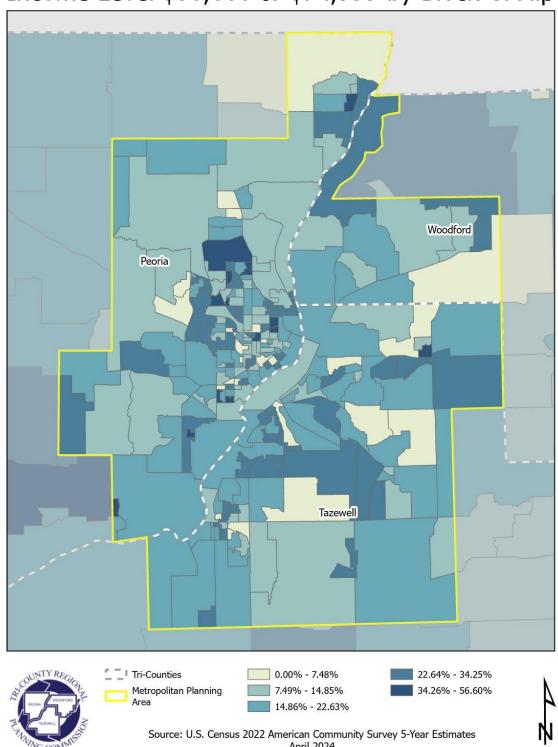
Income Level Less Than \$25,000 by Block Group



Income Level \$25,000 to \$49,999 by Block Group

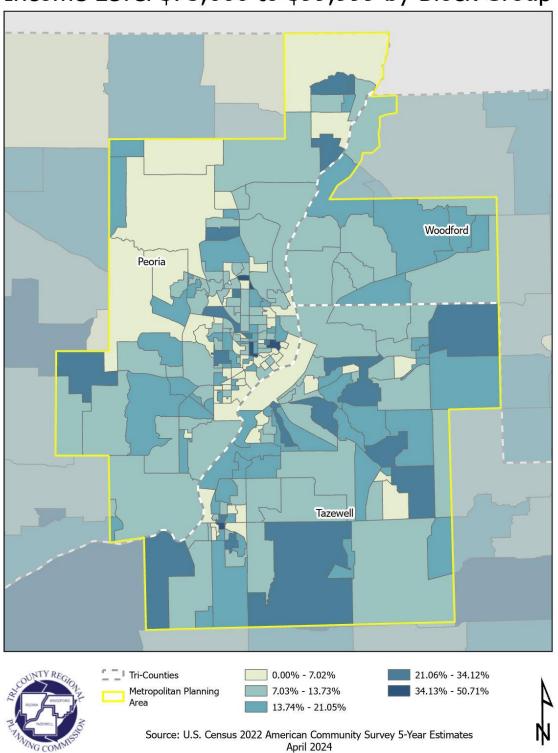


Income Level \$50,000 to \$74,999 by Block Group

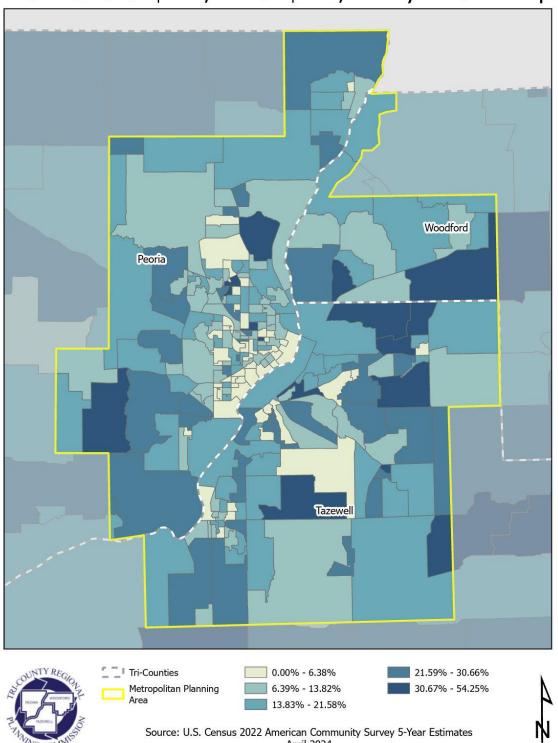


April 2024

Income Level \$75,000 to \$99,999 by Block Group

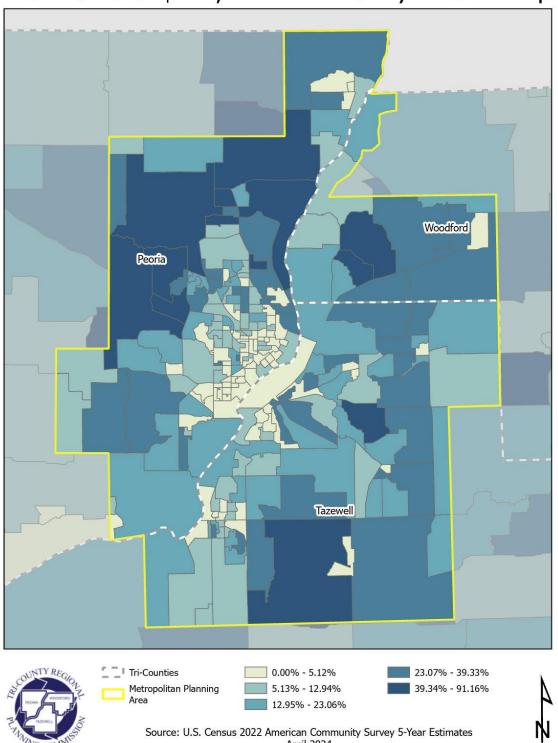


Income Level \$100,000 to \$149,999 by Block Group



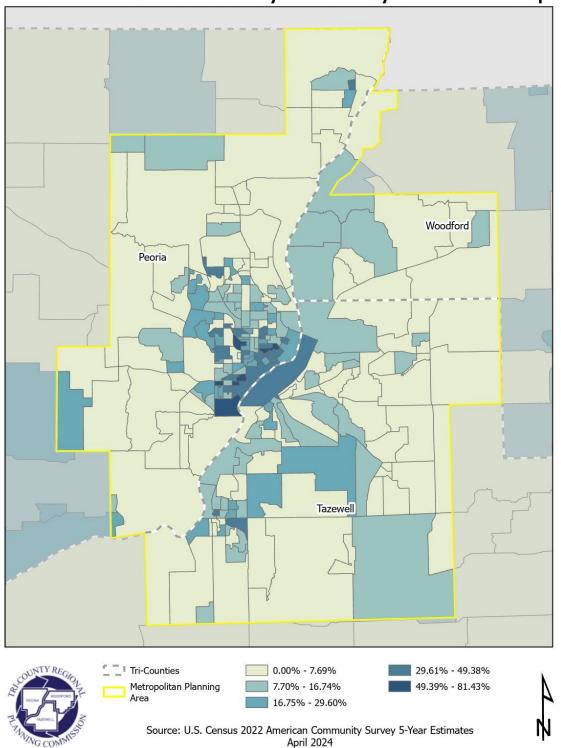


Income Level \$150,000 and Over by Block Group

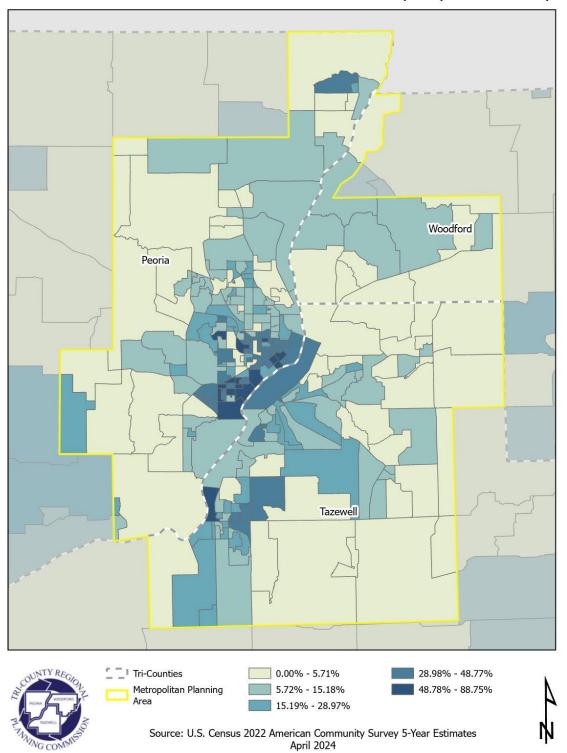


April 2024

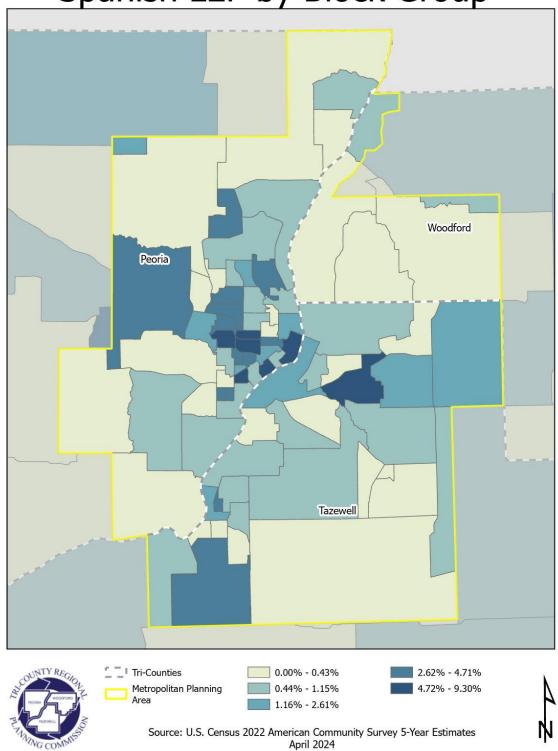
Percent Below Poverty Level by Block Group



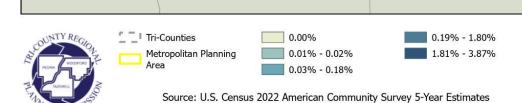
Percent of Households that Receive Food Stamps by Block Group



Spanish LEP by Block Group



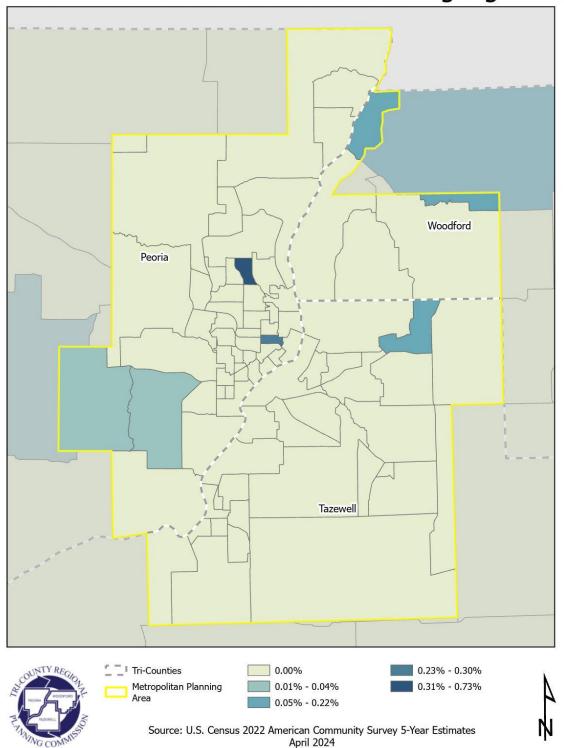
French, Haitian, or Cajun LEP by Block Group Woodford Peoria Tazewell



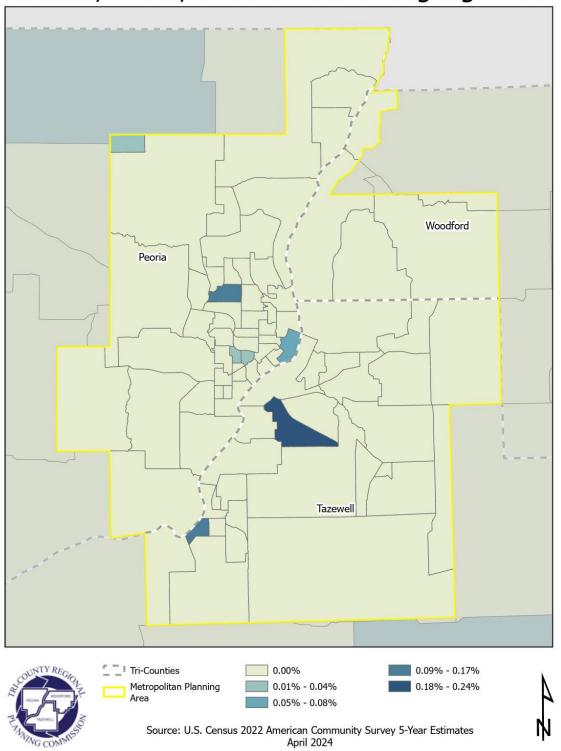
April 2024



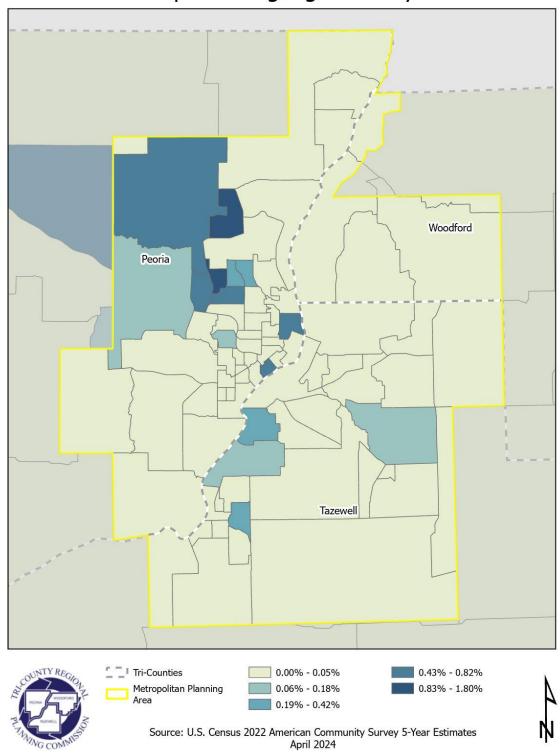
German or other West Germanic Languages LEP



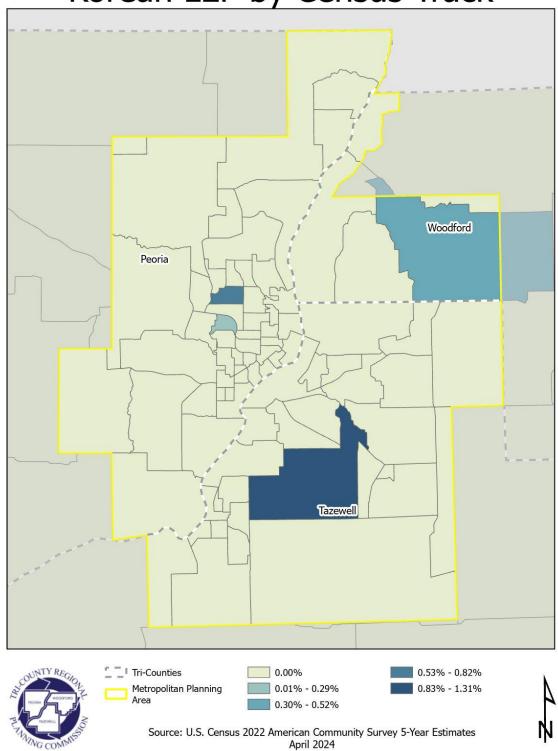
Russian, Polish, or other Slavic Languages LEP



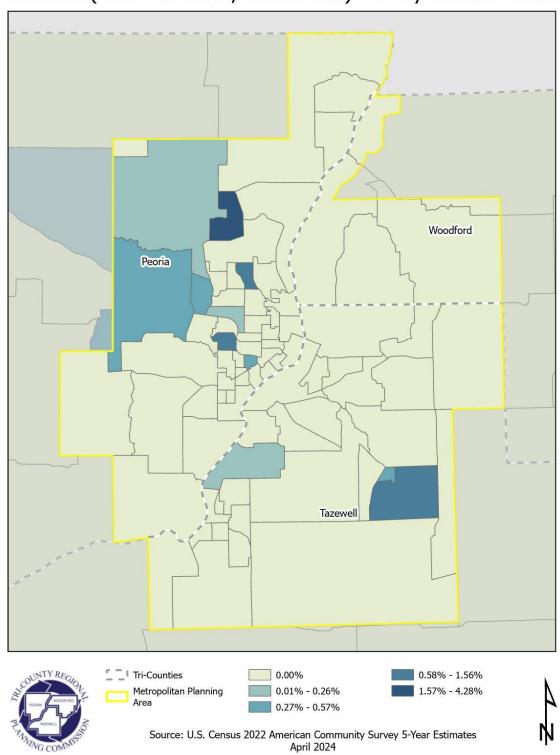
Other Indo-European Languages LEP by Census Track



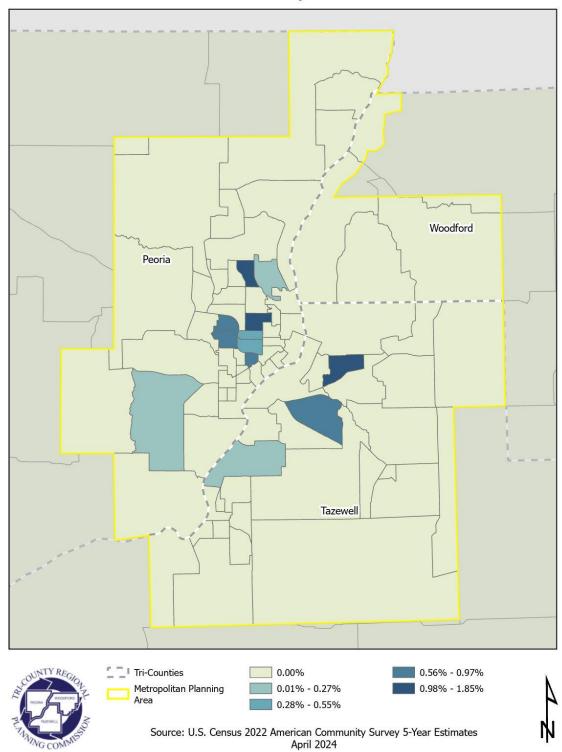
Korean LEP by Census Track



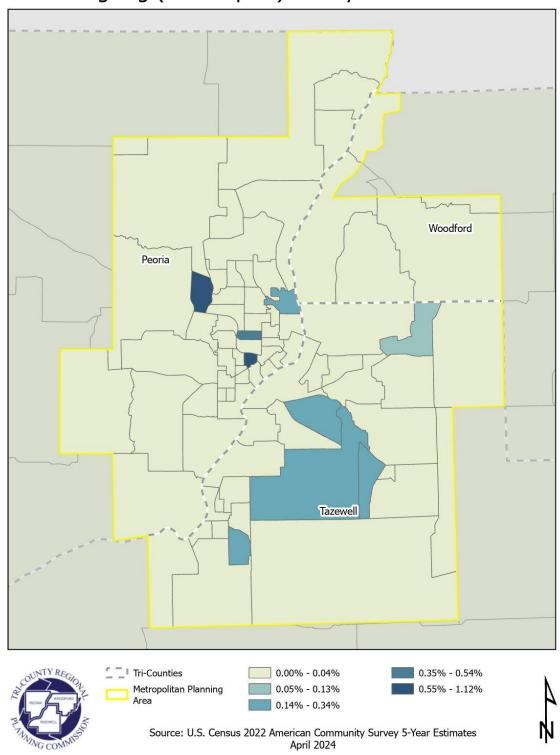
Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese) LEP by Census Track



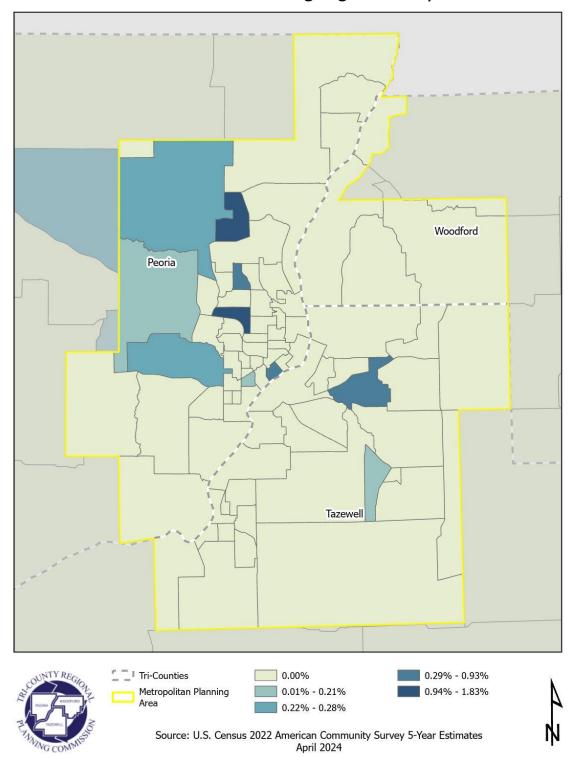
Vietnamese LEP by Census Track



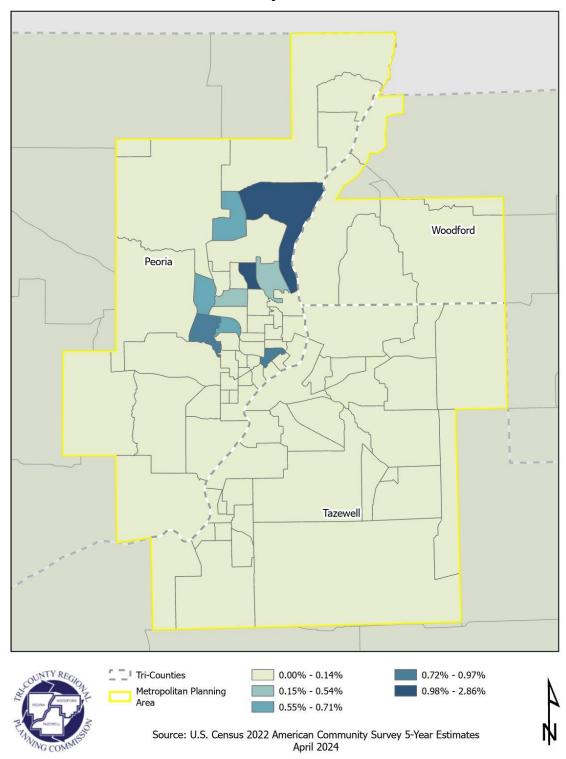
Tagalog (incl. Filipino) LEP by Census Track



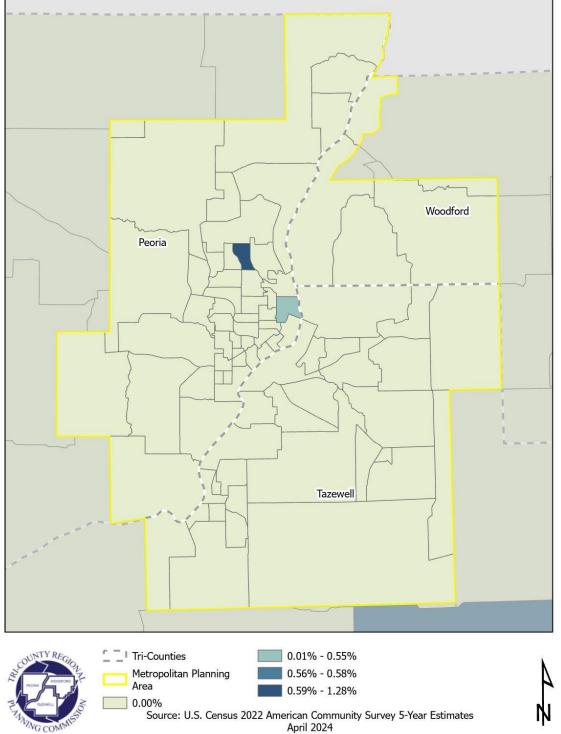
Other Asian & Pacific Island Languages LEP by Census Track



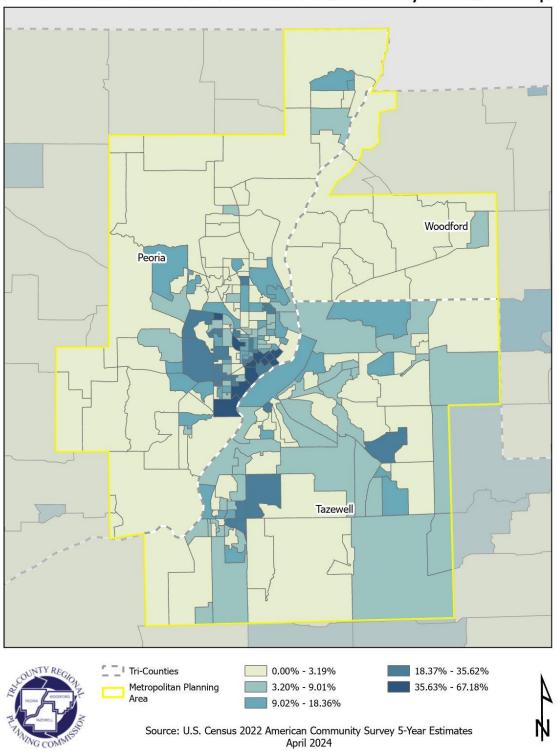
Arabic LEP by Census Track



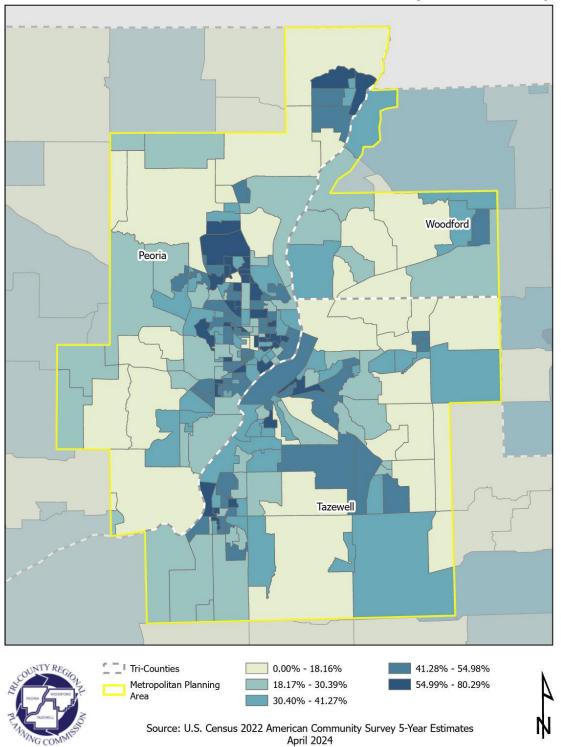
Other & Unspecified Languages LEP by Census Track



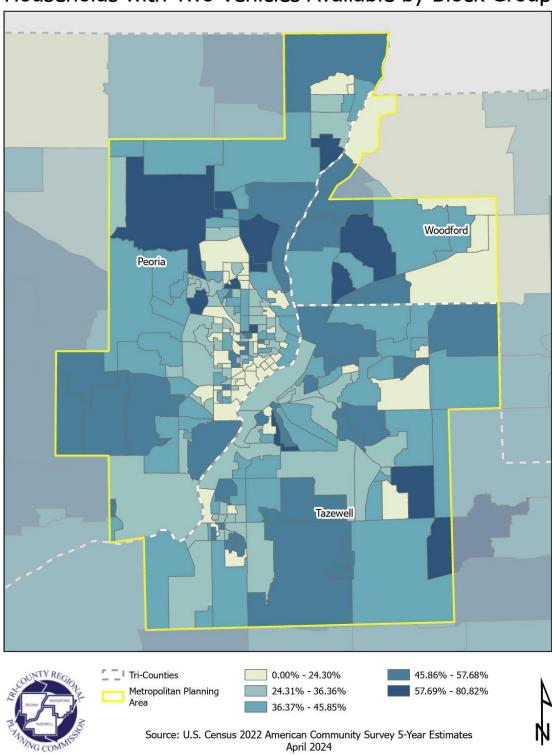
Households with No Vehicles Available by Block Group



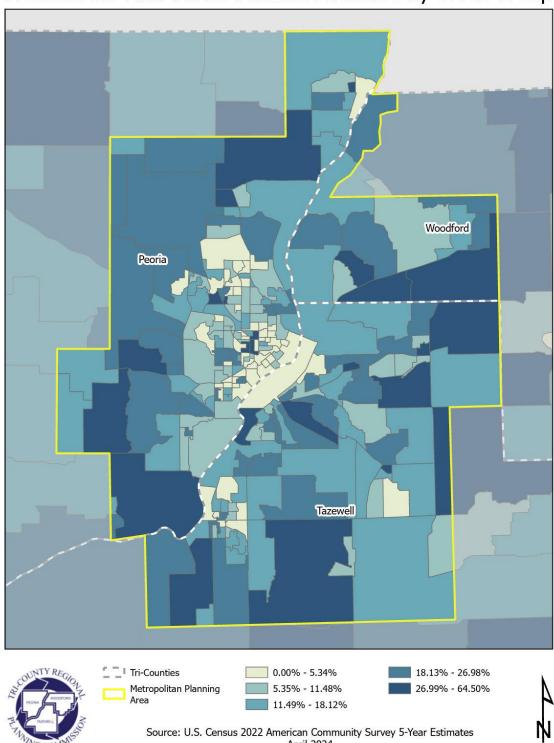
Households with One Vehicle Available by Block Group



Households with Two Vehicles Available by Block Group

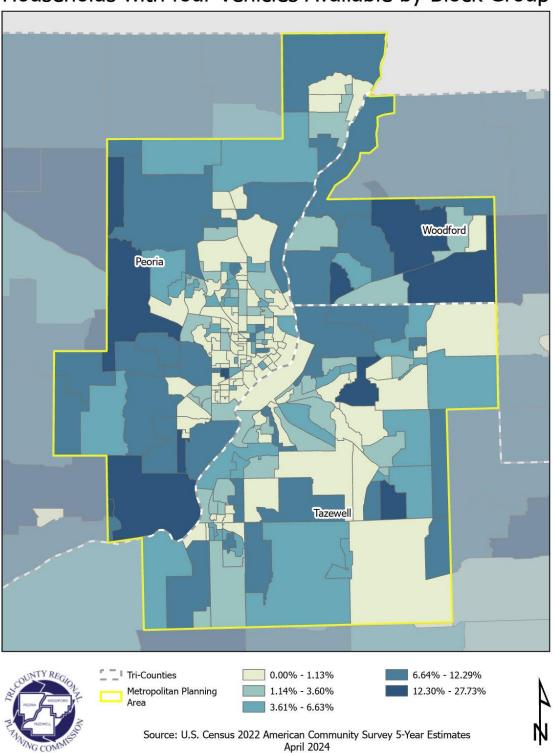


Households with Three Vehicles Available by Block Group

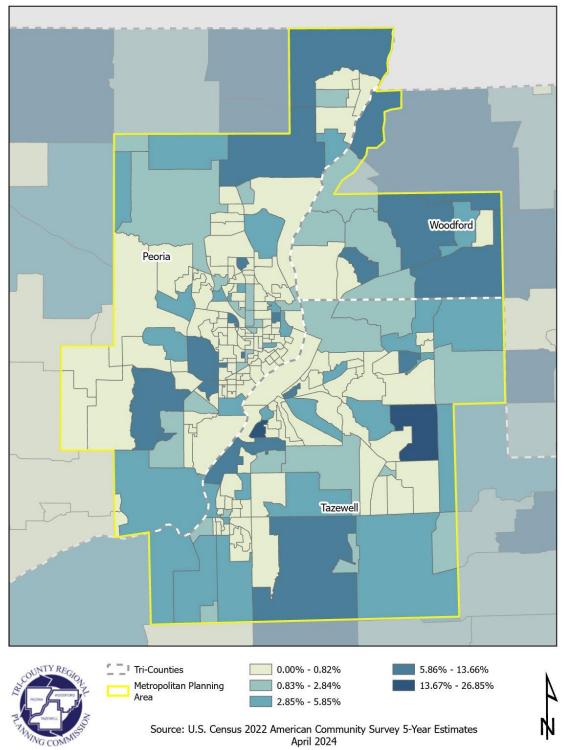


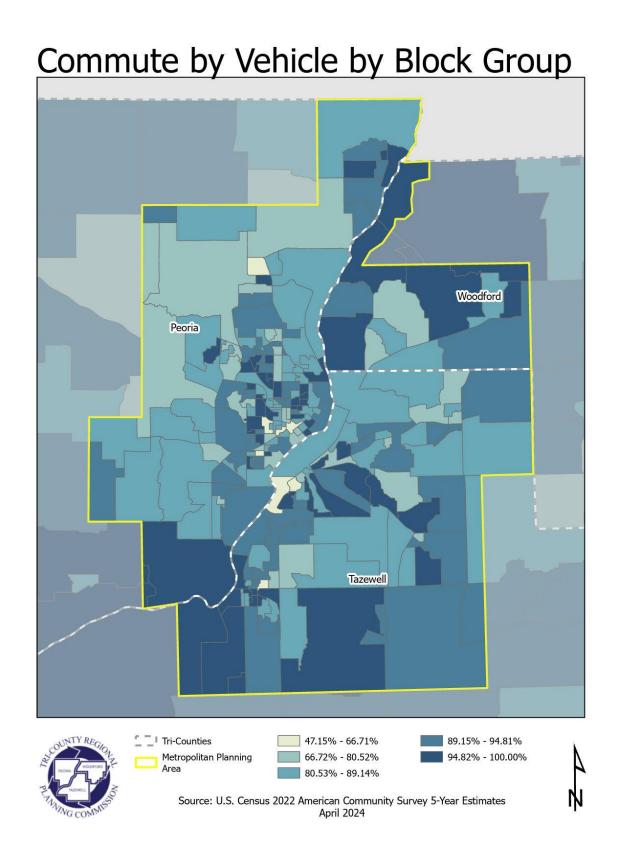
April 2024

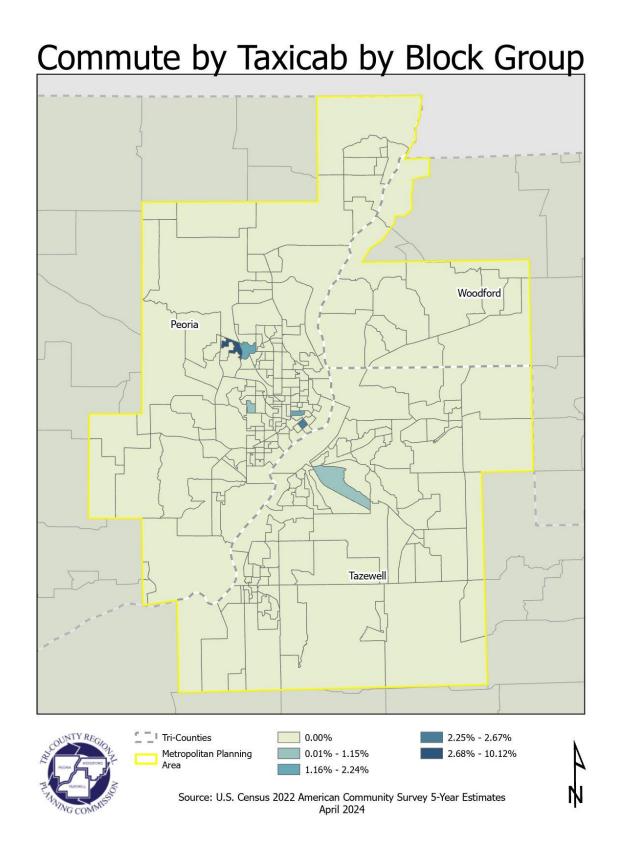
Households with four Vehicles Available by Block Group

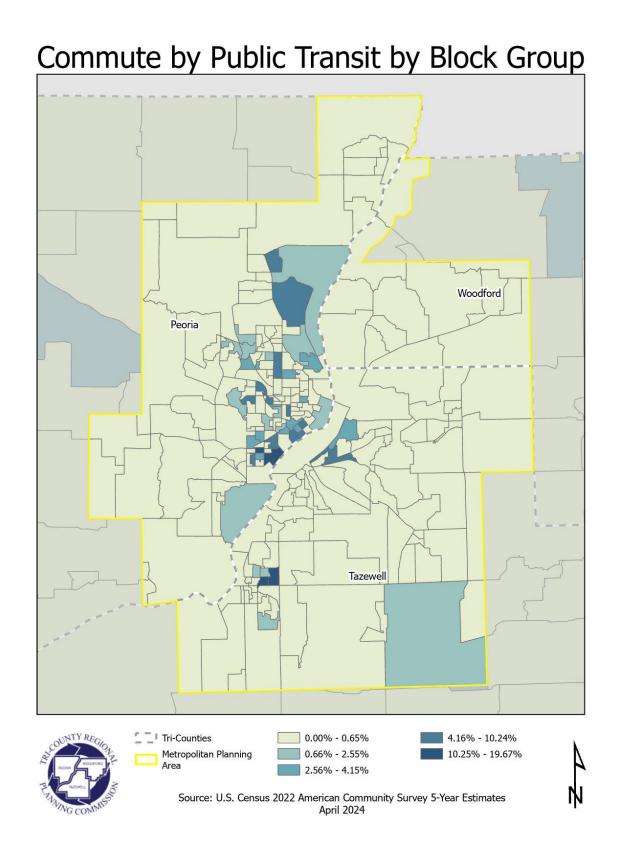


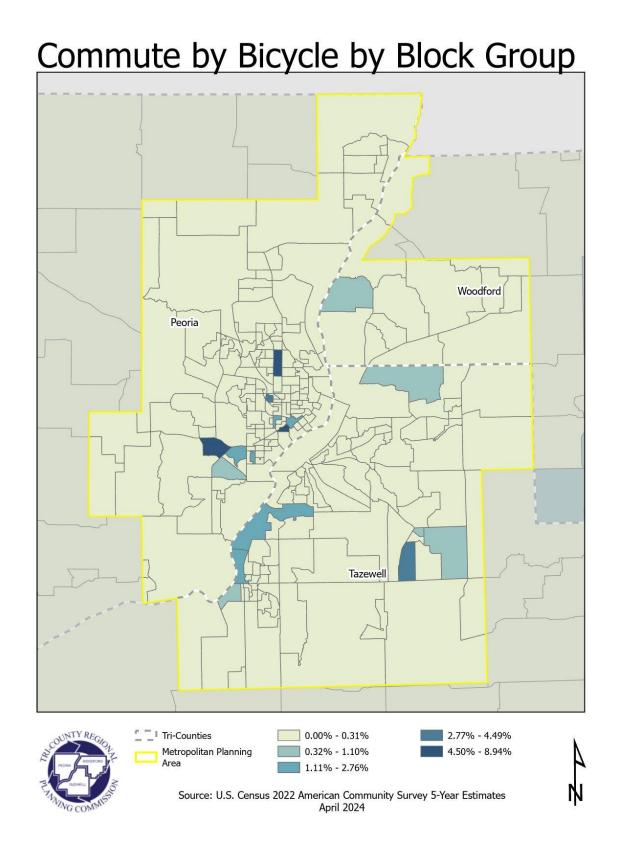
Households with Five or More Vehicles Available by Block Group

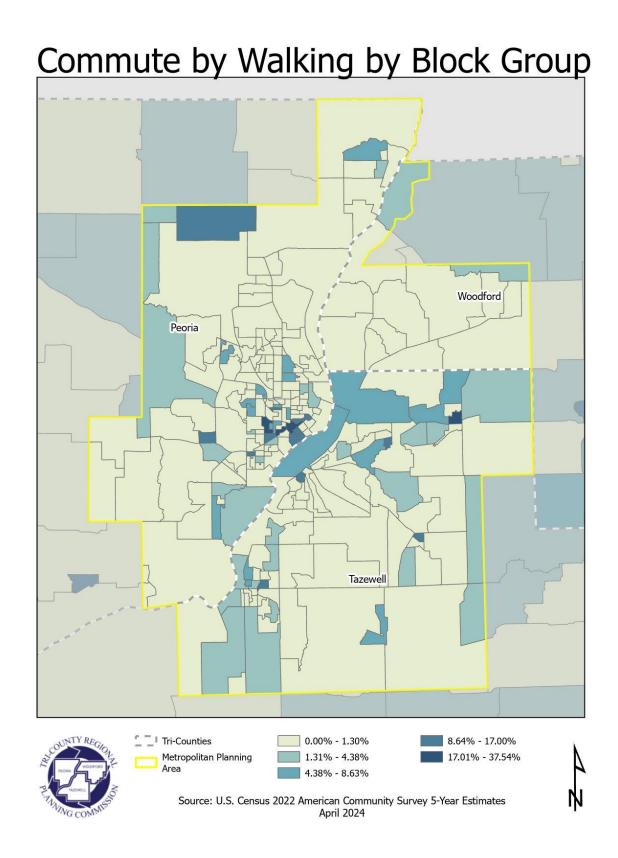


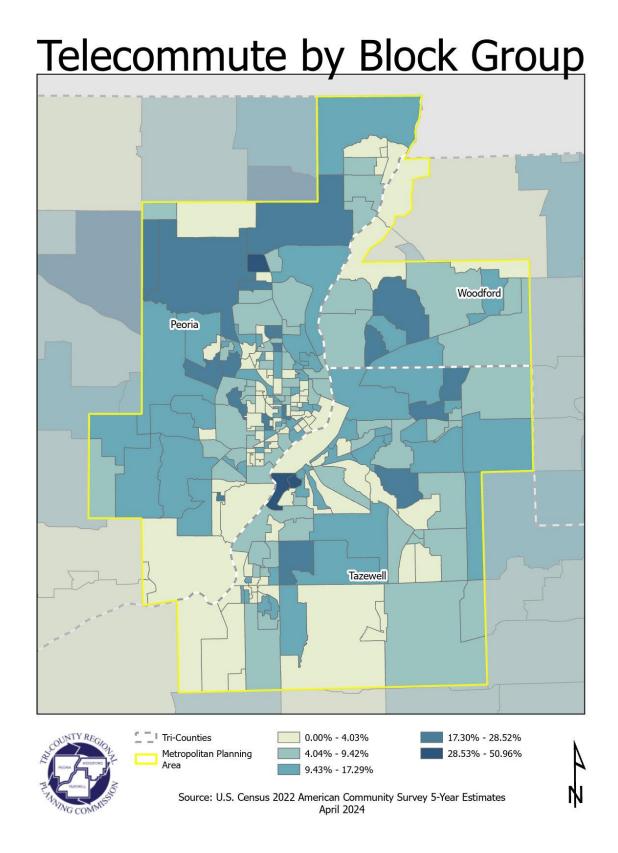




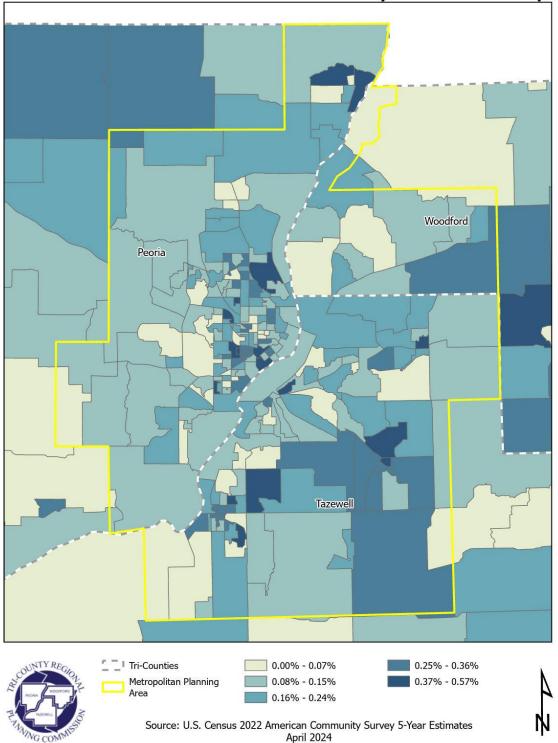




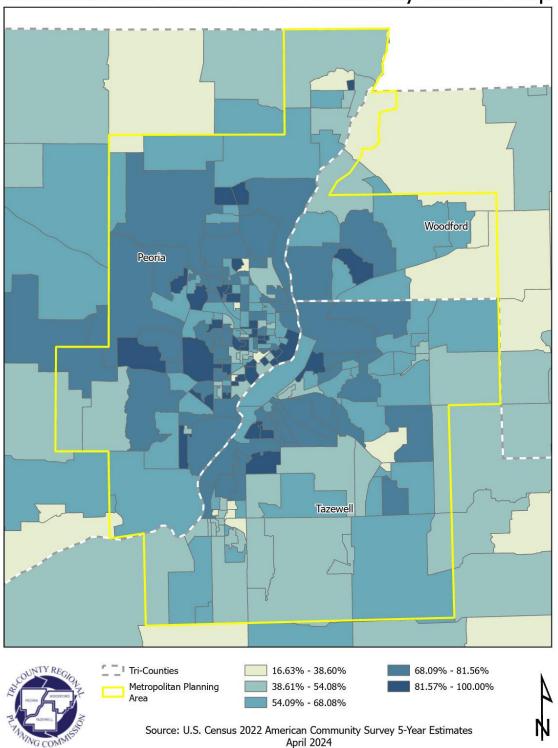


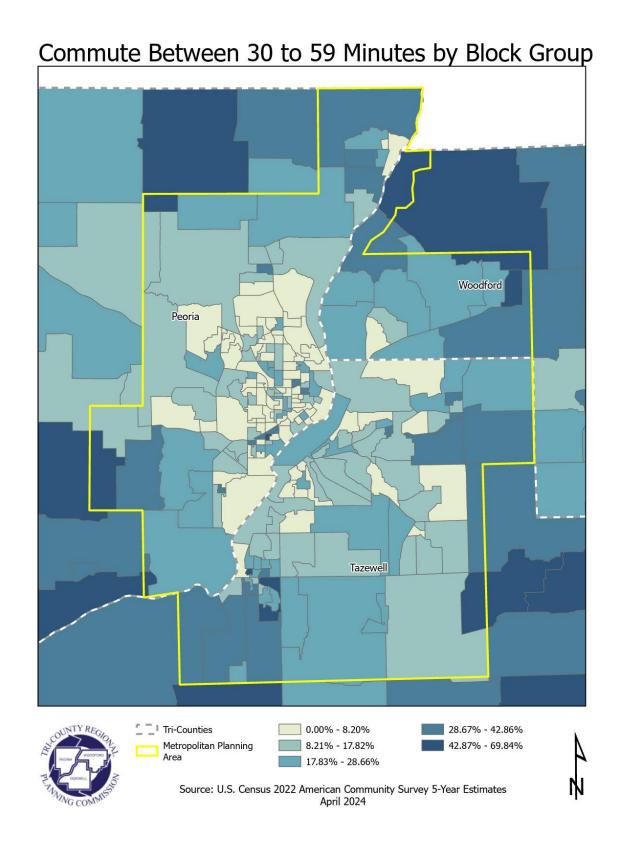


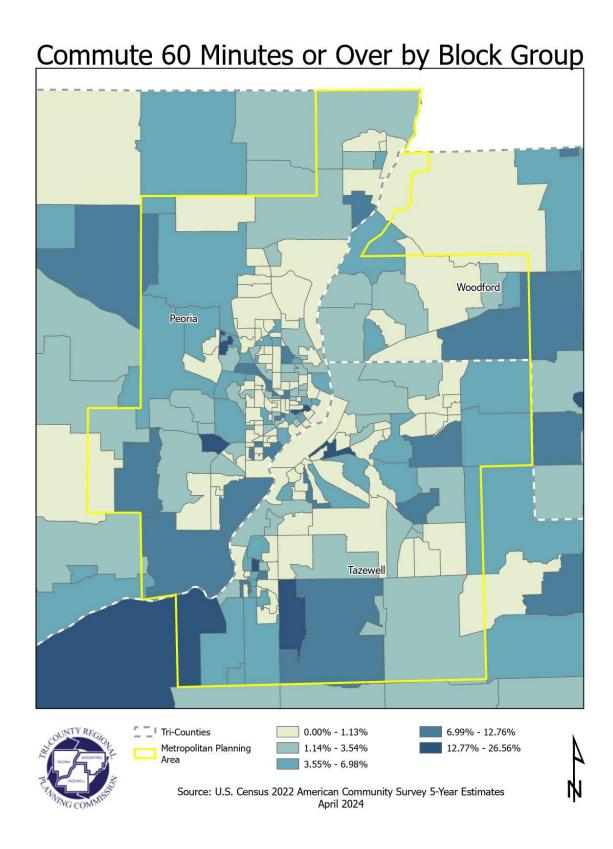
Commute Under 10 Minutes by Block Group



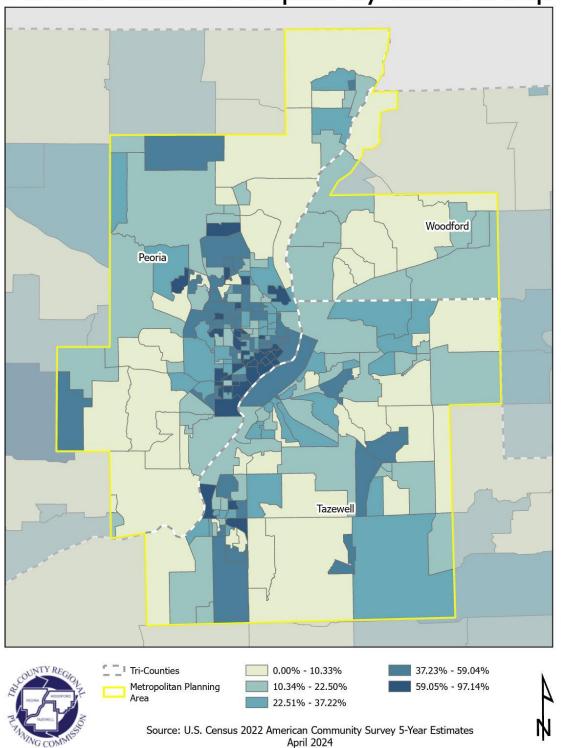
Commute Between10 to 29 Minutes by Block Group





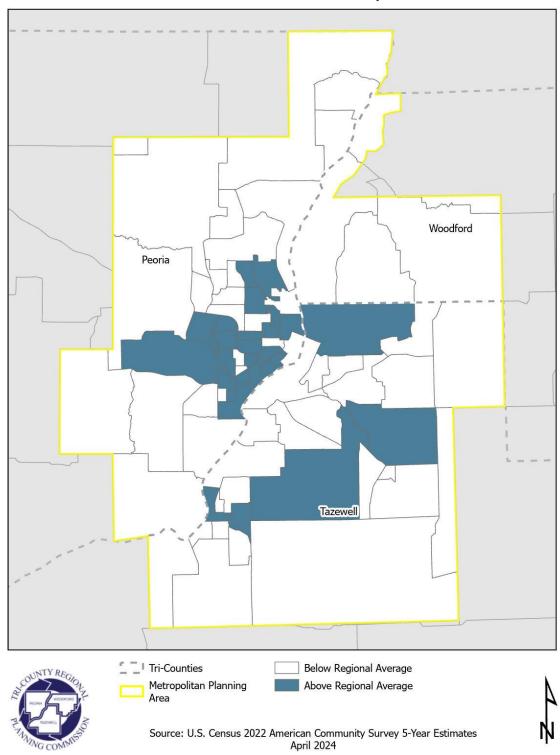


Percent Renter Occupied by Block Group

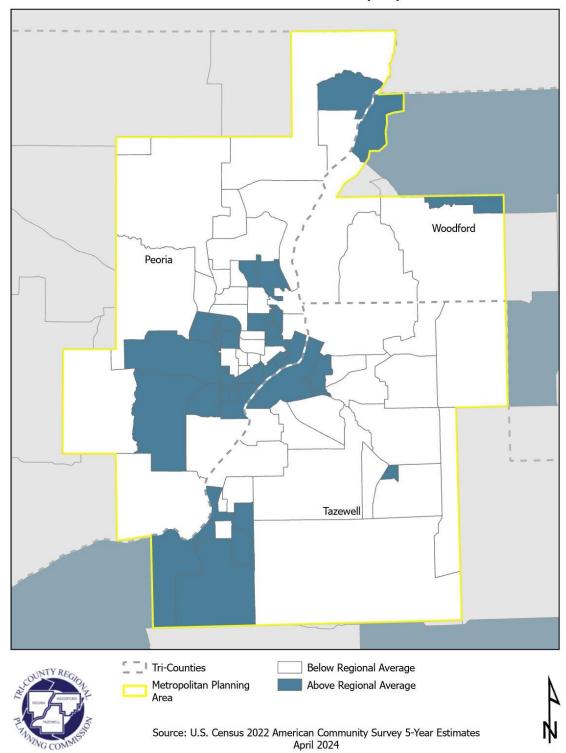


Appendix I: Environmental Justice Maps

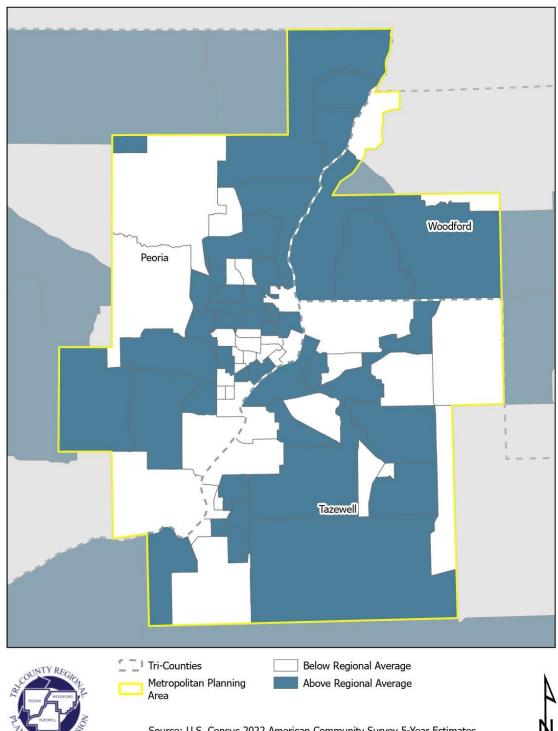
Environmental Justice Area Carless by Census Track



Environmental Justice Area Disability by Census Track

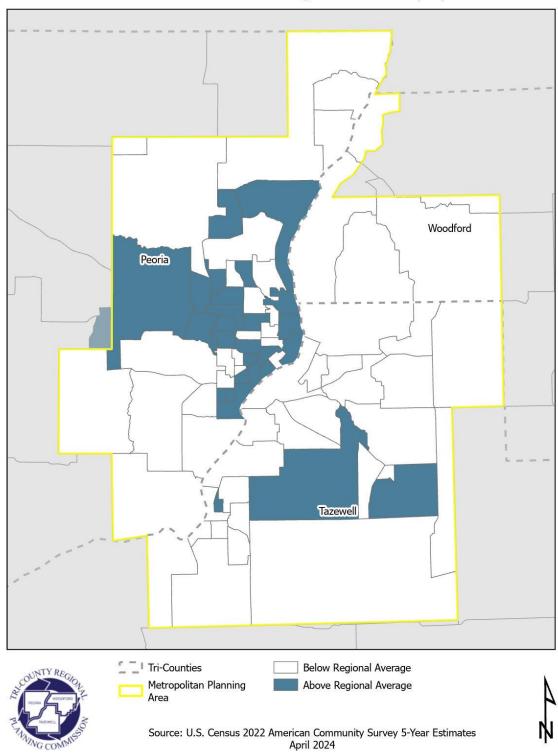


Environmental Justice Area Elderly by Census Track

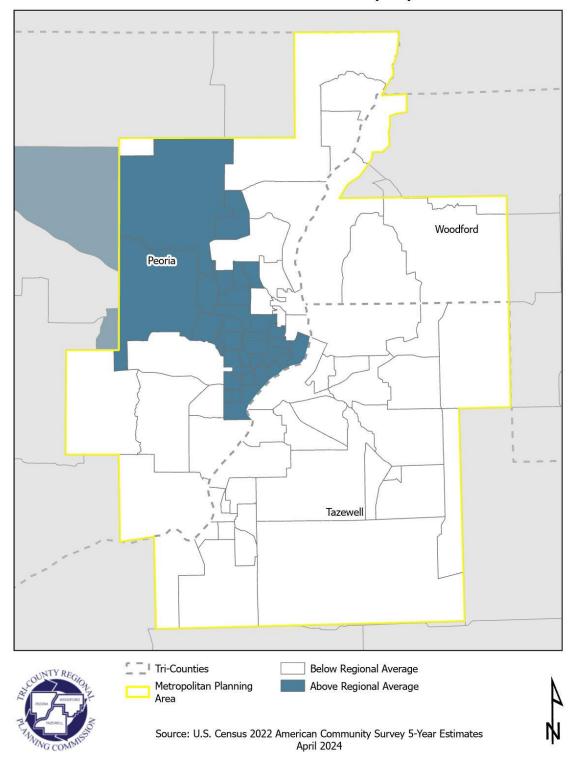


Source: U.S. Census 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates April 2024

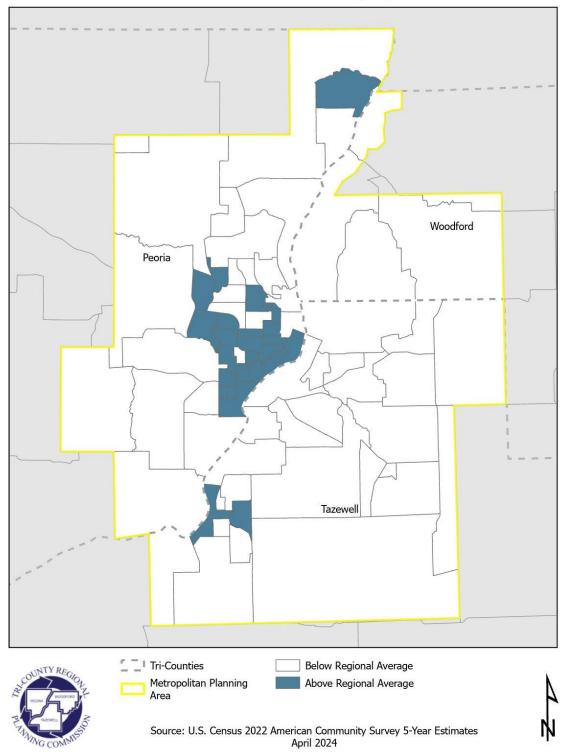
Environmental Justice Area Limited English Proficiency by Census Track



Environmental Justice Area Minority by Census Track



Environmental Justice Area Poverty by Census Track



Environmental Justice Area Single Households with Kids by Census Track

