

WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EJ)?

Environmental Justice (EJ) at the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) means identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse effects of the agency’s programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations to achieve an equitable distribution of benefits and burdens.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE STUDY AREA

The EJ study area is the geographic area where the proposed project has potential for human health or environmental effects. The study area for the EJ analysis was determined by applying a 0.25-mile buffer to the project limits, including any required detours.

ARE READILY IDENTIFIABLE MINORITY OR LOW-INCOME POPULATIONS WITHIN THE STUDY AREA?

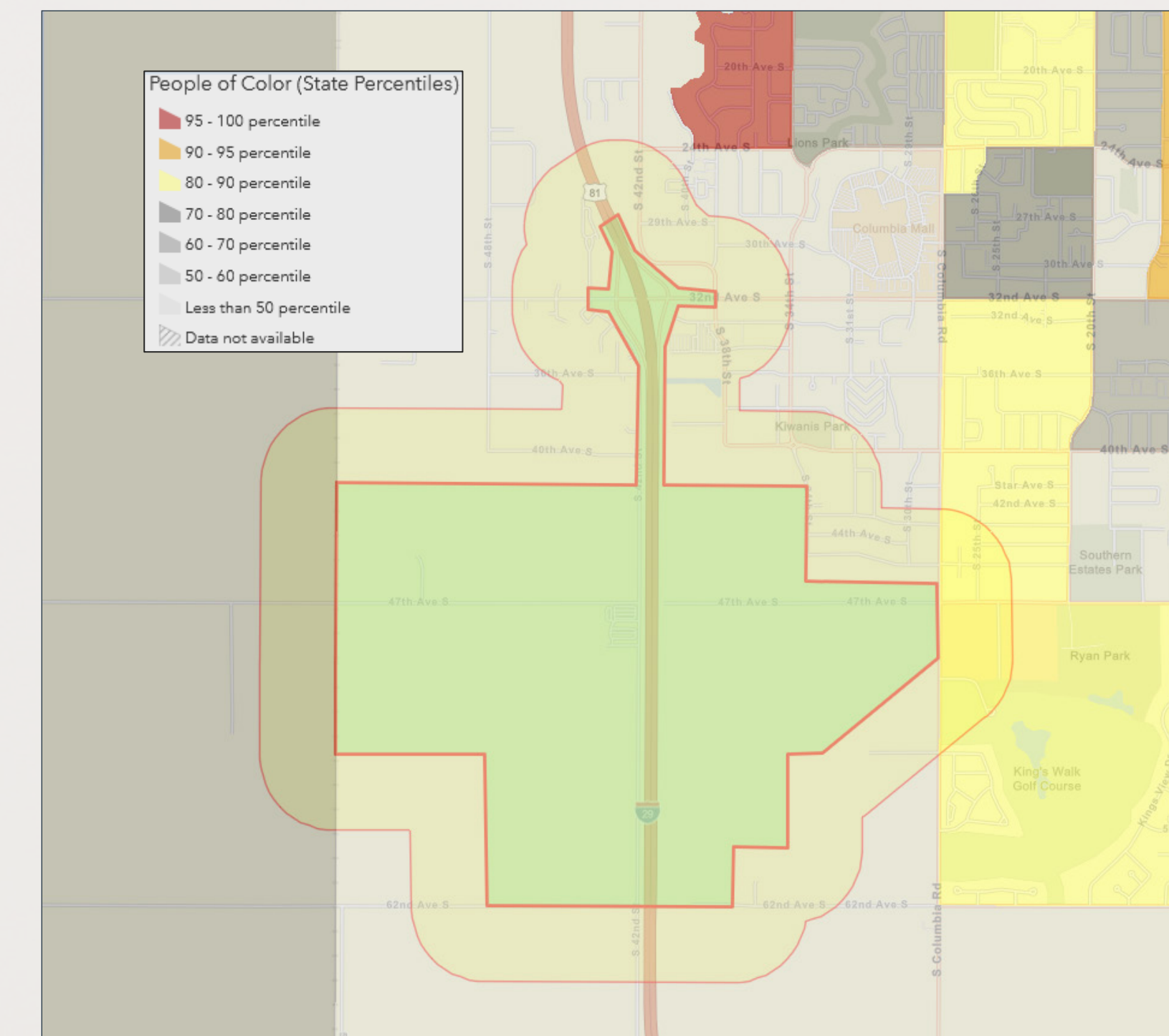
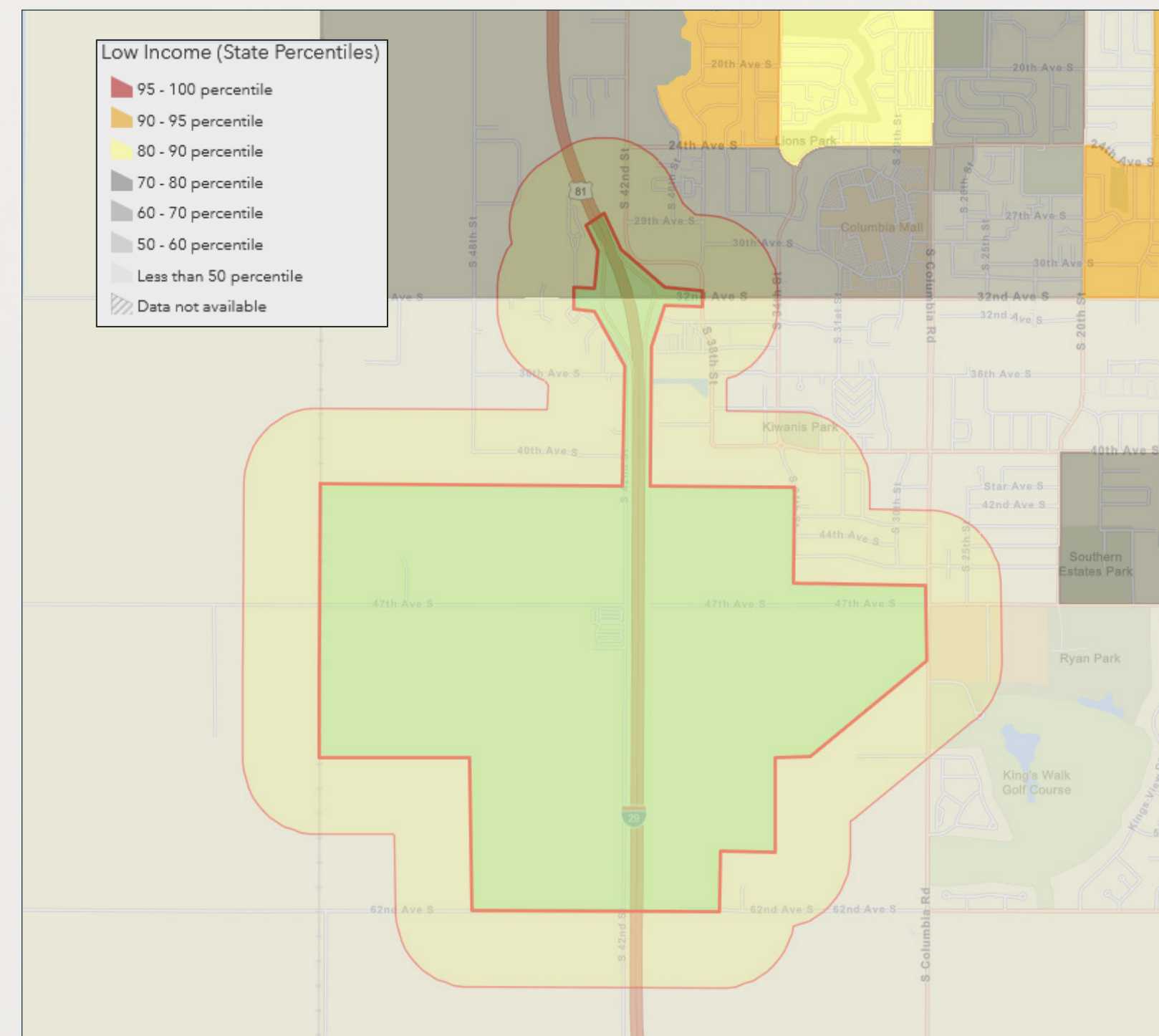
No strong indicator of the presence of an EJ population was identified in comparing the percentages of minority and low-income persons in the EJ study area to the percentage of minority and low-income persons within the City of Grand Forks or Grand Forks County. A strong indicator is seen when the percentages of either demographic is 10 percentage points higher than the county or city averages; or are greater than 50 percent within the study area.

The EJ study area was also investigated for the presence of community facilities that serve low income and/or minority populations, and businesses that are owned by, employ, and/or serve low income and/or minority populations. The following were identified in or adjacent to the study area:

- 2 Housing and Urban Development (HUD) affordable housing units
- Several facilities that provide services to minority and/or low-income populations such as High Plains Fair Housing Center and Meals on Wheels Grand Forks.
- Several readily identifiable businesses owned by, and/or serving minority and/or low-income populations including gas stations, retail stores, and several chain restaurants.

HOW WILL AN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE STUDY INFLUENCE DECISION-MAKING?

EJ analysis helps to ensure full and fair participation by potentially affected communities in every phase of the transportation decision-making process. When this is accomplished, the development, construction, operation and maintenance of transportation projects should reflect an equitable distribution of benefits and burdens. The analysis requires an evaluation of potential project impacts and the need to ensure that any impacts are sufficiently addressed through avoidance, minimization, mitigation, and/ or benefits such that there are no substantial adverse impacts to any populations.



DEMOGRAPHIC	PROJECT STUDY AREA (INCLUDING 0.25-MILE BUFFER)	CITY OF GRAND FORKS	GRAND FORKS COUNTY
Minority Population	1%	18%	17%
Low-Income Population	24%	35%	32%

Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations, dated February 11, 1994, directed “each federal agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations in the United States. The proposed project has federal funding and federal permit requirements and is considered a federal project for purposes of compliance with the Executive Order.” FHWA Order 6640-23A FHWA Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations establishes policies and procedures for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to use in complying with Executive Order 12898. FHWA issued Order 6640-23A on June 14, 2012.

