Kankakee Area Transportation Study

Title VI Non-Discrimination Program 2021



Adopted: October 27, 2021

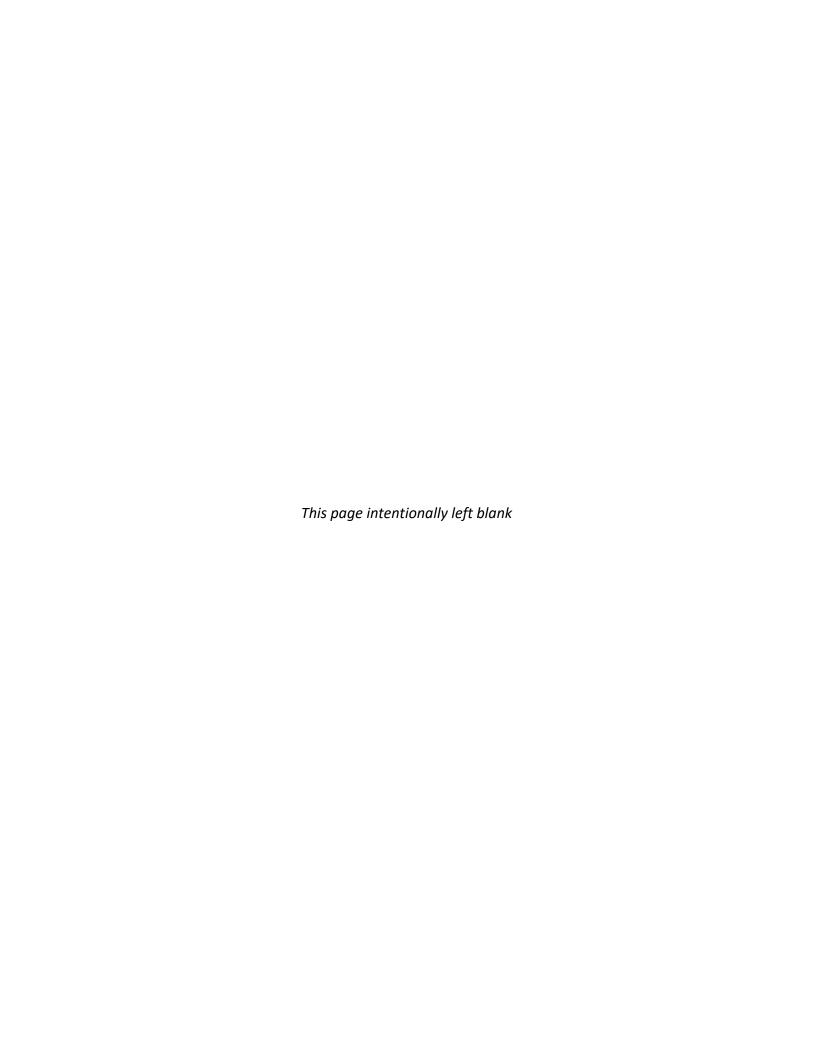


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Introduction

The Federal Transit Authority (FTA) has set forth requirements in the FTA Circular C4702.1B, for compliance with Title VI provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The purpose of FTA Circular C4702.1B is to provide recipients of Federal Transit Administration financial assistance with guidance and instructions necessary to carry out U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Title VI regulations (49 CFR part 21), and to integrate into their programs and activity considerations, which are expressed in the USDOT's Policy Guidance Concerning Recipient's Responsibilities to Limited English Proficient ("LEP") Persons (70FR 74087, December 14, 2005).

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 2000-1) states that "No person in the United States 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."

The Executive Order on Environmental Justice further amplifies Title VI by providing that "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."

Kankakee Area Transportation Study (KATS) is a recipient of FTA and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) planning funds via the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). These funds are used to complete the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) related transportation planning elements, which include the Unified Work Program (UWP), the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRP).

General Requirements of the Title VI of the U.S. Civil Rights Act

According to FTA regulations, all applicants applying for assistance under the FTA activities must give a concise description of the following or lack thereof:

- Any lawsuits or complaints alleging discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national
 origin filed against the applicant within the past year together with a statement of the
 status of outcome of each complaint or lawsuit.
 - There have been no lawsuits or complaints naming KATS that allege discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin with respect to service or transit-related benefits.
 - b. There have been no Title VI complaints with KATS in the last three years.
 - c. There were no facility impact analyses for construction projects funded by the FTA within the past three years.
- Any pending application by the applicant to any Federal agency other than FTA.
 - a. There are no pending applications to any Federal agency other than FTA.

- Any civil rights compliance review performed or being performed on the applicant by any local, state, or Federal agency during the two-year period before the applicant together with a statement of the status or outcome of such reviews.
 - a. There have been no Civil Rights compliance reviews in the last three years.
- 4. The manner in which Title VI will be enforced by the grantee in regard to contractors.

Each contract with KATS shall include the following (or similar) statement in the contract agreement:

"During the performance of the contract, the Contractor shall comply with the provision of Title VI of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964. A copy of said provisions is attached hereto, and by this reference, is made a part of this Contract. The Contractor shall insert a similar provision in all subcontracts for services covered by this Contract."

In addition, should any complaints arise alleging noncompliance with Title VI, KATS will take the appropriate and required legal action.

Agency Background

In 1962, Congress approved the Federal-Aid Highway Act. This required that in urbanized areas, programs for Federal-Aid Highway projects approved after July 1, 1965, must be based on a "Continuing and comprehensive transportation planning process carried on cooperatively by states and local communities." The authority for transportation planning in the Kankakee Metropolitan Area lies in the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), which includes all local officials. The MPO consists of local and state officials for the area, who meet on a regular basis to examine the performance of area transportation planning.

By Federal law, a Metropolitan Planning Organization is required to exist for any urban area where the population level exceeds 50,000 people. This level of population was reached in the 1980 Census for the Kankakee Urbanized Area. Hence, the Kankakee Area Transportation Study (KATS) was created in 1983 to meet the requirements of that law.

The current members of KATS are: the City of Kankakee, the Village of Aroma Park, the Village of Bourbonnais, the Village of Bradley, and the Village of Manteno. Kankakee County, the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Kankakee Valley Airport Authority, and the River Valley METRO Mass Transit District, are also members of KATS.

KATS Organizational Structure

KATS is governed by a Policy Committee of elected and appointed members. The Policy Committee is advised by a Technical Advisory Committee, which is made up of technical personnel from the nine-member agencies listed above. The MPO committees meet on a regular basis to discuss current progress and future needs in transportation planning.

KATS Policy Committee

The KATS Policy Committee consists of appointed and local elected officials from the nine agencies who have a primary interest in the region's transportation. Each Member is relective of the official position of his or her constituent agency, and/or the public interests they represent. The Policy Committee members are:

- President, Village of Aroma Park (elected)
- President, Village of Bourbonnais (elected)
- President, Village of Bradley (elected)
- Regional Engineer, IDOT (appointed)
- Mayor, City of Kankakee (elected)
- Chairman, Kankakee County (elected)
- Chairman, Kankakee Valley Airport Authority (appointed)
- President, Village of Manteno (elected)
- Chairman, River Valley METRO Mass Transit District (appointed)

This committee assumes the decision-making authority for KATS, and establishes policies that guide and form the transportation planning process. The committee has a variety of responsibilities, which range from approving the annual Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), to helping establish the metropolitan planning boundary of the study area.

KATS Technical Committee

The KATS Technical Committee consists of technical personnel from the nine participating local agencies. It makes recommendations relevant to transportation-related issues to the Policy Committee for their approval. The Technical Committee members are:

- Village Engineer, Village of Aroma Park
- Village Engineer, Village of Bourbonnais
- Village Engineer, Village of Bradley
- Urban Planner, IDOT, District 3
- City Engineer, City of Kankakee
- County Engineer, Kankakee County
- Manager, Kankakee Valley Airport Authority
- Village Engineer, Village of Manteno
- Designee, River Valley METRO Mass Transit District

KATS Staff Structure

KATS staff members perform the daily operations of the agency, with technical knowledge in transportation systems, planning, and other related areas. The staff, in conjunction with KATS member agencies, collects, analyzes, and evaluates transportation data to determine the transportation system requirements of the MPO. They also prepare materials for the Technical and Policy Committee meetings, as well as any other meetings and subcommittees. KATS Staff participates in all KATS meetings and provides technical input as needed. They also represent their agency at other meetings of importance to the planning activities in the region. The KATS staff consists of:

- Executive Director
- Transportation & Development Division Manager
- Transportation Program Manager
- Transportation Planner
- GIS Technician
- Office Manager
- Office Assistant

Summary of KATS Title VI Compliance

KATS has collected demographic data on race, ethnicity, minority groups, income level, and language spoken at home. This benefits the participants and beneficiaries of federally funded programs through Census data, public opinion surveys, and self-identification on questionnaires. KATS uses this in transportation planning for the following reasons:

- To determine any adverse impacts, or potential benefits of projects on minority and low-income neighborhoods.
- To ensure equality in evaluating any project applications submitted for inclusion in the Long-Range Transportation Plan, as well as the Transportation Improvement Program.
- To develop public outreach strategies.

The data samples collected are reviewed to ensure that KATS continues to meet the requirements of the Title VI Program.

Public Involvement Plan

The intent of the Kankakee Area Transportation Study Public Participation Plan is to provide a vehicle for meaningful public input to be considered in transportation decision-making. This plan includes offering reasonable opportunities for the public to be informed and involved in the development of transportation plans and programs in the metropolitan area. Facilitating proactive outreach to educate, engage, and inform the public about transportation issues and options, as well as to extract input from the public on transportation issues, is vital to the process.

The KATS Public Participation Plan can be found at: www.kats-mpo.org. Below are some of the key points of the Plan:

- Public notification will be provided for no fewer than 15 days, nor more than 30 days in advance of consideration of action by the Policy Committee on proposed Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRP) updates and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments. Amendments to these planning documents will require a minimum of 7 days of public notification prior to approval.
- A meeting notice will be provided by e-mail to local news media one week in advance of each regular Technical Advisory meeting and Policy Committee meeting. Reasonable access to available information about MPO sponsored transportation studies in the metropolitan area will also be provided.
- Public information related to transportation plans, programs, and meeting notices of KATS will be provided online at www.kats-mpo.org, including draft and final versions of the Public Participation Plan. The website will also provide meeting agendas, minutes, information on the purpose, programs, and structure of KATS. Information on MPO planning projects and studies, as well as contact information for MPO staff, will also be provided.
- Public meetings sponsored by KATS will be held at convenient locations and times. A
 citizen information period will be provided during each regular MPO meeting.
- Public input received during the development of the LRP and TIP documents will be given consideration by the MPO. Significant input will be reported to the Technical Advisory Committee and the Policy Committee.
- Outreach efforts to document, seek out and acquire input on the LRP and TIP documents from low income, minority households, and those are traditionally underserved by existing transportation systems, will be continued. All KATS public participation activities shall be conducted to encourage involvement by persons with disabilities, and by persons with limited English proficiency (by special arrangement).
- The KATS website, <u>www.kats-mpo.org</u> will be advertised in the local daily newspaper of
 greatest circulation at least one time per year, with guidance regarding how to use the
 website, and instructions detailing how to give a comment on subjects open for public
 comment.
- The KATS process for public review, participation, and comment on the TIP also serves as the public participation process for the River Valley METRO Mass Transit District Program of Projects.
- KATS engagement effort takes into account all underserved segments of the population
 who face difficulties accessing basic services and employment opportunities. The MPO
 tracks employment, housing, and commuting patterns of individuals with disabilities,
 minority populations, and low-income households, so as to insure adaquate transit
 services are rendered to those in need.

2021 KATS Public Outreach Events

Policy Committee	Technical Advisory Committe		
January 27, 2021	January 27, 2021		
February 24, 2021		February 24, 2021	
March 31, 2021		March 31, 2021	
May 5, 2021		May 5, 2021	
June 30, 2021		June 30, 2021	
August 25, 2021	August 25, 2021		
October 27, 2021	October 27, 2021		
Safety Committee		County Transportaton Committee	
February 3, 2021 (reschedu	led)	March 30, 2021	
February 10, 2021		May 4, 2021	
May 5, 2021		June 29, 2021	
August 4, 2021		August 31, 2021	
November 3, 2021		November 30, 2021	

All meetings are open to the public, and take place at the Kankakee County Administration Center, 189 E. Court Street, Kankakee, IL 60901, unless otherwise indicated.

Title VI Complaint Form

Title VI Non-Discrimination Complaint Form Kankakee Area Transportation Study

Kankakee Area Transportation Study (KATS) is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in or denied the benefits it's services on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. Title VI complains must be filed within 180 days from the date of the alleged discrimination. To file a complaint this completed form must be returned to Kankakee Area Transportation Study, 189 E. Court Street, Kankakee, IL 60901. Faxed or e-mailed forms are not accepted. Hand delivery is recommended to ensure that the complaint is received and filed within the statutory deadline.

Section 1			
Your Name:	 	Phone:	
Street Address:			
City, State, & Zip Code:			
Section 2			
Are you filing this complaint on your	own behalf?	□Yes	□No
If you answered "No" to question 1, (complainant) for whom you are filin	•	•	rson
Have you obtained permission from	the aggrieved party (co	omplainant) to file thi	s complain
on his or her behalf?	□Yes	□No	
Section 3			
Have you previously filed a Title VI co	omplaint with Kankake	e Area Transportatio	n Study?
	□Yes	□No	
Have you filed this complaint with ar	ny other federal, state,	or local agencies?	
	□Yes	□No	
Agency:	Contact Name:		
Street Address, City, State, Zip Code:			
Agency:	Contact Name:		
Street Address, City, State, Zip Code:			

Title VI Non-Discrimination Complaint Form Kankakee Area Transportation Study Page 2

Section 4

_	e reason for the alleged discrimination of this
complaint?	
□ Race	Date of Incident:
□ Color	
□ National Origin	
including how others may have been treatitles of person(s) who allegedly discriming	how you feel you were discriminated against, ated differently than you. Provide the names and nated against you. If you require additional space ining to your complaint, please attach to this form.
Section 5	
I affirm that I have read the above charge an	d that it is true to the best of my knowledge,
information, and belief.	
Complainant's Signature:	Date:
Print or Type Name of Complainant:	
For Of	fice Use Only
Date Received:	
Received by:	

Population Characteristics

This section describes the characteristics of the Kankakee Urbanized Area as delineated by the U.S. Census Bureau. Below, Figure 1-A shows the distribution of race and ethnicity within the entire county, per the 2020 census. Figure 1-B shows 2010 data, with the population totals for each group, which are broken down by those residing either inside or outside the urbanized area. As of 2010, Seventy-two percent of the total population of Kankakee County resides within the urbanized area.

Below, Figure 1-A shows the distribution of race and ethnicity in the county:

Figure 1-A: Kankakee County 2020 Total Population Distribution by Race/Ethnic Group:

	Kankakee County Total Population	Total %
Total Population	107,502	100%
Non-Hispanic or Latino	94,982	88%
Hispanic or Latino	12,520	12%
One Race	99,724	93%
White	76,327	71%
Black or African American	15,573	14%
Asian	1,090	1%
American Indian or Native Alaskan	432	<1
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	23	<1
Other	6,279	6%
Two or More Races	7,778	7%

Source: 2020 Census, U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 1-B: Kankakee County <u>2010</u> Total Population Distribution by Race/Ethnic Group, apportioned by those residing either inside or outside of the county's urban area:

	Kankakee County Total	% Inside Urbanized Area	% Outside Urbanized Area	Total %
Total Population	113,449	72%	28%	100%
Non-Hispanic or Latino	103,282	71%	29%	100%
Hispanic or Latino	10,167	81%	19%	100%
One Race	111,047	72%	28%	100%
White	87,986	69%	31%	100%
Black or African American	17,187	83%	17%	100%
Asian	1,052	84%	16%	100%
American Indian or Native Alaskan	286	71%	29%	100%
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	34	62%	38%	100%
Other	4,502	80%	20%	100%
Two or More Races	2,402	80%	20%	100%

Source: 2010 Census, U.S. Census Bureau.

Figure 2 shows the distribution of median household income for the urbanized area. The race and ethnicity for each group are based on the head of the household, hence, the listed race or ethnic group is not necessarily representative of all those within the household. Two categories have a very high margin of error associated with the estimated median income: American Indian or Native Alaskan, along with Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.

Figure 2 - Median Household Income for the urbanzed area in the Past 12 Months (in 2017 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars) by Race/Ethnic Group:

Race/Ethnicity of Householder	Median Income		Margin of Error	
Total Population (Urbanized Area)	\$	53,667.00	± \$	1,754.00
White	\$	59,652.00	± \$	2,157.00
Black or African American	\$	27,361.00	± \$	5,088.00
American Indian and Alaska Native		-		**
Asian	\$	74,091.00	± \$	24,664.00
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander		-		**
Some other race	\$	41,343.00	± \$	12,344.00
Two or more races	\$	33,472.00	± \$	27,795.00
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	\$	46,766.00	± \$	6,670.00
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	\$	60,834.00	± \$	1,840.00

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Figure 3 shows the breakdown of languages spoken at homes located within the urbanized area. This data is based on persons age 5 and over. Over 90 percent of individuals speak only English in their home, and more than half who speak a language other than English at home, speak English "very well".

Figure 3. Limited English Proficiency in the Urbanized Area - Language Spoken at Home

Language Spoken at Home	Percent
Total Population	100%
Speak English "Very Well"	96.6%
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	3.4%
Speak only English	89.6%
Speak a language other than English	10.4%
Speak Spanish	8.3%
Speak English "Very Well"	64.7%
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	35.3%
Speak Other Indo-European Langauge	1.1%
Speak English "Very Well"	84.6%
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	15.4%
Speak Asian and Pacific Languages	0.8%
Speak English "Very Well"	56.0%
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	44.0%
Other	0.2%
Speak English "Very Well"	99.2%
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	0.8%

Source: 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

River Valley METRO Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

The following maps show the distribution of the region's population, along with transit routes and transfer centers for River Valley METRO Mass Transit District (METRO). Map 1 on page 14 shows the population density by census block, demonstrated by residents per acre. The highest density determined is 54.13 people per acre. The lowest is less than 2.9 residents per acre. Block boundaries and population counts are from the 2010 Census. This map shows a representation of where people reside in relation to the METRO routes.

The KATS urbanized area median household income in 2017 was estimated at \$53,667. There is a relatively high margin of error for two of the groups: Asian, as well as people of two or more races.

Map 2 on page 15 shows median household income by census tract. This map demonstrates that households having a lower household median income are not underserved by METRO, and that METRO can provide transportation to services, institutions, and places of employment which riders need to access.

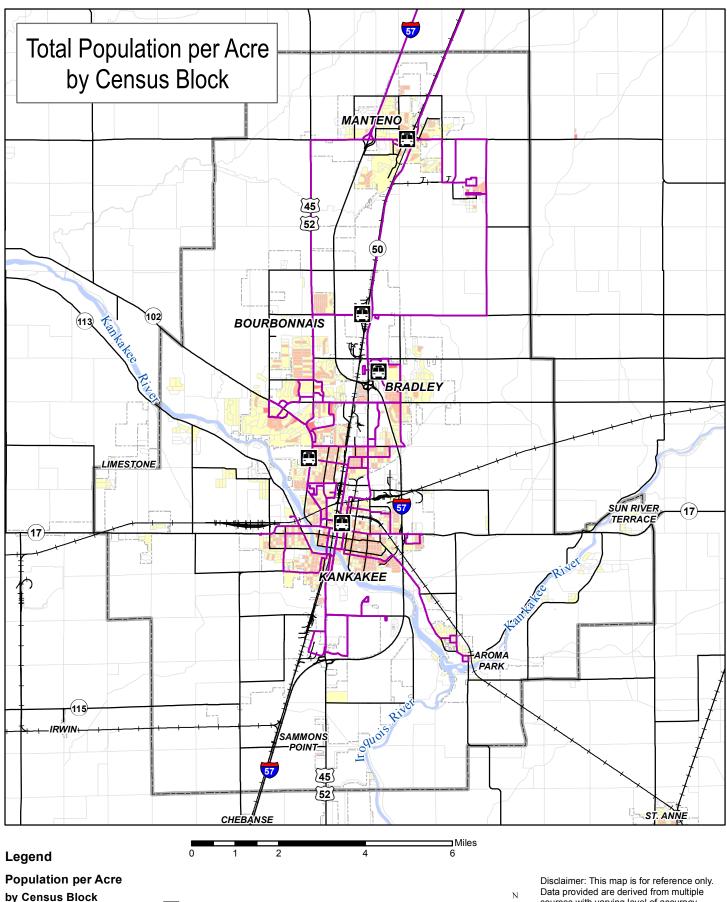
The lowest earning income group (\$26,607 - \$27,999) is clustered in the Central and Eastern portions of the City of Kankakee. The group with the second lowest income (\$28,000 - \$42,999) resides in the Western and Southern areas of Kankakee, extending into Southeastern Bradley, and into Southern Bourbonnais.

According to the 2010 Census, the total number of non-white people in the urbanized area is 20,830. Map 3 on page 16 shows the percentage of minority population by census tract. The highest percentage range (67.1% - 84.3%) of minorities resides in Central Kankakee. This area is bordered on the East and West by the second highest percentage range (40.1% - 67%). Neither of these areas has a shortage of transit routes serving them, as determined by the METRO route maps.

Within the urbanized area, there are a total of 11,142 people of Hispanic ethnicity. Map 4 on page 17 shows the percentage of Hispanic persons by census tract. The highest percentage (20% - 27.7%) of the Hispanic population is in Central Kankakee. The area of the second highest percentage range (15% - 19.9%) is on the Eastern edge of Kankakee and the urbanized area.

The total estimated percent of persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) in the KATS urbanized area is 3.7 percent. Map 5 on page 18 shows the percentage of LEP persons by census tract. The highest percentage (11.1% - 12.1%) of LEP residents is in Central Kankakee, and that area is adjacent to the second highest percentage range (6.1% - 11%), on the West side of Kankakee. Both areas, as well as those with lower percentages of Hispanic population, have access to METRO transit routes, per the route maps.

River Valley METRO MTD has taken advantage of advances in technology. In particular, the agency has been using translation apps and services. This includes increased and varied methods of public access to METRO's website and route information. Additionally, online and smartphone mapping services offer transportation directions and travel plans that include a public transit option.



0 - 2.9 3 - 8.9 9 - 19.9 20 - 54.13 Transfer Stations

River Valley Metro Routes

Major Roads

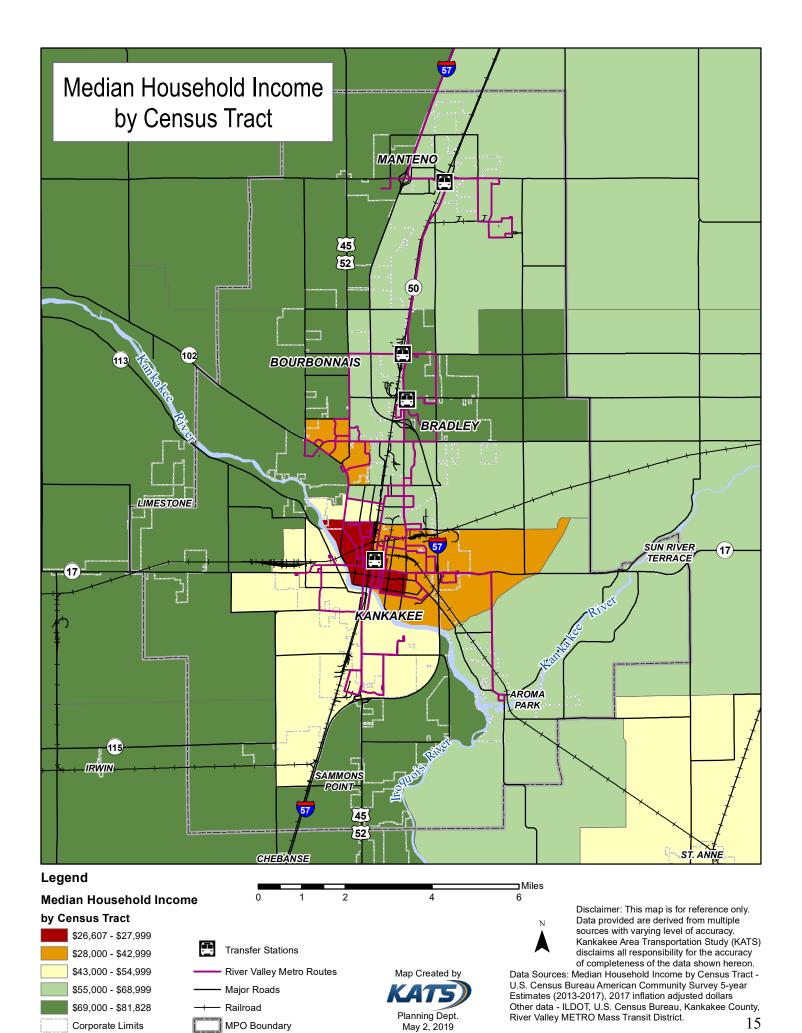
Railroad

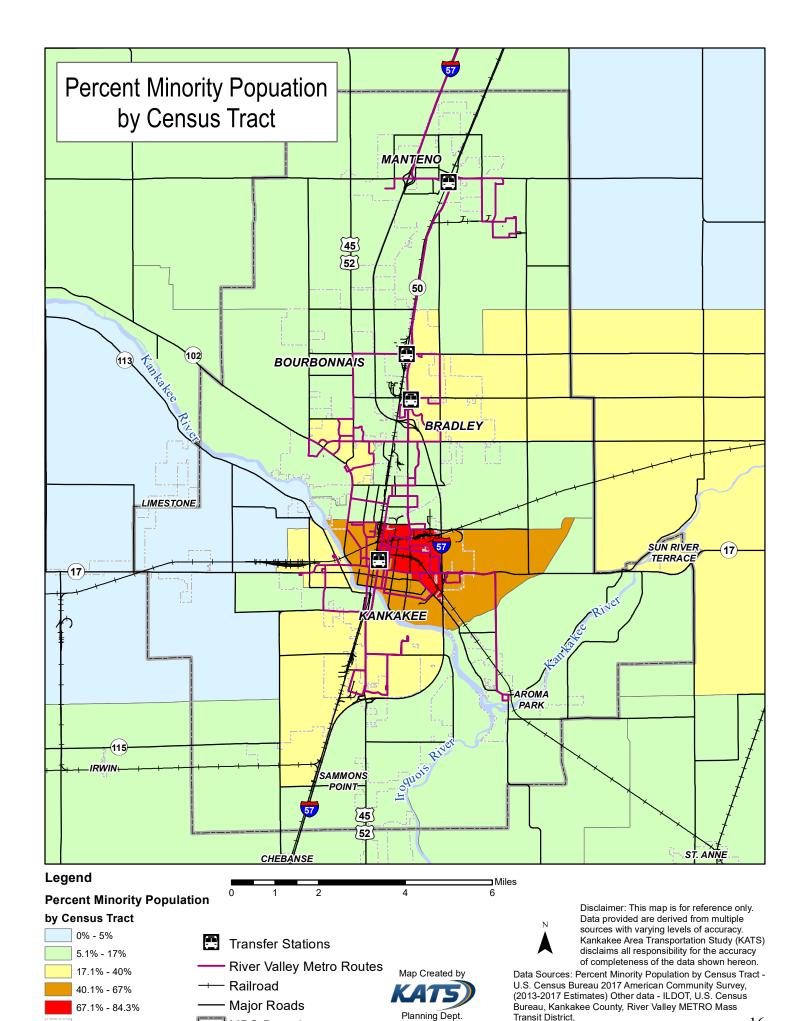
MPO Boundary



Disclaimer: This map is for reference only. Data provided are derived from multiple sources with varying level of accuracy. Kankakee Area Transportation Study (KATS) disclaims all responsibility for the accuracy of completeness of the data shown hereon.

Data Sources: Total Population by Census Block - U.S. Census Bureau 2010 Census, Other data - ILDOT, U.S. Census Bureau, Kankakee County, River Valley METRO Mass Transit District



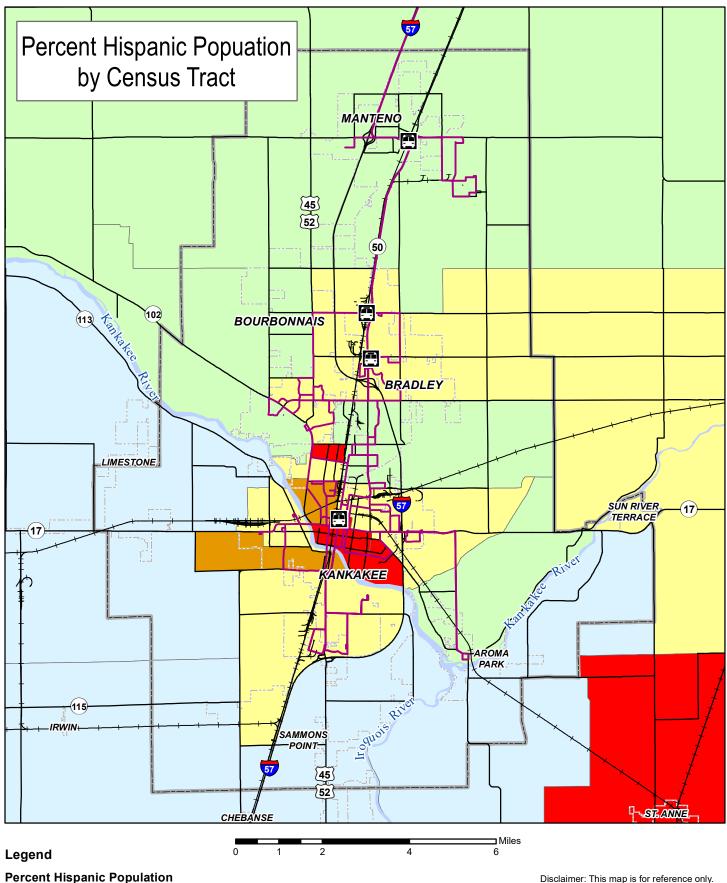


May 2, 2019

Corporate Limits

MPO Boundary

16



1.2% - 3.9% 4% - 7.9% 8% - 14.9% 15% - 19.9% 20% - 27.7%

Transfer Stations

River Valley Metro Routes

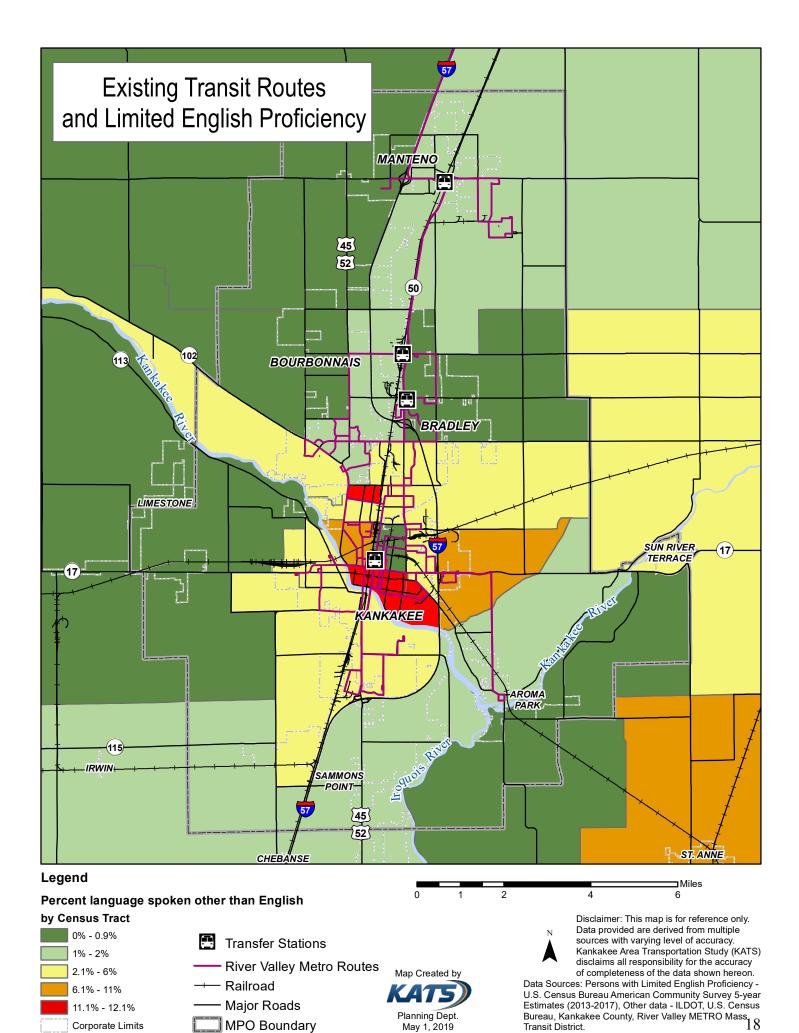
MPO Boundary

── Railroad ── Major Roads



Disclaimer: This map is for reference only. Data provided are derived from multiple sources with varying levels of accuracy. Kankakee Area Transportation Study (KATS) disclaims all responsibility for the accuracy of completeness of the data shown hereon.

Data Sources: Percent Hispanic Population by Census Tract - American Community Survey 2017, (2013-2017 Estimates), Other data - ILDOT, U.S. Census Bureau, Kankakee County, River Valley METRO Mass Transit District.



Transit District.



Kankakee Area Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization 189 E. Court Street, Room 201 Kankakee, IL 60901 Phone: (815) 937 - 2940

Fax: (815) 937 - 2974

www.kats-mpo.org/contact-us