

Public Engagement Plan

CSAH 42 AND CSAH 5 TRAIL GAP PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING

July 27, 2023

ALLIANT ENGINEERING, INC. | 733 S Marquette Ave, Suite 700, Minneapolis, MN 55402



Table of Contents

1. Introduction	1
1.1 Project Description	1
1.2 Stakeholders and Audiences	1
1.3 Demographics.....	2
1.4 Engagement Level	4
1.5 Project Phases	4
2. Engagement Goals, Tactics and Resources	5
2.1 Engagement Tools and Tactics	5
2.2 Comment Management	6
2.3 Goals and Measures of Success	6
3. Project Contacts	8

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Project Milestones	1
Table 2. Project Phases, Engagement Goals and Key Messages	4
Table 3. Tools and Techniques to Address Participation Challenges	6
Table 4. Engagement Events, Tools, and Tactics	7

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Project Area Properties and Generalized Land Use	3
--	---



1. Introduction

This Public Engagement Plan (PEP) describes the CSAH 42 and CSAH 5 Trail Gap Preliminary Engineering project and the planned activities to engage the community and stakeholders during the project. When discussing the project with the public, it may be referred to as the “County Road 42 and County Road 5 Trails Project” or shortened “CR 42 & 5 Trails” or similar for simplicity. This plan is a living document that may be modified as the project is executed, understanding that adjustments in engagement tactics may be appropriate as conditions change and/or new information is learned.

1.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Alliant Engineering, Inc. (Alliant) team is supporting the City of Burnsville and Dakota County to develop a preliminary design for the CSAH 42 and CSAH 5 Trail Gap Project. **Table 1** below provides an outline of project milestones.

The CSAH 42 and CSAH 5 corridors have gaps in the paved trail network that the City of Burnsville and Dakota County aim to provide along both sides of county highway corridors, so that bicyclists and pedestrians are not required to cross the highway to access a safe trail. Much of the CSAH 42 study area has existing paved sidewalks, but sidewalks only exist on the east side of CSAH 5. This project will lay the groundwork to close gaps in the trail system by adding facilities where they don’t exist and widening sidewalks from the typical 5 feet to a standard 10-foot multiuse trail. The project will inform and involve the public in planned improvements, define engineering challenges and associated costs, and help the agencies pursue outside funding to make constructing the trails a reality.

Table 1. Project Milestones

Milestone*	Completion (Subject to Change)
Project Website Launch	June 2023
Initial Property Owner Meetings (2 total)	September 2023
Confirm Recommended Alternative	October 2023
Open House	October 2023
Submit Final Layouts	February 2024
Additional Property Owner Meetings	As needed
Agency Stakeholder Meetings**	TBD

**Key public engagement milestones are shown in bold.*

***Transit Agency (MVTA & Metro Transit), City Council, Commission, and County Board Meetings planned to occur but are not yet scheduled. The Transit Agency meeting is anticipated to take place early in the project.*

1.2 STAKEHOLDERS AND AUDIENCES

The following stakeholders have been identified to date. This list will be updated as the project proceeds.

- Public Agencies
 - City of Burnsville



- Public Works
 - Engineering
 - Parks and Recreation
 - Community Development
- Dakota County
- MnDOT
- Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA)
- Metro Transit
- Other Organizations and Members of the Public
 - Adjacent businesses, property owners, and residents as shown in **Figure 1**.
 - Key User Groups
 - Employees of nearby businesses
 - People with disabilities (in particular pedestrians and bicyclists who use a mobility aid)
 - Bicyclists, pedestrians, and other non-motorized users if not included in other user groups
 - Nearby businesses, property owners, and residents in greater project area if not included in above groups
 - Others as identified during the project

1.3 DEMOGRAPHICS

A review of sociodemographic factors in the project area compared to the City as a whole highlight equity needs and point to the benefits of multimodal transportation improvements, particularly in this part of the city. Key findings are summarized below and mapped in **Appendix A**.

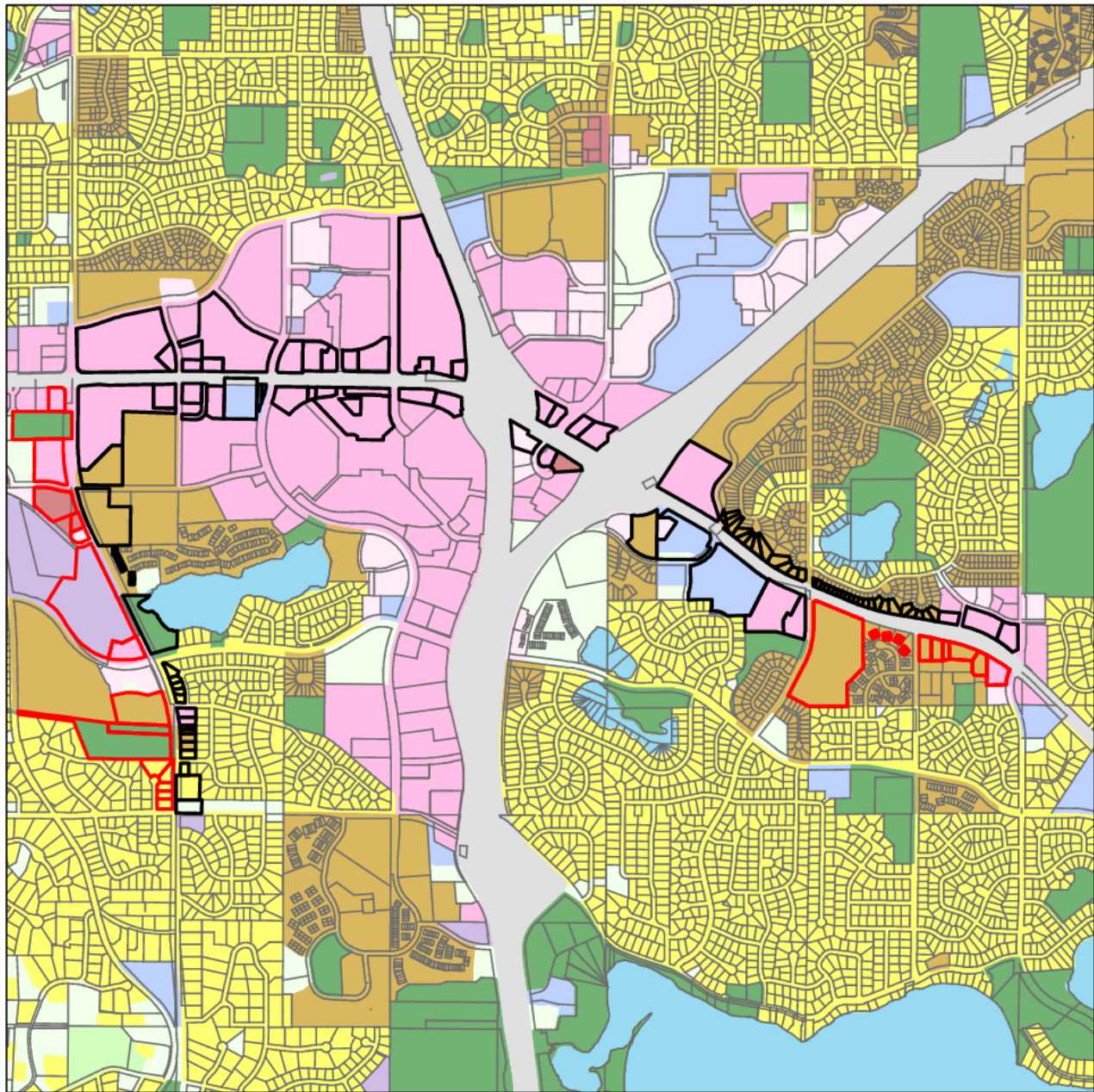
- The project area overlaps an Area of Concentrated Poverty (ACP)¹.
- The project area overlaps the census tract with the highest proportion of households without a vehicle.
- The project area overlaps multiple of the most racially diverse census tracts in Burnsville.
- The project area overlaps multiple census tracts with a high proportion of residents with a disability.
- The project area overlaps areas identified as Census Tracts of Greatest Equity Concern in Burnsville's Multi-Modal Plan² which also highlights a quarter mile area around senior, supportive, and affordable housing developments.

Additional project area demographic information is shown in **Appendix A**.

Project-specific tactics for reaching diverse populations are provided in **Section 2.1**.

¹ As defined by the Metropolitan Council, Areas of Concentrated Poverty (ACPs) are census tracts where at least 40% of residents have incomes below 185% of the federal poverty threshold (about \$47,500 for a family of four).

² <https://www.burnsvillemn.gov/DocumentCenter/View/21700/City-of-Burnsville-Multi-Modal-Plan>



Legend

Property Parcel Outlines Adjacent - No Existing Ped/Bike Facilities	Office	Golf Course
Property Parcel Outlines Adjacent - Existing Sidewalk	Mixed Use	Transportation
Parcel Lines	Industrial and Utility	Agricultural
Single Family Residential	Extractive	Undeveloped
Multifamily Residential	Institutional	Water
Retail and Other Commercial	Park, Recreational, or Preserve	

Figure 1. Project Area Properties and Generalized Land Use



1.4 ENGAGEMENT LEVEL

This project will require a two-way conversation between stakeholders and the project team. Alliant will develop materials and facilitate meetings and other forms of engagement to understand stakeholder needs and concerns. It is anticipated that a mixture of online and in-person public meetings will be conducted, with virtual options launching the same day as in-person events to maximize in-person attendance. As needed, Alliant will conduct one-on-one or small group conversations with property owners as the design is developed.

1.5 PROJECT PHASES

The project will be conducted in three phases. Goals and draft communications messages by project phase are summarized in **Table 2**.

Table 2. Project Phases, Engagement Goals and Key Messages

Phase	Goal	Key Messages (Draft)
Discovery	Discover and understand existing and future conditions. Build trust and understanding.	• The project is needed to improve safety and mobility for pedestrians and bicyclists • The project has benefits to neighbors and to the City and County • The project team is here to listen and understand community issues and needs • Indicate which design decisions the project team will be looking for input on
Development	Develop and evaluate potential solutions to issues and needs identified during Discovery.	• The project team is developing trail designs based on engineering needs and community input • We are continuing to listen and will have discussions with property owners and other stakeholders as needed
Design	Advance the design from concept to preliminary engineering, adding detail as relevant.	• Share proposed designs and explain how it addresses the identified issues and needs • Explain how the selected design could impact neighbors and property owners (i.e., access changes, right of way, etc.) • Identify next steps (conducting detailed design, funding, construction, etc.)



2. Engagement Goals, Tactics and Resources

2.1 ENGAGEMENT TOOLS AND TACTICS

Table 4 below is the heart of this plan, documenting the specific engagement milestones, tools and tactics for the project. The basic tools and approaches are as follows.

Traditional/In-person

- **In-Person Meetings:**
 - Public Open House: The core engagement event is a public open house, which will be held in-person with an online component. The open house location will be held at Burnhaven Library, with the event occurring outside with the City engagement vehicle, with a room inside the library as a backup in case of bad weather.
 - Property Owner Meetings: Prior to the open house, two virtual property owner group meetings will be held to share the project and potential property impacts with affected properties. Alliant will develop a list of property owners by type of property and hold two virtual meetings at different times on the same day. As discussed in Section 1.3, additional meetings with property owners can be conducted throughout the project as needed. As needed, City staff will support visits to businesses to get property owner contact information.
- **Mailings:** Alliant will design three postcards to raise awareness and advertise the open house. City will print, mail, and provide addresses.
 - Mailing #1: Initial property owner notice (mail to adjacent property owners)
 - Mailing #2: Open House notice/advertisement (mail to larger area, exact boundaries TBD with emphasis on including historically underrepresented residents)
 - Mailing #3: Preferred design announcement (same area as Mailing #2)
- **Burnsville Newsletter:** Alliant will develop content for the City of Burnsville's Summer Bulletin to announce the project and, depending on timing, content for the Fall Bulletin providing an update to the project.
- **Advertisement along Corridors:** As an option, Alliant can set up roadside signs or sidewalk decals (in advance of or on the day of an event) to advertise to bicyclists and pedestrians as they pass by.

Online

- **Project Logo:** Alliant will develop a project-specific logo to be used with both online and print materials.
- **Website:** Alliant will develop content (including informational text and graphics) as needed for the City project website. The website is assumed to include general project information, opportunity to sign up for an email list, and links to online open house content. The County project website will direct visitors to the City website.
- **Open House:** The online open house will be hosted on a section of the City website, with the opportunity for participants to view content shared at the in-person open house and provide input any time during a 2- to 4-week time period, as opposed to a live virtual meeting.
- **Social Media:** Social media posts will be used to raise awareness and drive traffic to the project web site. Alliant will prepare social media graphical content and ask the City, County, and other applicable agencies or organizations to post and/or share them.



Engaging with Diverse Populations

People living and working in the project area represent a range of demographic and other characteristics that may influence their ability or willingness to engage with the project. The advertisement and communication techniques described above include both in-person and online options that are designed to reach a large number of people, provide flexibility, and better reach populations traditionally not involved in community engagement processes in ways that work well for them. Our engagement approach includes a range of tools and techniques to reduce barriers to participation and encourage broad and representative input as shown in **Table 3**.

Table 3. Tools and Techniques to Address Participation Challenges

Engagement Tools and Technique	Participation Challenges Addressed			
	Socio-Demographic Diversity	Disability	Limited or No Internet	Employees
In-person public open house			✓	
Online information	✓	✓		✓
Mailed postcards	✓	✓	✓	
Expanded mailing area	✓			
Provide City phone number		✓	✓	
Information in Burnsville Newsletter	✓		✓	
Outreach to apartments/renters	✓		✓	
ADA accessible documents		✓		
Social media advertisements	✓	✓		✓
Flyers to businesses	✓			✓

2.2 COMMENT MANAGEMENT

Project stakeholder agencies and Alliant all may be in the position to receive stakeholder comments on the project and will share these comments with the broader team as appropriate. Alliant will document stakeholder comments in a database and coordinate responses as needed. Alliant will also prepare a meeting summary after each event to be included in an overall engagement summary document at project completion.

2.3 GOALS AND MEASURES OF SUCCESS

As data are available, we will use the following measures throughout the project to validate our engagement tactics and results and adjust as needed.

- Quantity: How many people are we reaching?
- Quality: What is the depth or quality of the engagement? How many engagements are one-way vs. two-way?
- Tactics: Which tools and tactics are working best? Do we need to make adjustments?
- Diversity: Are we reaching a wide range of individuals and/or perspectives? How do the demographics of participants compare to those of the project area? Are there subgroups we are not reaching adequately?
- Learning: Are the project team and stakeholders both learning from their interactions in ways that support the project?

Table 4. Engagement Events, Tools, and Tactics

Engagement Opportunity	Engagement Goal	Engagement Tools and Materials	How Accessed	Promotion	Date/Comment Period
Project Website	Introduce project and provide updates as needed, serve as a landing page for all project information.	• Informational text (project overview, schedule, updates as needed) • Map • Project manager phone and email	• Online	• Postcard #1 (notify adjacent property owners of project & work in area) • Postcard #3 (announce preferred design & direct people to the website for details) • Social media as needed	Not applicable (comment periods focused to during open houses)
Initial Property Owner Meetings	Share project and potential property impacts with affected owners. Hold two meetings and invite all property owners adjacent to sections that currently don't have a sidewalk or trail.	• Alliant to prepare agendas • Short presentations as needed • Handouts • Supporting exhibits as needed	• Online	Not applicable (Coordinate directly with participants)	September 2023 (Exact dates TBD)
Open House: Recommended Improvements	Present recommended improvements on a layout, and provide general information on next steps	• Handout with project overview and highlight key issues and recommendations • Presentation boards with project overview, existing conditions information, summary of improvements, next steps • Large map with aerial for in person discussion • Web site: all information shared on boards and handout, static map, email sign-up • Survey or comment card	• Information mailed to project area addresses • Online (project website) and in person (Burnsville Public Library)	• Postcard #2 • Email list (City) • Paid Facebook Ad posts to project zip code • Other social media (City, County) • Option to set up roadside signs or sidewalk decals	October 2023 (Exact dates TBD)
Additional Property Owner Meetings (	To be determined (Coordinate at key decision points)	• Alliant to prepare agendas • Short presentations as needed • Handouts • Supporting exhibits as needed	In person or online (TBD, depending on City/stakeholder preference)	Not applicable (Coordinate directly with participants)	Not applicable (Exact dates TBD)

3. Project Contacts

Alliant

Tanya Gytri, PE (Project Manager)
tgytri@alliant-inc.com
612-428-7344

Tim Burkhardt, AICP (Public Engagement Lead)
tburkhardt@alliant-inc.com
612-767-9313

Hannah Johnson, AICP (Public Engagement Support)
hjohnson@alliant-inc.com
612-767-9329

City of Burnsville

Jen Desrude* (City of Burnsville Project Manager)
jen.desrude@burnsvillemn.gov
952-895-4544

Dakota County

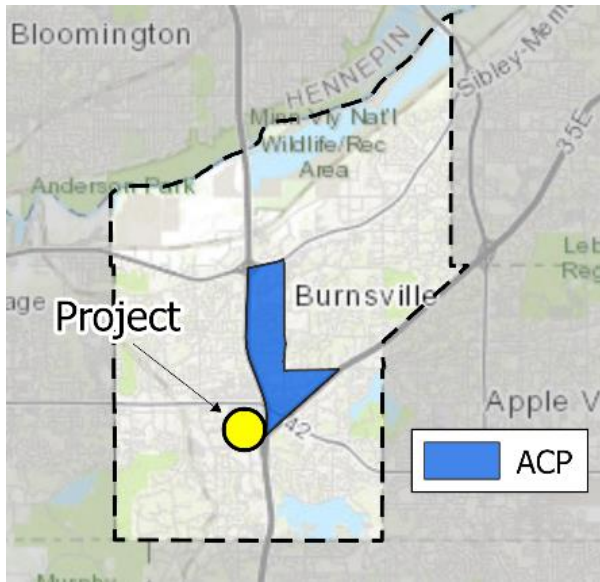
Gina Mitteco (Dakota County Project Manager)
gina.mitteco@co.dakota.mn.us
952-891-7114

**Refer all media inquiries to Jen Desrude.*

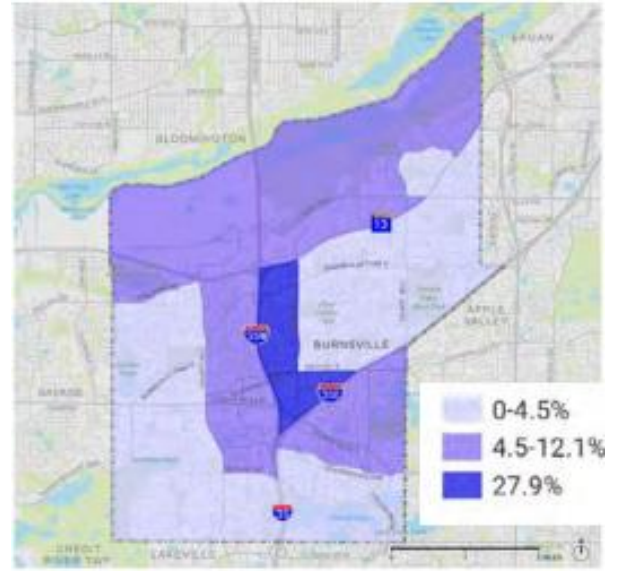
Appendix A

PROJECT AREA DEMOGRAPHICS

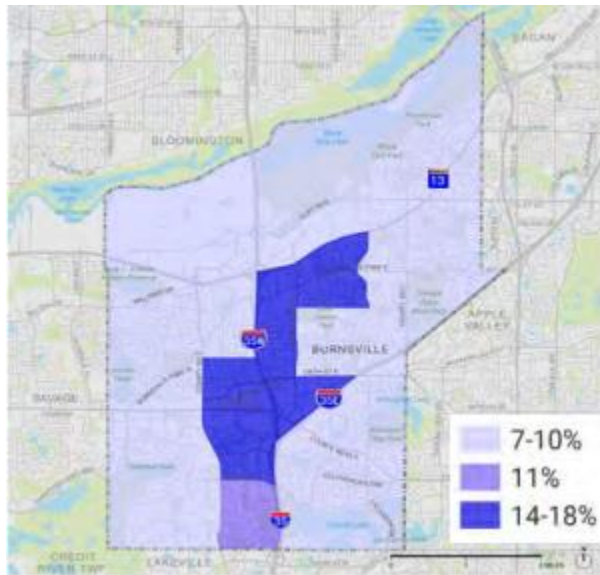




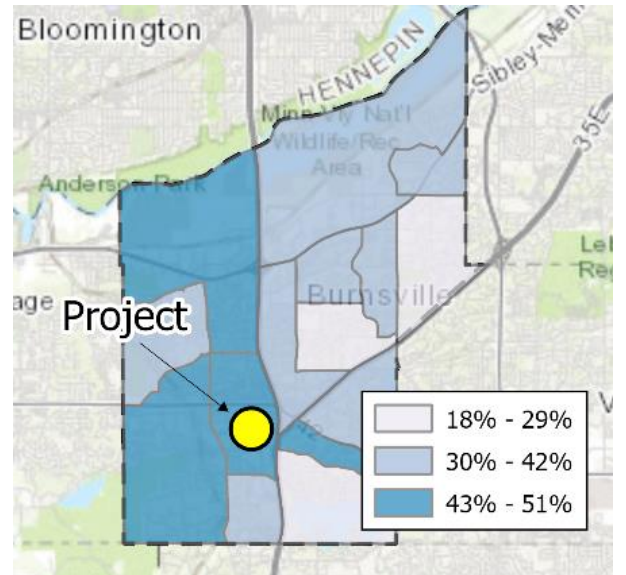
Areas of Concentrated Poverty



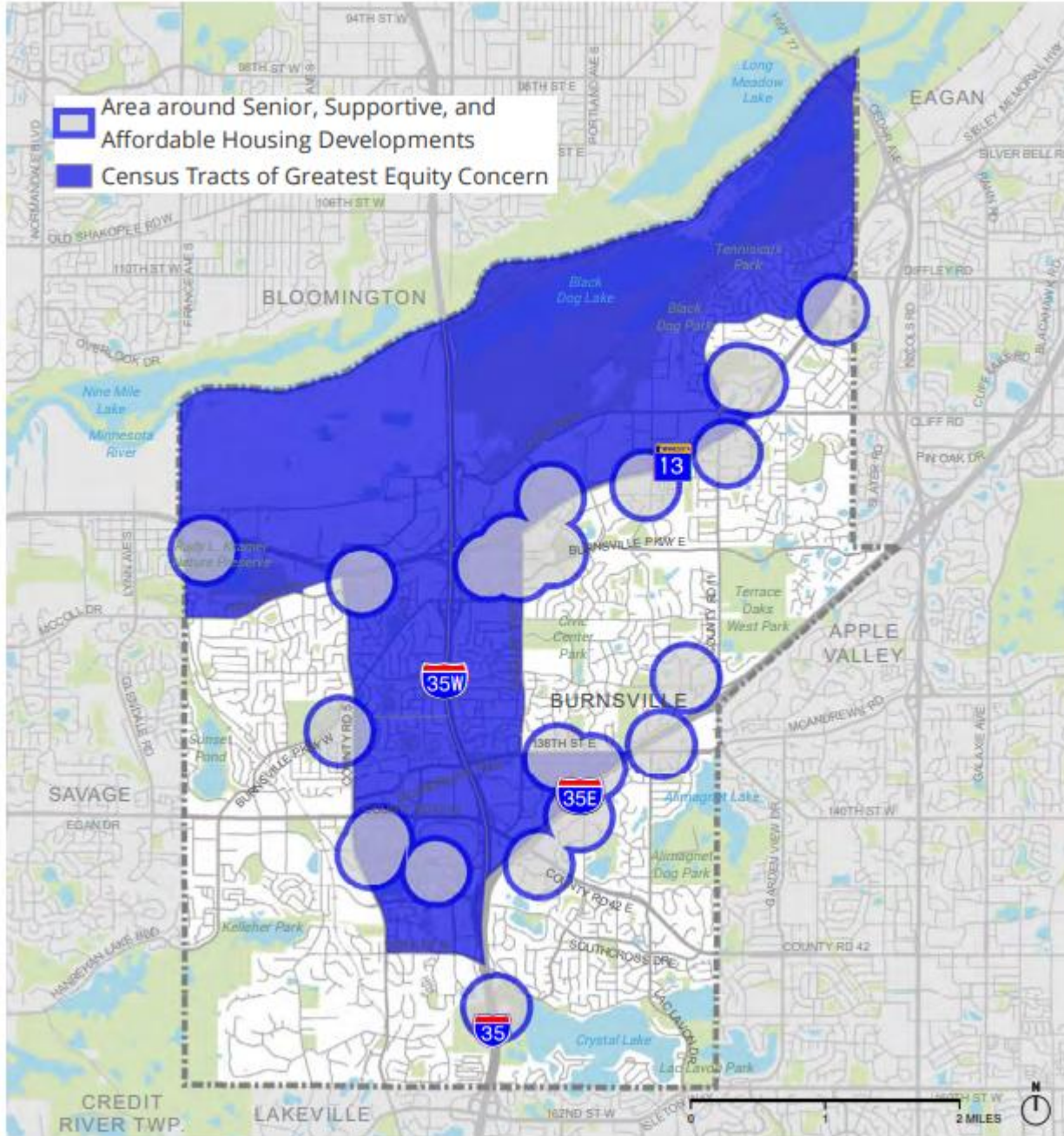
Proportion of Households without a Vehicle



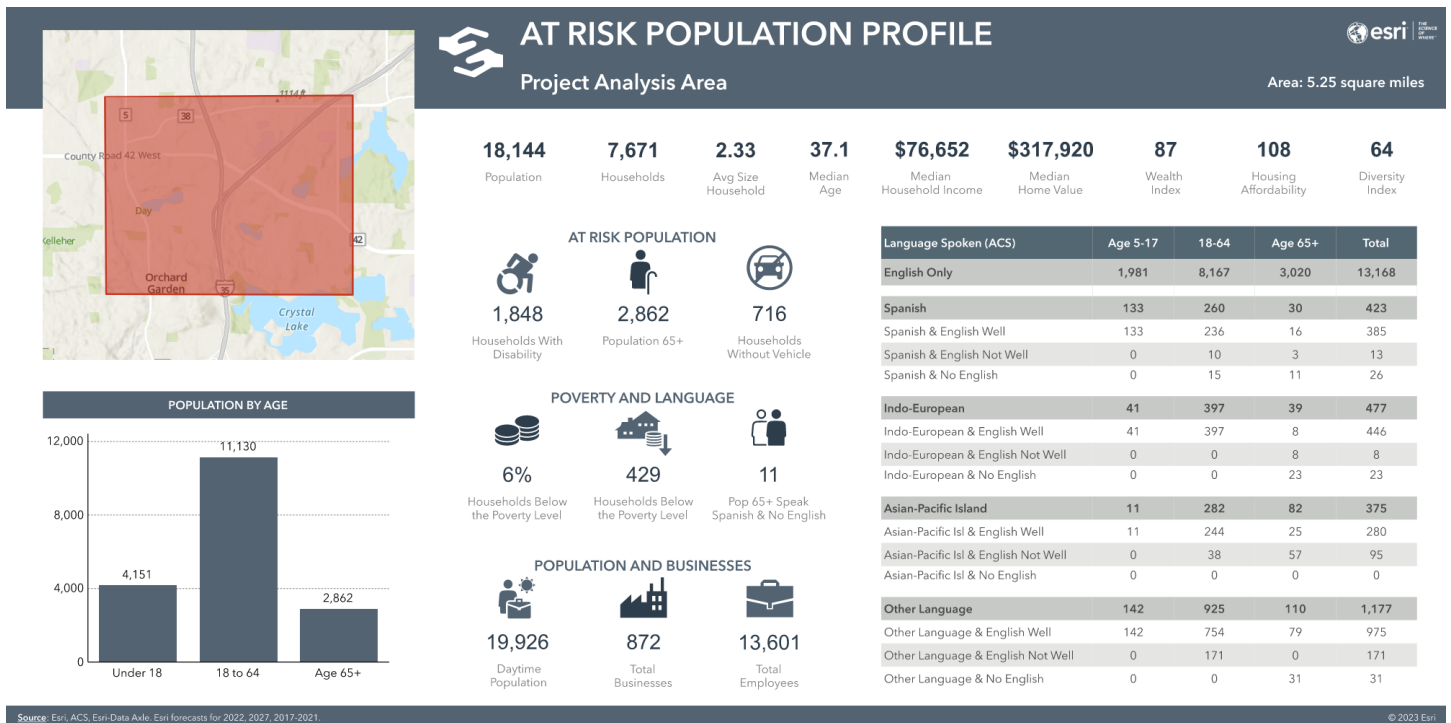
Proportion of Residents with a Disability



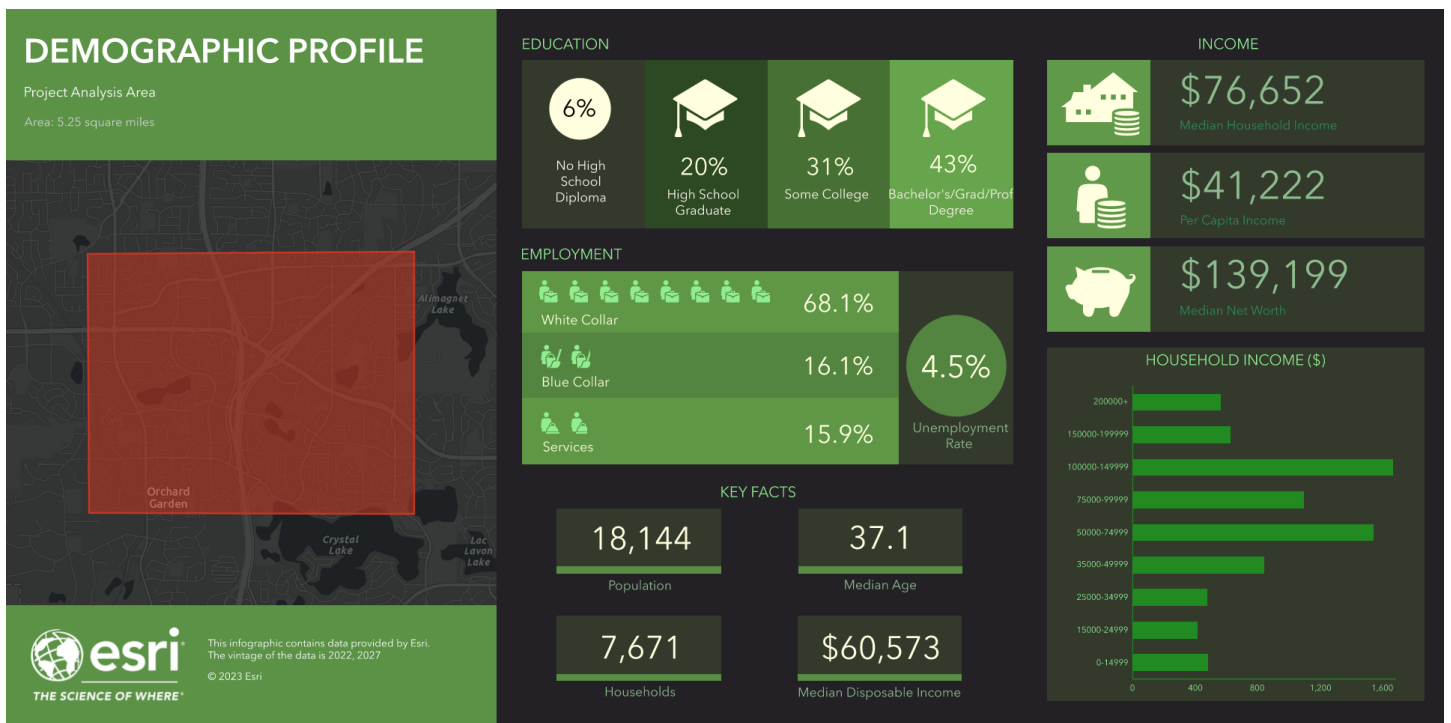
Proportion of Residents that Identify as People of Color



Burnsville Multi-Modal Plan Key Equity Areas



At-Risk Population Profile



Demographic Profile



2020 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171)

Project Analysis Area
Area: 5.25 square miles

KEY FACTS

18,087
Total Population

7,917
Housing Units

3,445.1
Population Density

2.33
Average Household Size

63.3
Diversity Index

2010-2020 ANNUAL GROWTH RATE



0.61%
Population

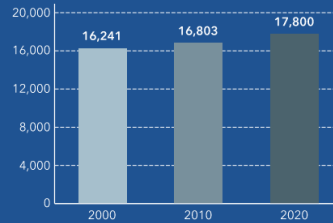


2.65%
Group Quarters

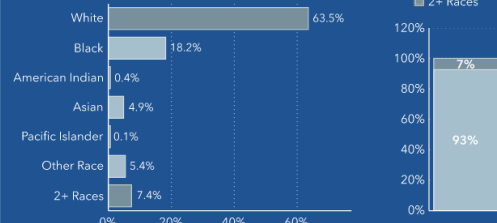


0.44%
Households

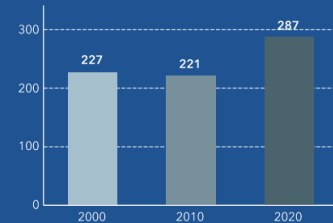
HOUSEHOLD POPULATION



TOTAL POPULATION BY RACE



GROUP QUARTERS

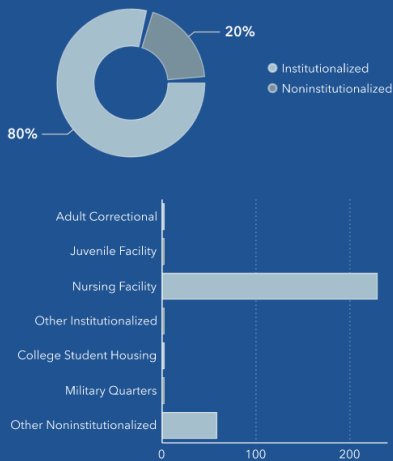


POPULATION BY AGE AND RACE	Less Than 18 Years	18 Years and Older
Total	4,052	14,035
1 Race	3,514	13,234
White	1,670	9,821
Black	1,285	2,013
American Indian/Alaska Native	17	62
Asian	180	702
Pacific Islander	6	10
Some Other Race	356	627
2 or More Races	538	801

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Redistricting Data (PL 94-171). U.S. Census Bureau 2010 decennial Census data converted by Esri into 2020 geography.

The U.S. Census Bureau provides the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico with population counts to use in their redrawing of congressional and state legislative district boundaries – a process known as “redistricting.”

GROUP QUARTERS BY POPULATION



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Redistricting Data (PL 94-171). U.S. Census Bureau 2010 decennial Census data converted by Esri into 2020 geography.

18,087
Total Population

7,917
Housing Units

3,445.1
Population Density

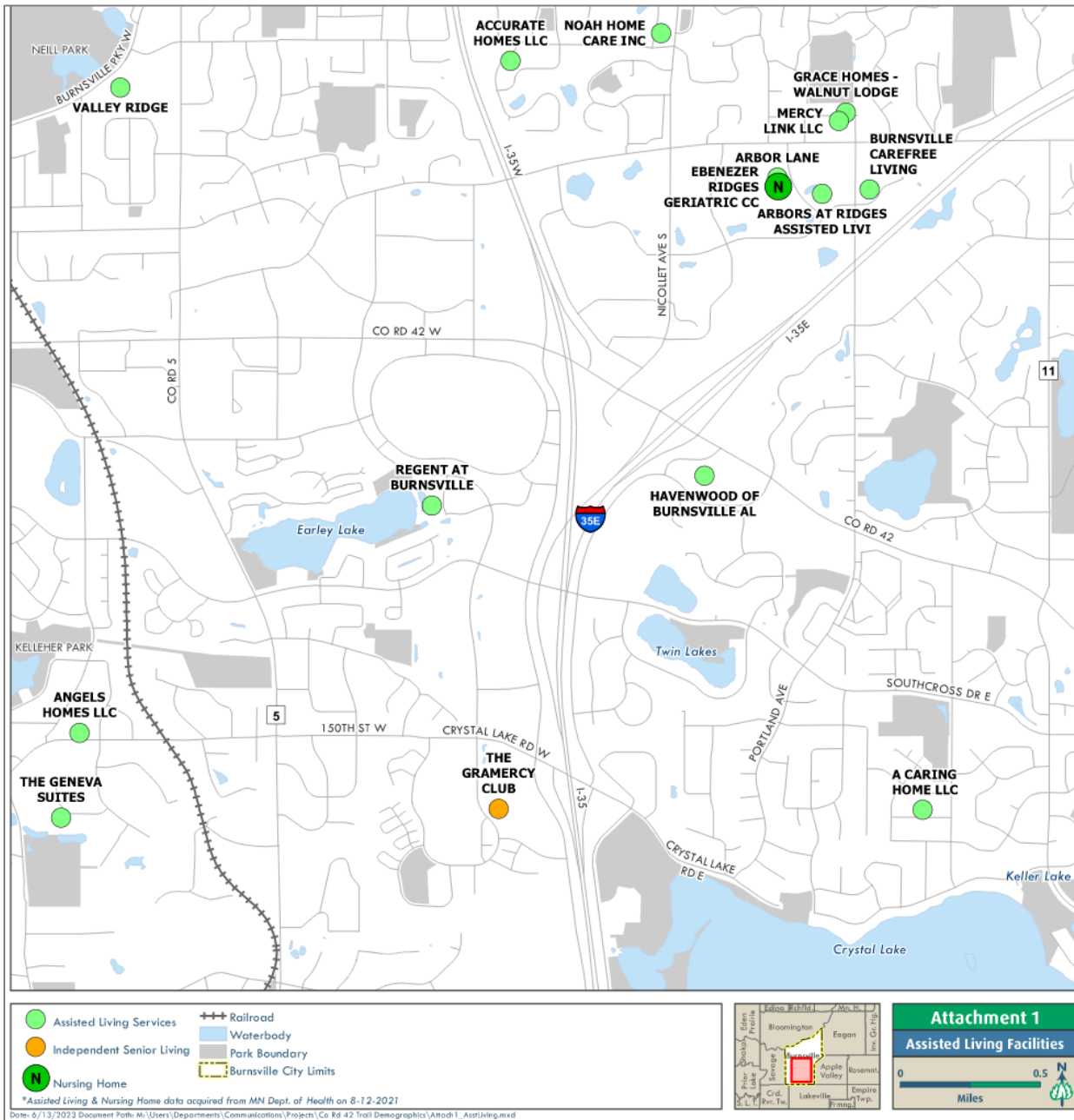
2.33
Average Household Size

63.3
Diversity Index

HISPANIC POPULATION BY AGE AND RACE	Less Than 18 Years	18 Years and Older	Total
Total	672	1,130	1,802
1 Race	485	784	1,269
White	120	162	282
Black	18	17	35
American Indian/Alaska Native	12	20	31
Asian	9	3	11
Pacific Islander	2	1	3
Some Other Race	325	582	907
2 or More Races	187	346	533

NON-HISPANIC POPULATION BY AGE AND RACE	Less Than 18 Years	18 Years and Older	Total
Total	3,380	12,905	16,285
1 Race	3,029	12,450	15,479
White	1,550	9,659	11,209
Black	1,268	1,996	3,263
American Indian/Alaska Native	6	42	48
Asian	171	700	871
Pacific Islander	4	9	13
Some Other Race	30	45	76
2 or More Races	351	455	806

2020 Census Redistricting Data



Assisted Living, Nursing Home, and Independent Senior Living Facilities