

Clark County Public Health, Vancouver, Washington

# I. INTRODUCTION TO HIA

A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is, per the World Health Organization, (WHO, 2005) "A combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, program or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population, and the distribution of those effects within the population." This HIA looks at features of the Highway 99 built environment (existing and proposed) in terms of the potential effects of the built environment on health outcomes.

# II. DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

The fundamental conditions and resources for health are peace, shelter, education, food, income, a stable ecosystem, sustainable resources, social justice and equity. Improvement in health requires a secure foundation in these basic prerequisites<sup>1</sup>.

# Socio-ecological Model of Health Promotion

Public Health promotion is based on a conceptual model that connects health outcomes (for example, decreased smoking rates) with personal, relationship, community and societal influences. The socioecological model does not approach such a socially imbedded health problem by working only with individual smokers; it also focuses on interventions at a relational level (peers and family), at a community level (tobacco sales to minors), and at a social and economic policy level (cigarette taxation). The last 20 years of progress in tobacco control provides striking evidence that public health policies and environmental changes (e.g. tobacco price increases, clean indoor air laws) can be much more powerful interventions for population-wide behavior change than those requiring active decision making by individuals.

## **Health Determinants and Equity**

The World Health Organization<sup>2</sup> identified two major groups of social determinants of health: "Structural determinants are those that generate social stratification [such as rapid, unplanned urbanization]. These include income, education, gender, age, ethnicity and sexuality. Intermediate determinants emerge from underlying social stratification and determine differences in exposure and vulnerability to health-compromising conditions (e.g. living and working conditions, housing, access to health care and education). Within the urban setting there are multiple structural and intermediate determinants that converge and bring about health inequity." Land use planning and policy, resulting in a "built environment", has enormous potential to alter the structural determinants of health by providing equal resources to diverse social groups (as in the mixed income housing proposed in this project). Part of what we do in this HIA is to examine how the proposed structure will affect diverse social groups in terms of access to resources (like food, parks, or clean air). Part of what we do is look at intermediate determinants to examine how such resources or lack thereof will impact the health of these populations.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> World Health Organization, *Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion*, from <a href="http://www.who/int/hpr/background/ottawacharter.htm">http://www.who/int/hpr/background/ottawacharter.htm</a> (1986)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Our cities, our health, our future: Acting on social determinants for health equity in urban settings. Report to the World Health Organization Commission on Social Determinants of Health from the Knowledge Network on Urban Settings Hub: WHO Kobe Centre, Kobe, Japan, July (2005)

# III. THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF HEALTH IN WASHINGTON

This HIA will touch on many health determinants, but emphasize three: poor nutrition, lack of physical activity, and reliance on motor vehicles. These are the major contributors to the five leading causes of death in Washington: cancer, heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease, and unintentional injury.<sup>3</sup>

# **Changes in Population**

As this is a long-term project that will not come to full fruition for many years, it is critical to consider the changing demographics of Clark County, as any plan made today needs to consider three trends: the projected growth, rapid aging, and increasing ethnic and economic diversity of our population.

- A. First, Highway 99 sub-area being studied had a total population of 13,567 in 2006. Between 2006 and 2024 it will is projected to grow 1.7% to a population of 18,621. The primary trade area is projected to grow 1.83%, from 65,692 residents in 2006 to 90,987 in 2024 (see Highway 99 Technical Report # 8).
- B. Second, if income inequality increases as may happen in an intentionally mixed use, mixed income neighborhood, there should be an increased relative demand at both high and low ends of the market, for large single-family housing and for affordable multi-family units.
- C. Finally, in Clark County, moderate population growth between 2000 and 2025 is projected to result in an overall population increase of 63%; of these, persons aged 50 and older will go from representing 18% to 35% (36% statewide by 2030) of the total population. 45 An aging population will create more empty nest and single person households, increasing relative demand for smaller units and multi-family housing that do not require yard or building maintenance. The growing number of middle-aged adults will create demand for grocery stores, medical, and pedestrian friendly environments.

# **Changes in Health Determinants**

- Reliance on personal vehicles is the largest barrier to physical A. Motor Vehicles: activity, a major contributor to accidental injury and death (the leading cause of death for all Washingtonians ages 1-44), and the largest emitter of particulates that cause chronic respiratory diseases such as asthma (Washington's asthma rate is among the highest in the United States).6
  - ✓ 53.8% of 15-19 year olds died from unintentional injury in 2006; of those 40.8% were related to accidents, and 10.5% of involved motor vehicles.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics,

http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/CHS/chs-data/death/dea\_VD.htm (2006 data)

4Forecast of the State Population by Age and Sex, 1990-2030, November 2007 Forecast, Washington Office of Financial Management.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Washington State County Population Projections for Growth Management by Age and Sex: 2000-2025, January 2002 Projections, Washington Office of Financial Management.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Washington State Department of Health Asthma Program http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/asthma/data\_surveillance.htm

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Washington State Department of Health, Mortality Table C3, Leading Causes of Death by Age and Sex 2006, http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/CHS/chs-data/death/download/deathC3.xls.

- √ 13% of sixth graders and 20% of high school students in Clark County report having asthma; more than 1 in 10 households (with children) have a child with asthma.8
- ✓ More than 5,000 people are hospitalized and nearly 100 people die every year in Washington as a direct result of asthma9
- B. Physical Activity: Overwhelming scientific evidence now indicates that regular physical activity can lead to a longer lifespan, enhance psychological well being, lower the risk of falls, and lower the risk of obesity and chronic illnesses such as diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease.
  - √ 66% of Clark County youth did not meet recommended activity levels in 2006.<sup>10</sup>

  - √ 46% of adults were either overweight or obese in Clark County in 1996; by 2005, three out of five adults (62%) were either overweight or obese. From 1980 to 2002 the percent of overweight 6-11 year olds doubled from 7% in 1980 to 16% in 2002; the percent of overweight 12-19 years olds tripled from 5% to 16% in that same time period. 12
  - About one-third of people 65 or older who live at home fall at least once a year, and fractures that can result from a fall are a major threat to quality of life and independence for the older adult. 13
- C. Nutrition: Diabetes is the 7<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in this state, and in Clark County has increased by 55% (from 4.1% in 1994 to 6.5% in 2007). 14
  - ✓ The prevalence is greater among vulnerable populations such as older adults, race/ethnic minorities, and people with lower levels of education or income 15.
  - Weight reduction appears to be a major factor in diabetes prevention but research has not been able to separate impacts of dietary changes and physical activity. The quality and composition of the diet is important for maintaining healthy glucose levels, thus reducing long term and serious health problems associated with diabetes such as eye disease, kidney disease, impaired circulation leading to amputations and neuropathies. 16
  - The American Diabetes Association states that nutrition is important for good diabetes control, by eating well-balanced meals in the correct amounts, affected persons can keep blood glucose level as close to normal (non-diabetes level) as possible. 17 Evidence-based prevention strategies for Type II diabetes include

RMC Research Corporation. (March 2005 and March 2007). Washington State Healthy Youth Survey 2004 and Washington State Healthy Youth Survey 2006. Portland, OR.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> The Burden of Asthma in Washington State, Washington State Department of Health, Washington Asthma Initiative, June 2005.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> RMC Research Corporation. (March 2005 and March 2007). Washington State Healthy Youth Survey 2004 and Washington State Healthy Youth Survey 2006. Portland, OR.

<sup>11</sup> RMC Research Corporation. (March 2005 and March 2007). Washington State Healthy Youth Survey 2004 and Washington State Healthy Youth Survey 2006. Portland, OR.

National Center for Health Statistics Health, United States, 2004. Hyattsville, Maryland: 2004. Table 70: Overweight Children and Adolescents 6-19 Years of Age, According to Sex, Age, Race, and Hispanic Origin: United States, Selected Years 1963-65 through 1999-2002.

<sup>13</sup> Washington Department of Health, Healthy Aging, http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/OHP/healthyaging/aging\_physicalactivity.htm (2007)

14 Department of Health, Washington Diabetes Report 2007,

http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/diabetes/current\_profile\_data.htm (2007)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Department of Health, Washington Diabetes Report 2007,

http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/diabetes/current\_profile\_data.htm (2007)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> National Institute of Health, <a href="http://diabetes.niddk.nih.gov/dm/pubs/preventionprogram/">http://diabetes.niddk.nih.gov/dm/pubs/preventionprogram/</a> (retrieved 2008)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Diabetes Care, 25:202-212, American Diabetes Association http://care.diabetesjournals.org/cgi/content/full/25/1/202 (2002)

- lifestyle changes that promote increased activity, dietary changes that limit fat and reduce calories and moderate weight loss. Some studies show whole grains and fiber may also assist in prevention or delay of diabetes.
- ✓ Good nutrition can also help protect against heart disease, stroke, certain cancers, diabetes, and osteoporosis. 18

# IV. HIGHWAY 99 Health Impact Assessment

HIA Methodology. This HIA evaluates a project that is still evolving and is in fact supposed to unfold over the next twenty plus years. Because so many aspects of the project are yet undefined, we chose as our starting point the vision of redevelopment in terms of what the community would like to see the area become. Community input has been and continues to be the driver of this process and critical to its success. "Team 99", a group of residents, businesses and property owners working with Clark County Planning staff, spurred the planned redevelopment. At a Community Design Forum held September 27, 2007, residents and stakeholders identified key "ingredients" of their vision, many of which have the potential to affect the health of area residents. We have clustered the "ingredients" into the following four categories that we believe capture the vision of what the community is seeking to create:

- A. An *economically viable* community created from a mix of neighborhoods, land use (retail, recreation and mixed-income housing), jobs and commerce.
- B. A *sustainable* community that provides basic amenities (e.g., restaurants, shopping, high density residences, basic services, recreational opportunities etc.) in a safe, aesthetically pleasing setting.
- C. A **socially cohesive** community (e.g., heritage trail, community gardens, recreational meeting places to foster sense of belonging, participation, and legitimacy).
- D. An *active* community engaged in walking, bicycling, use of open space, and use of public transportation.

The goal of the Highway 99 plan is to apply land use planning to build a healthy community as defined above. Our goal in this HIA was to support that vision by using an established socio-ecological model of health promotion to validate the plan's health promoting features. Our HIA therefore focuses on factors influencing key intermediate health determinants, specifically physical activity, nutrition and reliance on motor vehicles. In addition, we identify how to ensure or enhance these features through additional changes to the built environment and point out problems in design that could undermine the intended outcome or lead to outcomes that may differ by the structural health determinants of age, income, and ethnicity. This analysis thus provides the foundation for a cost/benefit approach to planning and design decisions.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Washington State Department of Health, Nutrition and Physical Activity, A Policy Resource Guide, <a href="http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/steps/default.htm">http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/steps/default.htm</a>, February 2005. Clark County youth did not meet recommended activity levels in 2006.

## Recommendations

The Matrix attached in Appendix I provides specific data on the anticipated health outcomes of the Highway 99 project. The "Health Promoting Features" section lists essential elements of the community's vision and the predicted health impacts of each; the "Design Indicator" section lists a set of design characteristics and policies that can be used to evaluate how well the development in fact actualizes the vision of the community; these indicators can also be interpreted as a list of mitigation options when mitigation is needed. The following recommendations are supported by health impact research as presented in the attached Matrix under the characteristics listed in paragraph IV above.

# PROMOTE HEALTHY OUTCOMES IN A MIXED-USE, MIXED-INCOME COMMUNITY

**Affordable Housing:** The most significant social determinant of health is wealth. Equal access to decent and affordable housing is one way to begin to equalize the health outcomes of all residents across income levels.

## Recommendation:

- 1. In order to not unfairly burden low income residents by high housing prices or forced relocation, the goal of providing affordable housing in the Highway 99 area needs to be prioritized.
- 2. Every effort made to prevent homelessness due to displacement by providing not only housing options, but the support services necessary to make housing transitions a success.
- 3. Adhere to the mixed-income single and multi-family housing model advocated by citizens, and avoid segregation of housing units by ethnicity or age.

**Living Wage Jobs:** As stated earlier, wealth is the single most significant predictor of health. Income equality is essential to creating both an economically vibrant and socially cohesive community.

## Recommendation:

- 1. Enact a local living wage job ordinance to ensure the development of businesses that provide living wage jobs in the area, and to ensure that low-income people can not only benefit economically from the redevelopment, but have sufficient income to contribute to its success.
- 2. Develop an area economic development and opportunity plan to anticipate the employment needs of area residents.

**Mixed Income (Residential):** A block group analysis of 2000 US Census data indicates that over 12% of persons in the planning area lived below poverty level at that time. per Technical Report #8, there are 5,378 housing units in the planning area, of which 31.5% are renter occupied. As density is increased, creation of mixed-income housing has the capacity to enhance social equity and social cohesion in a neighborhood. However, if the economics unfairly burden low-income residents through high rents or displacement, such cohesion will be challenging.

# Recommendations:

- 1. Create affordable housing options; include mixed income, mixed use family and individual units.
- 2. Require developers to set-aside 10% for affordable housing units to avoid displacement or unfair burden on low income residents.
- 3. Monitor for population stability and housing tenure during evolution of project

Mixed Use (Commercial, Recreational, Residential Nodes): As Form-Based Zoning or other strategies are implemented to attracting small businesses and increase pedestrian circulation, this project's success will be in part be dependent on creating a "destination" based community. However, there are inherent conflicts between the anticipated amount of arterial, freeway and truck traffic (I-5, I-205, and Highway 99 as well as multiple East-West intersecting roadways) and the plan for a mixed use walkable/bikeable community: residents, pedestrians or bicyclists may experience an increased risk of automobile related injury and adverse health outcomes related to air and noise pollution.

#### Recommendations:

- 1. Mitigation measures to address pedestrian/bicyclist safety, air pollution and traffic noise are essential.
- 2. Since mitigation is not possible throughout the 4-mile trade area, create multiple hubs where clustered retail, grocery, and other amenities essential to daily life are within easy walking distance (ideally ¼ mile) of housing.
- 3. Extend retail/commercial zoning into neighborhoods bordering Highway 99 to provide those residents with similar opportunities for access to goods and services without relying on driving.
- 4. Ensure a variety of transit options in order to reduce dependence on automobiles which will decrease air and noise pollution.

# PROMOTE HEALTHY OUTCOMES FOR A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

**Air Quality:** This project locates areas where there will be an increase of people walking, biking, or living near high volume motor vehicle traffic. Vehicle traffic is the major source of air pollution in urban environments, which is exacerbated in the Highway 99 area due to the close proximity of I-5, high traffic volumes on Highway 99 and arterials, frequent stoplights, and high truck volume (7-9% of total traffic volume).

## Recommendations:

- 1. Mitigate impacts of air pollution (note indicators in Matrix) by:
  - a) Creating barriers, planting trees, and setting the design standards for new residences and businesses to address air pollution from the estimated 100,000 plus vehicles passing area each day;
  - b) Decreasing speed limits on Highway 99; and
  - c) Locating residential projects and mixed use nodes on the East side of Highway 99 to increase distance from exposure.

**Noise Mitigation:** While the mixed use and form based design planned for this project are highly conducive to walking, biking and increased density, the location of the sub-area between two freeways and along a major arterial is not. Residents, business owners and

customers, walkers and bicyclists are all at risk for the adverse health impacts of noise pollution.

# Recommendations:

- 1. Hire an engineering firm to do noise study using noise measuring devices throughout the planning area to determine actual noise patterns and volumes.
- 2. Mitigate impacts of noise pollution by such methods as limiting truck traffic, erecting sound walls between highways and homes, requiring soundproofing of all new buildings, and locating residential projects and mixed use nodes on East side of Highway 99 to increase distance from exposure.
- 3. Consider ways to reduce traffic volume and speed on Highway 99, including implementation of traffic calming measures as indicated in the attached matrix.
- 4. Consider locating residential mixed-use hubs on the east side of Highway 99, farther away from I-5 traffic.

**Urban Agriculture/Access to Healthy Foods:** Unhealthy eating habits are a primary risk factor for *four of the top ten causes of death* in Washington. Neighborhoods that are dominated by fast food chains, gas stations, or convenience stores, or that lack good public transportation to grocery stores, result in "food deserts", areas where good nutrition is a challenge due to lack of places to buy fresh fruit and vegetables and other healthy food. Such "food deserts" are more often characteristic of low-income neighborhoods, so contribute to the disparate health outcomes between upper and lower income groups.

## Recommendations:

- 1. Dedicate some land for community gardens, farmers markets, and use of WSU land as agricultural demonstration site. Encourage fruit and vegetable stands.
- 2. Ensure a low retail food environment index (total number of fast food restaurants and convenience stores in a geographic area divided by total number of super markets and produce vendors) by limiting the geographic concentration and number of fast food restaurants, convenience stores and liquor retailers.
- 3. Work with the Food Policy Council and other local partners to increase the percent (so the proximity throughout the sub-area) of fresh, locally produced, organic produce that is available for purchase through stores, restaurants or farmer's markets.
- 4. Ensure that all such outlets are reachable by walking or transit.

## **Urban Canopy:**

#### Recommendation:

- 1. Increase the urban canopy (which has many health benefits, from improved mental health to increased absorption of CO<sup>2</sup>), conserve water and avoid the high pollution activity of mowing through street/sidewalk and median planting of native vegetation that is low on water consumption.
- 2. Mitigate impacts of noise pollution by such methods as
  - a. Limiting truck traffic, erecting barriers, soundproofing new buildings,

- b. Locating residential projects and mixed use nodes on the East side of Highway 99 to increase distance from exposure.
- c. Increasing urban canopy and other solutions that also contribute to greening.

# PROMOTE HEALTHY OUTCOMES FOR AN ACTIVE COMMUNITY

#### **Access to Transit:**

# Recommendation:

- 1. Increase frequency of transit stops so more residents live within a quarter mile of bus, trolley, or high capacity transit options, which will increase the likelihood of use and decrease reliance on carbon and particulate emitting personal vehicles.
- 2. Ensure wheelchair and otherwise accessible sidewalks connected to transit stops in order to accommodate elderly and others with disabilities, and that elderly housing is in close proximity to bus stops.
- 3. Expand transit stops into more areas where low income residents are concentrated.

**Bicycle Friendly:** Bicycling has enormous health benefits, but can be a high risk activity due to poor road and safety design and traveling along heavily trafficked roadways, resulting in exposure to noise and air pollutants as well as risk of injury.

#### Recommendations:

- 1. Provide maximum bicycle safety features such as clear signage and markings, medians, wide bike lanes, reduced curb cuts for cars to enter into parking areas, and reduced traffic speeds.
- 2. Provide bicycling incentives such as bike parking facilities, bike-transit connections, and complete bike lanes both north-south and east-west, as well as connectivity to bordering neighborhoods.

**Parks and Green Spaces:** Access to parks and green spaces has multiple physical, psychological, and social health benefits, and contributes to community cohesion and identity. In the Highway 99 area, there is less access to parks for lower income residents, and the majority of opportunities are at the northern end of the sub-area.

#### Recommendations:

- 1. Create parks, which may be "pocket parks" or areas integrated into the urban landscape, within one-quarter mile of population hubs.
- 2. Increase park density and quality.
- 3. Ensure parks are located in lower income areas and are both safe and easily accessible for the elderly and children.

**Pedestrian Friendly:** The health benefits of increased physical activity through walking are well established in the literature, and are extremely important to addressing not only health but social equity issues for elderly in particular. Presently the study area is a poor

pedestrian environment due to discontinuous, interrupted and narrow sidewalks, high speeds, multiple vehicle entry points across sidewalks, and segregated land uses. In addition, safety is an issue with Highway 99 a major artery with speed limits posted at 40 MPH (design speed 50 MPH).

#### Recommendations:

- 1. Where possible, improve walkability by developing a complete street network that accommodate multiple modes of transportation and simulates a grid pattern. In addition, strive for block sizes in the range of 200-800 feet and maximum distances between intersections of 1,000 feet on arterial streets and 500 feet on local streets.
- 2. Implement safety measures related to traffic calming, signalized crosswalks, protection from air and noise pollution, etc. as defined in the matrix.

**Reduced Traffic Risks:** Motor vehicles are the leading cause of accidental death, and the number and severity of injuries increase as speed increases. Two of the top ten highest volume intersections are in the sub-area (Highway 99 and 78<sup>th</sup> St and Highway 99 and NE 134<sup>th</sup> St). About 51,000 vehicles enter Highway 99 on an avg. weekday, and are said to not exceed 70% of corridor capacity. Projections are that traffic volumes will increase significantly on Highway 99 north of NE 99<sup>th</sup> Street, but decrease on NE 134<sup>th</sup> due to the overpass. Factors potentially contributing to negative health outcomes (see this section in the Matrix for related research):

- A. Actual travel speeds are significantly higher than the adopted minimum standards on most of the corridors in the Growth Management Area. Higher traffic speeds mean higher noise pollution and greater incidence of accidents and injury involving motor vehicles and possibly pedestrians/bicyclists.
- B. Numerous studies have documented the direct relationship between the number of access points and the accident rate for various road types. Accident rates go up as the number of access points increases. In addition, Clark County Code for a 40 mph street allows 28 driveways per mile (if staggered at equal spacing on opposite sides of the street). From the city limits to 78<sup>th</sup> Street code allows 65 per mile; from 78<sup>th</sup> to 99<sup>th</sup> Street 51 per mile, and from 99<sup>th</sup> Street to 119<sup>th</sup> Street 35 per mile. These are much higher numbers of curb entrances than are consistent with the safe and efficient function of a principal arterial street that is always a main route for pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

# Recommendations:

- 1. Four road segments in the area are ranked within the top 50 in the County for vehicle accident rates, expressed in number of accidents per million vehicle miles traveled (from 4.10 to 7.61). Prioritize these for traffic calming measures.
- 2. Use traffic calming measures as listed in the attached Matrix, such as reducing traffic speeds on Highway 99, making the street narrower and reducing the number of traffic lanes while expanding the width of sidewalks and bicycle lanes

# PROMOTE HEALTHY OUTCOMES FOR A SOCIALLY COHESIVE COMMUNITY

**Community Safety:** Fear of assault is not only a leading cause of anxiety, but a major reason people choose not to walk, use recreational facilities, or allow their children to play outside. While many variables influence violence and crime in communities, aspects of the physical environment can both encourage and discourage street crime.

# Recommendations:

- 1. Ensure adequate levels of community policing/fire/and EMS services.
- 2. Add safety features through built environment (pedestrian scale architecture, well lit streets) and policy (limited permits to alcohol retail outlets).
- 3. Identify areas where there are existing pockets of crime, especially assault related, and prioritize those for implementing safety strategies (e.g., focus on the area between 78<sup>th</sup> Street and 88<sup>th</sup> Street).
- 4. Create inviting appearance through form-based zoning, green space (including plazas and pocket parks), clean sidewalks, elimination of graffiti, heritage trail, garbage and recycling containers, etc.

# V. Conclusions

- A. The issues of health equity have been addressed throughout the matrix, but not as a separate issue in and of itself. In achieving a healthy environment, we must ensure that inequitable burdens are not placed on any one geographic or socioeconomic sector of the population and that the benefits of a sustainable community are accessible to all members of the community. Vulnerable populations (especially low-income, minorities, persons with disabilities and elderly) are often segregated, living in areas of concentrated poverty and disproportionately suffering from a variety of health impacts including violence, HIV/AIDS and other STDs, weather related deaths, lack of access to goods and services, social isolation or segregation, poor nutrition, and traffic fatalities. Planning decisions that fail to take diverse populations into account may adversely impact health outcomes. For instance, car dependent neighborhoods can hinder and impede the seniors' (population projected to increase by 60.8% by 2030) ability to maintain social connections; lack of nearby playgrounds may impede the developmental progress of children (population of 0-4 year olds projected to increase by 32.8% by 2030); and the lack of access to nutritious foods may create health inequities for low income citizens and minorities (in 2004, 11.2% of Clark County residents lived below poverty). In neighborhoods where residents experience lack of equal access to safe housing, food, transportation, green space, physical activity etc., concentrations of health problems develop and the impact is large.
- B. The web of environmental factors that influence the health of a community is extremely complex, but there is substantial research, as cited in the attached Matrix, to guide planners, policy makers, and stakeholders. Due to limited time and resources (this project has largely been a volunteer effort by Public Health managers), we have not been able to tie every analysis or recommendation to each planned design or policy, but much of that analysis is being carried out in other Highway 99 Technical Reviews. What we do hope to have accomplished is increasing awareness of the many ways in which the built environment influences population wide health outcomes. We also hope to have provided some guidance in how different elements of the proposed project do promote healthy outcomes and ways that it could even more effectively facilitate improvements in the health of the community.

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Recommendations for a Mixed Use, Mixed Income Community					
Health Promoting	Potential Health Impacts	Equity Issues	Summary	Design Indicators	
Access to Public Transit	Transit Benefits for Individuals: Almost one-third of Americans who commute to work via public transit meet their daily requirements for physical activity (30 or more minutes per day) by walking as part of their daily life, including to and from the transit stop (Besser & Dannenberg, 2005)  Transit Use by Proximity: Proximity to public transit helps determine travel choices (Ewing 2006).  For every ¼ mile increase in distance to public transit from homes, there was an associated 16% decrease in transit use. (Lawrence Frank & Company, 2005)  Transit Benefit and Environment: Increased public transit use directly results in decreased air pollution from passenger vehicles (Ewing 2006).	Currently 70% of sub-area residents live within 1/4 mile of transit stop. Less served areas are predominantly lighter residential and higher income.  Access to transit by elderly needs to be facilitated by ensuring close proximity to transit stops.	If achieved:  ▲ Physical Activity  ▲ Use of transit  ▲ Health equity  If not achieved:  Status Quo	Transit Routes.  Access to transit stops.  Access to employment, goods, and services.	
Affordable Housing		Gentrification can push out low-income and ethnic minority residents, whose housing stability and health outcomes will be affected adversely by increases in housing prices.  Housing planning can also result in segregation, which has adverse impacts for health of African Americans. In the Highway 99 area, Hispanics would be the largest ethnic group and most likely to be affected.	If achieved:  A Social Cohesion  A Social Equity  ▼ Stress  ▼ Homelessness  ▼ Obesity  ▼ Injury  If not achieved:  A Poverty  A Crowding  A Homelessness  A Cost burden	Stabillity of housing values  Availability of affordable housing in proportion to local household incomes and demand  Displacement rates  Relocation planning and assistance  Mixed age, ethnicity, income levels	

Health Promoting	Potential Health Impacts	Equity Issues	Summary	Design Indicators
Affordable Housing continued	Risks of Relocation: Relocating low income public housing residents to higher-quality housing or safer neighborhoods may not improve their health status without substantial relocation assistance, partly due to poorer initial health status and the stress of forced relocation (Manjarezz et al, 2007).  Involuntary displacement, particularly of low income individuals and families, can cause or contribute to mental stress, loss of supportive social networks, costly school and job relocations and increased risk for sutstandard housing and overcrowing (Guzman 2005)			
Living Wage Jobs	Benefits of Living Wages: Income is an extremely strong predictor of health. It is a determinant for overall health and resilience (Yen, 2002).  A study of more than 300 cities in the US found that those with the greatest income inequality also had the greatest rates of mortality (Kahn, 1999)  Living wages are associated with decreased mortality and increased educational attainment (Bhatia, 2001).  Living wage will benefit low income residents and allow them to become engaged in community. Living wage jobs increase number of people covered by health insurance and promote access to health care, availability of jobs to low income and minority populations within area increases health equity, while reducing crime, injury and illness (Kawachi, 2000)  Risk of Disparate Wages:Income inequality in a community leads to increased violence and mortality (Lynch 1998).	Health benefits in this area apply largely to low income residents, who are also often ethnic minorities or elderly. These are also the groups at highest risk of displacement if living wage jobs and affordable housing are not ensured.	If achieved:  ▲ Overall health ▼ Mortality ▲ Educational attainment ▲ Health equity  If not achieved: ▲ Violence ▲ Mortality ▲ Ongoing health inequities	Availability/creation of local jobs.  Enactment of local living wage ordinance.  Jobs created for residents of the area  Greater equity of income and weath within area.

ecreational, Residential odes) and Mixed	Benefits of Mixed Use: Women living in an environment of mixed land use had lower BMI and CHD risk was lower by 20% than for those living in	<u>If achieved:</u> ▼Obesity	Diverse land use
odes) and Mixed		▼ Ohocity	
*	CHD risk was lower by 20% than for those living in	▼ Obesity	
(D:- t:- \)		▲ Nutrition	Mixed income housing
come (Residential)	single-use uniform environments (Mobley, 2006)	▲ Physical Activity	
		▲ Health Equity	Proportion of mixed-use
	Mixed income housing and neighborhoods increases		zoning
	social cohesion, promote increased physical activity,	<u>If not achieved:</u>	
	sustainability and livability of neighborhoods	Status quo	Percent of commercial land
	(Frumpkin et al, 2004)		
			Penetration of commercial
	Risk of Mixed Use: Increasing the population density		zoning into residential
	in a major pollution corridor will lead to increased		neighborhoods
	exposure, asthma, lung cancer, and heart disease,		
	especially if the design intent is to promote walking		Population stability and
	and livable outdoor spaces (Schwartz 1993, Pope et al		increased housing tenure
	2002).		
	Distance and Mixed Use: Shorter distances between		
	homes and retail reduces car trips and increases		
	physical activity (Ewing et al, 2006).		

Recommendations for a Sustainable Community				
Health Promoting	Potential Health Impacts	Equity Issues	Summary	Design Indicators
Air Quality	Air Pollution and Health: Long term exposure to air pollution contributes to the developmentn of	<b>Low income</b> areas are currently located in close proximity to Hwy 99 and I-5.	If achieved: ▼Vascular disease	Trees
	cardiovascular diseases, heart disease, stroke, and lung cancer and increases mortality (Pope, 2002)	Living near heavily trafficked roads greatly increases	<ul><li>▼ Heart disease</li><li>▼ Stroke</li></ul>	Traffic volumes
		asthma severity and other cardiac, vascular and respiratory diseases,a burden borne	▼Lung disease ▼Mortality	Truck volumes
	<b>Air Pollution and Mixed Use</b> : Increasing population density in a major pollution corridor will lead to increased	disproportionately by asthma sufferers whoare	▼ Mortality	Location of
	exposure, asthma, lung cancer, and heart disease,	ethnic/racial minorities or from low income	If not achieved:	Residential vs.
	especially if the design intent is to promote walking and livable outdoor spaces (Pope 2002).	households (Meng et al, 2006; Hoek, 2000; Lin et al, 2002)	▲ Increased risk for diseases above	Industrial and I-5
		,	▲ Increased asthma	Population density
contributors of particulate matter a that contribute to the formation of o	Air Pollution and Traffic: Motor vehicles are major contributors of particulate matter and other pollutants that contribute to the formation of ozone; diesel trucks in particular emit particulate matter air pollutants that have	A study in the Netherlands found that <b>elderly</b> adults living near busy roads had almost twice the risk of dying from cardio-pulmonary disease (Hoek, 2000)	▲ Health inequities	within highway pollution corridor
	the potential to cause cancer, premature death, and other health effects (Frumkin et al, 2004).	<b>Children</b> living by heavily trafficked roads experience decreased lung function, greater rates of hospitalization for asthma attacks (Lin et al, 2002),		
	In general, the more vehicle miles traveled the worse the air pollution (Ewing et al, 2006)	and greater risk for all kinds of cancer (Pearson et al, 2000)		
	Air Pollution and Proximity to Traffic: Increased asthma hospitalizations associated with living within 650 feet of heavy traffic and heavy truck volume. Increased asthma symptoms with proximity to roadways with the greatest risk within 300 feet. (Kim et al, 2004; English et al, 1999; California Air Resources Board, 2005)	People engaging in strenuous work or play more at risk		

Recommendations for a Sustainable Community				
Health Promoting	Potential Health Impacts	Equity Issues	Summary	Design Indicators
Noise Migitation	Rates of Exposure: Over 30 million Americans are exposed to hazardous sound levels on a regular basis, and "hazardous sound levels are louder than 80 decibels, which isn't as loud as traffic on a busy street"	As above, the health effects of noise pollution are often borne by <b>low income</b> , <b>minority</b> groups who live near freeways or other high traffic areas.	If achieved: Status quo	Noise barriers between highways and homes
	(NIDOC). WHO press release (1998) stated noise pollution is increasing, and in Europe individuals		<u>If not achieved</u> : <b>▲</b> Disturbance of	Dense vegetation
	exposed to over 65 decibels has risen from 15% in early 1980's to 26% in early 1990's.		sleep ▲ Stress ▲ Heart disease	Open buffer zones bordering highway
	<b>Traffic Noise and Health</b> : Since the 1960's noise pollution has been identified as an adverse impact of		<ul><li>▼ Communication</li><li>▼ Social cohesion</li></ul>	Insulating buildings
	traffic. Traffic noise can lead to decreased learning ability and scholastic performance, increase stress			Controlling traffic
	related hormones, increase blood pressure, interfere with sleep, recreation, speech and communication,			Prohibiting trucks
	increase annoyance, and in extremes may cause physical and psychological damage (DOT 1997; WHO 1998). It is clearly a barrier to social cohesion and a			Traffic lights to smooth out flow
	disincentive for pedestrians.			Speed limits reduced by 20 mph
	Highway traffic noise is affected by volume of traffic,			
	speed of traffic, and number of trucks (DOT 1997)			Restricted hours of operation
	Noise is not usually a serious problem if more than 500 feet from heavily trafficked freeways or 100 feet from lightly traveled roads). The noise of 1 truck equals the noise of 32 cars (DOT 1997).			
	feet from heavily trafficked freeways or 100 feet from lightly traveled roads). The noise of 1 truck equals the			

Recommendations fo	r a Sustainable Community			
Health Promoting	Potential Health Impacts	Equity Issues	Summary	Design Indicators
Urban Agriculture/Access to Healthy Foods	Health Costs of Lack of Access: Residents in communities with "food deserts" have more health problems and higher mortality than residents of areas with a higher proportion of grocery stores, when other	Seniors and low income families are disproportionately affected as healthy foods such as fruits and vegetables may be more expensive than less healthy alternatives.	If achieved:  ▲ Nutrition ▼ Mortality ▼ Obesity	Farmers markets CSAs
	factors are held constant (Gallagher, 2006)  Benefits of Access: Nearby grocery stores increase neighborhood walking and increase consumption of fruits and vegetables. Also associated with a lower proportion of overweight and obesity (Morland 2006, Ingami 2006).  The presence of supermarkets is associated with a lower prevalence of obesity while the presence of convenience stores was associated with a higher prevalence of obesity (Morland 2006)  Greater intake of fresh fruits and vegetables is associated with lowered risk for stroke, heart disease,	Low income and ethnic minority residents lack access, as there are currently no farmers markets, community gardens or fruit and vegetable stands in the sub-area.  Locally accessible foods may not be culturally appropriate for some racial/ethnic minorities.	<u>If not achieved:</u> Status quo	Fruit and vegetable stands  Community gardens  Agricultural demonstration site  Population within 1/2 mile of full scale store for population  Distance to store for low-income residents
	cancer and death (Bazzano 2002, van't Veer 2007).  WIC and senior participants when provided with FM coupons have sustained increase of fruit and vegetables in their diet (Herman 2007).  Urban agricultural sites support opportunities for health education (growing preparing and consuming fruits and vegetables) as well as opportunities for social interaction and community building. (SF Food Systems 2005).			Availability of ethnic foods that meet the needs of diverse population  Number of vendors selling fruit and vegetables  Number of drive through restaurants  Number of restaurants selling healthy food  See food access maps

Impacts h Impacts: Trees mitigate ch can reduce heating and cooling improve air and water quality and their	<b>Equity Issues Low income</b> areas may have lower tree coverage and residents may be exposed to higher levels of	Summary If achieved:  ▲ Air quality	Design Indicators  Percent of area with
ch can reduce heating and cooling	and residents may be exposed to higher levels of		
	UV.	▲ Overall health	urban tree canopy
e skin cancer risk (Grant, 2002).		▲ Health equity	Percent of native vegitation
gs are associated with fewer crime		If not achieved:	-
<u> </u>		Status quo	Amount of shade for pedestrians/bicylists
e on water, and groundwater pollution			
1	ngs are associated with fewer crime ased concentration among children or, 2001).  getation decreases ongoing landscaping ce on water, and groundwater pollution fertilizers and weed killers.	ased concentration among children or, 2001).  getation decreases ongoing landscaping on water, and groundwater pollution	ased concentration among children or, 2001).  getation decreases ongoing landscaping oe on water, and groundwater pollution

	•	Equity Issues		
Community Safety Crime			Summary	Design indicators
onviron		Mixed use development zoning is proposed for the northern (above 99 <sup>th</sup> ) and southern (below	If achieved:  ▲ Perceived safety	Pedestrian-Scale Lighting
housinç pattern: closure	g design, block layout, land use and circulation is, resident-generated territorial features (like street	78 <sup>th</sup> ) ends of the sub-plan area, but neglects the area with the highest crime, which appears to lie	▼ Crime rates ▲ Increased circulation ▲ Health equity	Presence of Natural Access and other crime prevention design features
after im	crime along particular streets can decline or vanish aplementing building patterns that provide sible space" (an area that residents feel they can		<i>If not achieved</i> :	Level of pedestrian criculation and "eyes on the street"
control)	), "natural surveillance" (the ability to see what's ning around an area), and "sense of order" (places			Level of community policing
that are deterior	e well tended and lack visible signs of ration). Equally important, such design features sidents feel safe (Newman, 1972;			Response time of police, fire and EMS
	an 1996; Zelinka & Brenna, 2001).			Density of alcohol outlets
are det	of neighborhood crime and perceptions of safety termined by development-related factors (including suggested as indicators, at right) (SFSN, 2006)			Access to guns (pawn shops)
2,222	, (0. 0.1, 2005)			Crime rates
are det	of neighborhood crime and perceptions of safety termined by development-related factors (including suggested as indicators, at right) (SFSN, 2006)			Mix of violence prevention, suppression and enforcement strategies
the Hw compar	and Alcohol Outlets: Density of alcohol outlets in ry 99 subplan area is 2.9 per 1,000 residents, red to 1.4 per 1,000 for Clark County (Edmonds).			Community perception of safety
greater	ensity of alcohol outlets is strongly associated with rates of physical assaults, violent crimes, and see in general. (Lipton, 2002)			Mix of violence prevention, suppression and enforcement strategies

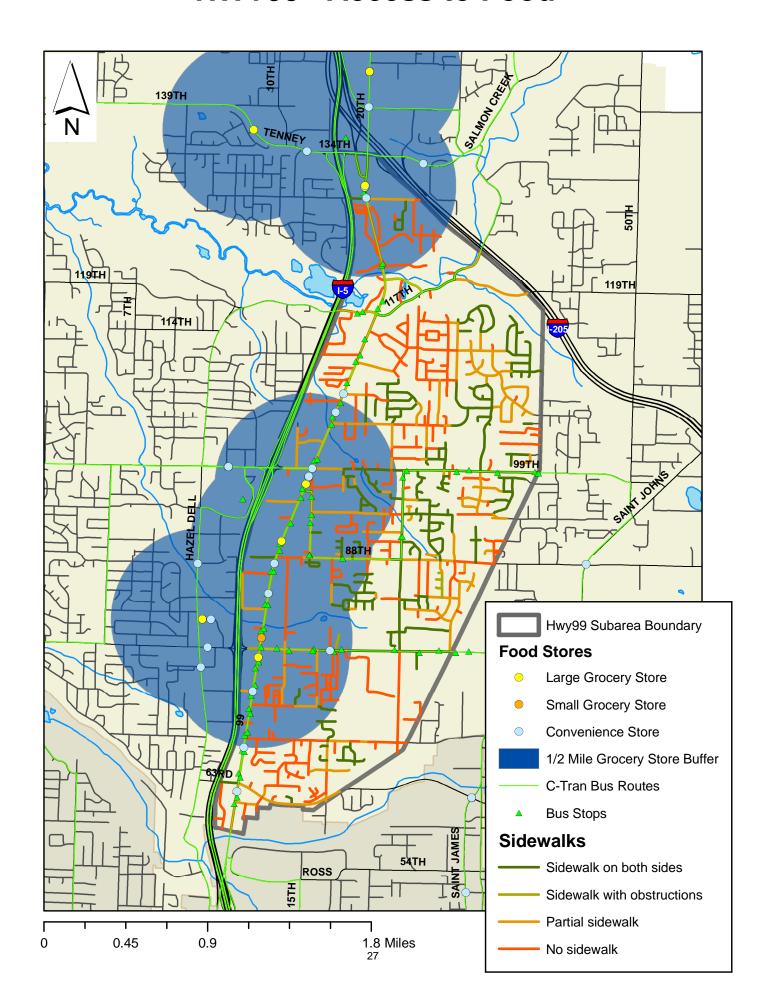
Recommendations for a	-			
Health Promoting	Data on Potential Health Impacts		Summary	Design Indicator
Bicycle Friendly	See Pedestrian Friendly below  Risk to bicyclists:	3		Additional bike- specific indicators:
	Bike lanes and increased street safety increase bicycle ridership and decrease bicycle injuries (MMWR, 2001)	activities.	<ul><li>▼ Accidental Injury</li><li>▼ Air and Noise</li></ul>	Complete Bike Lanes
	Exposure to air pollutants during heavy exercise can irritate		Pollution ▼Pollution	Signage and marking
	lungs, reduce lung function, and impact cardiac function (Avol, 2001; Pekkanen et al, 2002)		exposure	Bike parking/facilities
	Benefits to bicyclists: Biking in neighborhood, to work, or to		If not achieved: Status quo	Bicycle vs. vehicle MVCs
	services helps residents meet physical activity requirements. Physical activity reduces obesity and decreases the reisk of			Bicylcist injury/fatality rate
	essentially every type of chronic disease (MMWR 2001).			Ratio of bike lane/path miles to road miles
Parks and Green Space	Park Access and Health: Exercise facilities, including parks, that are conveniently located (as measured by self-reports) have been found to be associated with vigorous physical	Parks and open space are readily accessible to 3/4 of the sub-area population.	If achieved:  ▲ Physical Activity ▼ Obesity	Population Within 1/4 mile to Park
	activity in a number of studies, among both adults and children (Cohen et al, 2006)	Low-income residents have poorer access to parks and green space. Parks	•	Density of parks and green spaces
	Residents who had good street lighting; trusted their neighbors; and used recreational facilities, parks, playgrounds, and sports	may be smaller and lower in quality.	▼ Crime	Size and quality of parks and green spaces
	fields were more likely to be regularly active (Addy 2004)	Majority of recreation opportunities exist at the northern end of the sub-area.	If not achieved: Status quo	Urban trails
	In addition to the physical health benefits of parks, there may be numerous psychological benefits for park users that arise from the proximity of "natural environments." Studies among workers, college students, hospital patients, inner-city girls,			Recreational opportunities offered
	public housing residents, and apartment residents have found a variety of psychological, emotional, and mental health benefits stemming from having a view of nature through their windows.			Active neighborhood, cultural, sports and commercial associations
	Parks may also facilitate social interactions that are critical in maintaining community cohesion, pride, and social capital (Ariane et al, 2005)			Voter participation rates
	(mano of all, 2000)			See park access maps.

Recommendations for a	an Active Community			
Health Promoting	Data on Potential Health Impacts	Equity Issues	Summary	Design Indicator
Parks and Green Space continued	Access to parks, and number of nearby parks is associated with increased physical activity and better self-reported health; Access to places for physical activity combined with outreach and education can produce a 48 percent increase in the frequency of physical activity (Cohen 2006, Kahn 2002, Vries 2003).  Green Space and Crime: The presence of green surroundings in urban settings is associated with fewer crime reports after controlling for the number of apartments per building, building height, vacancy rate, and number of occupied units per building (Kuo, 2001)	Studies in poor urban areas suggest that park-like natural elements promote increased opportunities for social interactions. In two Chicago public housing developments natural landscaping and spaces with trees attracted larger groups of people than did spaces devoid of nature. Exposure to green common spaces among elderly inner-city individuals is significantly		
Pedestrian Friendly	Risks to Pedestrians: In a fast-moving, high-traffic volume environment, fewer pedestrians may be appropriate. However, any increase in pedestrians without concomitant traffic calming measures could otherwise increase pedestrian injury/fatality rates. Unsafe or poorly designed mixes of motor vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists lead to increased risk of injury and death (WHO, 2004)  Although only 8.6 percent of all trips are made on foot, 11.4 percent of all traffic deaths are pedestrians. And while the 2001 fatality rate per 100 million miles traveled is 0.75 for public transit riders, 1.3 for drivers and their passengers, 7.3 for passengers of commercial airlines1, the fatality rate for walkers is an astonishing 20.1 deaths per 100 million miles walked (Surface Transportation Policy Project, 2004).  Unsafe or poorly designed mixes of motor vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists lead to increased risk of injury and death. (WHO, 2004)	Incomplete sidewalks in many neighborhoods make walking unsafe, putting low income residents at higher risk for injuries.  Elderly-Planning for diverse transportation options will only grow in importance as America grays. There are currently about 4.5 million non-drivers over age 75, and projections indication this figure Is likely to grow to about 6 million by 2020 (Kochera & Straight, 2005).  Safe, walkable streets and paths are especially important to the elderly. Individuals age 50 and older make three-quarters of all trips not taken by private automobile on foot (US DOT, 2001)	If achieved:  ▲ Physical Activity ▼ Obesity ▼ Accidental Injury ▼ Air and Noise Pollution  If not achieved: Status Quo	"Reduced Traffic Risks"
	Benefits to Pedestrians: In a multivariate analysis, land-use mix had the strongest association with obesity. Each additional hour spent in a car per day was associated with a 6% increase in the likelihood of obesity. Conversely, each additional kilometer walked per day was associated with a 4.8% reduction in the likelihood of obesity (Frank et al, 2005)	people who still drive. On a given day, those in lower-density neighborhoods are		And: Pedestrian-specific entrances to buildings Proportion of population living within 1/4 mile of food, transit, work Human-scale, form-based and mixed use development in place to improve pedestrian circulation Percent trips made on foot

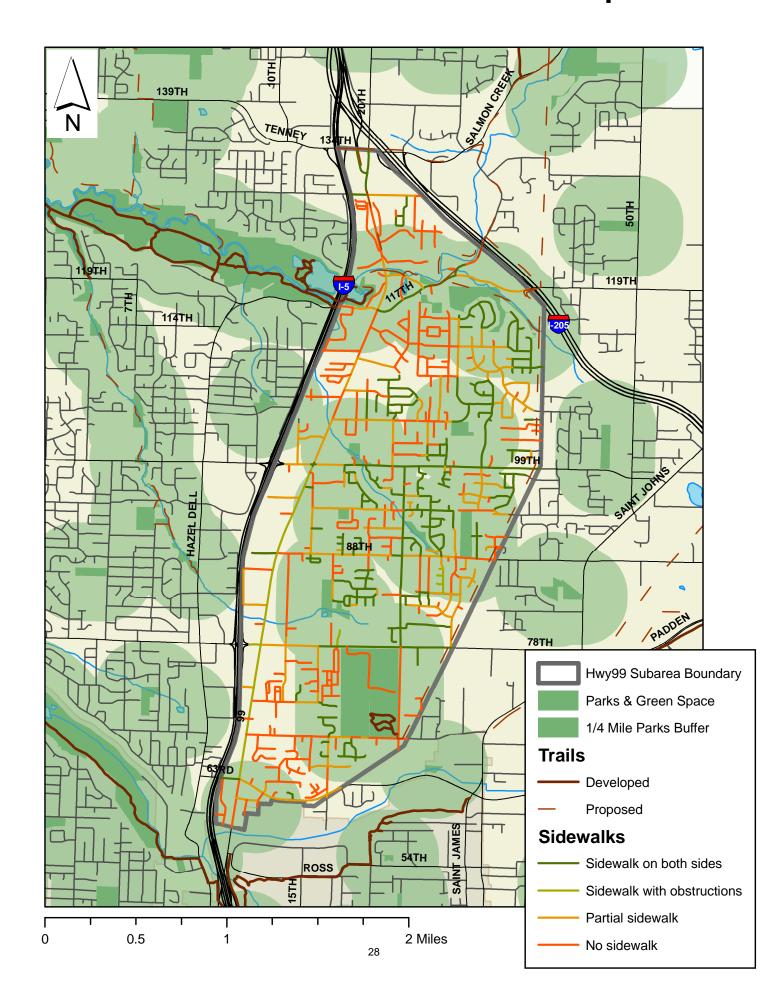
# Technical Report HIGHWAY 99 Health Impact Assessment Maps

**ACCESS** 

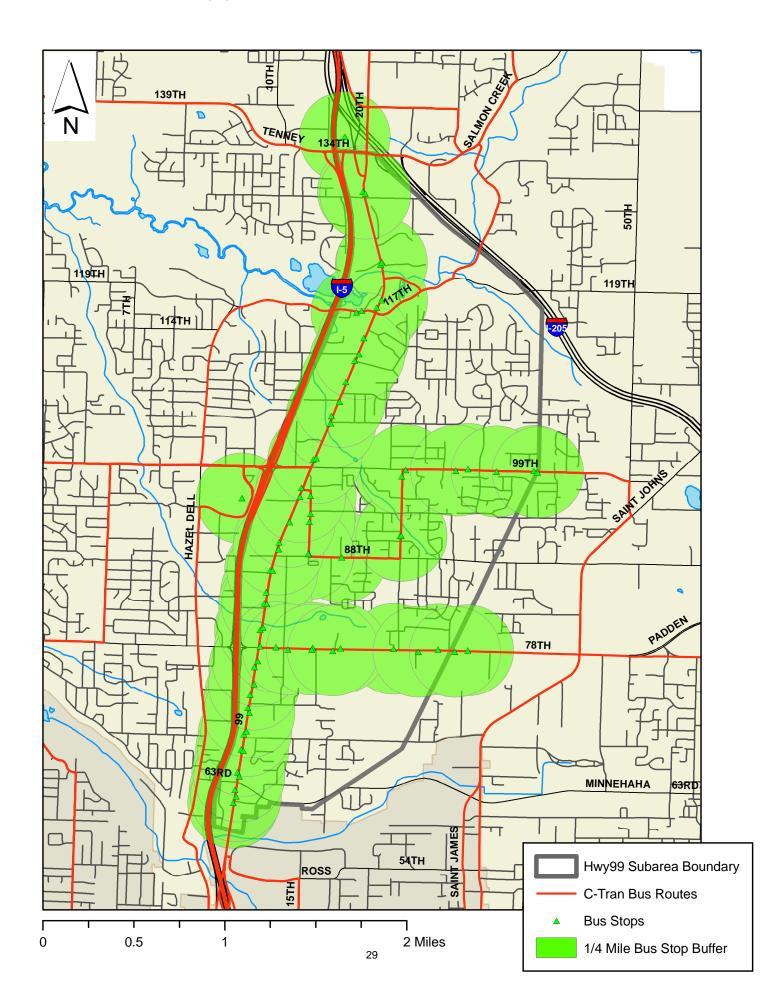
# **HWY99 - Access to Food**



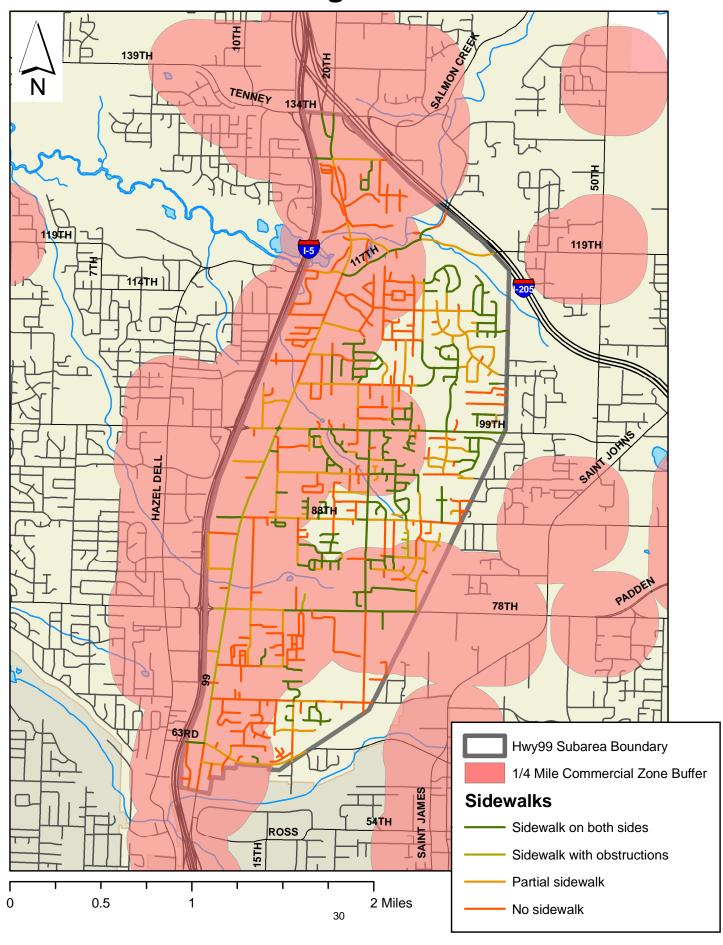
# HWY99 - Access to Parks & Green Space



# **HWY99 - Access to Public Transit**



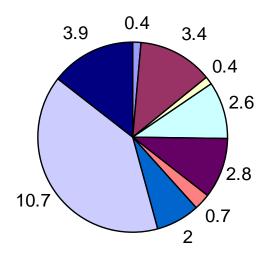
# HWY99 - Access to Commercial Areas Within Neighborhoods



# Technical Report HIGHWAY 99 Health Impact Assessment Maps

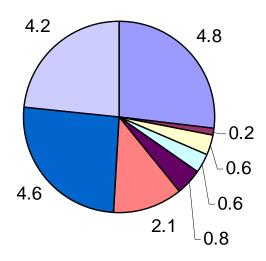
CRIME DATA FOR PAST 12 WEEKS



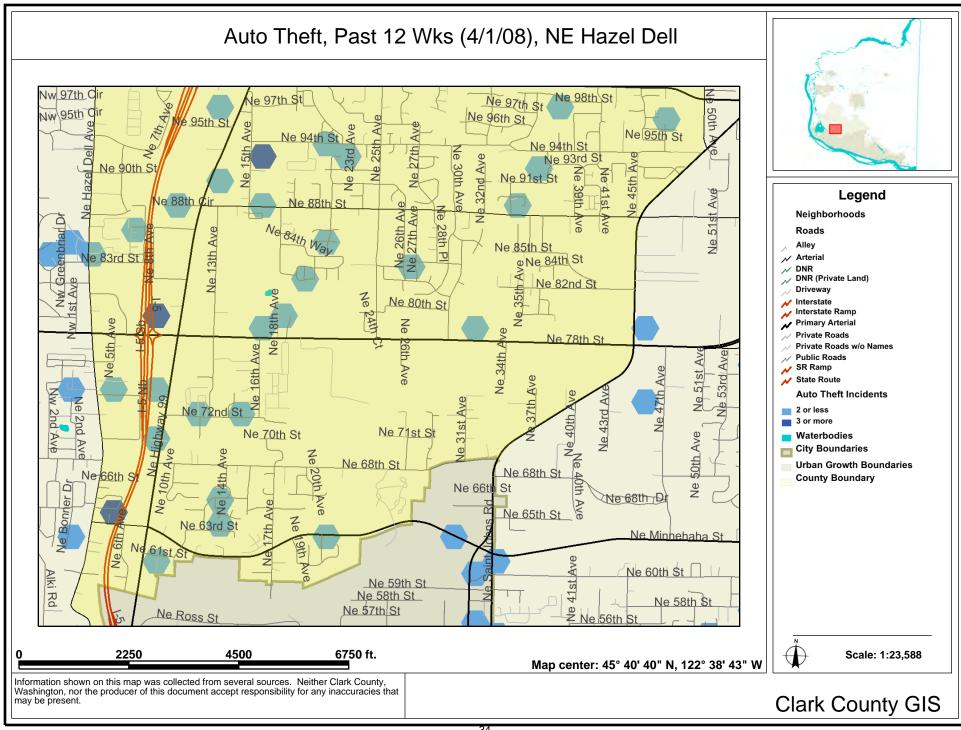


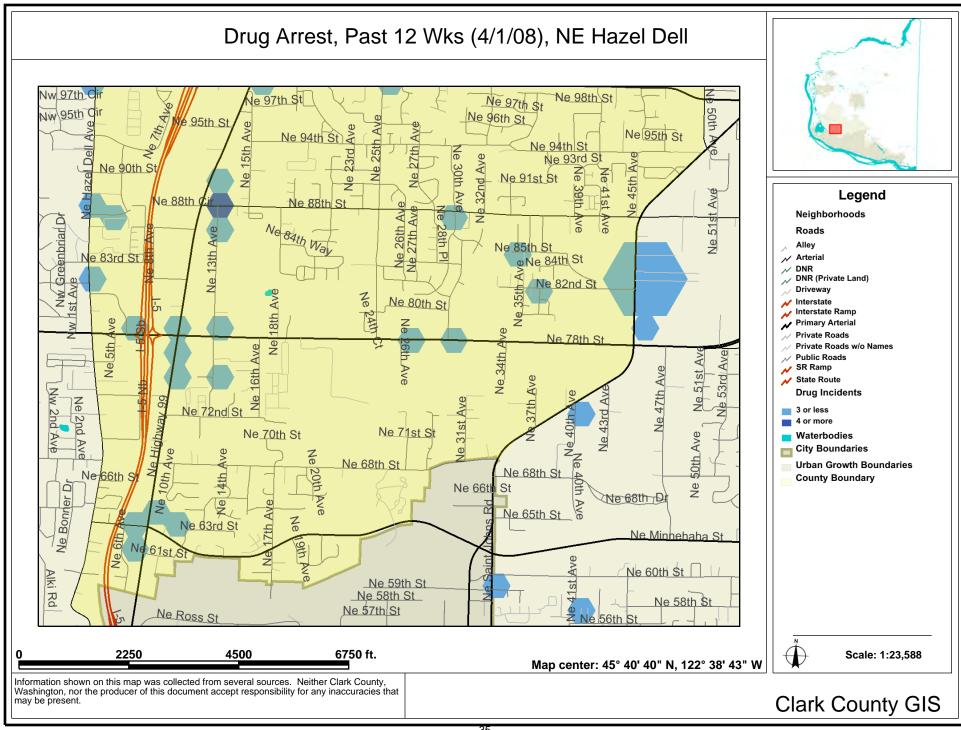


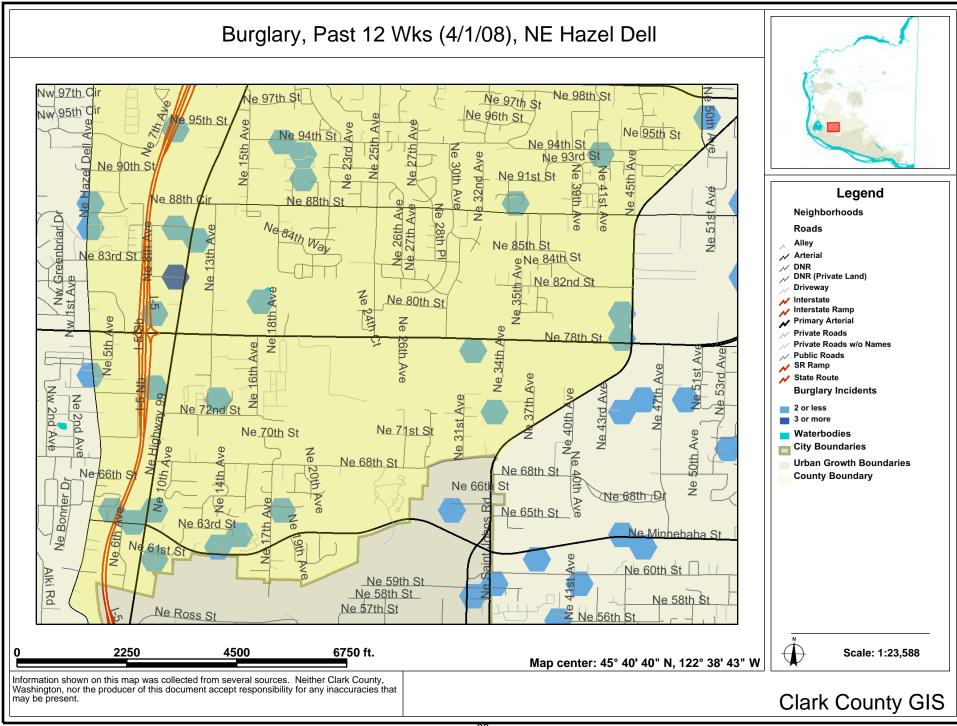


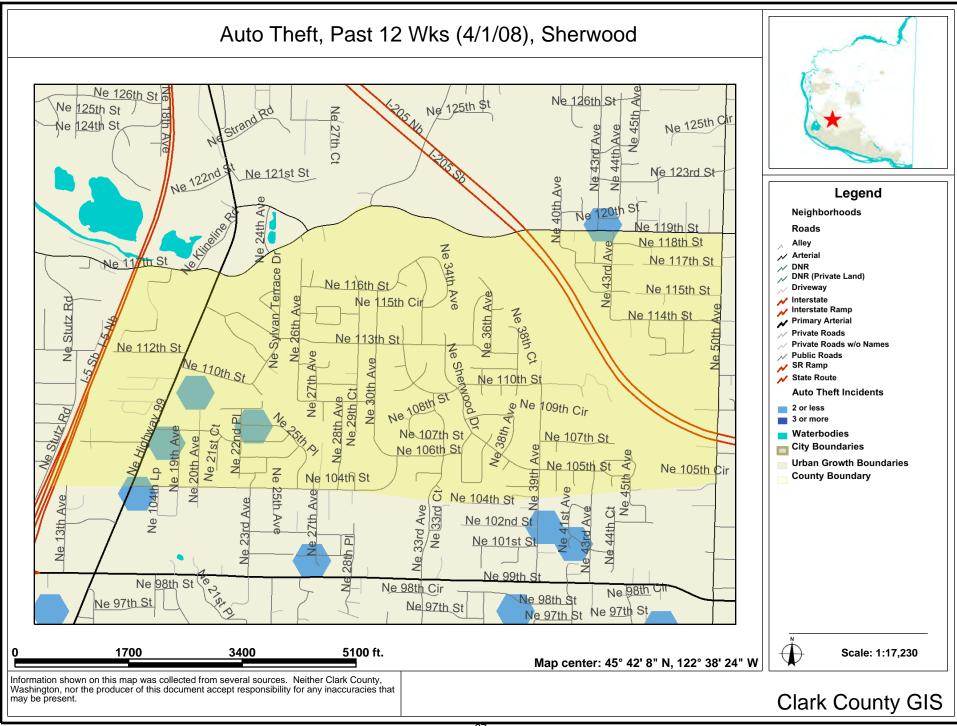


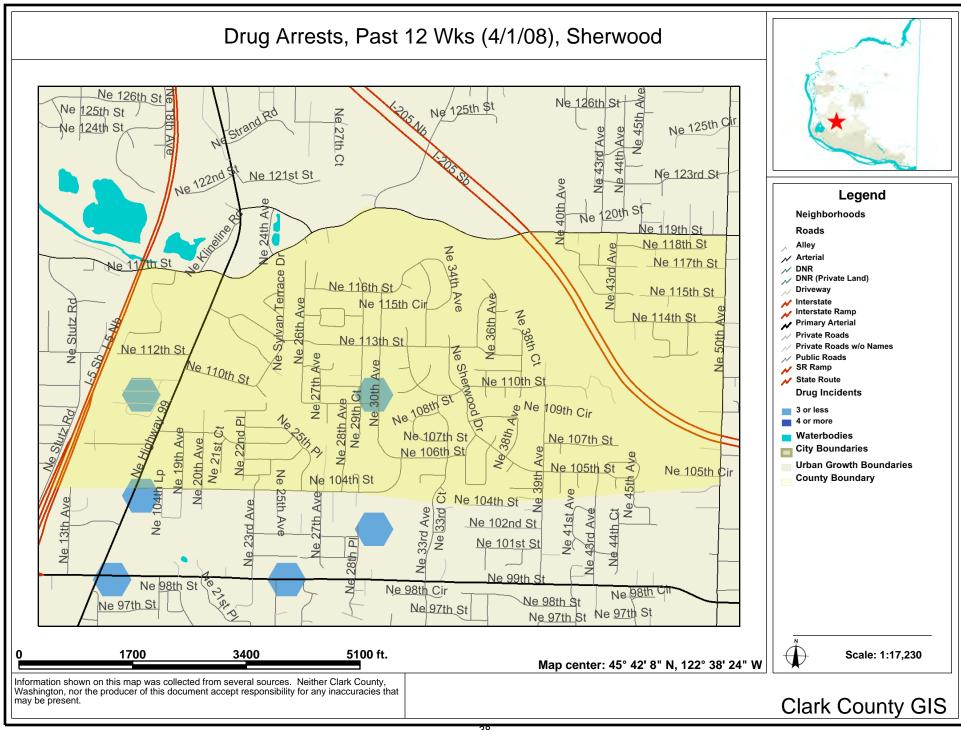


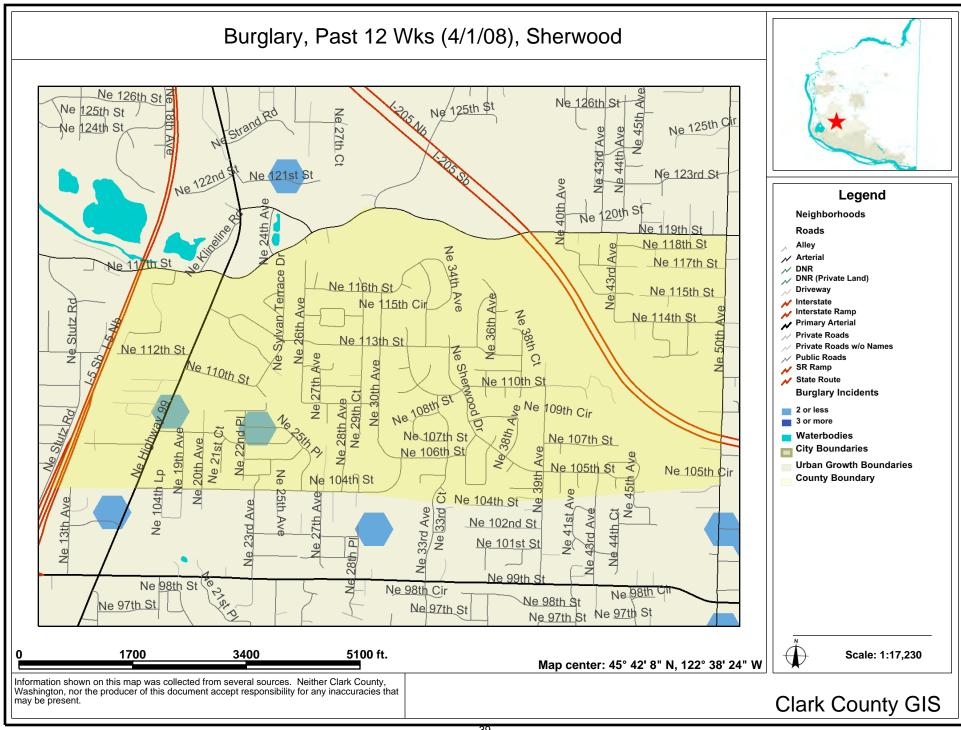










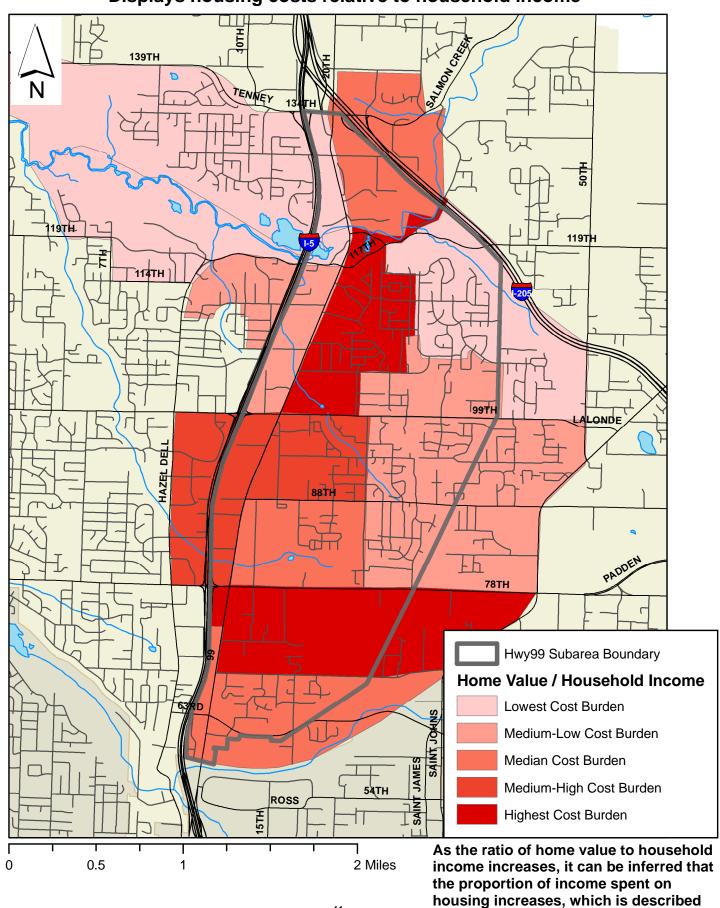


#### Technical Report HIGHWAY 99 Health Impact Assessment Maps

#### HOUSING AND INCOME DEMOGRAPHICS

#### HWY99 - Housing Cost Burden Median Home Value By Median Household Income

Displays housing costs relative to household income

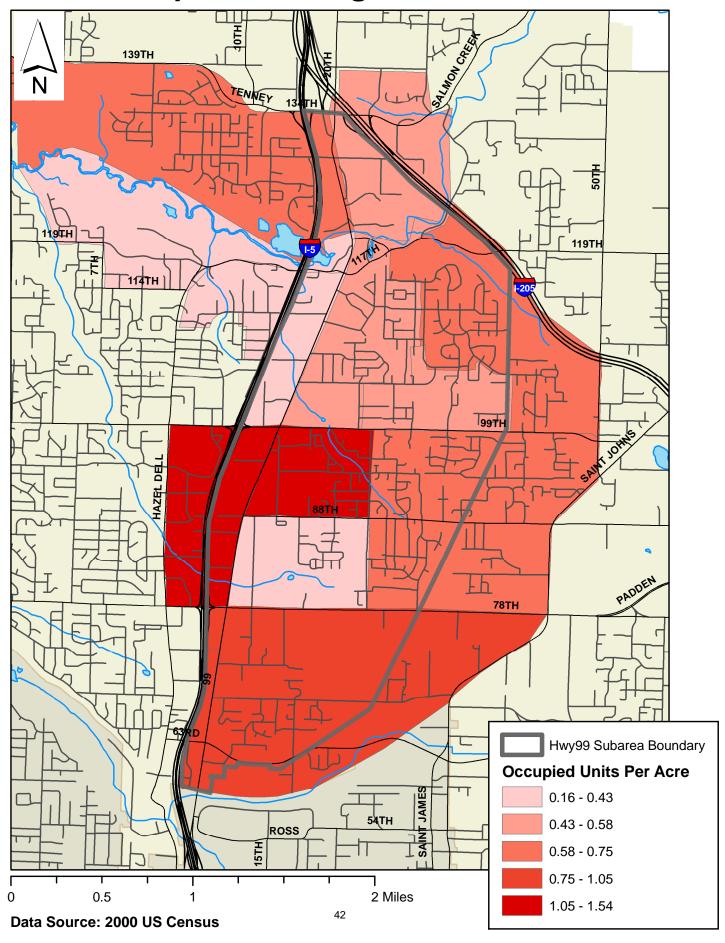


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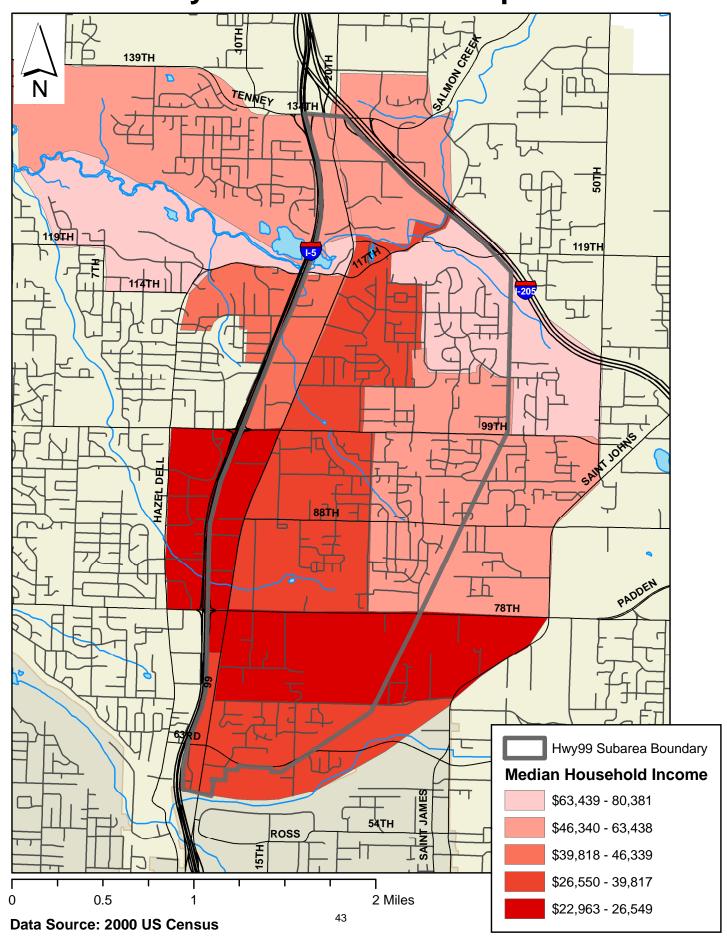
here as the cost burden.

Data Source: 2000 US Census

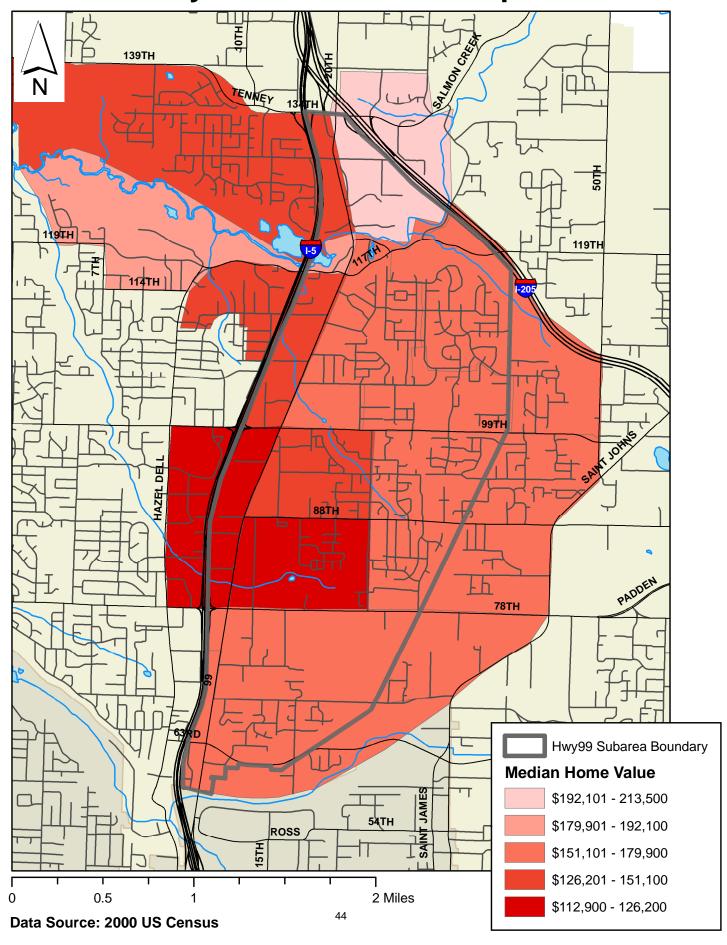
#### HWY99 - Housing Density Occupied Housing Units Per Acre



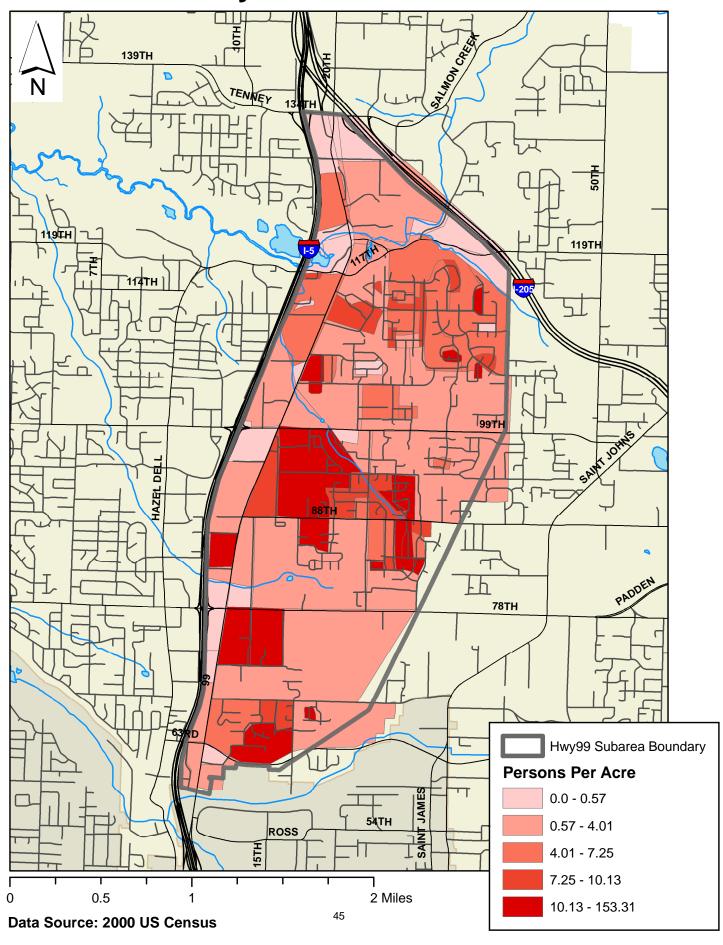
# HWY99 - Median Household Income By Census Block Group



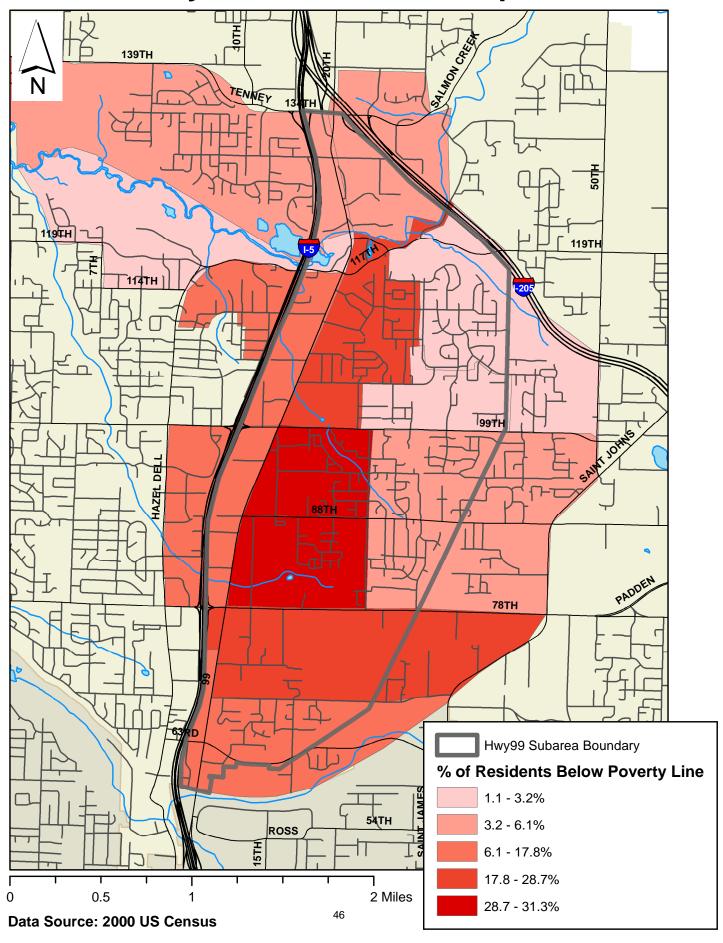
## HWY99 - Median Home Values By Census Block Group



## HWY99 - Population Density By Census Block

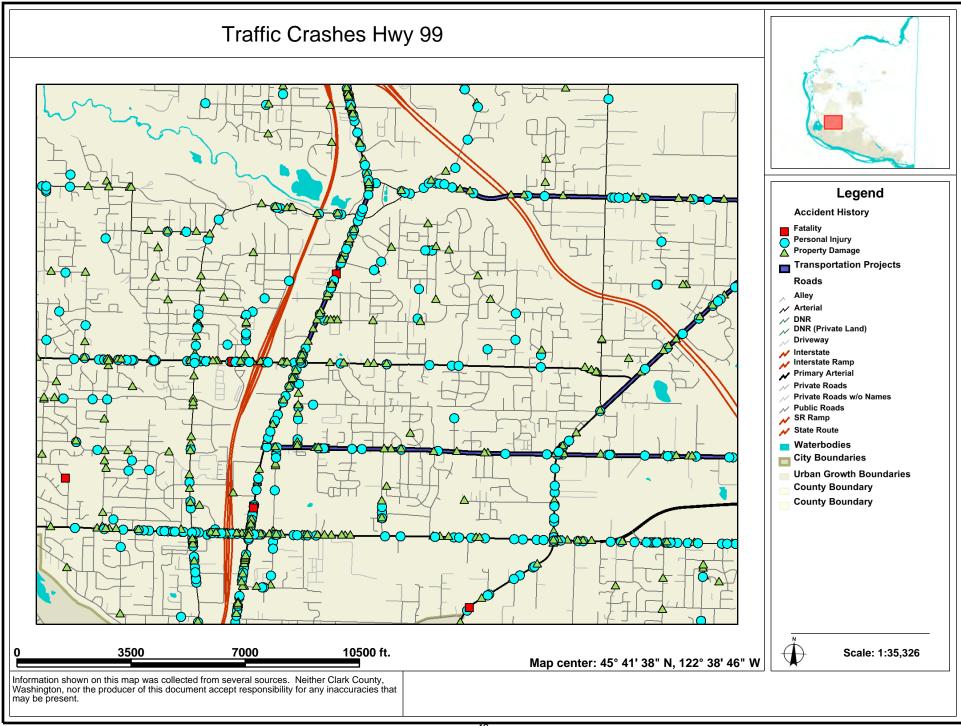


## HWY99 - Poverty Distribution By Census Block Group

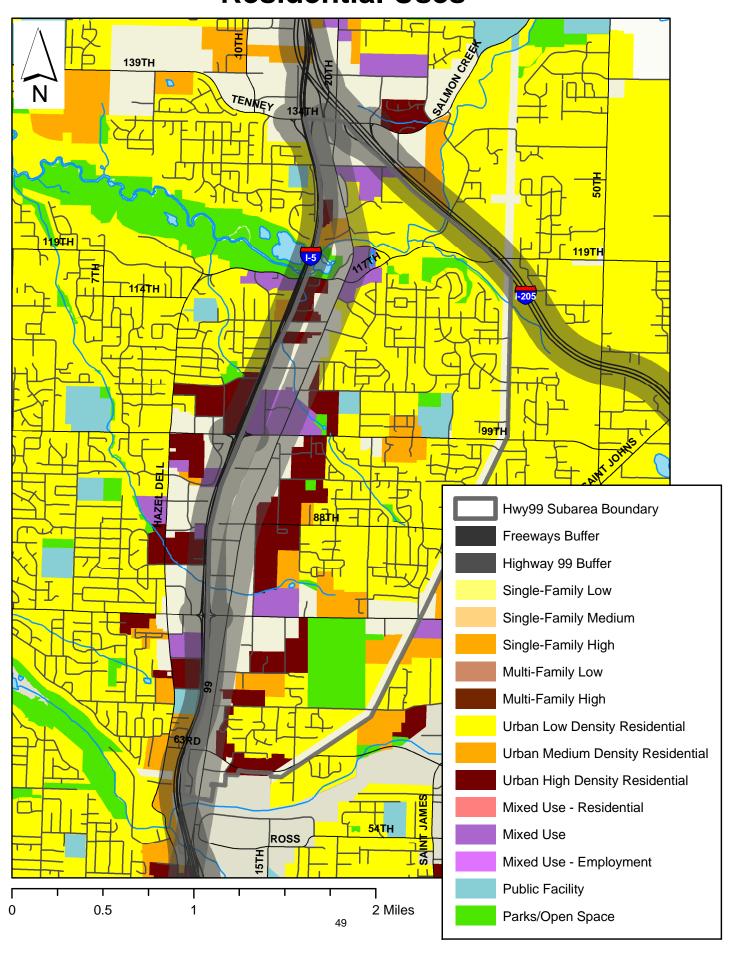


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**VEHICLE RELATED RISKS** 



# HWY99 - Vehicle Pollution & Planned Residential Uses



#### **HWY99 - Vehicle Pollution & Population Density**

