



Appendix F: **Environmental Justice**



F

Environmental Justice and Title VI

The Michiana Area Council of Governments uses the Indicators of Potential Disadvantage to help staff, member governments, planning partners, and the general public consider Civil Rights (Title VI) and Environmental Justice (EJ) concerns when carrying out planning activities, project development, and programming. The IPD analysis identifies populations of interest under Title VI and EJ using U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS) data.

Indicators of Potential Disadvantage

MACOG supports and models their Environmental Justice (EJ) process based upon guidelines from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) in Pennsylvania. DVRPC developed the Indicators of Potential Disadvantage (IPD) method, which locates selected population groups in the region to better inform how the regional transportation system and MPO programs, policies, and investments might impact these groups. These population groups include minorities, low-income, carless households, persons with physical disabilities, elderly over age 65, Hispanic, and Limited English Proficiency (LEP).

Neither Title VI or the Civil Rights Act nor Executive Order #12898 provides specific guidance to evaluate EJ within a region's transportation planning process. Therefore, MPOs must devise their own methods for ensuring that EJ population groups and issues are represented in transportation decision-making. This is a challenging assignment, and serious consideration must be given to the available types

of quantifiable data, as well as how the data is to be used and interpreted. It should be noted that while the IPD method helps ascertain population data, it is only one tool in a larger strategy involving public participation, stakeholder outreach, data sources, and other research.

IPD information is derived from the American Community Survey (ACS) five-year estimates data set from the U.S. Census. The ACS is conducted every year to provide up-to-date information about the social and economic needs of the country. ACS data is in one-year, three-year, and five-year estimates. The five-year estimates set was chosen as it provides the largest sample size, includes data for all areas, and information can be found at the census tract and block group level.

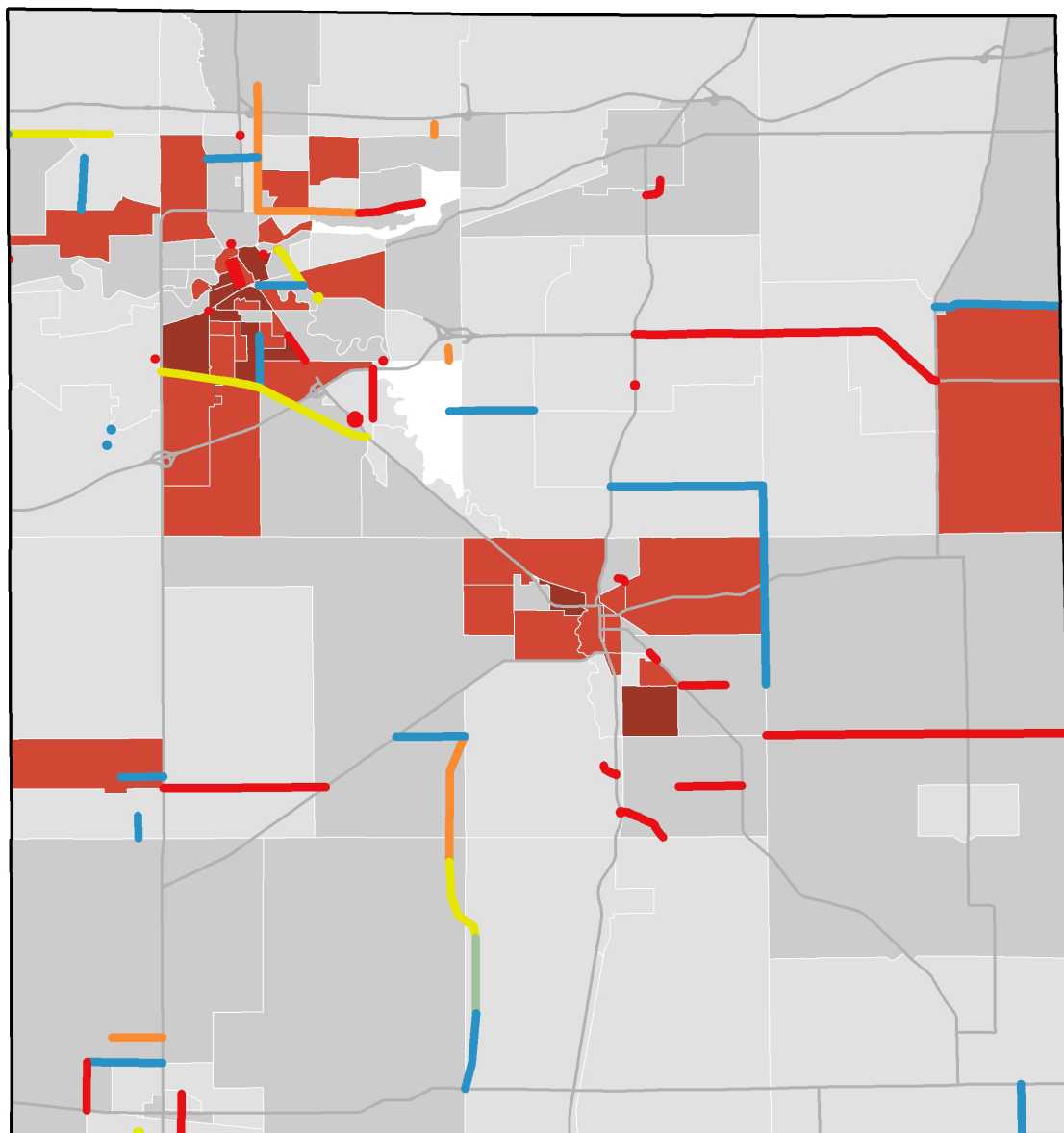
A full report of the Environmental Justice population analysis with maps and figures is available on MACOG's website.

Proposed Project Impacts






By mapping the 2045 Transportation Plan proposed projects, potential impacts to IPD tracts can be evaluated. Most of tracts with an above average populations of potential disadvantage have proposed projects in the 2045 Transportation Plan. Many of the projects identified to be open by 2025 are located in these areas. All groups, including IPD populations, will benefit from the proposed transportation improvements in the area. The proposed projects include improved accessibility and connectivity to the area, which provides increased access to community services.

Each project will bring short-term impacts to residents in the area, such as delays, increased detour traffic, noise, or right-of-way purchases. These impacts will be experienced by all populations groups, not just the IPD populations. During project development, considerations will need to be made at the project level if there are any adverse impacts to the potentially disadvantage population groups. Figures F-1, F-2, F-3, and F-4 illustrate the distribution of transportation projects. The projects are located throughout the region, without a disproportionately high impact to the IPD populations.

Figure F-1: Elkhart County Environmental Justice



Open to Traffic

-  2025
-  2030
-  2035
-  2040
-  2045

Indicators of Potential Disadvantage






-  Well Above Average
-  Above Average
-  Average
-  Below Average
-  Well Below Average

Figure F-2: Kosciusko County Environmental Justice

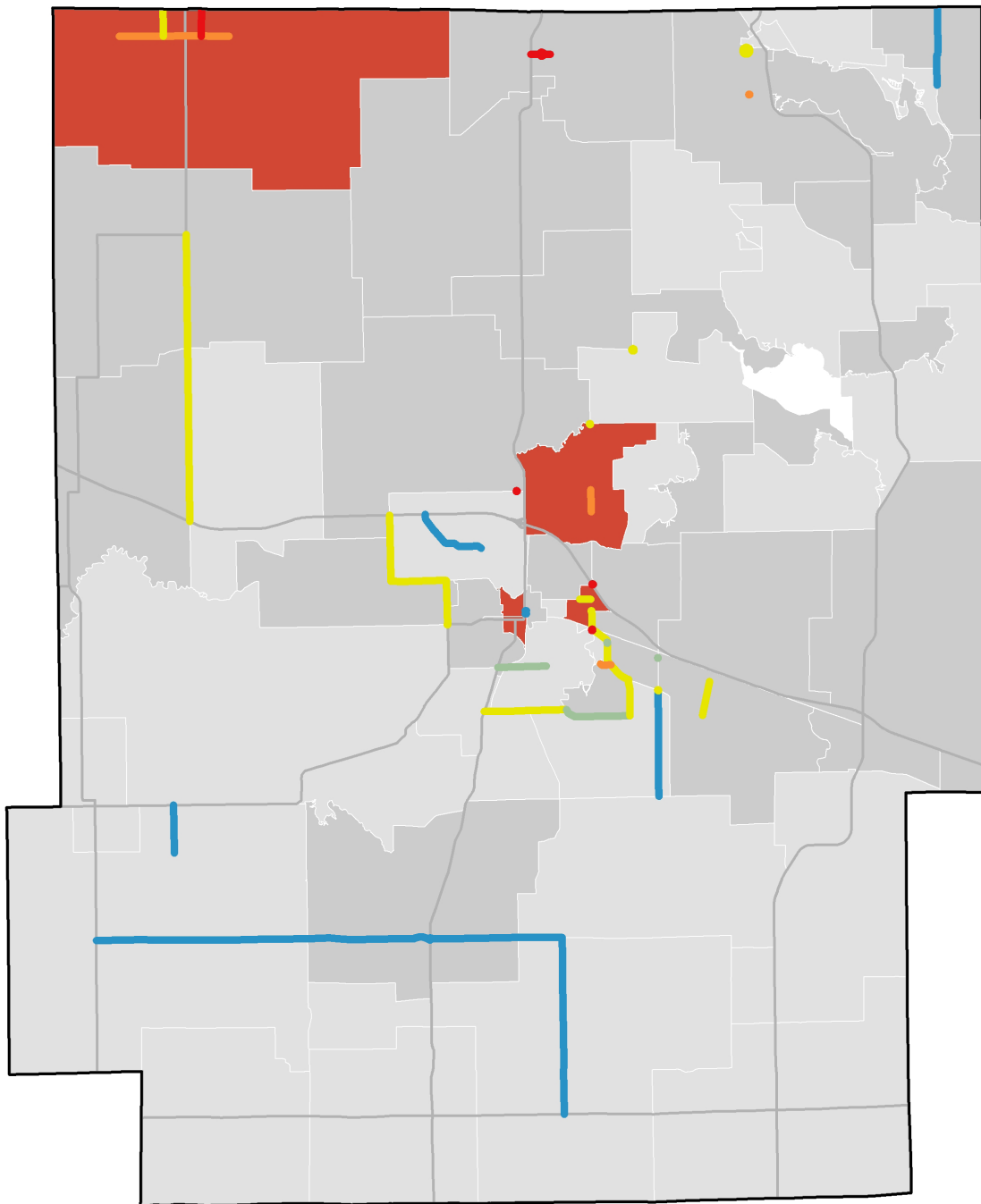


Figure F-3: Marshall County Environmental Justice

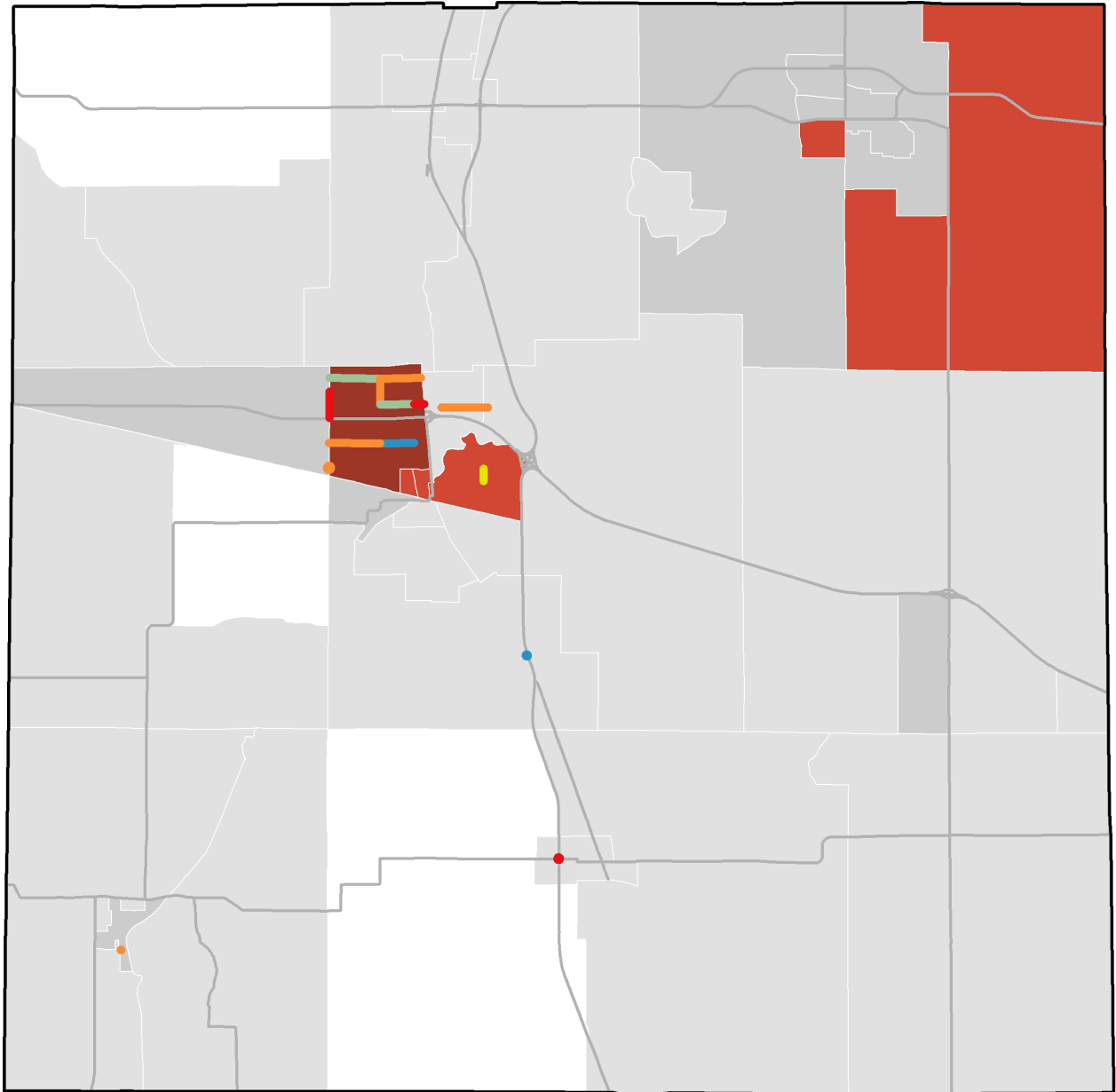


Figure F-4: St. Joseph County Environmental Justice

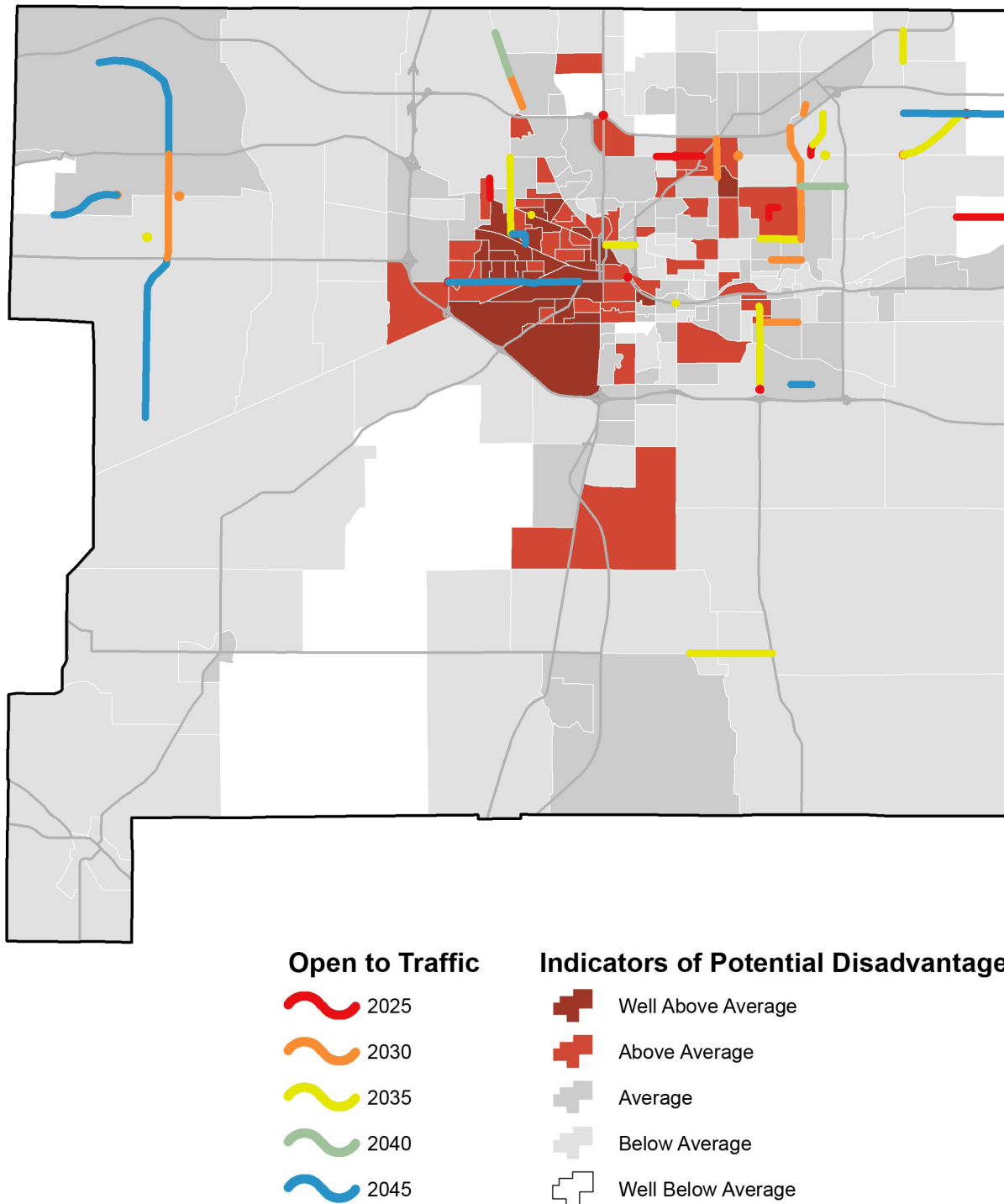
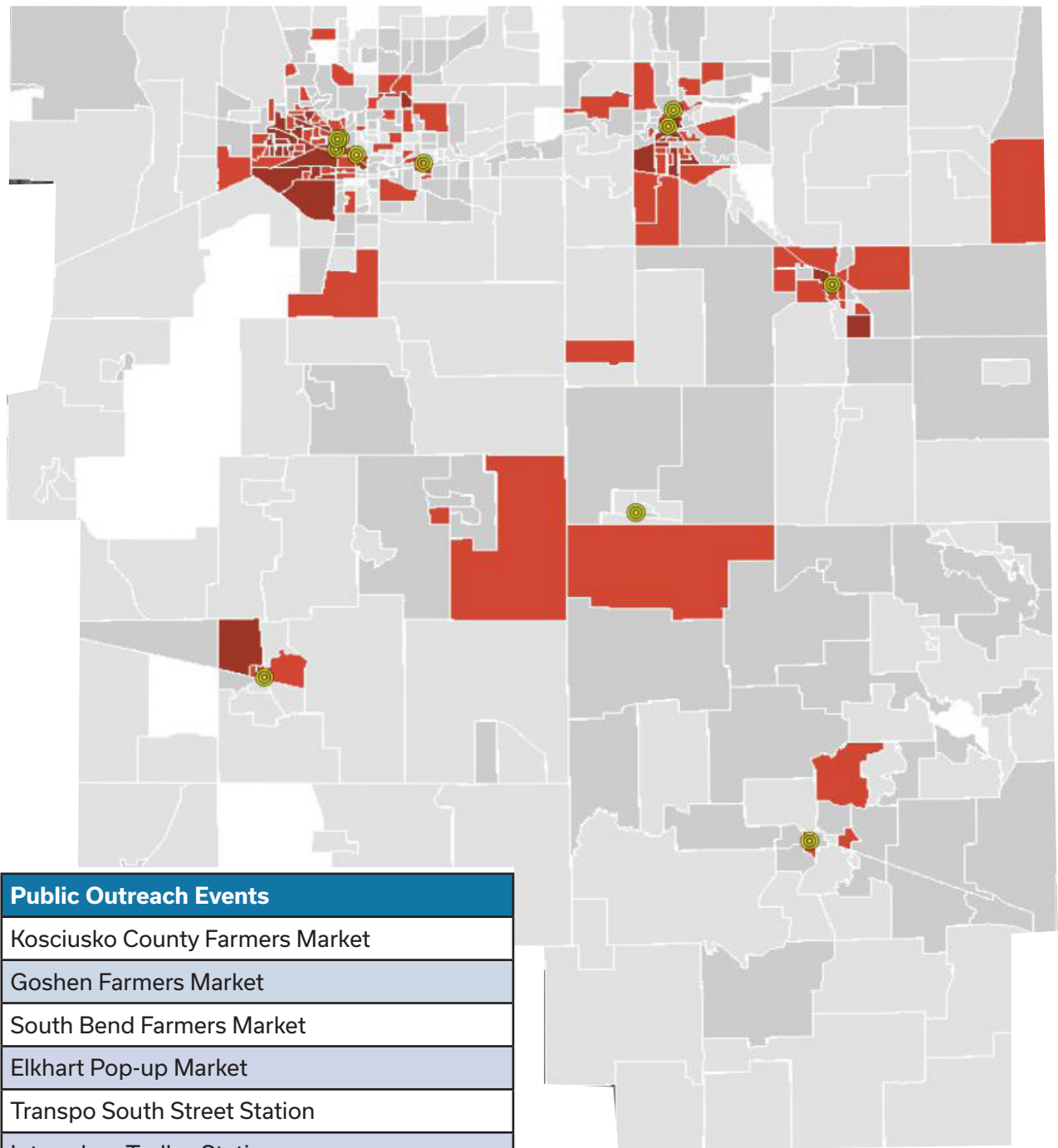


Figure F-5: Pop-Up Outreach Events

**Public Outreach Events**

Kosciusko County Farmers Market

Goshen Farmers Market

South Bend Farmers Market

Elkhart Pop-up Market

Transpo South Street Station

Interurban Trolley Station

French Press Coffee Co., City of Plymouth

Main St Roasters, City of Nappanee

South Bend First Fridays

Mishawaka Public Library

Sustainable Operations Workshop

MACOG held a series of pop-up events throughout the region at various events and places. Pop-up events were held in each of the cities in order to engage the public on various items related to the Plan. These were held at places and events that people would already be at or be attending in an effort to better engage with those who would be unable to attend or participate in other engagement activities.

