

**HOUSATONIC VALLEY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

Providing transportation planning for Greater Danbury, CT including
Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield, New Milford,
Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield and Sherman

166 Whisconier Road, Brookfield, CT 06804
203-312-1073 – hvceo.org – director@hvceo.org

**TITLE VI
POLICY**



**FOR CIVIL RIGHTS
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY
AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

NOVEMBER 25, 2014 UPDATE

*-- For those who need auxiliary aids to attend, or information
on how to file a Title VI Civil Rights complaint, contact 203-312-1073
-- If additional information is needed in another language, contact 203-312-1073
-- Si se necesita informacion adicional en otra idioma, comuniquese con 203-312-1073
-- Se a informacao adicional e necessaria em outra idioma, entre em contato com 203-312-1073*

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SECTION A: SECURING TITLE VI CIVIL RIGHTS

OVERVIEW

Title VI, 42 United States Code Section 2000d, was enacted as part of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964. It prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance.

Title VI requires that federal funds not be spent in any fashion which encourages, entrenches, subsidizes or results in discrimination. Further, a U.S. DOT Order on Environmental Justice and Executive Order 12898 address persons belonging to any of the following groups:

Black – A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.

Hispanic – A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

Asian American – A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands.

American Indian and Alaskan Native – A person having origins in any of the original people of North America and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.

Low Income – A person whose household income (or in the case of a community or group, whose median household income) is at or below the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines.

CONTACT THE MPO TITLE VI COORDINATOR WITH COMPLAINTS

The Title VI Coordinator is Jonathan Chew, 203-312-1073 and director@hvceo.org. For best coordination and results all Title VI activities are directed to this single person.

COPY TO CT DOT OF TITLE VI COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE MPO

Copies of any complaints received will be immediately forwarded to the CT DOT Office of Contract Compliance, Debra Goss, Title VI Coordinator, 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT 06111.

OTHER RECOURSE FOR COMPLAINTS

This Title VI Policy notes that complaints may also be filed with the CT DOT Office of Contract Compliance, Debra Goss, Title VI Coordinator, 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT 06111.

INVESTIGATIONS, COMPLAINTS AND LAWSUITS TO DATE

To date there have been no investigations, complaints or lawsuits concerning Title VI.

STAFF TRAINING ON TITLE VI

The Title VI Coordinator designated above is trained for and experienced with this topic. At the beginning of each fiscal year the Title VI Coordinator will hold a meeting with all staff to review Title VI procedures and address questions on this topic. The date the annual meeting is held will be documented in the quarterly transportation report.

HOW TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS PROVIDED TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH TITLE VI

Most of the technical assistance is to municipal governments. Staff attends a Title VI training section annually as to how to properly fulfill the law regarding Title VI.

As for citizens requests for technical assistance, delivery of technical assistance by staff will not encourage, entrench, subsidize or result in discrimination. This is achieved by the annual staff training.

MONITORING SUBRECIPIENTS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH TITLE VI

By way of background, note that the CT DOT approved contract format for U.S. DOT funding for HVMPO subrecipients includes a section entitled “Nondiscrimination in Contracts.” This section states that:

“The consultant agrees and warrants that in the performance of this contract it will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, sex, mental retardation or physical disability.”

Continuing, “including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the State of Connecticut.”

The basis for monitoring compliance will be the inclusion within all subrecipient contracts of a specific requirement that the consultant’s planning process and activity be conducted in accordance with this current document, the “HVMPO Title VI Policy.”

A second inclusion will be the requirement that quarterly reports and/or invoices and progress reports from subrecipients to HVMPO include documentation as to how the HVMPO Policy for Title VI was implemented during the quarter as part of the consultant’s contracted activity.

MPO LOG FOR TITLE VI COMPLAINTS, INVESTIGATIONS AND LAWSUITS

This log has been created and is an attachment to this report.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF ATTENDEES AT PUBLIC MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

Due to its strong state Freedom of Information (FOI) laws, Connecticut has no registration or other requirements for attendance at public meetings.

Attendees may not be required to sign in or provide any form of identity. This includes any personal qualities or identifiers such address, age, race, gender, etc. The specific wording within CT FOI law is that “no registration or other requirements may be imposed on a member of the public seeking attendance at a public meeting.”

The most practical way to record demographics will be to note in the meeting record references to such demographics made by attendees who themselves speak at the meeting.

These could include such comments as “my income group will be impacted by Project X” or “my racial group will be impacted by Project Y” etc. This may or may not include name, as under Connecticut law access to speaking is not conditional upon providing name.

ADVISING THE PUBLIC OF THEIR TITLE VI CIVIL RIGHTS VIA OFFICE AND MEETING ROOM POSTINGS

A Title VI posting is on display in the office and at all public meetings held by the HVMPO. See the attached multilingual document entitled “Title VI Complaint Process and Procedure for Filing.”

MINORITY REPRESENTATION ON MPO TECHNICAL AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

These committees are open to minority representation. Persons seeking to be included based upon their affiliation with a minority group, or personal statement that the person represents a minority viewpoint, will be included.

Any planning activity in or affecting a minority demographic area will include outreach to minority groups listed in this document. The notice in such instances will state “minority representation on this technical (or advisory) committee is welcome.”

INCLUDE TITLE VI SECTION WITHIN QUARTERLY REPORTS TO CT DOT

This inclusion is a regular feature of quarterly reports and will be continued.

DOCUMENT APPROVAL BY MPO OF NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The minutes of the MPO meeting of April 17, 2014 document that the organization has formally committed to a non-discrimination policy. The policy adopted that date reads:

“Resolved, that HVCEO hereby adopts as its policy to support the nondiscrimination agreements and warranties required under Connecticut General Statutes § 4a-60(a)(1) and § 4a-60a(a)(1), as amended in State of Connecticut Public Act 07-245 and sections 9(a)(1) and 10(a)(1) of Public Act 07-142.”

HVCEO will not discriminate against persons on account of their race, color, religious creed, age, marital or civil union status, national origin, ancestry, sex, mental retardation, physical disability or sexual orientation.”

**NOTICES TO THE PUBLIC AS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS
AND HEARINGS AVAILABLE ON THE WEB SITE**

Such web posting is part of the public participation plan. There is also a “Transportation Title VI Civil Rights” page accessible from the HVMPO homepage. See last report attachment.

**NOTICES TO THE PUBLIC AS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS
AND HEARINGS INCLUDE “IF LANGUAGE
ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED PLEASE CONTACT XXX”**

Under this Title VI Plan such wording is part of agendas and other postings. See example on the front page and below:

-- For those who need auxiliary aids to attend, or information
on how to file a Title VI Civil Rights complaint, contact 203-312-1073
-- If additional information is needed in another language, contact 203-312-1073
-- Si se necesita informacion adicional en otra idioma, comuniquese con 203-312-1073
-- Se a informacao adicional e necessaria em outra idioma, entre em contato com 203-312-1073

**SECTION B:
TITLE VI CIVIL RIGHTS
COMPLAINT PROCEDURE**

The HVMPO advises the public of their Title VI Civil Rights via the documents below. A notice as to Title VI Civil Rights is also posted in the HVMPO office and in meeting rooms where HVMPO has its meetings. The documents are entitled:

***Attachment B1: Notice in English, Spanish and Portuguese
of Title VI Complaint Process and Procedure for Filing***

Attachment B2: English: Title VI Complaint Form

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SECTION C: SECURING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

OVERVIEW

The HVMPO's Regional Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program and Public Participation Plan and other transportation documents must also comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the 1994 Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, and the U.S. DOT Order to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations.

The HVMPO will adhere to U.S. DOT guidance on this matter, which is: "To avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority populations and low-income populations.

And continuing, to ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process, and to prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority and low income populations."

Environmental Justice mandates will be met by determining that the population groups of concern will benefit from a project in the same manner as will the general population. Further, that no group is singled out for inadvertent receipt of negative impacts of a proposed project.

Methods for these determinations can be project specific. If homes or businesses are removed for a transportation project the determination as to this being "good" or "bad" could be complex. And some planned projects are still in the conceptual stage and until property impacts are estimated, there is not definitive delineation of the project right of way to review against census criteria.

It is prudent to leave room for Environmental Justice evaluation methods to remain flexible such that they can evolve in consultation with the community and officials if and when a generalized transportation concept is developed enough such that possible benefits and burdens can be assessed.

As of this Title VI Plan update, the Housatonic Valley Region has no proposed transportation projects of significant scale to take residences or buildings or establish new rights of way.

The "benefit and burdens" analysis below provides Environmental Justice perspective on the area's other, more limited scale, transportation projects:

DANBURY ROUTE 6. CT DOT Project in Danbury No. 34-288: Widening of Route 6 from Kenosia Avenue easterly to just past I-84 Exit 4. This project is large enough such that it has a separate environmental report prepared by CT DOT, a "Final Environmental Assessment" approved by FHWA on 9/25/2002.

That report concluded that "Any potential for direct impacts to minority, elderly or low income populations are extremely limited." Also, the project "will not target an economically disadvantaged area." Specifically from the perspective of Environmental Justice, the report concludes that "the proposed reconstruction of Route 6 would not result in a disproportionately high and adverse impact on a minority or low income population."

DANBURY ROUTE 37 AT STACEY ROAD. CT DOT Project in Danbury No. 34-305: Realignment and signalization of Route 37 at its intersection with Stacey Road, most work involving the Stacey Road approach. Only very minor right of way land takes involved, no buildings moved, no diversion of traffic to another roadway.

DANBURY ROUTE 806. CT DOT Project in Danbury No. 34-H050: Widen Route 806 to provide for a west bound left turn lane at old Shelter Rock Road and signalize the intersection. Minor safety improvement, no diversion of traffic to another roadway.

DANBURY I-84 INTERCHANGES. CT DOT Project in Danbury No. 34-308: Design for minor modifications to I-84 Interchanges 2, 4, 5, and 6. Only Interchange 6 has a commitment for funding of its minor modifications. None of these involve changes to road width or takings of properties. The other interchange improvements are yet to be designed.

DANBURY ROUTE 53. Concept Plan for creating a full four lane cross section on Route 53 from South Street northerly to Boughton Street: The right of way of Route 53 here is already wide enough for four lanes. The project would be to reorganize traffic such that the pavement width available could be better utilized. Thus no property impacts are anticipated. Also, no rerouting of traffic to residential areas is involved.

DANBURY KENOSIA AVENUE. Widening of Kenosia Avenue from 2 to 4 lanes from Backus Avenue northerly to the vicinity of Lake Kenosia. Preliminary cost estimate by City is \$3.0 million. This is a commercial corridor and the concept of the project does not relocate any traffic into any residential areas.

DANBURY WHITE STREET AND WILDMAN STREET INTERSECTION. Turn lanes are to be added, potential minor commercial property taking. The preliminary CT DOT Project identification is 34-H003.

DANBURY NEWTOWN ROAD AND OLD SHELTER ROCK ROAD INTERSECTION. The intersection will be upgraded and The CT DOT Project identification is 34-0309. No homes or businesses are to be disturbed.

NEWTOWN ROUTE 6 AT COMMERCE ROAD AND EDMOND ROAD. Intersection capacity to be improved. The CT DOT Project identification is 96-0192. No homes or businesses are to be disturbed.

NEWTOWN ROUTE 25 AT PECKS LANE. Intersection capacity to be improved. The CT DOT Project identification is 96-0196. No homes or businesses are to be disturbed.

RIDGEFIELD ROUTE 35 AT BAILEY AVENUE INTERSECTION. Turn lanes will be added at this intersection. The CT DOT Project identification is 117-0159. No homes or businesses are to be disturbed.

BUS SERVICE. Public Bus Transit in Danbury: It should also be noted in this section that within the City of Danbury and the wider metropolitan area, the Housatonic Area Regional Transit District submits a report regarding compliance with Title VI.

This compliance report is a review of the provision of public bus service level of quality with Title VI equity requirements, the "Transit Monitoring Report." This relates detailed

demographic criteria to FTA supported bus routes. Thus this HARTRANSIT document can also be considered an Environmental Justice monitoring tool for the area.

In addition to specific route analyses in its Transit Monitoring Report, HARTransit periodically makes assurances to the Federal Transit Agency, which support Environmental Justice concerns with the planning and operation of the regional bus system. These assurances, also hereby endorsed by HVCEO, are as follows:

A. No person on the basis of race, color, or national origin will be subjected to discrimination in the level and quality of transportation services and transit-related benefits.

B. HARTransit will compile, maintain, and submit in a timely manner Title VI information required by the FTA under Circular 4702.1 and in compliance with the Department of Transportation's Title VI regulation, 49 CFR Part 21.9.

C. HARTransit will make it known to the public that those person or persons alleging discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin as it relates to the provision of transportation services and transit –related benefits may file a complaint with the Federal Transit Administration and/or the U.S. Department of Transportation.

SECTION D: RESPONDING TO LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

OVERVIEW

We know from the information provided above that discrimination as defined in Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act is illegal.

Then in 1974 the United States Supreme Court determined in a landmark case that one specific type of national origin discrimination is that based on a person's inability to speak, read, write, or understand English.

Therefore, concerns about overcoming Limited English Proficiency (LEP) are related to, and a subset of, Title VI compliance law, and thus of concern to HVMPO's transportation planning process.

The specifics of LEP are within Executive Order 13166 issued in 2000 entitled "Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency." The HVMPO federally sponsored transportation planning program is to break down language barriers by providing language assistance relative to its transportation programs.

Specifically, the federal LEP definition refers to persons for whom English is not their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English.

As this includes those who have reported to the U.S. Census that they speak English less than very well, not well, or not at all, data sets are available for analysis.

Housatonic Valley and the other MPOs are to take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to benefits, services, information, and other important portions of its programs and activities for individuals who are Limited English Proficient.

LEP FOUR FACTOR ANALYSIS

Recipients of federal financial assistance have an obligation to reduce language barriers that can preclude meaningful access by LEP persons to important benefits, programs, information, and services.

The starting point is an individualized assessment that balances the following nationally standardized four factors:

1. The number or proportion of LEP persons eligible to be served or likely to be encountered by the regional transportation planning program. The U.S. Department of Justice has recommended the following two criteria to identify LEP populations. For a non-English speaking group to qualify as LEP, they must either 1) constitute at least 5% of the total census subarea population or 2) number at least 1,000 persons and not speak English very well, whichever is less.

These criteria are also known as the federal "Safe Harbor" thresholds. Safe Harbor requires, at a minimum, access to written translations of vital documents, Title VI complaint forms, information regarding access to planning processes, etc.

To assist with these determinations Connecticut DOT provides LEP data for MPOs and municipalities statewide. The CT DOT web site accessed in November 2014 includes data tables identifying "Connecticut Statewide Languages Speaking with High Percentage Limited English Proficiency." The only area included on the statewide map in this MPO area is Downtown Danbury.

Then an additional CT DOT table indicates the components of the high LEP census tract areas in Connecticut. Two tracts in the HVMPO area is listed, Tracts 2101 and 2102 in Downtown Danbury.

Of the LEP population there, the CT DOT data indicate that Spanish speakers are 40% and 38% respectively. For other languages analyzed by CT DOT, only Portuguese is rated at 15% and 14% respectively, for these same two Downtown Danbury census tracts.

These statistics indicate that HVMPO should focus on Spanish and Portuguese as the primary LEP language groups requiring assistance within the MPO area.

Also note that there is one other U.S. DOT grantee in the MPO area, the Housatonic Area Regional Transit District (HARTransit). The CT DOT approved "2013 HARTransit Title VI Language Assistance Plan" reaches the same conclusion as this 2014 HVMPO Assistance Plan, that Spanish and Portuguese are the primary focus for language assistance.

2. The frequency with which LEP individuals come in contact with the planning program. While requests for assistance are welcome, since the inception of the MPO program there have been no requests for LEP assistance. And there have been no requests for interpreters at meetings or for the translation of documents.

As for LEP persons coming into contact with U.S. DOT funded transit services, that would be the transit services of the Housatonic Area Regional Transit District. Accordingly, HARTransit is equipped with significant translation services within its office for assisting Spanish and Portuguese transit patrons.

As a sub-grantee for transit planning services from this MPO since 1990, the CT DOT authorized annual HVMPO – HARTransit services contract makes use of these in-house translation services to assist HVMPO in meeting its Title VI translation responsibilities.

For MPO Title VI purposes, HVMPO is able to call upon HARTransit staff for Spanish and Portuguese translations both orally and in writing, if and when requested. We will retain this assistance provision within HARTransit contracts.

The following methods will be used to assist LEP individual that needs language assistance:

- The notification and outreach procedures described elsewhere in this plan to serve LEP populations.
- An "I Speak" card with Spanish, Portuguese and 36 languages is available in the HVMPO office to help visiting LEP persons indicate which language they require assistance in.
- Interpreter and translator services will be provided, upon request, for all meetings.

-- HVMPO will translate published documents into another language upon request.

3. The nature and importance of the program, activity, or service provided by the program to people's lives. The HVMPO utilizes federal funds to plan for future transportation improvements and projects. It is important for LEP persons to have equal ability to participate in the planning process of these projects, as degree of mobility is important for their lives.

4. The resources available to the grantee/recipient and costs. The resources available for assisting LEP populations are described throughout this document. HVMPO has sufficient financial resources to provide LEP services and assistance.

SECTION E: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES

OVERVIEW

Federal transportation planning rules require that HVMPO maintain this written public participation plan as detailed below.

Concerned citizens may be interested in influencing the two main documents produced by the HVMPO regional transportation planning program. These are first the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), a statement of future transportation projects.

And second, the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), a statement of more immediate and actual projects that CT DOT intends to fund using federal dollars for construction in the near future.

Citizen access is facilitated by the fact that HVMPO by federal law makes the RTP and the TIP available to citizens and takes into consideration any comments they may make before a decision to amend or adopt these key documents is reached.

PUBLIC INPUT TO DRAFT POLICY

Access to draft transportation documents and all other transportation program components is the right of every person.

Interested public agencies, private providers of transportation, and other parties may elect to receive the Regional Transportation Plan and Transportation

Improvement Program directly by surface mail or email. And a mailing list for this outreach process is maintained at HVMPO.

Below are methods to facilitate access to transportation policy:

Legal Notice in News Times:

Concerning pending adoption of HVMPO's Regional Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program, to alert citizens and advocacy groups in advance, a legal notice regarding upcoming adoption of these documents will be placed in the area's major newspaper in Danbury, the News Times.

Citizens groups commonly review notices in this newspaper in order to alert themselves to growth, transportation and development issues. The notice will be written in clear and welcoming language.

Legal Notice in The Tribuna:

Concerning pending adoption of HVRMPO's Regional Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program, to alert citizens and advocacy groups in advance, a legal notice regarding upcoming adoption of these documents will be placed in the area's alternative language newspaper in Danbury, the Tribuna. That newspaper publishes in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

Citizens groups commonly review notices in this newspaper in order to alert themselves to growth, transportation and development issues. The notice will be written in both Spanish and Portuguese in welcoming language.

Mailings:

One coordinated mailing list is maintained to meet combined Title VI, LEP and federal Environmental Justice objectives by including minority membership organizations and institutions serving low income populations, as follows:

GENERAL TRANSPORTATION

- New Hope Baptist Church, Aaron Samuels Boulevard, Danbury, CT 06810
- Women's Center of Greater Danbury, 2 West Street, Danbury, Ct 06810
- WECAHR, 325 Main Street, Danbury, Ct 06810
- Mr. Pleasant AME Zion Church, 69 Rowan Street, Danbury, Ct 06810
- Community Action Committee of Danbury, 66 North Street, Danbury, Ct 06810
- CT Department of Development Services, 55 West Street, Danbury, CT 06810

- Catholic Charities, 30 Main Street, Danbury, CT 06810
- Hispanic Center of Greater Danbury, 4 Harmony Street, Danbury, CT 06810
- Association of Religious Communities, 325 Main Street, Danbury, CT 06810
- St. James AME. Church, 47 Williams Street, Danbury, CT 06810
- Danbury Housing Authority, 2 Mill Ridge Road, Danbury, CT 06810
- Probate Court, Danbury City Hall, 155 Deer Hill Avenue, Danbury, CT 06810

- RSVP of Northern Fairfield County, 66 North Street, Danbury, CT 06810
- Ability Beyond, 4 Berkshire Blvd., Bethel, CT 06801
- Danbury Commission For Persons With Disabilities, Danbury City Hall, 155 Deer Hill Avenue, Danbury, CT 06810

- Laborers International Union of North America, 7 Harmony Street, Danbury, Ct 06810
- NAACP Danbury Branch, 8 Aaron Samuels Boulevard, Danbury, CT 06810
- United Way of Northern Fairfield County, 85 West Street, Danbury, CT 06810
- Portuguese Cultural Center 65 Sand Pit Road, Danbury, CT 06810

SENIOR CENTERS

- Bethel Senior Center, Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School Street, Bethel, CT 06801
- Bridgewater Senior Center, 132 Hut Hill Road, Bridgewater, CT 06752
- Brookfield Senior Center, Brookfield Town Hall, 100 Pocono Road, Brookfield, CT 06804
- Danbury Senior Center, 10 Elmwood Place, Danbury, CT 06810
- New Fairfield Senior Center, 33 Rt. 37, New Fairfield, CT 06812

- New Milford Senior Center, 40 Main Street, New Milford, CT 06776
- Newtown Senior Center, 14 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook, CT 06482
- Redding Senior Center, 37 Lonetown Road, Redding, CT 06896
- Ridgefield Senior Center, 193 Danbury Road, Ridgefield, CT 06877
- Sherman Senior Center, P.O. Box 261, Sherman, CT 06484

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

- Bethel Department of Social Services, Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School Street, Bethel, CT 06801
- Bridgewater Department of Social Services, 132 Hut Hill Road, Bridgewater, Ct 06752
- Brookfield Department of Social Services, Brookfield Town Hall, 100 Pocono Road, Brookfield, CT 06804
- Danbury Department of Social Services, 254 Main Street, Danbury, Ct 06810
- New Fairfield Department of Social Services, New Fairfield Town Hall, 4 Brush Hill Road, New Fairfield, CT 06812

- New Milford Department of Social Services, 40 Main Street, New Milford, CT 06776
- Newtown Department of Social Services, Town Hall South, 3 Main Street, Newtown, CT 06470
- Redding Department of Social Services, 37 Lonetown Road, Redding, CT 06896
- Ridgefield Department of Social Services, Ridgefield Town Hall, 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877
- Sherman Department of Social Services, P.O. Box 261, Sherman, CT 06784

Media Notification

The following are on the media notification list:

- Brookfield Patch
- Connecticut Mirror
- Housatonic Times
- New Fairfield Citizen News
- Litchfield County times

- La Tribuna in Danbury
- Danbury News Times
- Newtown Bee
- New Milford Times
- Redding Pilot
- Ridgefield Press

Public Access to Documents:

Public access to documents is available at the HVMPO office 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday thru Friday, evenings by appointment, or through direct mail or email from HVMPO. Internet access is also available.

Public Comment Periods:

Mailings and placement of public notices will be scheduled such that the public comment period will be at least 30 days for the Regional Transportation Plan and at least 30 days for the TIP and major TIP amendments, the thirty days to be prior to any scheduled MPO action as to approval or disapproval of these documents.

Public Information Meetings:

For the draft TIP and draft Plan, in addition to the other participation mechanisms, HVMPO will hold public information meetings. Such public information meetings will be held during the 30 day public comment period.

The HVMPO will advertise the public information meeting dates within the legal notices defining the public comment period.

Notices to the public as to public meeting and hearings will be posed to the home page of the HVMPO web site.

Changes to Documents After Draft Reviewed:

Also, if the final RTP or TIP either differs significantly from the ones which were first made available for public comment, or if they raise new material issues which interested parties could not reasonably have foreseen, an additional opportunity for public comment on the revised draft RTP or draft TIP will be made available.

Summary of Comments:

When written or oral comments are received on the draft RTP or TIP as a result of the public involvement process, a summary, analysis, and report on the disposition of each comment shall be made part of the final RTP and TIP.

Direct Inquiries:

All comments regarding HVMPO transportation planning should be directed to HVMPO Deputy Director Jonathan Chew at HVMPO, director@hvceo.org, 162 Whisconier Road, Old Town Hall, Route 25, Brookfield, CT 06804, 203-312-1073.

NOTIFICATION OF MEETINGS

The following procedures shall apply:

General Transportation Planning

Other Than the Plan and TIP:

There is more to the transportation planning process than just the Regional Transportation Plan (a statement of future improvement projects), and the

Transportation Improvement Program (the more immediate list of projects by CT DOT soon to be implemented).

Major transportation studies, transportation policies and status reports on projects are also discussed by the chief elected officials of HVMPO on a regular basis.

For persons wishing to shape transportation investments, it is often wise to make their views known early and often, before the periodic RTP and TIP updated are even formulated. Thus all HVMPO meetings are open to the public.

No advance notice is required of an individual desiring to make a comment concerning the MPO regional transportation plan, the transportation improvement plan, or the annual planning program.

Posting of Meeting Agendas:

To facilitate opportunities for public input, advance notice of all HVMPO meetings is provided to city and town clerks where the meeting agendas are publicly posted. Agendas and minutes are also internet posted.

Transportation planning related agenda items are clearly described in these notices. This meeting notification process is designed to be in full compliance with Connecticut's Freedom of Information laws, as well as the rules for openness and Title VI law guiding the federal transportation planning process.

Citizens on Mailing List:

All citizens wishing to be on the HVMPO meeting notice distribution list are accommodated at no charge. This will include parties interested in or affected by transportation plans and projects.

HVMPO Web Site:

Access will be from the main home page of the site. This Public Participation Plan is also available on the HVMPO web site. Comment on the public participation policies themselves is invited.

IMPROVE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

The HVRMPO Public Participation Plan will be reviewed periodically to assure full and open access to all. Such revisions can be made at any time.

However, at a minimum, these policies will be reviewed every time the Regional Transportation Plan is updated, that schedule determined by federal rules.

In addition, for every Regional Transportation Plan update minority membership organizations and institutions serving LEP and low income populations will receive notifications by mail.

A PowerPoint presentation on the transportation planning process and area transportation issues is maintained. It is colorful, understandable by the layman, entertaining and about 45 minutes in length. This show is available to civic and citizen groups.

Further, the HVMPO will consider as public input to HVMPO all CT Public Transportation Commission hearing testimony made by the Region's residents.

SECTION F. DEMOGRAPHIC MAPS FOR EVALUATING TITLE VI, LEP AND RELATIONSHIP TO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

CT DOT TITLE VI MAPS

To assist federal transportation grantees in meeting their Title VI requirements, CT DOT has made available on its web site maps utilizing a uniform methodology for all municipalities and regions in Connecticut.

Of value to this document are the Percent Minority Map and Percent Below Poverty Map:

Connecticut Statewide Percent Minority Map:

<http://www.ct.gov/dot/lib/dot/documents/dpolicy/title6maps/minoritystate.pdf>

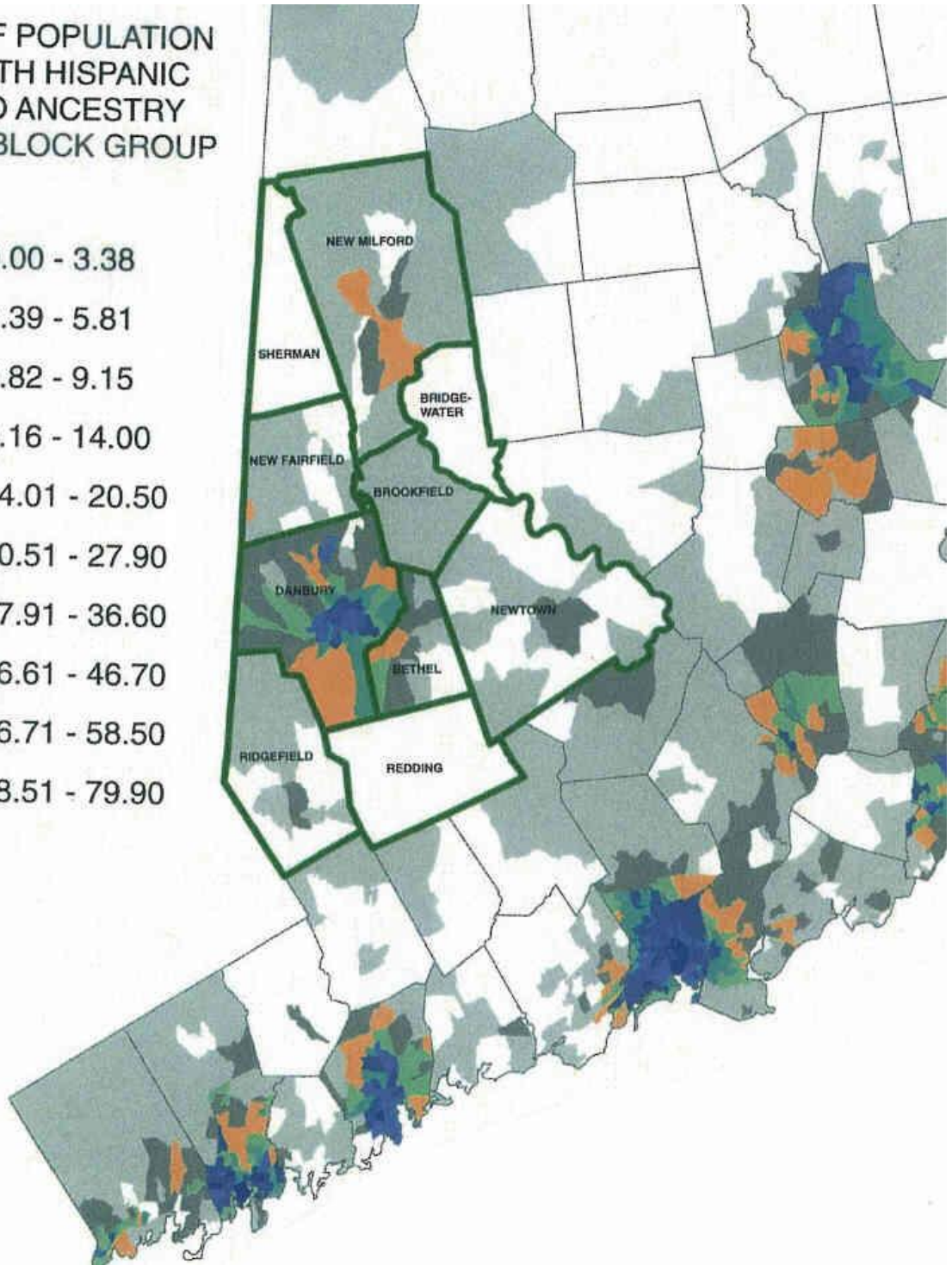
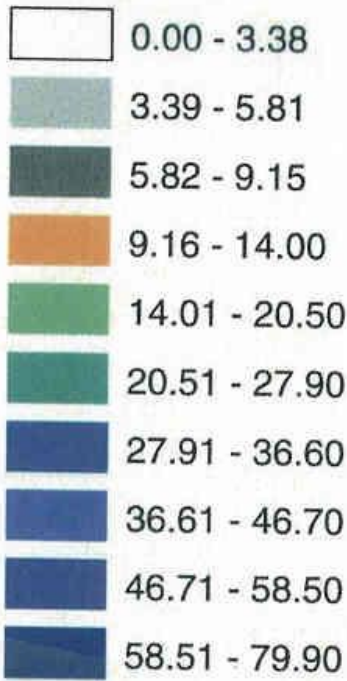
Connecticut Statewide Percent Below Poverty Level Map:

<http://www.ct.gov/dot/lib/dot/documents/dpolicy/title6maps/povertystate.pdf>

HVMPO TITLE VI MAPS

Additionally, more detailed maps of these and other Title VI variables for use by this MPO have also been prepared and are shown on the following pages.

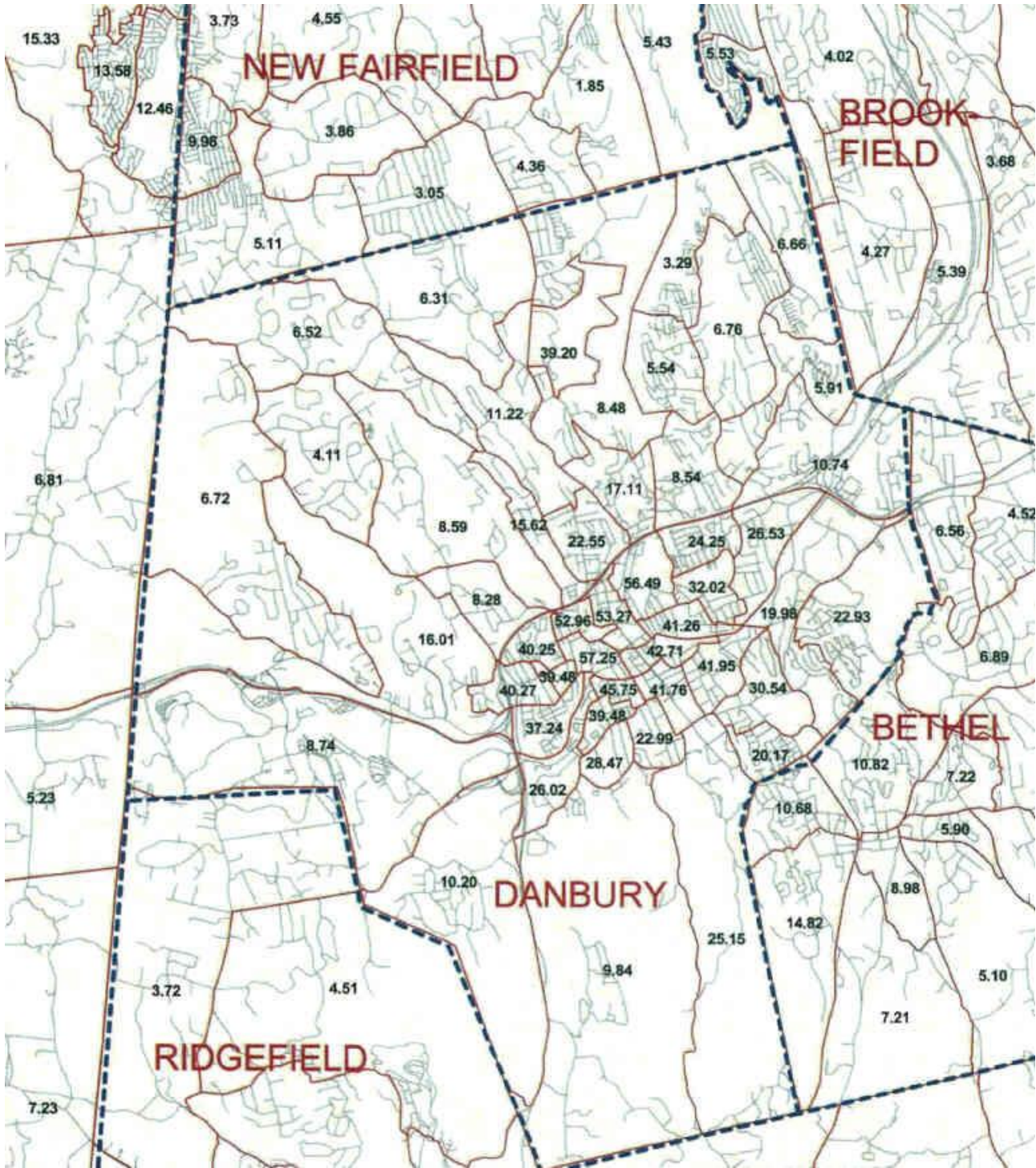
PERCENT OF POPULATION
IN 2010 WITH HISPANIC
OR LATINO ANCESTRY
BY CENSUS BLOCK GROUP



ALL FIGURES ARE PERCENTAGES

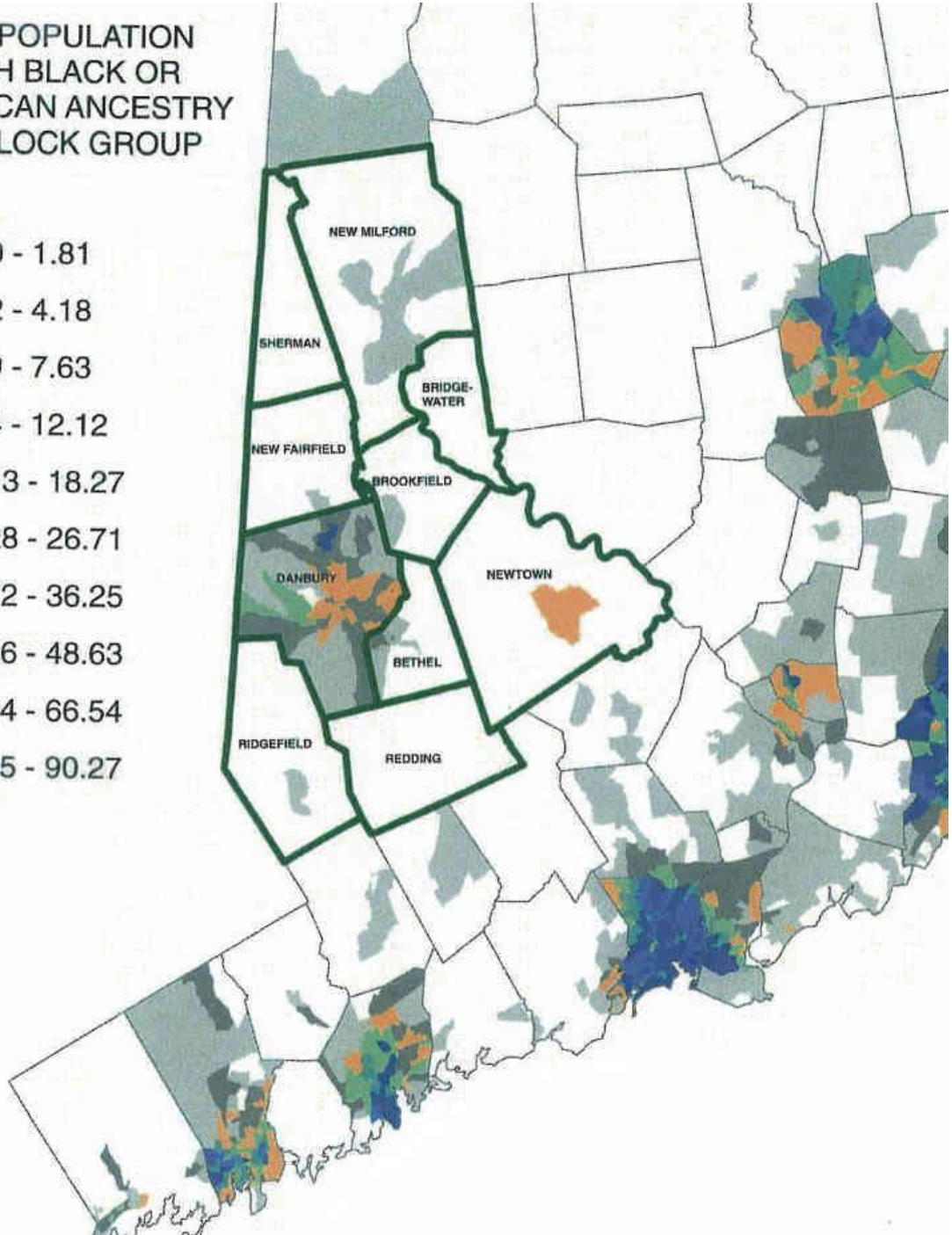
**OVERVIEW OF POPULATION WITH
HISPANIC OR LATINO ANCESTRY**

Source: HVMPD Processing of Data from 2010 Census

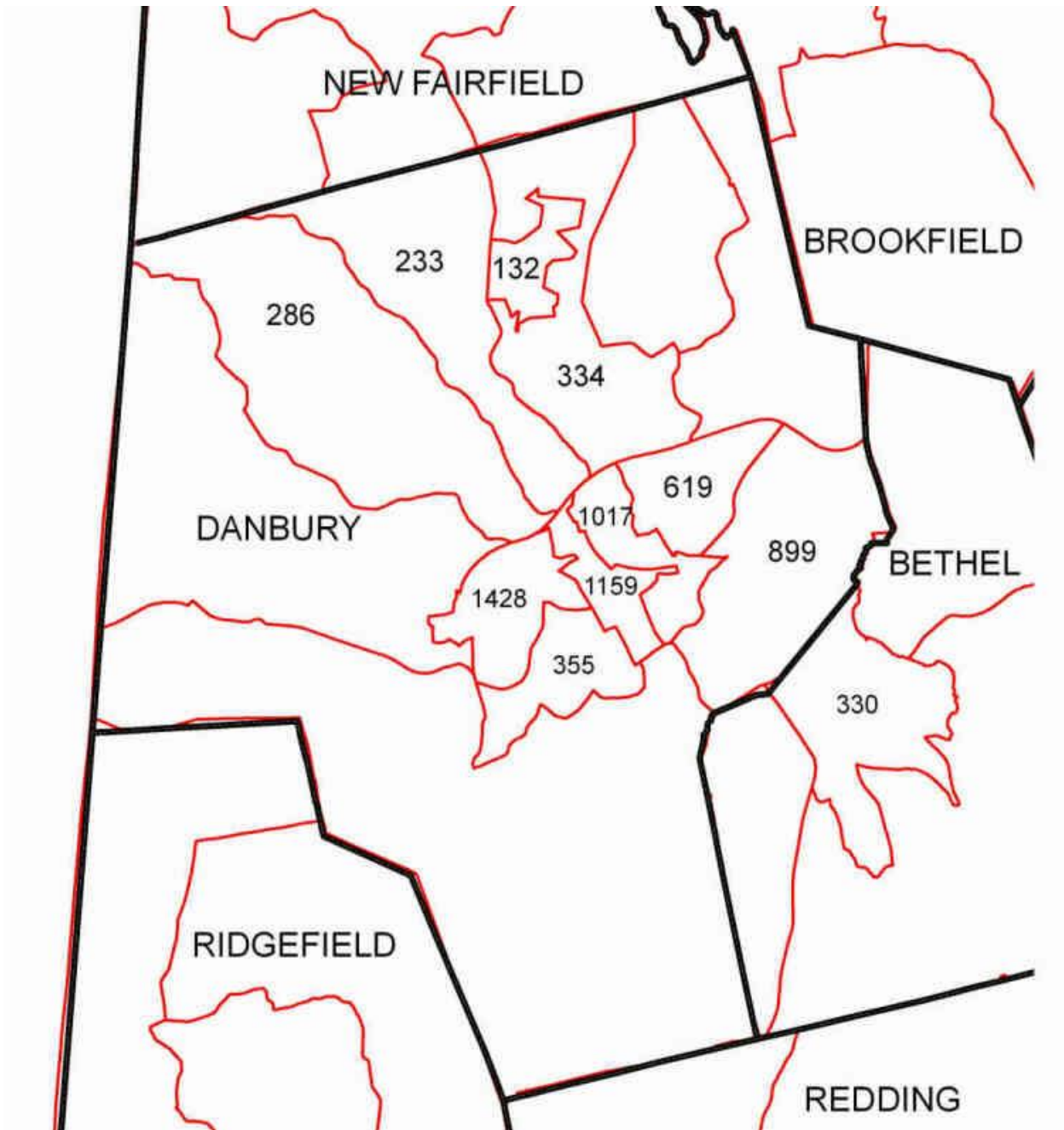


ALL FIGURES ARE PERCENTAGES
DETAILS IN CONCENTRATION AREA OF POPULATION
WITH HISPANIC OR LATINO ANCESTRY
Source: HVMPO Processing of Data from 2010 Census

PERCENT OF POPULATION
IN 2010 WITH BLACK OR
AFRICAN-AMERICAN ANCESTRY
BY CENSUS BLOCK GROUP



ALL FIGURES ARE PERCENTAGES
OVERVIEW OF POPULATION WITH
BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ANCESTRY
Source: HVMPO Processing of Data from 2010 Census



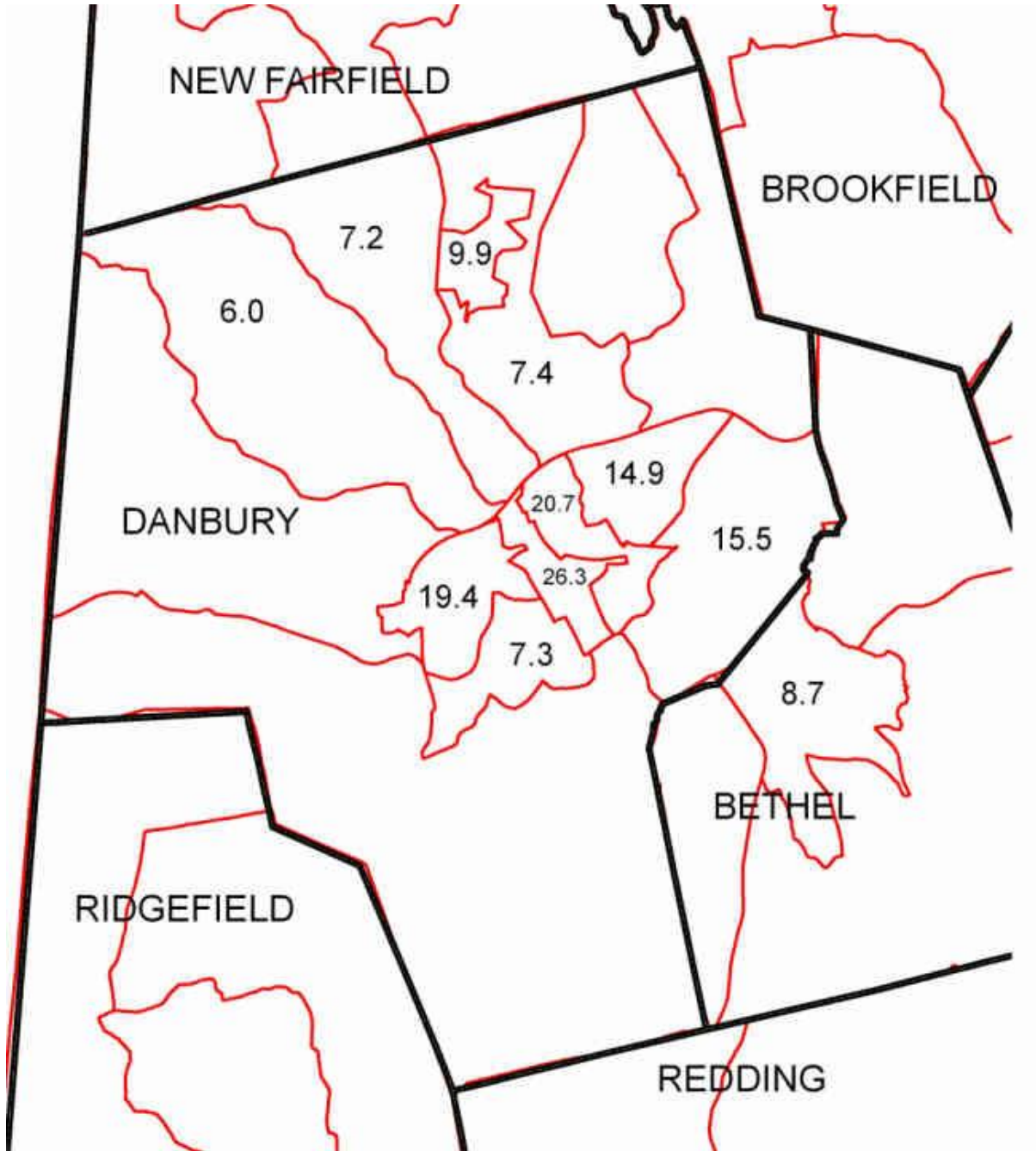
1/2014

ALL FIGURES ARE NUMBERS OF PERSONS

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY:

PERSONS BY CENSUS TRACT

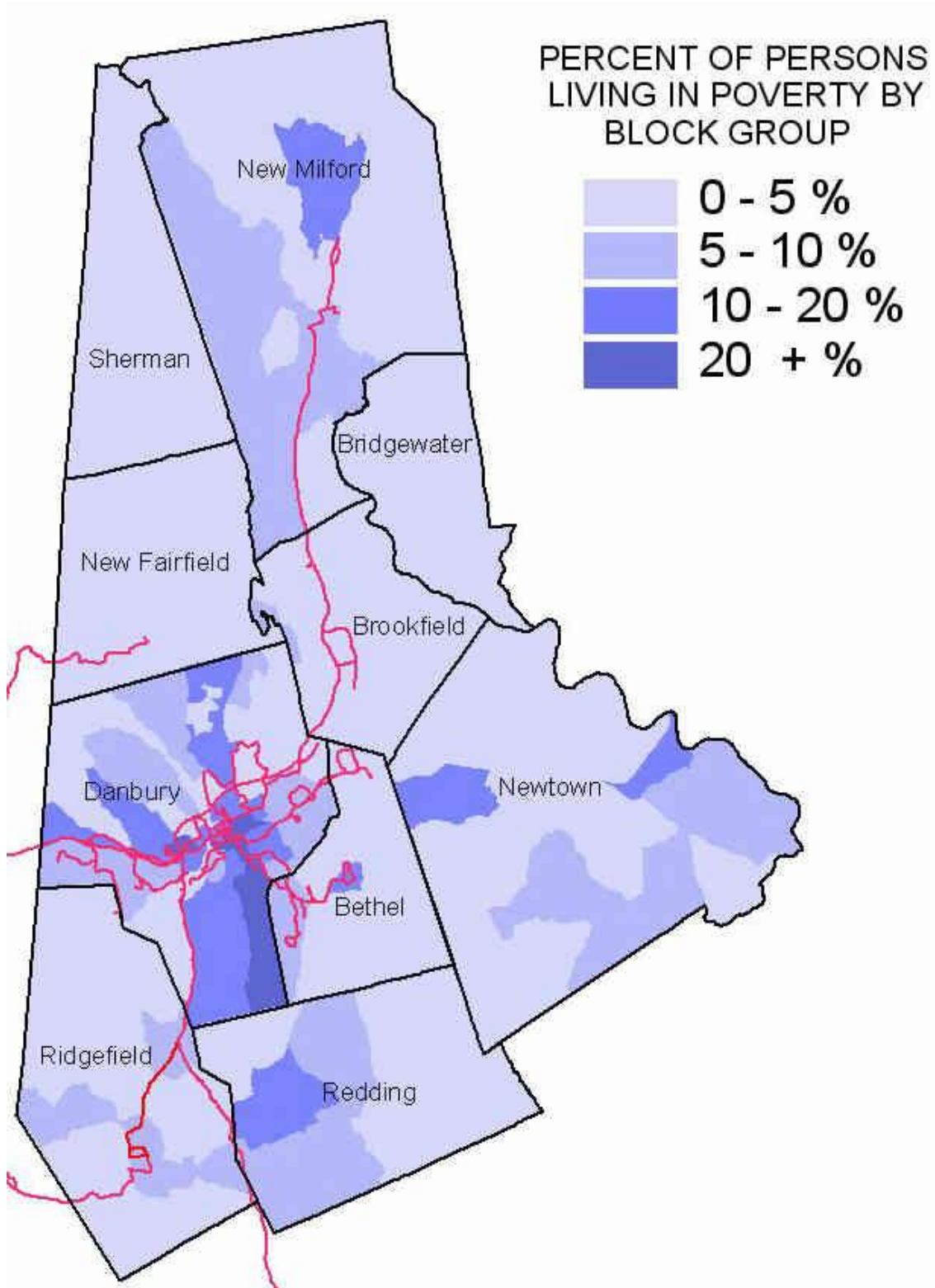
Source: HVMPO Display of Data from CT DOT Web Site 11/2014



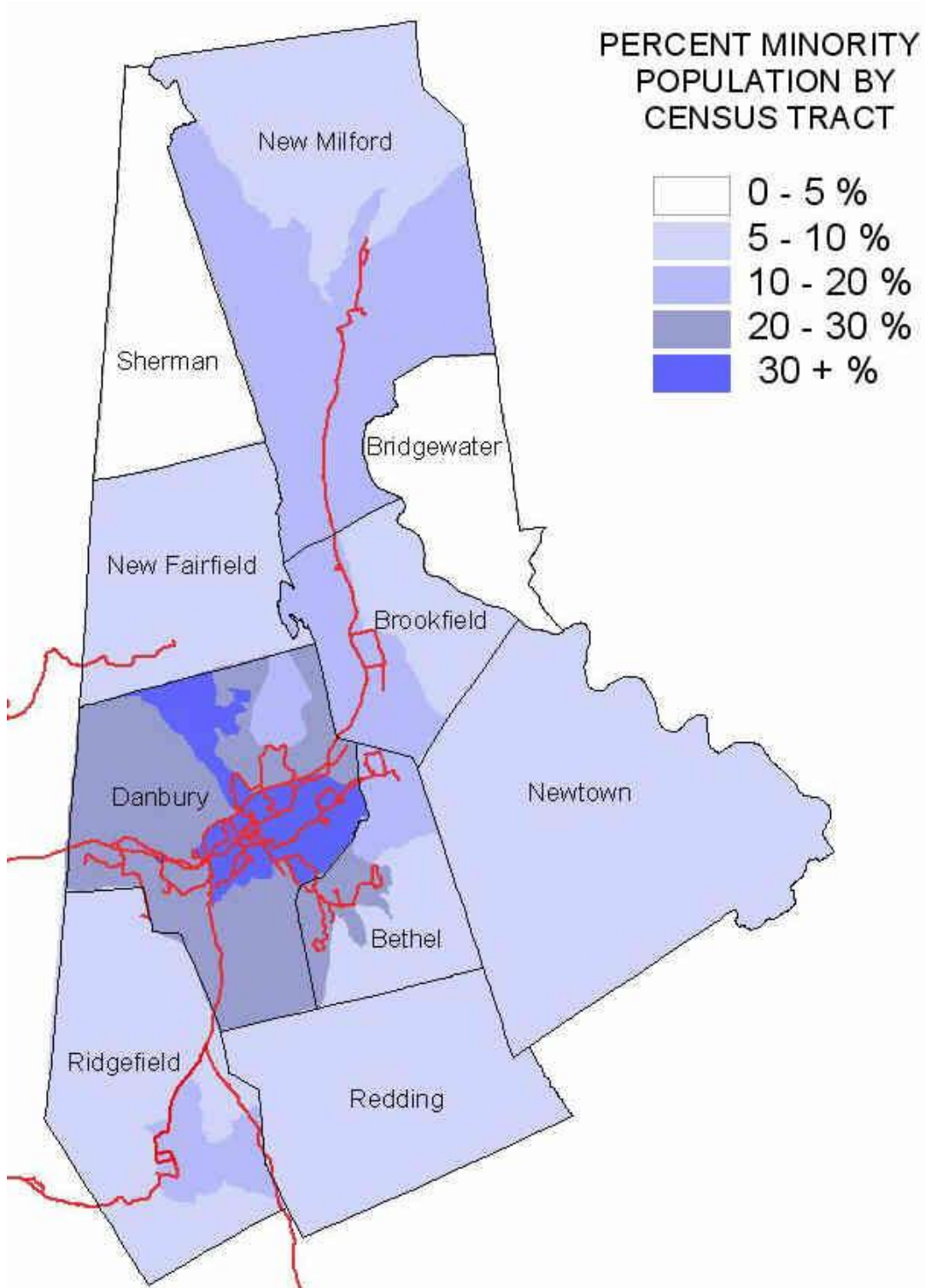
ALL FIGURES ARE PERCENTAGES

**LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY:
PERCENT BY CENSUS TRACT**

Source: HVMPO Display of Data from CT DOT Web Site 11/2014



ALL FIGURES ARE PERCENTAGES
U.S. DOT FUNDED BUS SERVICE
IN RELATION TO PERCENT LIVING IN POVERTY
Source: CT Economic Resource Center 11/2014



ALL FIGURES ARE PERCENTAGES
PERCENT MINORITY IN RELATION
TO U.S. DOT FUNDED BUS SERVICE
Source: HVMPO Display of Data from CT DOT Web Site 1