

Why is this important?

Environmental justice refers to the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws and policies. The environmental justice analysis evaluated every resource to determine if low-income and minority populations were disproportionately affected.

Potential Impacts

Examining potential impacts to low-income and minority populations of the Preferred Alternative include:

- 47 to 60 commercial/industrial property acquisitions and associated business relocations.
- Neighborhood economic impacts to Elyria and Swansea for 30 to 33 (out of 47 to 60 total) commercial/industrial property business relocations.

Benefits of the Preferred Alternative include:

- Faster travel and the availability of more travel options.
- Easier access to jobs and services through expanded public transit options including faster access to local destinations (e.g., DIA, Stapleton, and downtown Denver) as well as regional destinations (e.g., Aurora, Lakewood, Arvada, and Thornton) due to planned connecting rail and bus lines.
- An estimated 1,460 new jobs related to construction and operation of the project would benefit all people, including minority and low-income populations, by providing opportunities for employment.

Proposed Mitigation

- Provide acquisition and relocation assistance to impacted properties consistent with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act (Uniform Act) of 1970, as amended.
- For low-income and minority residential households that are relocated, RTD will provide free, comprehensive one-year transit passes to all household members.
- In addition to the analysis already completed, survey information is being collected for property acquisitions and associated business relocations. Examples of data to be collected include type of business products and services; location of customers and suppliers; and the minority/non-minority share of employees. Result of this additional analysis and any recommended mitigation measures will be included in the FEIS.