Estimated Schedule of Activities for the 2020 Census Urban Areas*

2021

February 19, 2021

The United States Census
Bureau published a Federal
Register notice with proposed
criteria for defining urban
areas based on the results of
the 2020 Decennial Census.

Summer 2021

The Census Bureau will review the comments received on the proposed criteria published in the Federal Register.

Fall/Winter 2021

The Census Bureau will publish a Federal Register notice with the final criteria for defining urban areas based on the results of the 2020 Decennial Census.

2022

Spring/Summer 2022

The Census Bureau will publish a Federal Register notice announcing the qualifying urban areas based on the results of the 2020 Decennial Census and release TIGER/Line geographic shapefiles on their website.

Fall 2022

USDOT (FHWA and FTA) will publish a Federal Register notice designating Transportation Management Areas (TMAs) for urban areas with populations of 200,000 or more, as determined by the Census Bureau and the results of the 2020 Decennial Census.

Before October 1, 2022

States should revisit their intra-State formulas for metropolitan planning (PL) funds allocations to MPOs to ensure that the new Census 2020 population figures are being used and that any new MPOs are part of the calculation.

After October 1, 2022

Before next regularly-scheduled Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update, after October 1, 2022, or within 4 years of the designation of the new urban area boundary, whichever occurs first, existing MPOs must expand their Metropolitan Planning Areas (MPAs) to include all territory in urban areas with populations of 50,000 or more, as determined by the Census Bureau and the results of the 2020 Decennial Census (if necessary).

2023

Spring/Summer 2023

New MPOs must be designated by Governor(s) to represent all new urban areas with populations of 50,000 or more, as determined by the Census Bureau and the results of the 2020 Decennial Census.

2024

Spring 2024

New TMAs must have a Congestion Management Process (CMP).

April 15 and June 15, 2024

Any adjustments to urban area boundaries must be approved by the Governor(s) (or Governor's designee) and FHWA Division Office(s). FHWA will consider all urban area boundaries final as of April 15, 2024 and will use the original 2020 Census boundaries for all urban areas that have not been adjusted. The 2024 Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) data submissions on April 15 and June 15, 2024 must conform to the approved urban area boundary.

2026

Spring/Summer 2026

New MPOs must have a formally adopted Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

*Adapted from https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/census issues/urbanized areas and mpo tma/schedule/

FHWA's Planning Resources for the Census

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FHWA Census Issues Website

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/census_issues/ https://hepgis.fh

FHWA Planning, Environment, and Realty GIS (HEPGIS)

https://hepgis.fhwa.dot.gov/fhwagis/

Internal FHWA Planning Discipline SharePoint

https://usdot.sharepoint.com/sites/fhwa-dss-planning/SitePages/Census.aspx