



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

URBAN AREA BOUNDARIES

April 13, 2022

Topics To Cover

- Proposed Urban Area Criteria for 2020 Census
- Urban Area Update/Review post Decennial Census

Proposed Urban Area Criteria for 2020 Census

On Friday, February 19, 2021, the proposal for the 2020 Urban Area Criteria was published in the Federal Register,

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-02-19/pdf/2021-03412.pdf>

Comments on the proposal were due on May 20, 2021. These criteria will be important for determining, among other things:

- Establishing boundaries for Metropolitan Statistical Areas(MSAs) and Micropolitan Statistical Areas(μSAs)
- Transit funding amounts for the state and local communities
- Areas that are or are not eligible for 5307 Urbanized Area funding and 5311 Rural Transit Funding

Proposed Urban Area Criteria for 2020 Census

- Housing unit density threshold of 385 housing units per square mile as a primary criterion for determining whether a census block qualifies for inclusion in an urban area
 - This is consistent with the 1,000 persons per square mile used in the past
- Qualify Urban Areas based on a minimum threshold of 4,000 housing units or 10,000 persons instead of a minimum threshold of 2,500 persons
- Cease Distinguishing Different Types of Urban Areas
 - The 50,000-person threshold that has been used to distinguish between urbanized areas and smaller urban areas would no longer be used
- Maximum Distance of Jumps reduced to 1.5 miles
 - 2.5 miles adopted in 2000 is seen as an overextension of urban area

Proposed Urban Area Criteria for 2020 Census

- No longer include the low density hop or jump “corridor” in the urban area
 - No longer include the low-density territory intervening between the main body of the urban area and the outlying qualifying territory that is the destination of the hop or jump
- No longer include low-density territory located within indentations formed during the urban area delineation process

Post Decennial Census Update

Important Planning Task

- Initiated after US Census releases 2020 Urban Area Boundaries (Spring/Summer 2022)
- UZA Boundaries undergo a “smoothing”(adjusted outward) process
- No plan for Functional Class review with FHWA at this time

Post Decennial Census Update

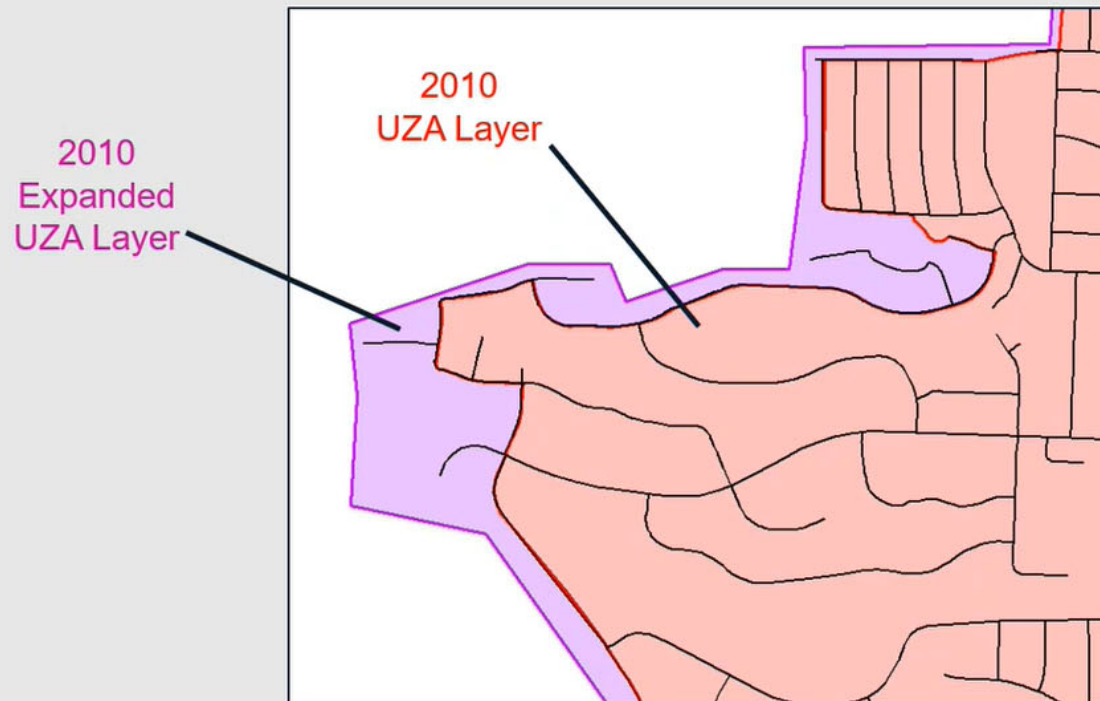
- The underlying philosophy behind the “smoothing” process will be to expand outward from the existing boundary as little as possible. However, the larger the area, the larger the amount of outward adjustment is allowed. As was the case during the 2010 boundary adjustment process.
- Adjusted boundaries will follow identifiable features, including (but not necessarily limited to: Roadways, Railroads, Water Bodies and County Boundaries; city boundaries will largely be ignored.

Post Decennial Census Update

- Once TPP has developed a draft set of adjusted 2020 urban areas, TPP will review the areas with FHWA and then present these draft areas to each MPO for their consideration to either adopt as-is or suggest any changes.
- Collaborative working sessions will be held with TPP, FHWA, and any MPO that wishes to suggest revisions.
 - The goal is to have informed consent on the adjusted boundaries and receive formal FHWA approval of those boundaries.

Post Decennial Census Update

Urban Area Boundary Expanded



Post Decennial Census Update

Urban Area Boundary Expanded



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