Transportation Planning Implications of Census Urbanized Area Designations

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Poll Question #1

What is your affiliation?

- New MPO Staff
- New MPO Board Member
- State DOT
- Transit Operator
- FHWA Division
- FTA Region
- FTA or FHWA Headquarters
- Other
Congratulations on your Census UZA Designation!
Agenda

1. Background on Census UZA Designation
2. The Need for Planning on a Regional Scale
3. Implications of UZA Designation for Transportation Planning
4. Establishing a High-Performing Metropolitan Planning Process
5. Technical Assistance Available to You
Objectives of Webinar

- Convey the Basics of Census UZA Designation
- Outline Federal Requirements for Planning and Identify the Planning Implications of UZA Designation
- Identify Key Actions for MPOs, Local Agencies, Transit Providers, and States
- Answer Questions / Forum for Peer Dialogue
- Communicate the Availability of Continuing Technical Assistance and Support from FTA/FHWA
After this webinar, you will be able to:

• Explain the value of planning at a regional level
• Describe the functions and purpose of an MPO, including Board Members, Staff, and Committees
• Recall the Federal requirements for metropolitan transportation planning and planning products
• Identify the various ways new MPOs are establishing and growing their planning processes
• Be aware of the Technical Assistance and Support available from FTA/FHWA and how to access it
Changes in Urbanized Area Populations

• 2010 population of the U.S. was 308.7 million, an increase since 2000 of 27.3 million (+9.7%)

• Urbanized population was 223.3 million, an increase since 2000 of 27.5 million (+14%)

• 36 UZAs are new (average size: 58,585)

• Even more UZAs grew to encompass additional, formerly rural, localities
Background on Census UZA Designation

Current MPOs (per 2000 Census)
Background on Census UZA Designation

New MPOs (per 2010 Census)
New MPOs (Cont.)

Transportation Planning Implications of Census Urbanized Area Designations
Background on Census UZA Designation

What is an Urbanized Area (UZA)?

- **Concept:** dense core and “connected” areas with total population of at least 50,000

- **Criteria:** technical criteria developed, published for review and comment, and used by the Census Bureau to define UZAs
  

- **Appeal:** use of objective, non-program, publically reviewed UZA criteria limits the case for appeal of a UZA designation to the Census Bureau.

Transportation Planning Implications of Census Urbanized Area Designations
Urbanized Areas & Urban Clusters

Transportation Planning Implications of Census Urbanized Area Designations
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Planning on a Regional Scale

- Urban & Rural Areas Face Transportation Issues
- Problems in Urban Communities
  - More Intense
  - Longer Duration
  - Larger Spatial Extent
- Region Focus: Across Counties, Modes, 20 Years
Rationale for Regional, Multimodal Planning

- **Interconnected Localities Comprise an Urban Area:** Transportation problems involve solutions undertaken by, and affecting, more than one locality

- **Broad Range of Transportation Strategies:** multimodal, and management/operational, to comprise “system”

- **It’s More than Transportation:** Extensive span of factors that affect / are affected by, transportation require a “regional” view
Poll Question #2

What transportation issues face your region?

- Traffic Safety
- In-Town Traffic Congestion
- Congestion at Major Employment Site
- Air Quality
- Lack of Transportation Options to Driving
- Growing Population with Limited Mobility
- Other
The Need for Planning on a Regional Scale

Short Description of Metropolitan Planning

• a *continuous* process that involves *monitoring* current system performance and conditions, *forecasting* future needs, and *prioritizing* *investment* options to address those needs using *performance* indicators / targets

• provides the *information, tools, public involvement*, and organizational framework for *decision-making* needed for improving transportation system performance

• Conducted at Metropolitan level, as well as *Statewide*
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Planning Implications

- Projects and services in UZAs can be funded by FTA/FHWA only upon establishing a planning process and designating a metropolitan planning organization (MPO) to manage the process.

- Localities in new or enlarged UZAs must form a new MPO, or join an existing MPO serving an adjacent UZA, to access FTA/FHWA funds.
**Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)**

- Intergovernmental forum for cooperative regional planning, with a *Board of Officials* and a *Staff Agency*

- MPOs, “… in cooperation with the State and public transportation operators, develops
  
  - metropolitan transportation plans (20 years) and
  
  - transportation improvement programs (4 years)

  through a performance-driven…approach….”

- *All localities in UZAs must form, or join, an MPO.*
Establishing a Metropolitan Planning Process

- Designation / Re-designation of an MPO
- Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA)
- Metropolitan Planning Agreement
- Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
- Public Participation Plan
- Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
Poll Question #3

Which of the following steps have you completed?

- Set a Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA)
- Approved a Metropolitan Planning Agreement
- Prepared a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
- Prepared a Public Participation Plan
- Prepared a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)
- Prepared a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
Establishing a High-Performing Metropolitan Planning Process

Designation of MPO in a New UZA

Designation by

- Local Units of Government Representing 75% of UZA Population, plus Central City
- The Governor

Membership

- Local Governments, including Central City
- Appropriate State Officials
- Operators of Major Transportation Modes
- Stakeholder Groups, Agencies, the Public
Poll Question #4

What voting members are on your MPO board?

– State Officials
– Public Transit Providers
– Operators of Other Transportation Modes
– Stakeholder Groups
– the Public
– Other
Smoothing UZA Boundary

• Smooth “rough edges” for FHWA purposes:
  – Urban/rural design criteria and
  – HPMS data collection (by June 2014)
• Include airports/industrial parks at the edge
• Eliminate Urban boundary running down the center line of a road
• Agreed to by State DOT and MPO
• Does not change ‘official’ Census boundary for population counts affecting fund apportionment
Establishing a High-Performing Metropolitan Planning Process

Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA)
Establishing a High-Performing Metropolitan Planning Process

**Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA)**

- Should Reflect Urban Area Anticipated over Next 20 Years – the MPO’s planning horizon
- Must Span the Current UZA – at a Minimum
- Projects and Services within MPA Funded by FTA or FHWA Must Appear in MTP and TIP
- Consider Infrastructure Service Areas, Local Master Plans/Zoning, and Air Quality Areas
- Approval by MPO and State
Establishing a High-Performing Metropolitan Planning Process

Metropolitan Planning Agreement

Rules of Engagement for key processes/products:

- **Document Preparation**: UPWP, Public Participation Plan, Metropolitan Transportation Plan, TIP

- **Planning Procedures**: Revenue forecasts, project selection, performance targets, air quality, annual list of obligated projects

- **Advisory Committee/Subcommittee**: functions, membership, and meeting logistics
**Metropolitan Planning Agreement**

*Typical roles and responsibilities addressed:*

- MPO Activities, including Documents, Committee Membership and Voting Arrangements
- Coordination with Air Quality Planning in Air Quality Nonattainment and Maintenance areas
- Coordination of MPO Plan with Other Agency Plans
- Demographic and Financial Forecasts for Plan & TIP
- Acquisition/Maintenance of Planning Tools (models)
- Cost Principles and Records Management of MPO
Poll Question #5

Who signed the MPO Agreement?

- MPO
- State
- Transit
- Air Quality Agency
- Citizens
- Other
Poll Question #6

*What does the MPO Agreement include?*

- Detailed Roles in Preparing Key Documents
- Roles in Setting TIP Priorities & Project Selection
- Members, Roles, Meetings of Advisory Committees
- Provisions for Transportation / Air Quality Planning
- Other
Establishing a High-Performing Metropolitan Planning Process

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP): “the plan for planning”

• Planning tasks/studies conducted in 1-2 year period
• FTA/FHWA funded studies (and non-Federal for info only), including transportation/air quality planning
• Project sponsor, funding source, schedule for projects
• “Simplified Statement of Work” in small UZAs, with project sponsor, products, funding, and matching $
• Prepare in 1st year to access FTA/FHWA Funds
• In-State Formula allocation approved by FTA/FHWA
Establishing a High-Performing Metropolitan Planning Process

UPWP Work Activity Examples

- **Administration of Planning Program** – staff support for meetings, report preparation, computers

- **Data Collection/Forecasting** – assembly and analysis of traffic and transit ridership counts, travel surveys, development of forecasting tools

- **Public Involvement** – outreach and dialogues in accordance with Public Participation Plan

- **Transportation Plan and Program** – studies and document preparation by staff and contractors

- **Special Studies** – corridor/subarea mobility, multimodal needs analyses, non-motorized, etc.
Poll Question #7

Does your UPWP include provisions and funding for preparing:

- MTP
- TIP
- Demographic Forecasts
- Revenue Forecasts
- Regional Mobility Needs Studies
- Capital Reinvestment/State of Good Repair
Public Participation Plan

- Program funds in UPWP to prepare in 1st year
- Proactive, Early, Open, Continuous, and Collaborative, w/ many “Interested Parties”
- MPOs must prepare Public Participation Plans
  - detailed procedures for engagement
  - in collaboration with public & stakeholders
- Must be used for MTP & TIP preparation
Poll Question #8

*Does your Participation Plan include:*

- Public Input and Review of Key Documents
- Special Efforts to Engage Under-Represented Populations
- Establishment of Citizen Advisory Committee
- Coordination with Other Agencies’ Public Involvement
- Timing/Procedures for Evaluating Participation Plan
- Other
Establishing a High-Performing Metropolitan Planning Process

Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

- The Region’s *Vision* and supporting *policies, operational strategies, and projects* to achieve it
- Spans short and long-range - at least 20 years
- Has a *Financial Plan* and is *Fiscally Constrained*
- Contains agreed upon *Performance Targets*
- *Staff* Prepares, *Advisory Committees* review, *MPO Board Adopts* an Update every 4-5 years
- Should program funds in UPWP to begin preparing
Establishing a High-Performing Metropolitan Planning Process

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

• 4-year schedule of annual transportation spending priorities consistent with the MTP
• Has Financial Plan/Fiscally Constrained by Year
• Public engaged per Public Participation Plan
• Staff Prepares, Advisory Committees review, MPO Board Approves Update every 4 years
• Projects’ Anticipated Progress in Meeting Performance Targets
• TIP Incorporated Without Change to STIP
Successful Partnerships in a New MPO

- Understand Players, Processes, and Products
- Build “Community” Awareness of Mobility Challenges/Establish Regional Needs Agenda
- Tap UPWP Opportunity to Address Needs
  - Congestion/Mobility Needs Studies
  - Data Collection / Travel Forecasting
  - Multimodal Corridor and Subarea Studies
- Advisory Committee Participation & Public Engagement Make the Case and Bolster Support
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Available Information & Technical Assistance

• Frequently Asked Questions on FTA/FHWA Websites
  – http://www fhwa dot gov/planning/census_issues/urbanized_areas_and_mpo_tma/faq/

• Training from National Transit Institute (NTI) and National Highway Institute (NHI)
  – http://www ntionline com/courses/list php
  – http://www nhi fhwa dot gov/default aspx

• Case studies of new MPO formation
  – http://www fhwa dot gov/planning/census_issues/urbanized_areas_and_mpo_tma/additional_resources/
Transportation Planning Capacity-Building Program (TPCB)

- Web-based Information Dissemination
  - Website with Extensive Collection of Case Studies
  - Library of Streamed Webinar Broadcasts
- Facilitated Peer Exchanges – on request
- Informational Presentations at Stakeholder Events
Contact your Local FTA/ FHWA Offices

- FTA Region Offices:

- FHWA Division Offices
  http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/about/field.cfm
Contact Us!

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Questions & Discussion

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