

7. ADJUSTED URBANIZED AREA

BACKGROUND

The US Census Bureau defines and delineates the geographic boundaries for urbanized areas based on population determined by the Census. Urbanized Areas (UZAs) have a population of at least 50,000. Every ten years when Census data is released, TxDOT leads the process of reviewing and/or adjusting Urbanized Area boundaries with feedback from the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). For transportation planning purposes, states have the option of using Census-defined urban boundaries, or they may adjust the census-defined boundaries to be more consistent with transportation needs. Any adjustments to urban area boundaries must be approved by the Federal Highway (FHWA) Division Office.

Historic Urbanized Area Boundary data from 1970-2020 can be seen on [H-GAC's Census Urbanized Area Tool](#).

CURRENT SITUATION

The original 2020 Census Urbanized Area Boundary may be adjusted ("smoothed") to follow municipal limits, include transit routes, and/or simplify the boundary to remove irregularities. Any adjustments to the Urbanized Area Boundaries must be approved by the FHWA Division Administrator by December 29, 2023.

At the November 8, 2023 Transportation Advisory Committee meeting, the TAC recommended that the TPC accept TxDOT's proposed adjustments to the urbanized area. At the November 17, 2023 Transportation Policy Council meeting, the TPC tabled action on providing input to TxDOT. TxDOT has subsequently completed its development of the adjusted urbanized area for submittal to FHWA.

Staff will provide an update. No action is required.

ACTION REQUESTED

For discussion and possible action.