

8. 20-YEAR URBANIZED AREA GROWTH FORECAST

BACKGROUND

The MPO is required to develop a forecast of the region's contiguous urbanized area projected for the next 20 years. That projection is used to review the MPO's Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) for compliance with the federal requirement that the MPA "encompass the entire existing urbanized area (as defined by the Bureau of the Census) plus the contiguous area expected to become urbanized within a 20-year forecast period..." If the Census-defined urbanized area or the contiguous area expected to become urbanized within the next 20 years extends beyond the current Metropolitan Planning Area, then the MPO is required to adjust the MPA to ensure compliance.

The H-GAC MPO's Metropolitan Planning Area was established in 1974 and has not been adjusted since then.

CURRENT SITUATION

Following the 2020 Decennial Census, MPO staff have prepared the required 20-year urban growth area forecast. Staff will present the forecast and describe how it was developed. This forecast will be used by the Transportation Policy Council's Select Committee on Planning Area and Composition to evaluate and make recommendations to the TPC regarding adjustments to the Metropolitan Planning Area to ensure compliance with federal requirements for the MPO.

ACTION REQUESTED

For Discussion and Possible Action (No Action Required)