Census 2020: Implications for Program Management
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Marianne Stock, FTA Office of Program Management
John Giorgis, FTA Office of Budget and Policy
Census Proposed Criteria

- The Census Bureau Updates Its Criteria for Delineating Urbanized Areas Every 10 Years
- Census Bureau Published Proposed Criteria in February 2020
- Census Bureau Held Several Webinars During the Spring
- Census Plans to Respond to Comments and Publish the Final Criteria by February/March 2022
New Terminology of *Urban Areas*

- Census Bureau Currently Identifies Urban Clusters Between 2,500 and 50,000 in Population
  - Census Bureau Will No Longer Use the Term *Urban Clusters*
  - Census Bureau Will Now Use the Term *Urban Areas*, to Include *Urbanized Areas*

- No Impact on FTA Programs – 49 USC 5302 Require Urbanized Areas to Have 50,000 in Population for Purposes of Our Programs
Proposed New Thresholds for Housing & Population

- Minimum Threshold for *Urban Areas* Will Be 10,000 Population
- Census Will Also Use a Threshold of 4,000 Housing Units
- Impact on FTA Programs Will Be Minimal
  - 49 USC 5302 Means FTA Will Only Use Urban Areas with 50,000 in Population
  - It's Possible that Some Areas with a Highly Seasonal Population May Now Qualify
Proposal to Incorporate Commuting Patterns

• Adjacent Urban Areas with Shared Commuters will Be Combined Into a Single Urban Area
  • Census Will Not Split Urban Areas from the 2010 Census (e.g. Miami-Palm Beach)
  • Baltimore and Washington Will Remain Separate, but the Boundary Will Shift
  • Many Small Urban Areas Will Be Combined Into Nearby Larger Urban Areas
Changed Treatment of Uninhabited Areas

• Reducing the Size of the Maximum Jump from 2.5 Miles to 1.5 Miles
  • 2.5 Miles Was Used from 1950-1990
  • Certain Communities Might Go from Large Urban to Rural

• Census Will Not Create “Corridors,” Allowing Urban Areas to Be Noncontiguous
  • Minimal Impact on Formula Apportionment
  • Minimal Impact on Planning Programs
  • Possible Impact on Funding Eligibility
Overview of Rural Areas

- Funding Formula Is Largely Based on Population and Land Area, Only a Small Amount is Based on Transit Data
- Eligible for Operating Assistance
- State Is Both the Designated Recipient and the Direct Recipient
- Private Non-profits Are Eligible Subrecipients
- Half Fare Requirements Do Not Apply
- No Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) / Planning Handled by the State
Overview of Small Urban Areas

- Funding Formula Largely Based on Population and Population Density
- STIC Formula Provides Substantial Funding to Small Urban Areas with Lots of Transit Service
- Eligible for Operating Assistance
- State Is the Designated Recipient, but Most Grantees Are Direct Recipients
- Private Non-Profits Can’t Be Subrecipients to the Urban Formula Program
- Half-Fare Requirements Apply
- An MPO Must Be Established; Transportation Management Areas must have Transit Representation on the MPO Board
Overview of Large Urban Areas

• Funding Formula Is Largely Based on Transit Service Operations, with Smaller Amounts Based on Population and Population Density
• Only Operators with Fewer than 100 Vehicles Eligible for Operating Assistance
• A Designated Recipient Is Selected by the Governor with Local Officials
• Most Grantees Are Direct Recipients
• Private Non-Profits Can’t Be Subrecipients to the Urban Formula Program
• Half-Fare Requirements Apply
• An MPO Must Be Established with Transit Representation on the MPO Board
• Planning Process Must Be Certified by FTA & FHWA
• A Congestion Management Process Is Required
• Expanded Title VI Requirements for Operators with 50+ Vehicles
# Illustrative Formula Impacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Per Person</th>
<th>Per Low Income Person</th>
<th>Per Bus Vehicle Revenue Mile</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UZA Over 1 Million</td>
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<tr>
<td>UZA 200k to 1 Million</td>
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<td>UZA 50k to 200k</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural Under 50k</td>
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</table>

**Note:**
- Includes 5307, 5311, and 5339 formulas. However, not all formula apportionment factors are shown.
- Urbanized areas also receive amounts based on population density, operating efficiency, and the amount of fixed guideway service.
- Urbanized areas between 50k and 200k can receive additional amounts if they meet certain high-performance benchmarks.
- Rural areas also receive amounts based on land area.
Potential Changes Impacting Communities

- Rural to New Small Urban
- Rural to Pre-existing Small Urban
- Rural or Small Urban to Pre-existing Large Urban
- Small Urban to New Large Urban
- Small Urban Entirely to Rural
- Community in Small/Large Urban to Rural
- Large Urban to Small Urban
NTD Federal Register Notice

• Provides Further Details on Procedures for Implementing the New Census Boundaries
• Sets 1 October 2022 Cutoff Date for Use of New Census Boundaries in FY 2023
• Will Require Everyone to Complete a New FFA-10 Form Upon Release of the New Designations and Boundaries from the 2020 Census
• Comment Period Closes 18 February 2022
Timing of Changes

• Publish Final Urban/Rural criteria in FR Notice: Feb/March 2022
• Census Announcement of New UZAs: Summer 2022
• Grantees Add New Delineations to their 2021 NTD Report or their 2019 NTD Data: Summer/Fall 2022
• Data Anticipated to Be Used for FY 2023 Apportionments
• FY 2022 and Earlier Funding Will Remain Available Based on the 2010 Census Delineations
• FTA Is Required to Use “Most Recent” Census Delineations, Causing a Compressed Timeline
Q&As

Please ask your questions via the Q&A box