

The background of the slide is a photograph of a two-lane asphalt road winding through a rural landscape at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm orange glow over the scene. The road is flanked by green grass and wildflowers. In the distance, there are rolling hills and a few scattered trees.

**Urban Area Boundary Update
MPO/RPA Quarterly Meeting Review
Wednesday, December 14, 2022**

2

 Urban Area Boundary Update

Purpose:

To review the proposed DOT Urban Area Boundary (UAB) process and resources

Urban Area Boundary Update

Background

Well, what is it?: “Urban area boundaries are fixed primarily for capital project funding and are not to be confused with boundaries established for the comprehensive, cooperative and continuing urban transportation planning process.”¹

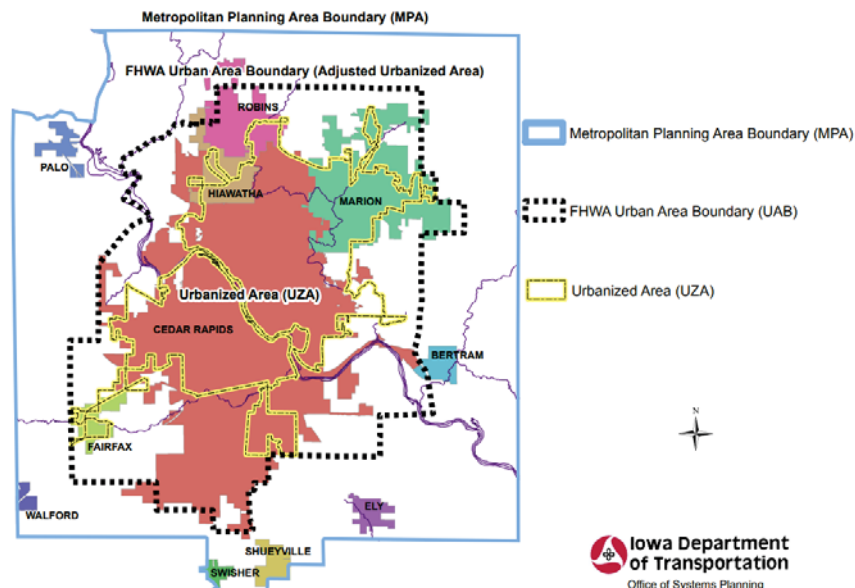
¹Federal-Aid Policy Guide, <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/legregs/directives/fapq/q406300.htm>

Urban Area Boundary Update

Background

Well, what is it?: Example

Planning Boundaries



**Background****What is involved?:**

- The FHWA and Census define an urban area boundary, largely on population density via a set of GIS operations.
- State DOTs work with local partners to review and amend the boundary for formal adoption and use until the next Decennial Census effort.

**Background****Who is or should be involved?:**

- Systems Planning and the District Planners will administer the update process,
- District Planners will work with RPAs, MPOs, Counties, State Officials (for joint-state jurisdictions), and the UABs themselves.



Urban Area Boundary Update

Why Locals Should Care

- 1 The UAB is what defines eligibility or jurisdiction for several federal and state programs, including but not limited to:
 - Federal Functional Classification (FFC)
 - Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS)
 - Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG)
 - Set-Aside: Transportation Alternatives (TA)
- 2 It is used to define areas as urban versus rural for use in statistical tabulation, such as micropolitan areas, population characteristics, etc.



Urban Area Boundary Update

Why Locals Should Care

- 3 Specific to MPOs and RPAs;
 - 5,000 to 49,999 in population, UABs:
 - Determine the boundary that encompasses facilities eligible for certain funding streams.
 - Program Management uses the initial listed population figure (before any adjustments) for STBG and TA calculations.
 - 50,000+ in population, UABs:
 - Determine the jurisdiction/responsibility between an MPO and an RPA*.
 - Program Management uses the adjusted/approved boundary for STBG and TAP calculations.

*Some MPOs use a Planning Area Boundary, to establish the jurisdiction with an RPA.

 Urban Area Boundary Update**Why Locals Should Care**

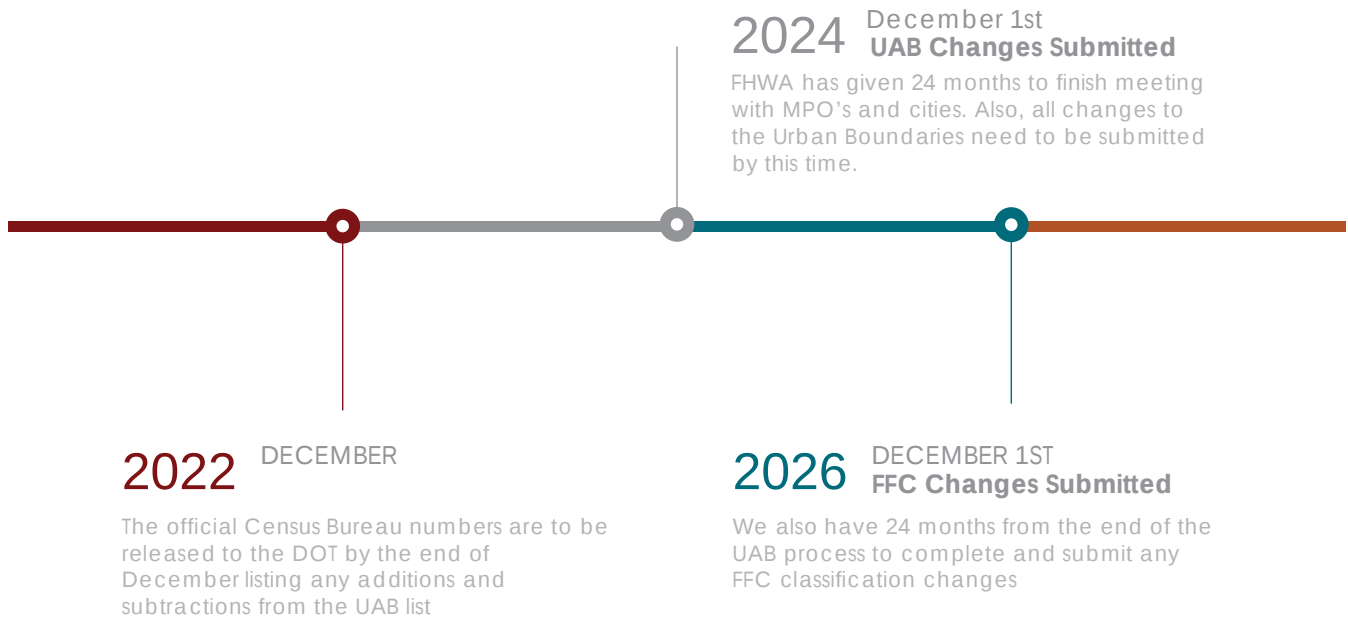
- 4** The UAB is developed per criteria to “...define urban areas in a nationally consistent and objective manner...while maintaining continuity with previous decades’ definitions.”²
Therefore, cooperative collaboration can help ensure there are no surprises.
- 5** Only once every 10 years is this available for change and there is no chance to challenge, if a community does not make the list.

² <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/about/faq/2010-urban-area-faq.html>

 Urban Area Boundary Update

Question:
What can you expect?

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 FHWA Timeline

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 UAB Timeline overview

- 1** December 2022, the Census Bureau publishes the final census listing and shapefiles for all qualifying urban areas.
- 2** Spring 2023, District Planners to host meetings with qualifying urban areas, to review and formalize the boundary.
- 3** Summer 2023, Systems Planning will start to review and create draft deliverables for review and preliminary approval with FHWA.
- 4** November 2023, signatures obtained for preliminarily approved boundaries.
- 5** June 2024, final GIS upload to be completed (deadline, December 2024).

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FFC Timeline overview

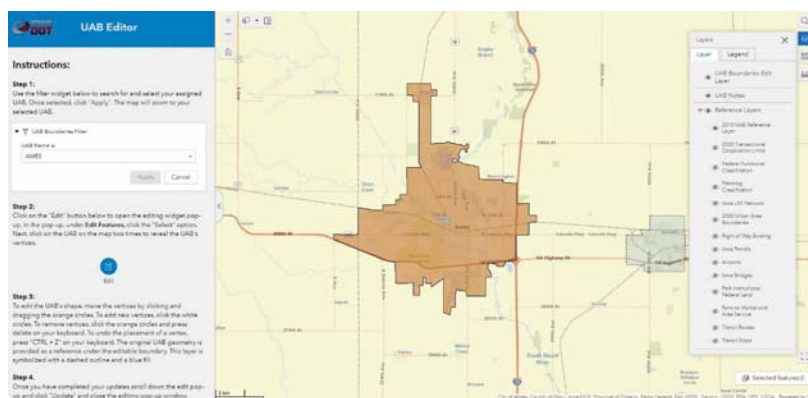
- 1 Summer 2023, preliminary FHWA approval of UAB changes begins.
- 2 Fall 2023, Systems Planning to begin identifying **UAB related FFC** changes and review with the group to incorporate.
- 3 Fall 2023, Local Agencies to begin to identify **additional FFC** changes not associated with the UAB update (these will follow the current policy process).
- 4 Early 2024, DOT to begin reviewing FFC change applications with FHWA.
- 5 June 2026 FFC changes finalized (deadline, December 2026).

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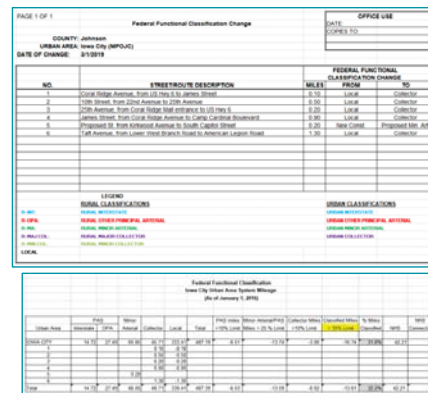
2020 Process Resources

Custom GIS Web-Portal for UAB Edits:

- Streamlines the entry of changes.
- Reduces mis-interpretation.
- Speeds up final material creation.
- Integrates documentation



- Faster identification of UAB related FFC changes.
- A smoother flow to more easily accommodate non-UAB related FFC changes



- FHWA's Planning Assistance Request System (PARS).
- Various sources of examples and best practices

 Urban Area Boundary UpdateReferences**FHWA UAB Process Frequently Asked Questions**

- https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/census_issues/urbanized_areas_and_mpo_tma/faq/

FHWA Policy Guide

- <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/legregs/directives/fapq/g406300.htm>

Iowa DOT Planning Resource Guide

- https://iowadot.gov/systems_planning/pr_guide/Planning%20Area%20Boundaries/Planning%20Boundaries%20Quick%20Reference.pdf

Census Transportation Planning Products

- <https://ctpp.transportation.org/>