



The Census, Urbanized Areas, and Your MPO/RPO

Alex Bond, AICP

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Issues to Discuss

- Census background
- Definitions of Census geographies
- How the Census relates to MPOs
- Changes to Urban Area definitions
- MPO boundary drawing
- Board reapportionment

The Census

- One of the only tasks mandated by the Constitution
- Administered every 10 years
- Information release has begun, and will continue through the end of 2012
- New urban area definitions due Oct. 2012
- AASHTO and the Census Bureau release the Census Transportation Planning Package (CTPP)

2010 Census – 100% Collection

10 Questions:

- Race – since 1790
- Gender – since 1790
- Age – since 1800
- Hispanic Origin – since 1970
- Relationship – since 1880
- Tenure (own or rent) – since 1890
- 4 Administrative questions – persons in household, phone number, additional residences

These results will determine the geographic boundaries important to MPOs

American Community Survey



- Replaces the long form of the Census
 - Long form was a 53-question sample that asked detailed questions
- ACS is continuously collected and amalgamated over a rolling 5 year period.
- Began in 2005

These results provide much of the data used in planning process

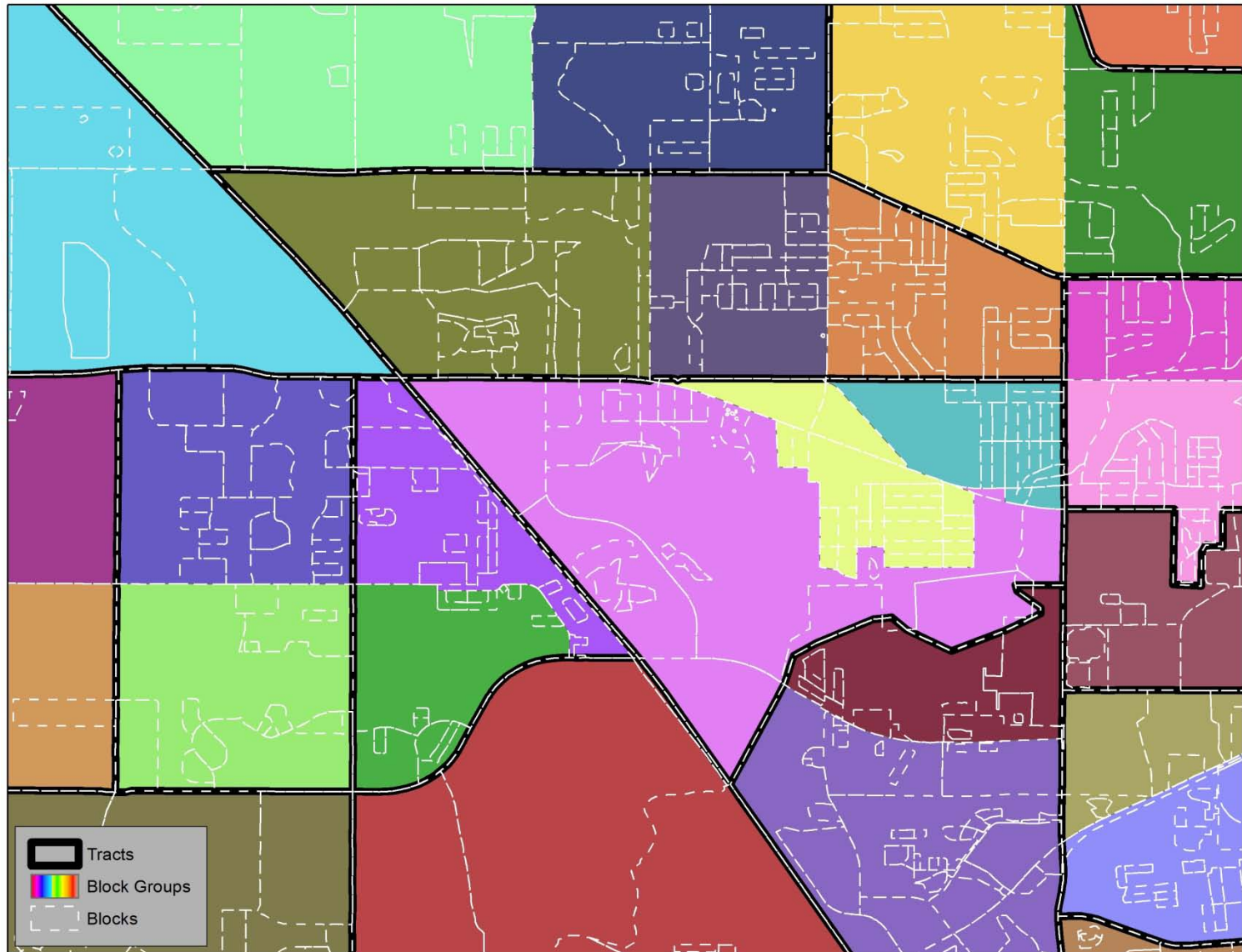
CENSUS GEOGRAPHIES

Urban Areas

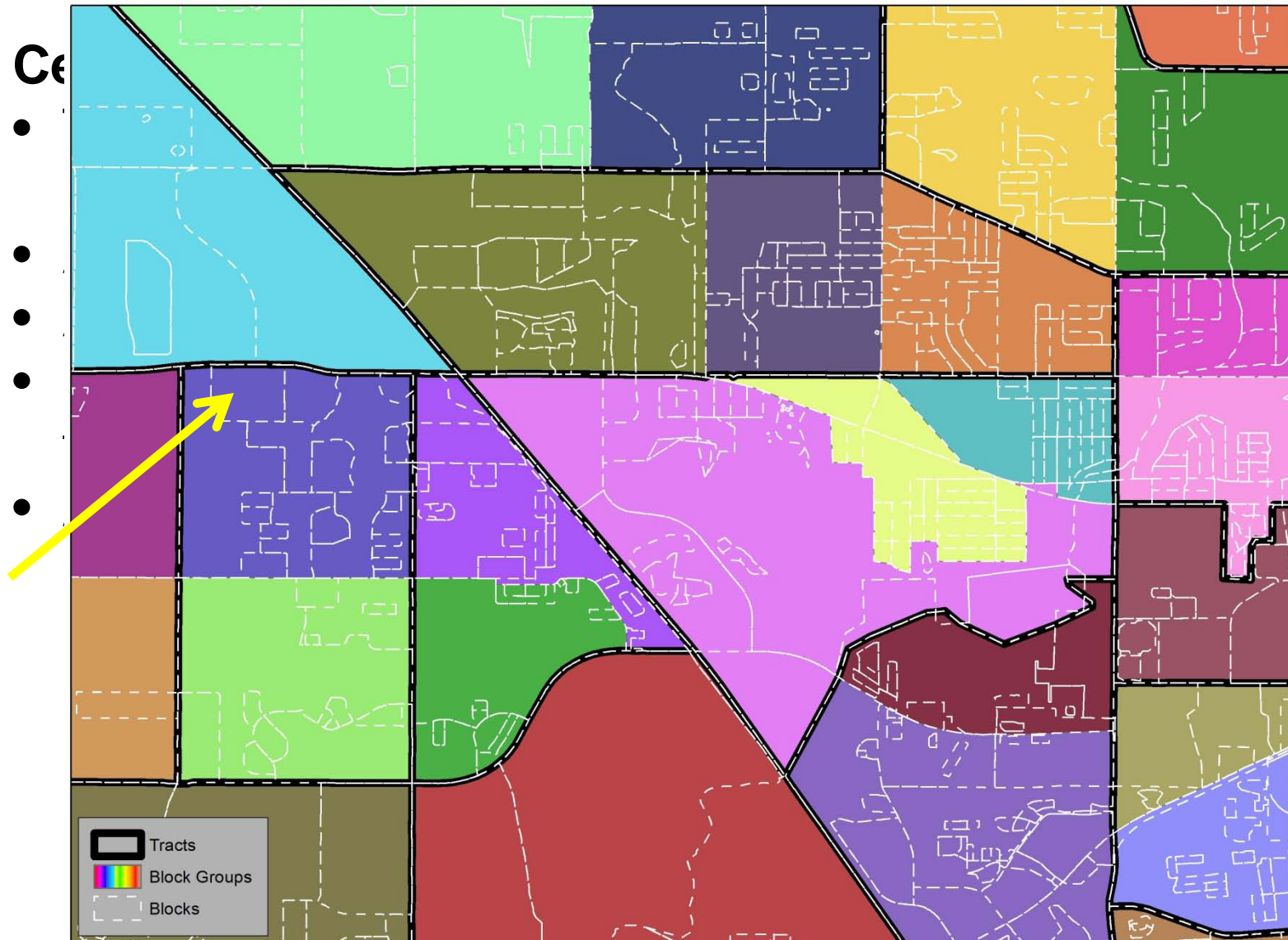
Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Census blocks/block groups/TAZs

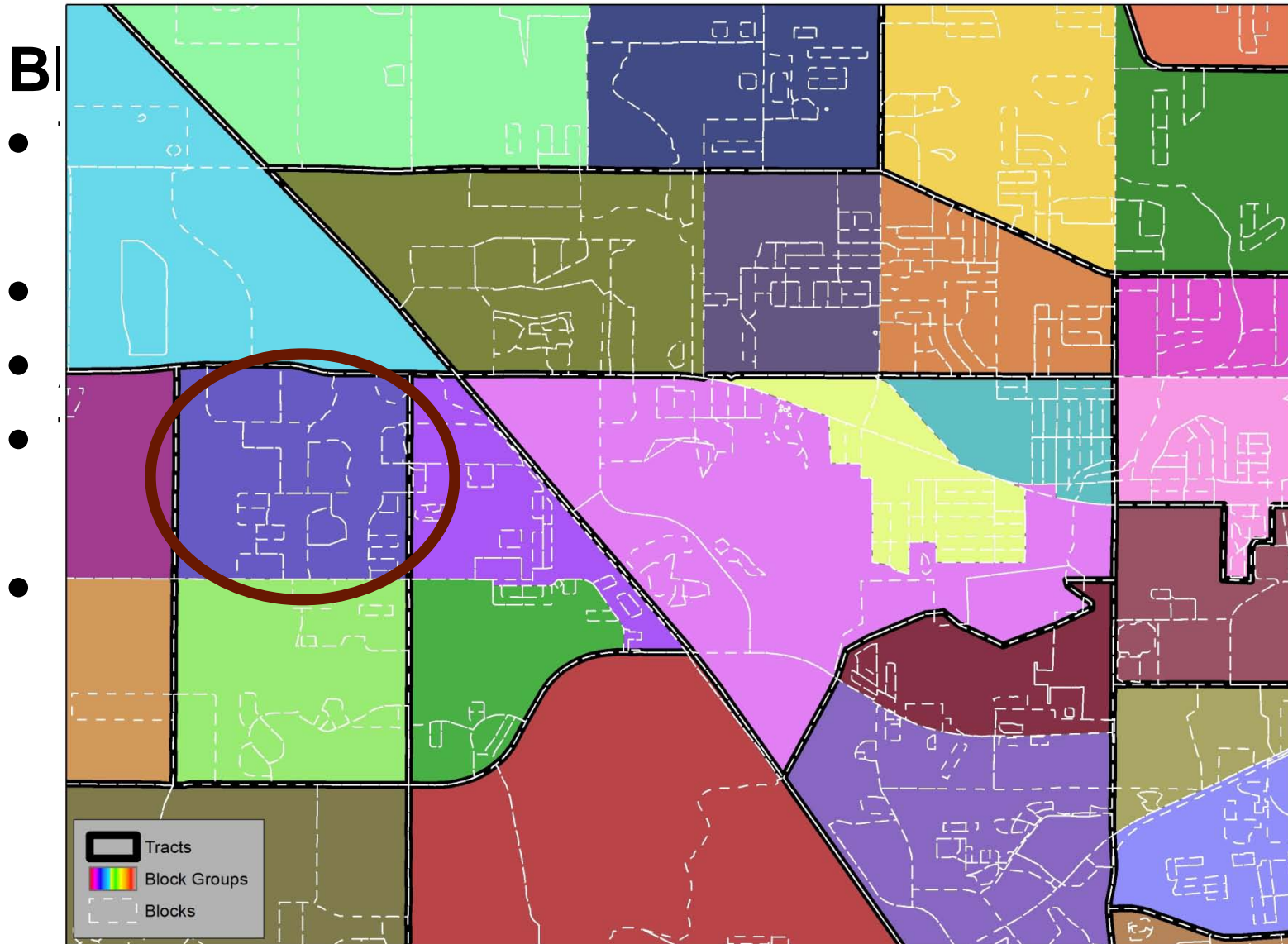
Census Blocks, Block Groups, and Tracts



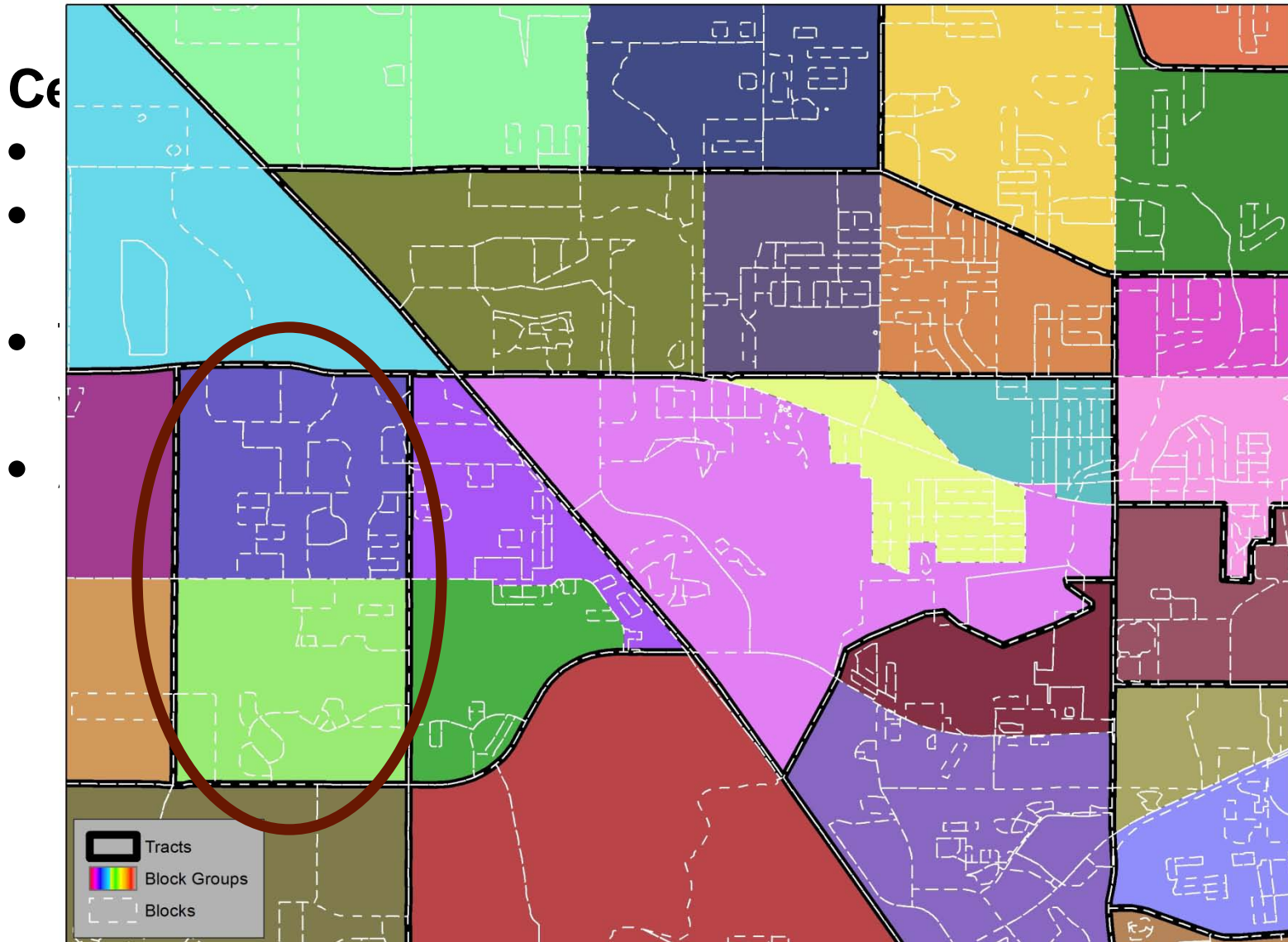
Census Blocks, Block Groups, and Tracts



Census Blocks, Block Groups, and Tracts

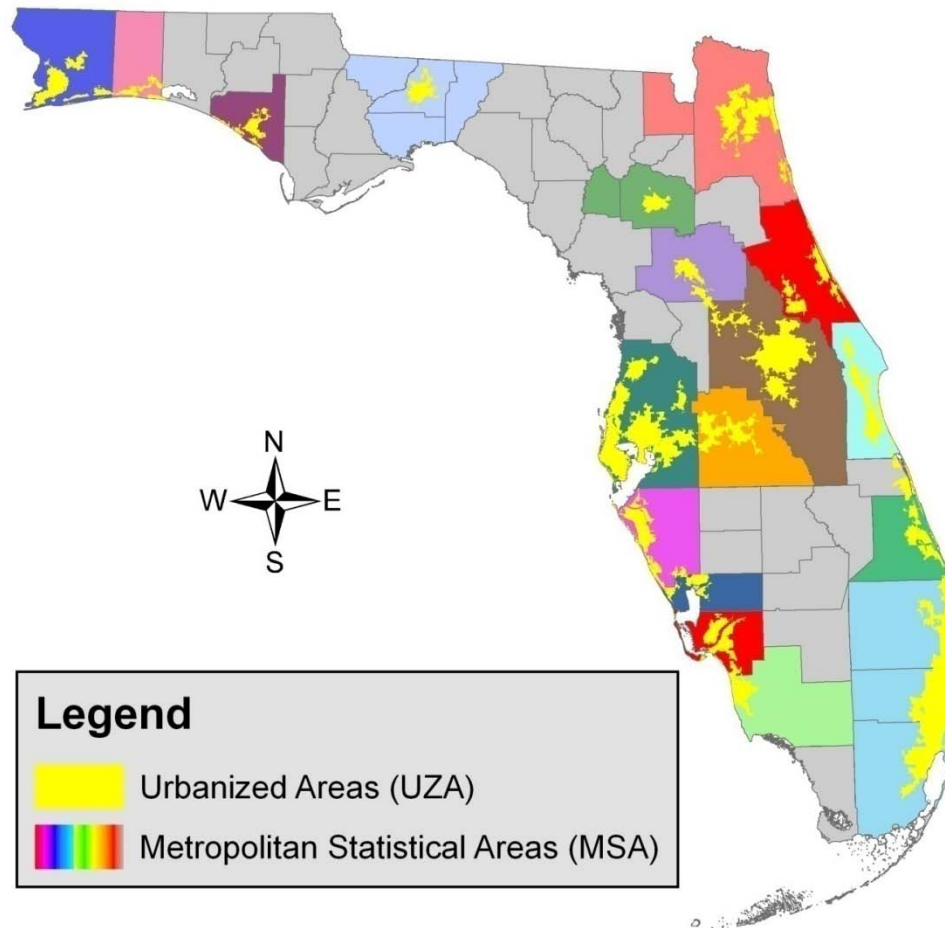


Census Blocks, Block Groups, and Tracts



Urban Areas (UA) and Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) are NOT interchangeable!

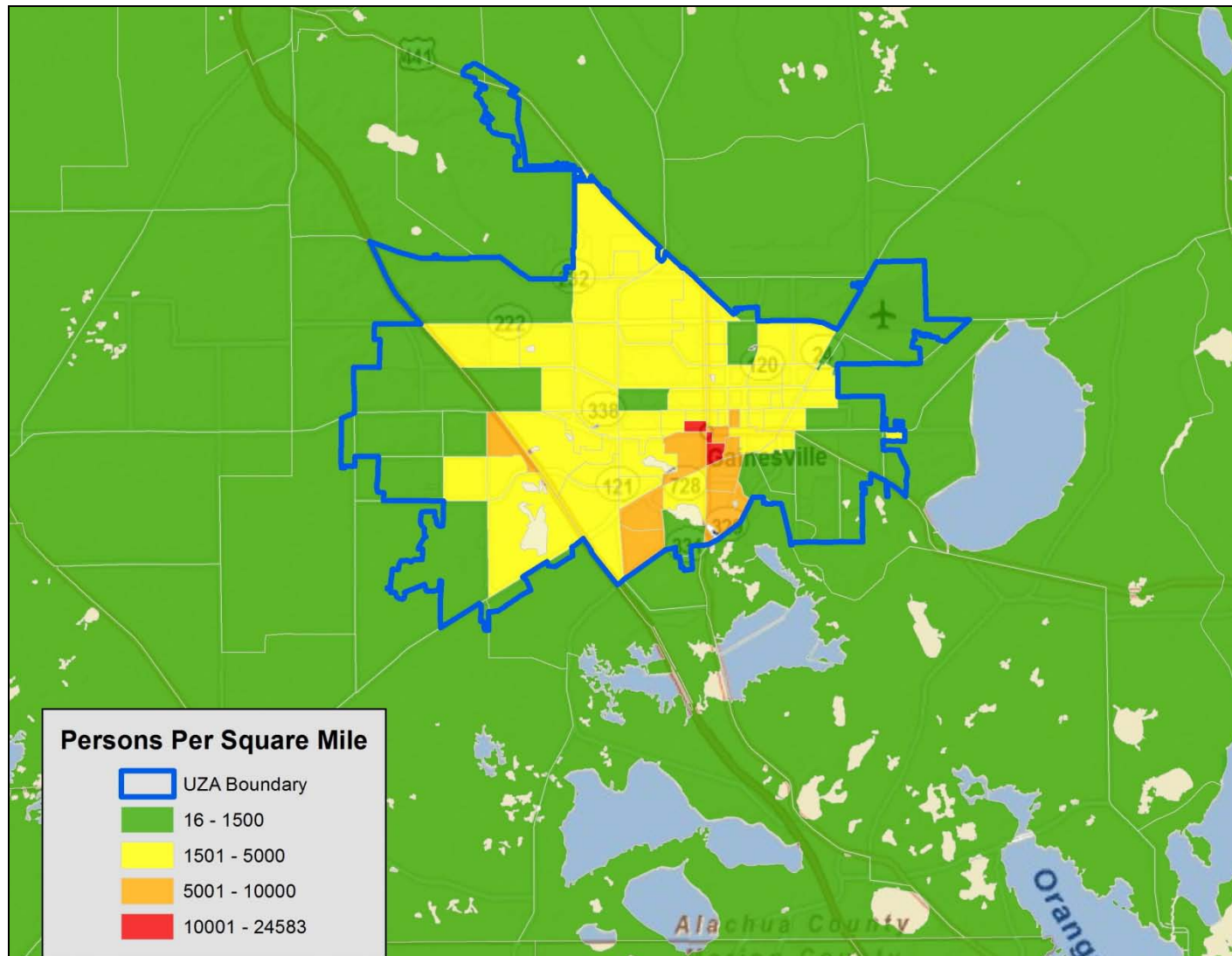
UZA Versus MSA Boundaries in Florida



Urbanized Areas

- The boundaries of a UA are set by:
 - Identifying a central core with at least 2,500 people and a population density of at least 1,000 people per sq. mile
 - Adding all Census block groups in the “core”
 - Adding all contiguous block groups whose population density exceeds 500 people per sq. mile. Total density cannot drop below 1,000
 - The UZA is named for the city or cities that form the central core (i.e. Gainesville UA)
 - Urban Clusters also exist

Urban Area Example



Urban Areas Cont'd

- UAs are compact and irregularly shaped
- Two UAs cannot adjoin each other
- 1870- Urban Areas defined for the 1st time
- 1940- Modern definition of UA adopted
- UA boundaries pay no attention to political boundaries
- 2000 Census- 484 UA covering 2% of the country's land area

CHANGES TO THE CENSUS DEFINITIONS

Qualifying Definitions

Enclaves

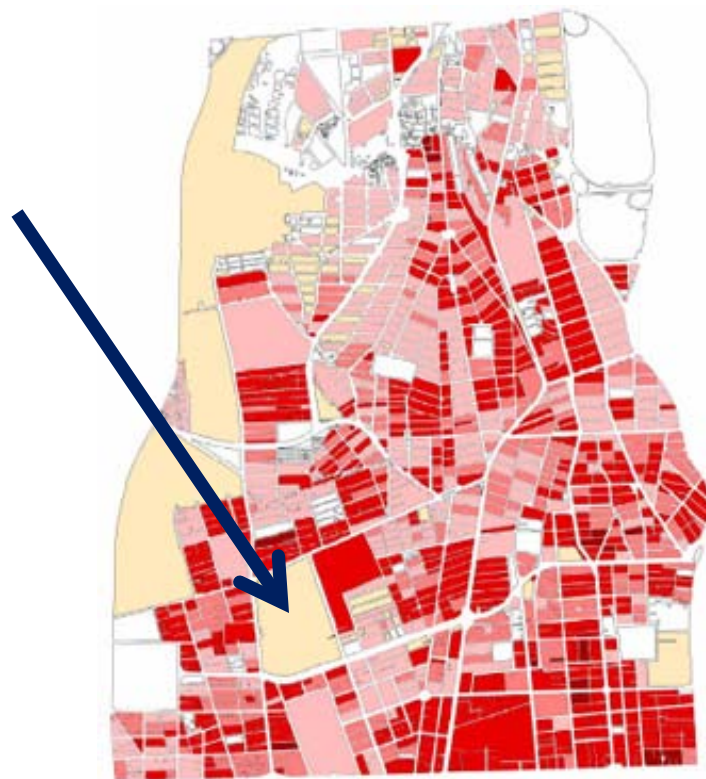
Hops and Jumps

New UA Definitions

- The Census Bureau is modified its criteria for defining urban areas on Aug 24, 2011 (yesterday)
- Changes will be reflected in 2012 release of UAs
- Some simple changes:
 - Areas lacking 500 people/sq. mile will be added if at least 20% of the surface is impervious
 - Indentations can be filled to “smooth” the UA boundary

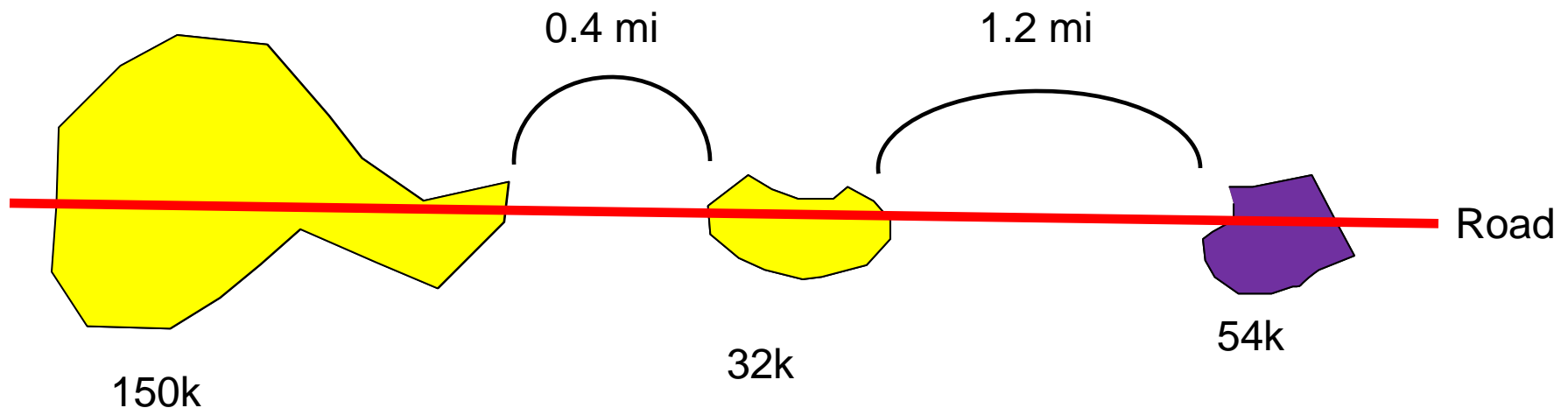
Airports, Bases and Enclaves

- Would be included in the Urban Area under the new definition
- This could introduce some land area that is not “urban” in character
- Often these are major trip attractors



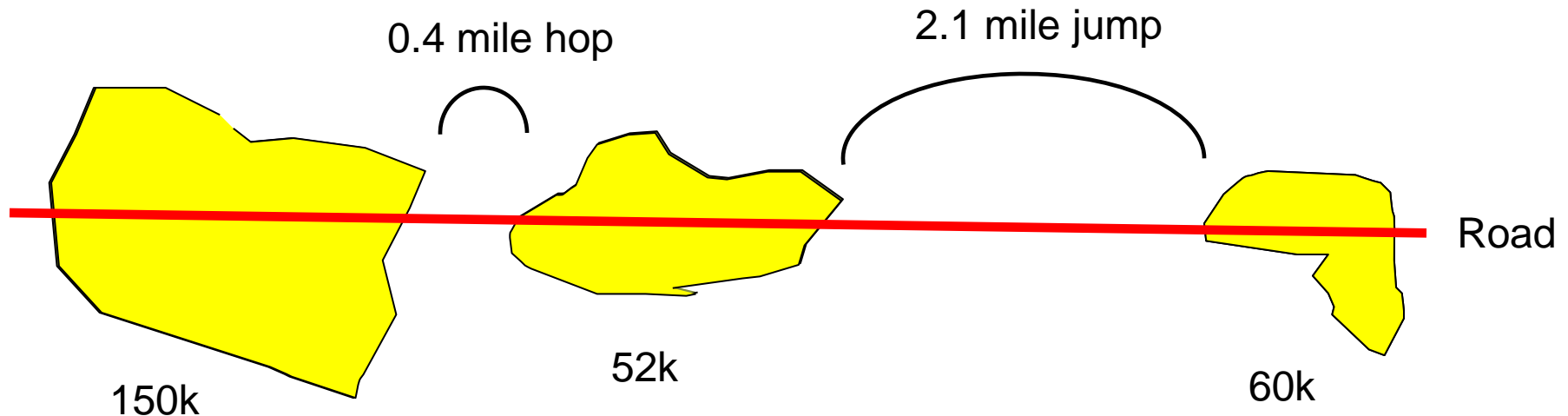
Hops

- Non-contiguous areas will be added to the UA if they are separated by less than a half mile of low density land
- Multiple hops may be made along a single road connection
 - Accounting for alternating patterns of residential and non-residential uses
 - Also matches the limited access freeway exit patterns



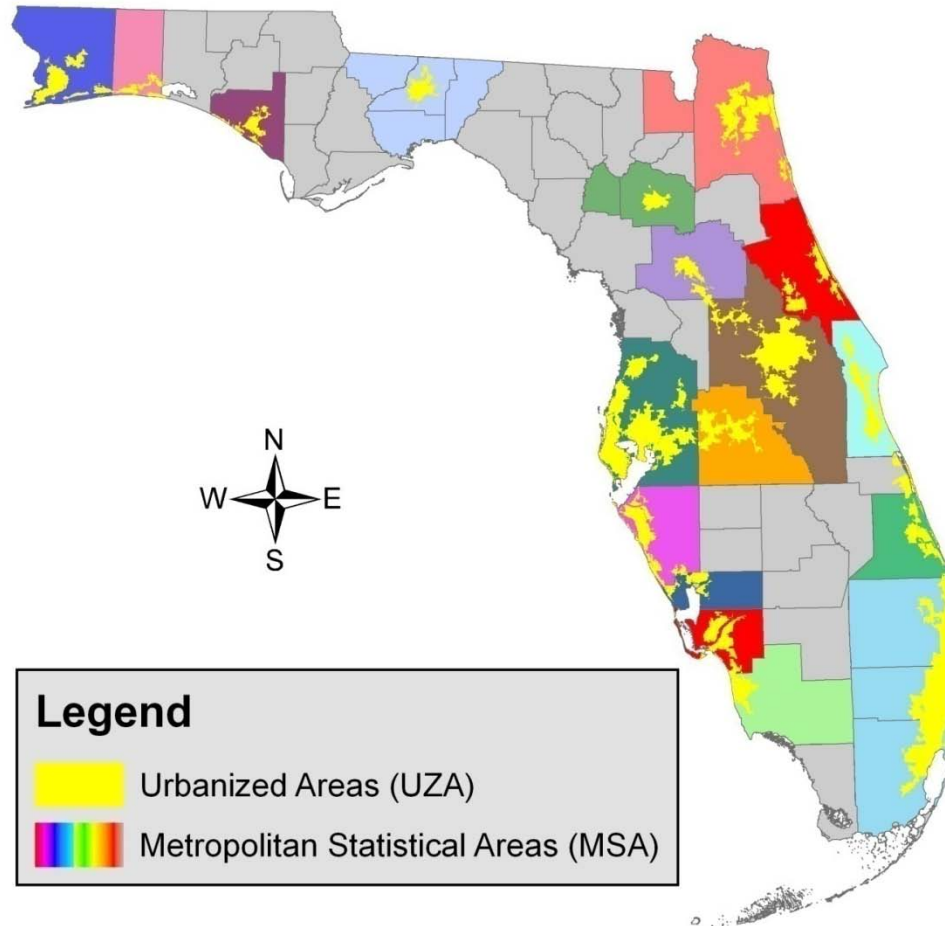
Jumps

- A single jump of up to 2.5 miles is permitted
- Jumps can be paired with hops
- Useful for passing over water



Urban Areas (UA) and Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) are NOT interchangeable!

UZA Versus MSA Boundaries in Florida



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

- Have at least one Urban Area inside
- The county where the UA is located is considered the “core” county
- Adjacent counties that have a high degree of commuting and labor connection with the core county are added
 - 25% of the outer county’s workforce is employed in the core
 - 25% of the outer county’s jobs are held by people commuting from the core county
- Named for the three largest CDPs
- Micropolitan Statistical Areas also exist

MSAs Cont'd

- Issued by the Office of Management and Budget (NOT the Census Bureau)
- 1980 –Metropolitan Statistical Areas with modern definitions first appear
- 2000 – Definition revised to allow small counties to be included if criteria are met
- By definition, MSAs are coterminous with counties
- MSAs were developed too late to play a major role in metropolitan planning
- MSAs are often too large for planning
- MSAs are handy geographies for regional analysis (i.e. Areawide Median Income)

IMPACTS OF THE CENSUS ON MPOs and RPOs

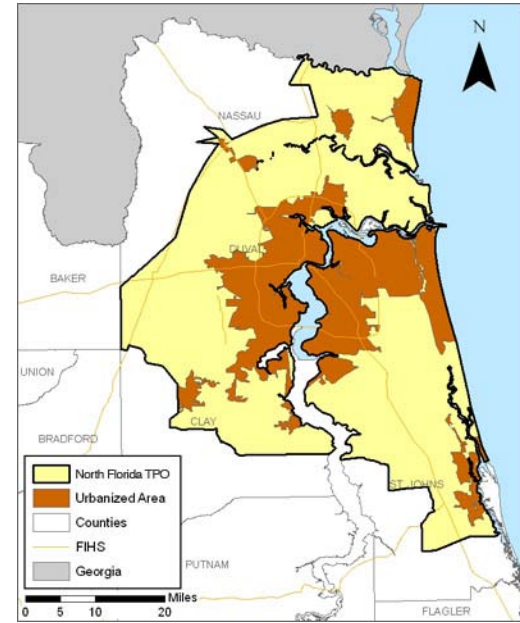
Disclaimers

- I am NOT an attorney
- I am NOT your FHWA Division Administrator, your FTA Region Administrator, or your state DOT MPO Liaison
- These officials are the final authority on changes at your MPO



For MPOs

- Some new MPOs will be created
- Expansion of boundaries to include more urban area
 - Re-designation ONLY IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES
- Intergovernmental politics will change
- Reapportionment of board seats
- Revisiting of voting system



DRAWING THE MPO BOUNDARY



Why Create MPOs?

- First mandated in 1973 and made more relevant by ISTEA in 1991
- Top-down planning causes disputes between states and local government



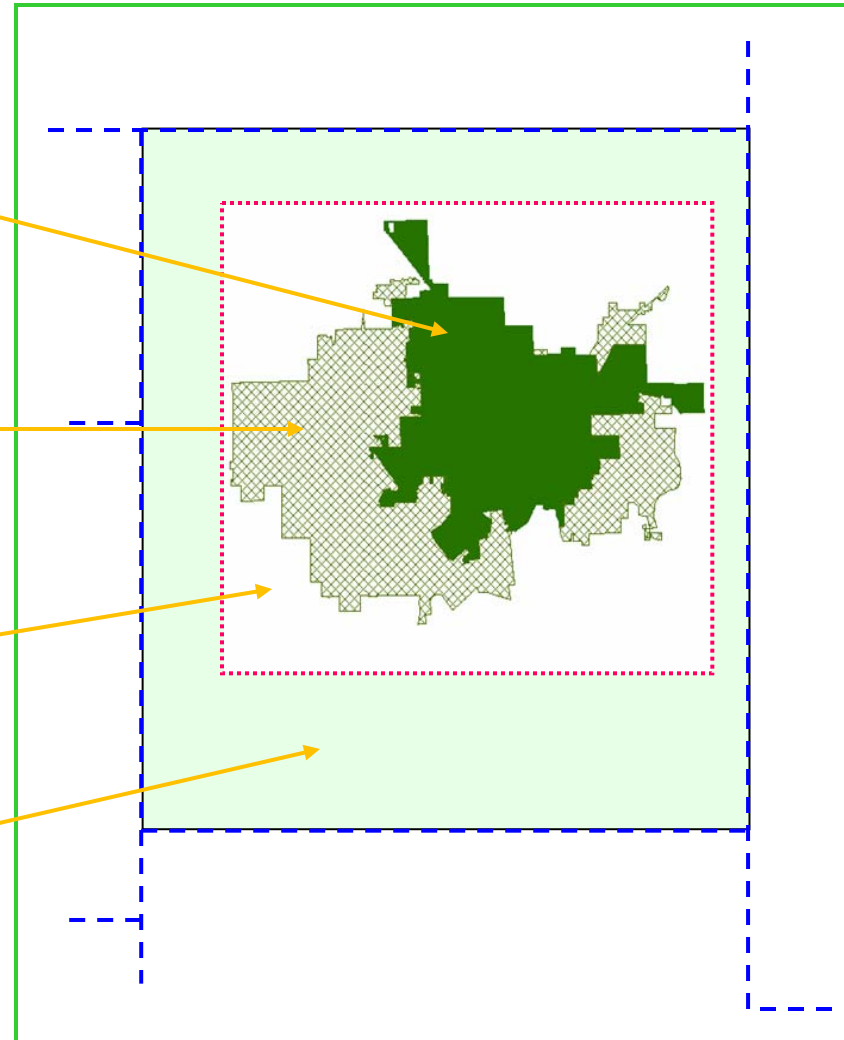
Cities (and counties) sought a voice in route choice
Morphed existing regional bodies into early MPOs

MPO Boundary Facts

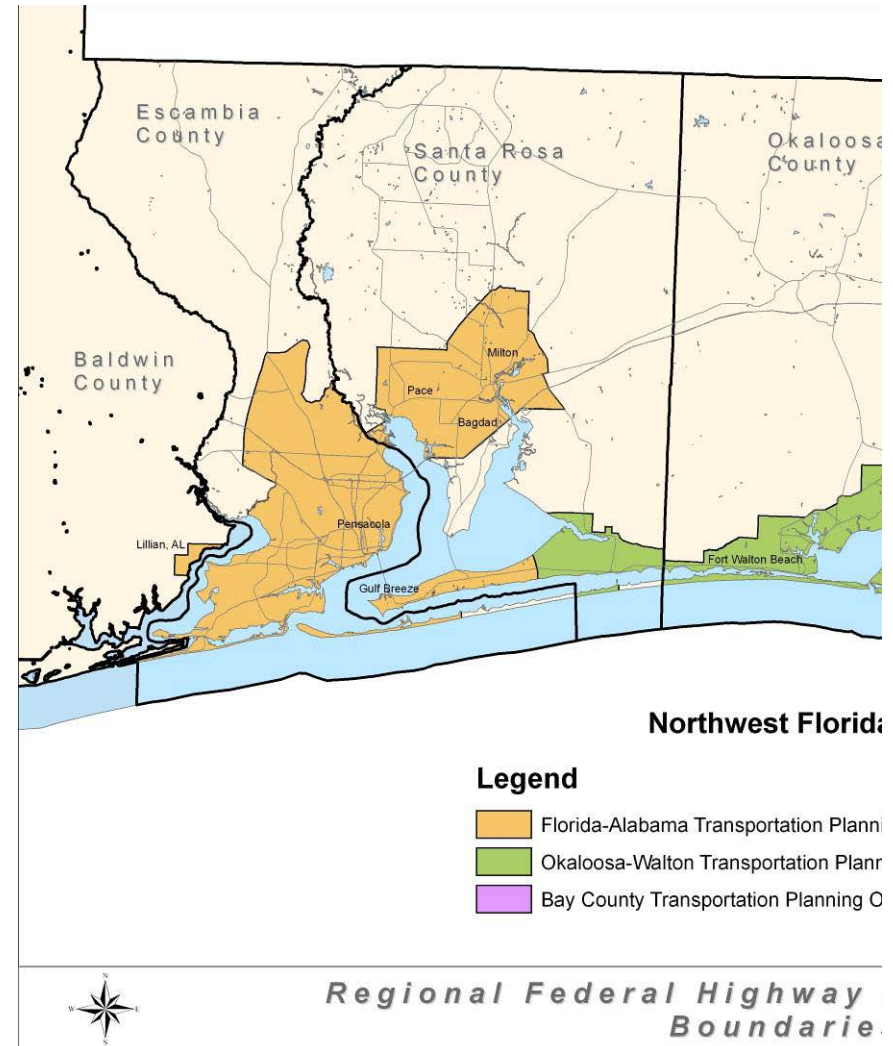
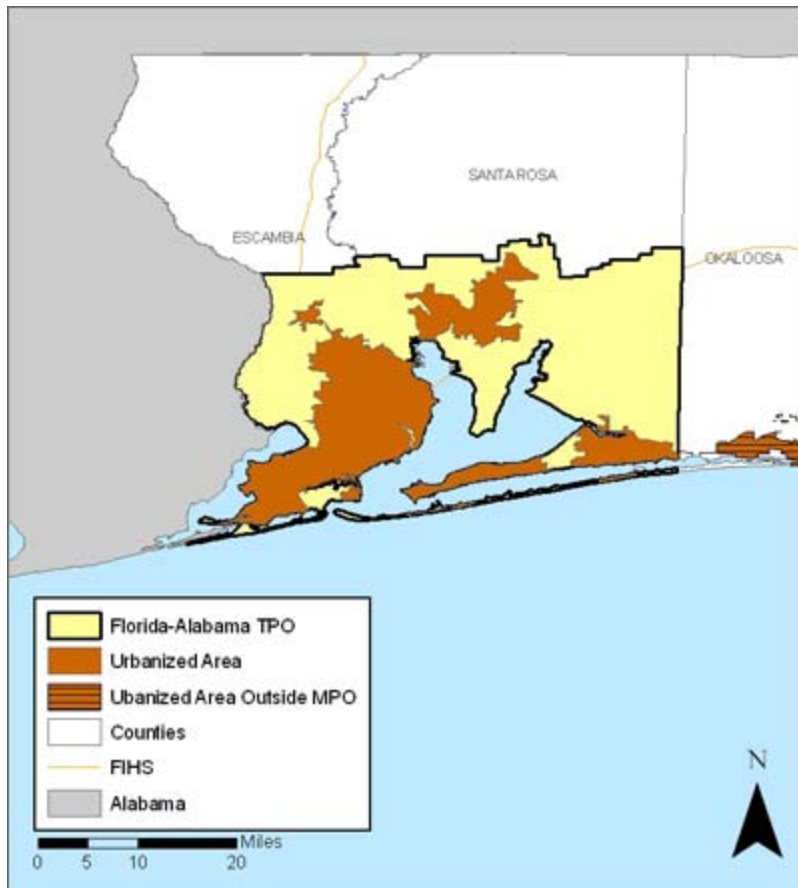
- The MPO boundary is independent of political boundaries
- The MPO's initial boundary is set by agreement between the Governor, the largest municipality, and local governments representing 75% of the population
- Simple changes to the boundary do not require redesignation
- Only “major” changes require the Governor’s approval
- MPO designation only relates to the UA. The MSA is not a factor.

How an MPO Draws a Boundary

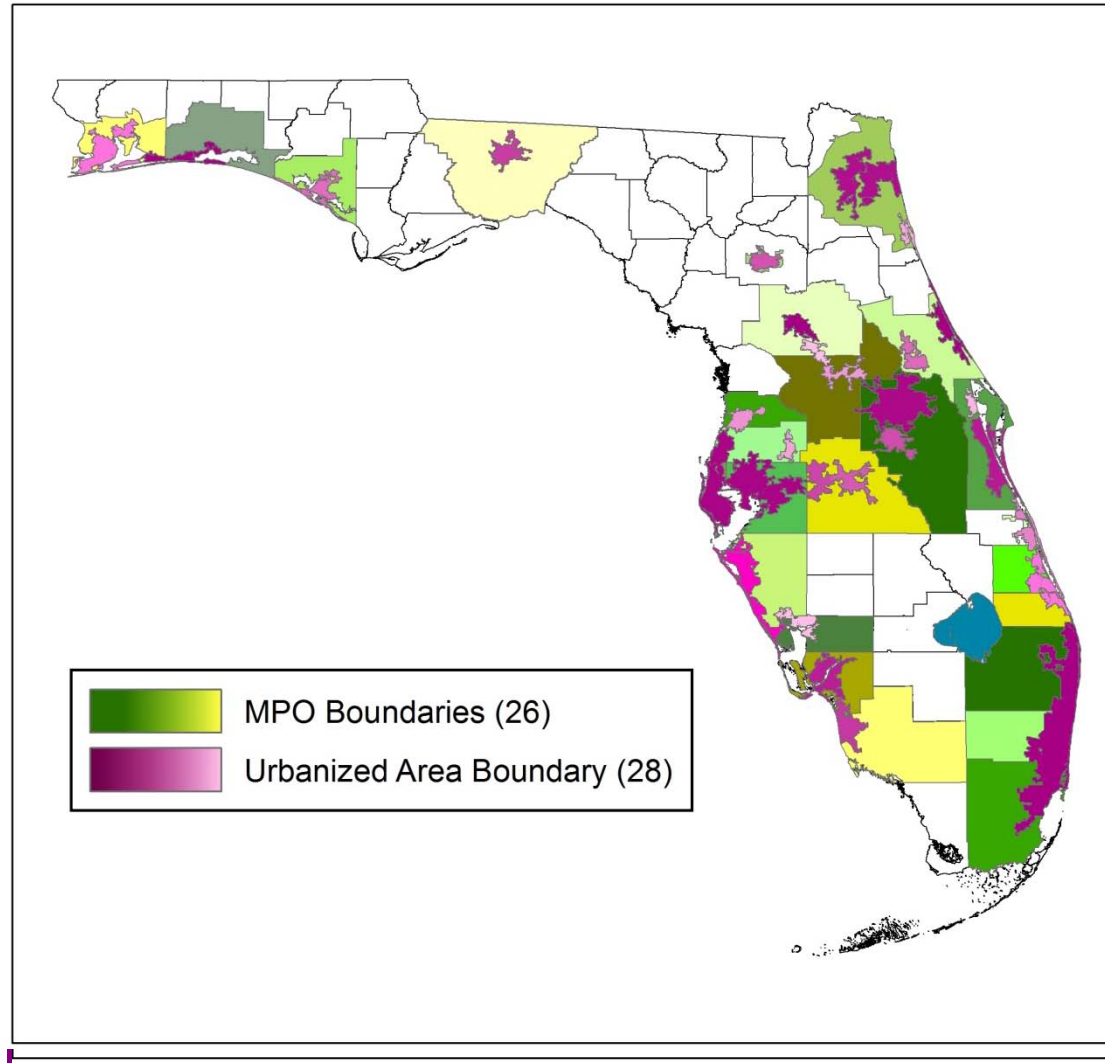
- Census Urban Area Boundary
- Adjusted Census Urbanized Area Boundary (also called FHWA Urbanized Area Boundary)
- Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary
- Study Area Boundary



UA to UZA

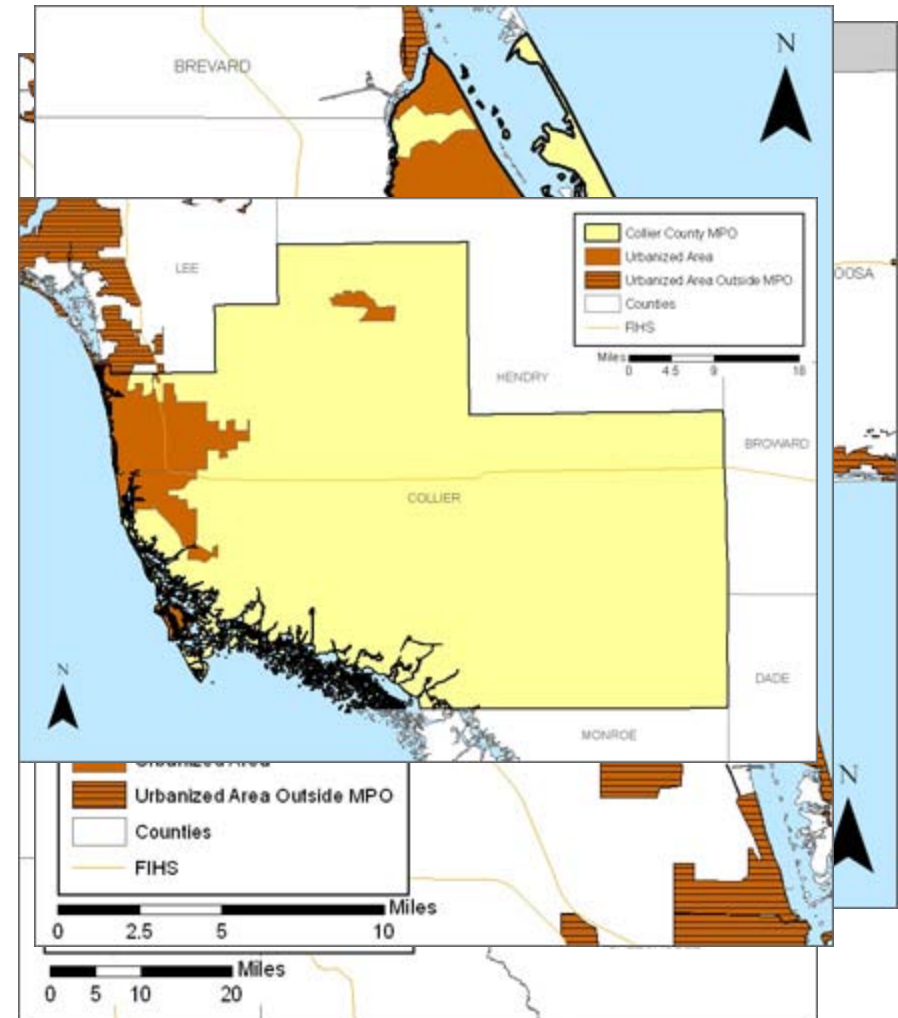


Urbanized Areas v. MPO Planning Areas



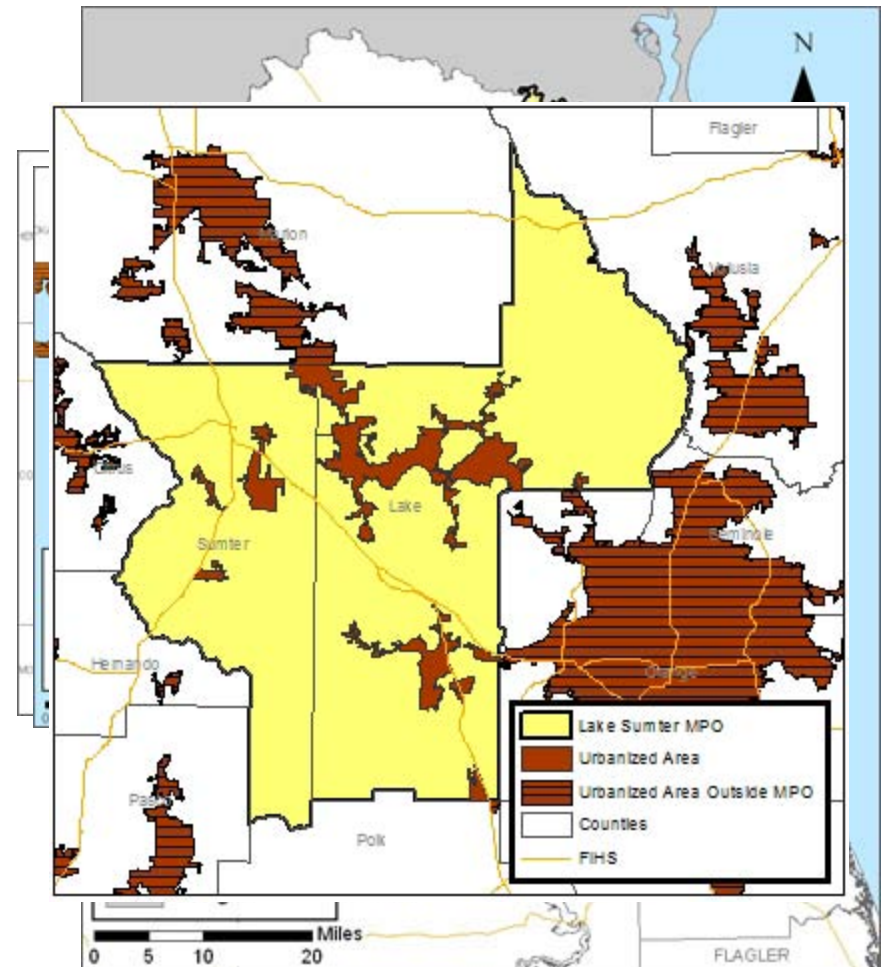
Drawing a Boundary

- Minimum
- Single county
- Multi-county
- Regional



Urbanized Areas and the Boundary

- The MPO can:
 - Cover all of the UZA
 - Cover all of more than one UZA
 - Cover only part of a UZA
 - A combination of the above



BOARD APPORTIONMENT

Apportionment

- The process of reallocating seats on the MPO governing board
- Apportionment plans are required in some states
- MPOs should always adopt an apportionment plan into the MPO bylaws
- Apportionment changes do not have to take effect immediately

Benefits and Pitfalls

- MPO apportionment should not:
 - Be dominated by a single city or county
 - Be so large that relationships cannot be built
 - Show favoritism to the host agency
- Apportionment can:
 - Ease concerns about local government input into the MPO process
 - Provide one of the only truly regional platforms for discussion

Board Composition

- 23 USC 134 (d)(2) says that the following officials may serve on a TMA's board:
 - Local elected officials
 - Officials of public agencies that administer or operate major modes of transportation in the metropolitan area
 - Appropriate state officials
- State law can also affect board composition

VOTING SYSTEMS at the Fort Grapefruit MPO

- 1) One Seat/One Vote
- 2) One Seat/Weighted Vote
- 3) Proportional Allocation
- 4) Hold Harmless Proportional Allocation
- 5) Golden Vote
- 6) Consensus Vote

One seat / One vote

- Number of seats is not capped
- Each local government gets one seat
- Works best when there are relatively few local governments
- Does not take into account population of each local government
- Can lead to very large boards

One seat / One vote example



City of Fort
Grapefruit
Pop 130,000



City of Del
Boca Vista
Pop 14,000



Town of
Farmville
Pop 2,100



City of
Shelbyville
Pop 9,900



City of
Greendale
Pop 12,000



Hazzard
County
Pop 32,000



Arlen County
Pop 70,000

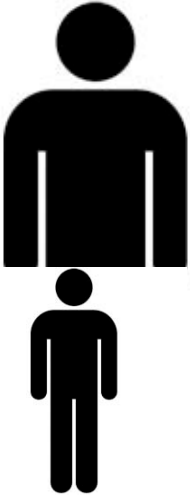


Arlen-
Hazzard
Public Transit
Authority

One Seat / Weighted Vote

- A variant of the one seat/one vote system
- One board member is afforded multiple votes based on population of his/her jurisdiction
- Frequently discussed, but rare (13%)
- Even when in place, rarely used
- Difficult to include modal authorities


One seat / Weighted Vote Example



City of Fort
Grapefruit
Pop 130,000



City of Del
Boca Vista
Pop 14,000



Town of
Farmville
Pop 2,100



City of
Shelbyville
Pop 9,900



Hazzard
County
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Arlen County
Pop 70,000

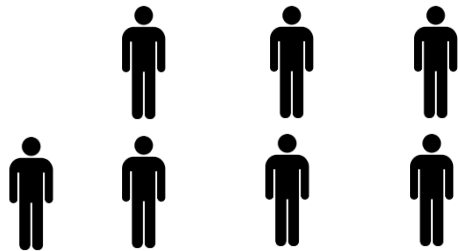


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Proportional Allocation

- The number of board seats is capped
- Seats are allocated to local governments based on population
- Small local governments may not have a seat
 - Rotating seats
- Can be difficult to include modal authorities

Proportional Allocation of 13 Seats



City of Fort
Grapefruit
Pop 130,000

City of Del
Boca Vista
Pop 14,000

Town of
Farmville
Pop 2,100

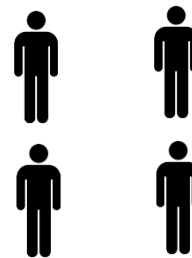
City of
Shelbyville
Pop 9,900

Total Pop. - 258,000

1 seat per 19,850
people



Hazzard
County
Pop 32,000



Arlen County
Pop 70,000



Arlen-
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Public Transit
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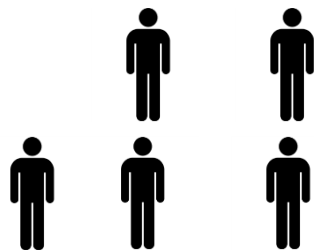
Hold-Harmless Proportional Allocation



- The number of seats is capped
- Each local government is given one seat (hold harmless)
- Remaining seats are distributed by proportion of population
- Works well only in areas with few local governments, or the proportionality factor will be diminished
- Easier to include modal authorities



Hold-Harmless Proportional Allocation of 13 Seats



City of Fort Grapefruit
Pop 130,000



City of Del Boca Vista
Pop 14,000



Town of Farmville
Pop 2,100



City of Shelbyville
Pop 9,900

Total Pop. - 258,000

7 hold harmless seats
(19,850 per seat)

6 proportional seats
per 23,800 people
over the hold
harmless threshold



Hazzard County
Pop 32,000



Madison County
Pop 70,000



Madison-Hazzard
Public Transit
Authority

Other Voting Systems Do Exist



- Golden Vote
 - A single local government or group can overrule a majority vote
 - Has limited applications at bi-state MPOs
- Consensus Voting
 - A single nay vote causes the motion to fail
 - Sometimes consensus voting is used for 3-C documents, but divided voting is used for elections, hiring, etc.

A Good Rule of Thumb

- As an MPO director, don't bring items to the MPO floor that are divisive
- The point of the MPO process is to be cooperative and inclusive
- If you are experiencing repeated divided votes, elected officials may need training or additional attention

And the kicker is...



Reauthorization
Could Change
Everything!

Questions?

Contact Info

Alex Bond, AICP

abond@icfi.com

(202) 862-1160

Special thanks to the Florida MPO Advisory
Council Institute for supplying visuals