U.S. Census Bureau
Designation of the 2010
Urbanized Boundary

Regional Transportation Council
Information Item No. 6

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Urbanized Areas have been delineated after each decennial census to classify urban and rural areas. Based primarily on contiguous residential population density, while also accounting for commercial, industrial, transportation and open space as part of the “urban” landscape of areas greater than 50,000 population. Utilized by the U.S. Department of Transportation in various funding allocation formulas (FHWA-STP-MM and FTA Sec. 5307). RTC has expressed concerns regarding criteria for designation of urbanized areas since 1990 Census.
Regional Transportation Council Position Regarding Urbanized Area (UZA) Designations

- August 24, 2010, U.S. Census published proposed criteria for delineating 2010 UZAs.
- November 2010, RTC provided comments to U.S. Census regarding proposed criteria for delineating 2010 UZA designations, including support for designation of a single Dallas-Fort Worth Area UZA.
- U.S. Census anticipates publishing year 2010 Urbanized Areas in Spring 2012.
Population of 5 core counties: 3.6 million
Population of 5 core counties: 4.6 million
NCTCOG Estimated 2010 Urbanized Areas (Using Year 2000+ Criteria) (1,794 Square Miles)

Population of 5 core counties: 5.7 million
NCTCOG Estimated 2010 Urbanized Area (Using Expanded 2010 Criteria)

2010 12-County Metropolitan Area population: 6.4 million
approximately 800,000 still residing outside the estimated UZA
Remaining Concerns Regarding August 2011 Published Final Criteria

- Not enough progress in fully recognizing “urbanized areas,” particularly for rapidly growing regions.
- Do not support U.S. Census current position on not combining previously delineated (year 2000) UZAs.
- Use of Urbanized Area designation for the purposes of allocating federal transportation funding has equity implications.
Proposed Future Actions

- RTC submit correspondence to U.S. Census Bureau regarding 2010 UZA final designation criteria.
- RTC submit correspondence to North Texas congressional delegation regarding 2010 UZA final designation criteria.
- RTC submit support for reconsidering the use of UZA designations in determining federal funding transportation funding allocations to North Texas congressional delegation.