



2020 Urban Area Boundary for the Baltimore Region

Technical Committee

January 2, 2024



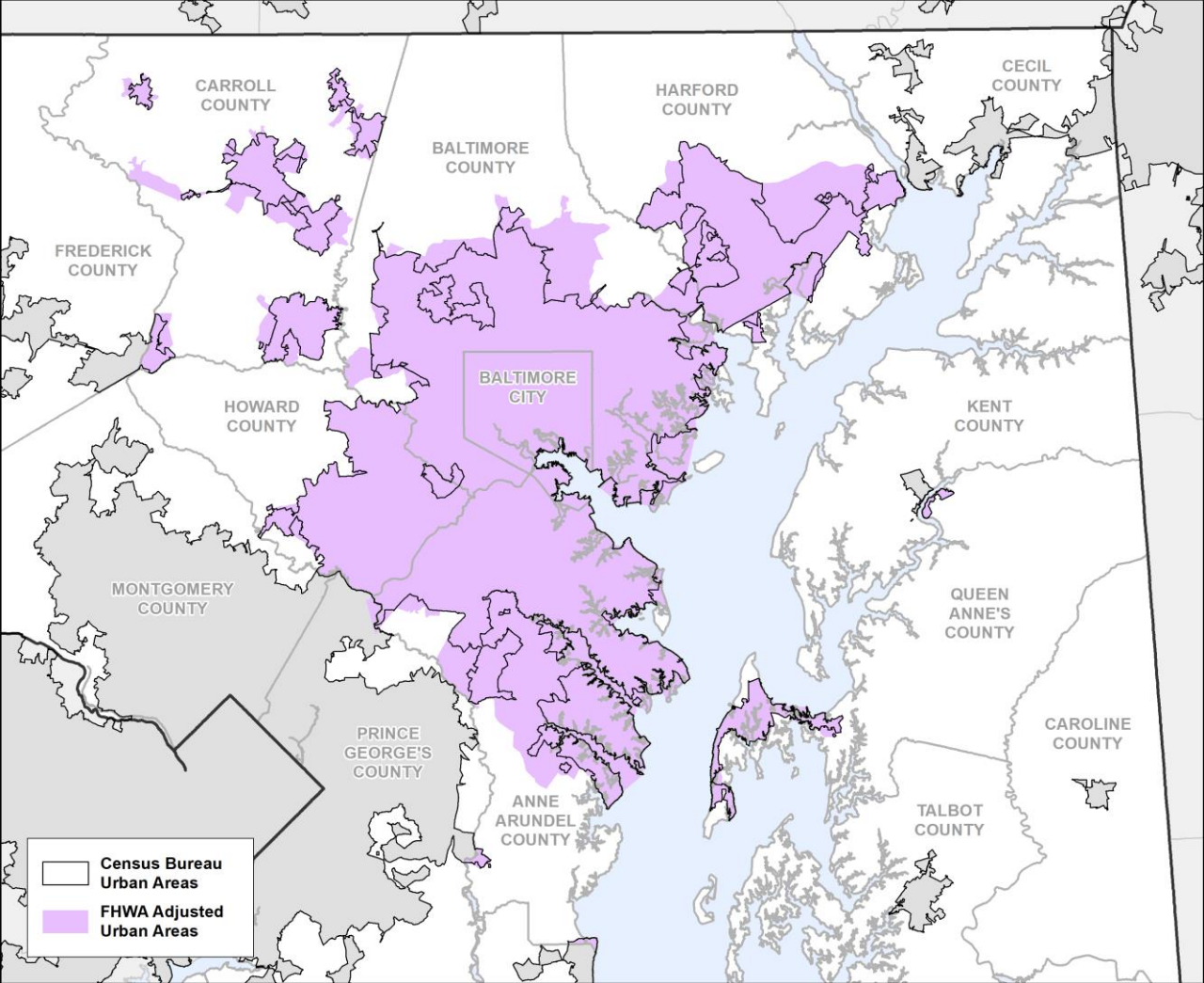
What are Urban Areas?

- **Census Bureau** delineates urban areas that represent densely developed territory, and encompass residential, commercial, and other non-residential urban land uses
- **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)** requires urban areas with population of 50,000 or more to be covered by a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- **FHWA** uses the Census definition of urban areas and requests State DOTs to create adjusted urban areas

FHWA Adjusted Urban Areas

- **State DOTs coordinate with local jurisdictions and MPOs to create Adjusted Urban Areas**
 - Should align with existing planning boundaries (towns, counties)
 - Should address irregularities in boundary shapes
 - Should maintain consistency with highway functional classification system
- **Can impact funding for the Federal Aid Highway System**
 - Specifically, Minor Collectors (FC 6) are eligible if urban, but not eligible if rural

Comparison of Urban Area Boundaries

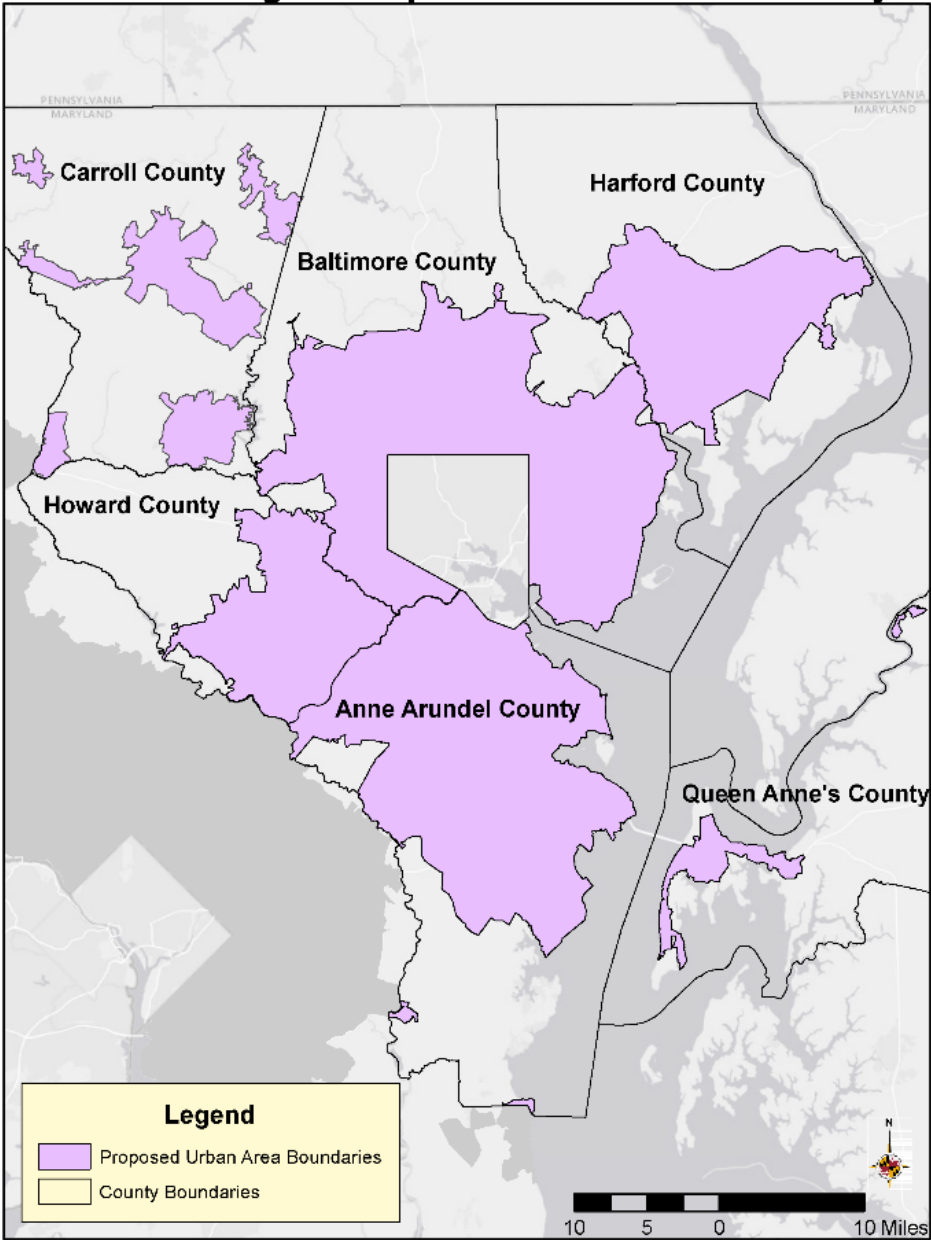


Process

- Maryland DOT has participated in cooperative meetings with the local jurisdictions and MPOs to create adjusted urban area boundaries based on the 2020 Census urban areas
- Submitted to FHWA for review by December 27, 2023
- 2024 HPMS data submission must conform to the approved urban area boundary as of June 15, 2024
- **Next Step:** Begin process to review functional classification of roadways, due by December 2025

FHWA Proposed Urban Area Boundary

Baltimore Region Proposed Urban Area Boundary



For More Information

Erin Bolton | GIS Coordinator

410-732-0500 x1025 | ebolton@baltometro.org | www.baltometro.org

