



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Technical Advisory Committee

FROM: Christine Pobocik, GIS Specialist
Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission

DATE: November 1, 2012

SUBJECT: **2010 Adjusted Census Urban Area Boundaries (ACUB)**

Following each decennial U.S. Census, federal law allows the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), in cooperation with the responsible local officials to adjust the U.S. Census Urban Area (CUA) boundaries. This process will result in the creation of the Adjusted Census Urban Boundaries (ACUBs). The ACUBs are important for determining eligibility for federal-aid, highway and street national functional classification density, statistical reporting, and the distribution of Act 51 county funds. The adjustments are due to MDOT by June 1, 2013.

GCMPC staff has developed a process for establishing and revising the ACUB based on several requirements, specific criteria and guidelines. These include the following:

1. The minimum ACUB must include areas identified by the U.S. Census Bureau as meeting their urban criteria. Census designated urban boundary lines and the entire current contiguous corporate limits of any incorporated city or village are the minimum from which the ACUB is established.
2. The ACUB must be a continuous line with no detached portions.

3. The ACUB may include any adjacent area that has or is developing urban characteristics, including: residential neighborhoods, commercial and industrial development; miscellaneous items such as schools, parks, stadiums, golf courses and airports; improvements such as sidewalks, curbs, street lighting, sanitary and storm drainage facilities; services such as transit service and other transportation terminals, police and fire protection.
4. If the ACUB extends outside the Census boundary, it should follow geographical features such as township lines, streams, railroads or streets.
5. Wherever the ACUB follows a road, that road will be considered urban.
6. ACUB boundaries should smooth out irregularities, maintain administrative continuity of peripheral routes, and encompass fringe areas having residential neighborhoods, commercial, or industrial use. Consideration should be given to locations which will include logical control points for transportation linkages such as interchanges, major cross roads, etc.

Staff is reviewing the 2010 U.S. Census Urbanized Area and working on a draft revised adjusted boundary which we plan to have available for review at TAC. The 2010 Urbanized Area Boundary map can be viewed or downloaded at the link below. This map shows the 2010 U.S. Census Urbanized Area boundary as well as the 2000 Federal-Aid Urban Boundary (FAUB). ACUBs were previously known as Federal-Aid Urban Boundaries. GCMPC would welcome comments from the committee.

http://www.gc4me.com/departments/planning_commission/docs/TAC/2012/2010UrbanizedBndry.pdf