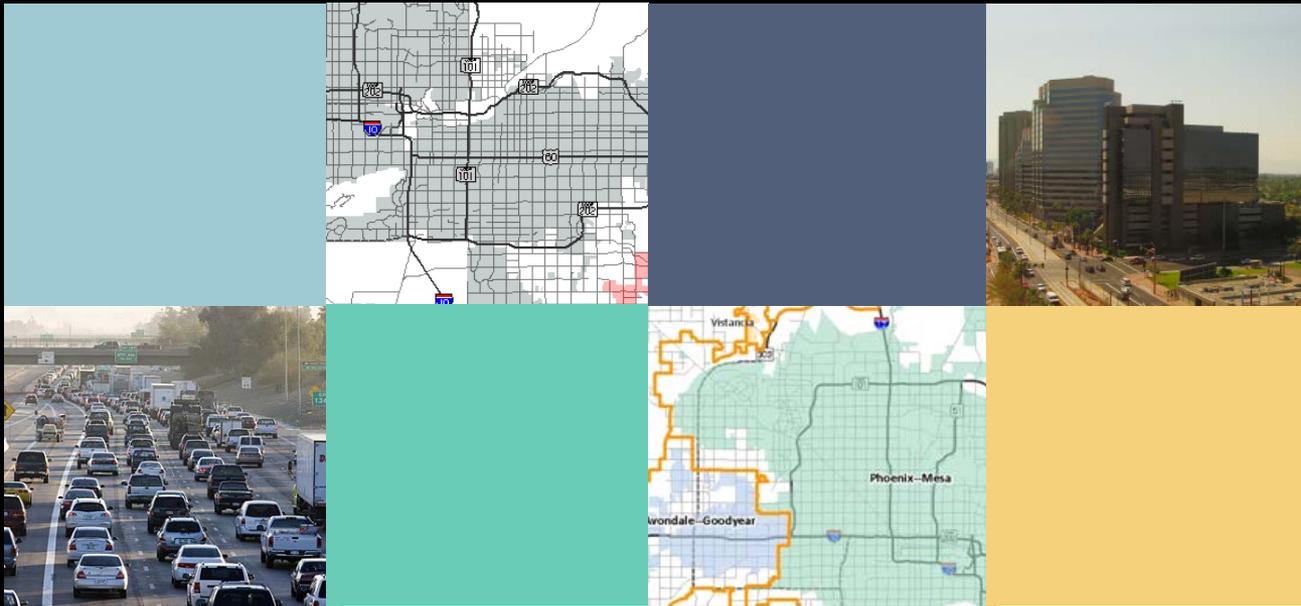


# U.S. Census Urban Boundary Smoothing



Agenda Item #7

MAG Transit Committee

January 10, 2013

# What is an Urban Area?

The Census Bureau definition:

- Represent densely developed area
- Represent the "Urban Footprint"
- Based on residential population density
- Criteria have also accounted for non-residential urban land uses that are functionally part of the urban landscape

# Why Smooth Boundaries?

- Does not affect funding for region
- Does not affect official population count
- Does affect:
  - Where MAG STP funds are expended
  - Highway Functional Classification
  - Highway Statistical Reporting

# FHWA Programs

FHWA Programs that distinguish between urban and rural areas:

- Highway Functional Classification
- HPMS Reporting
- Distribution of STP Funds
- STP Apportionment Formula
- Control of Outdoor Advertising

# FHWA Programs

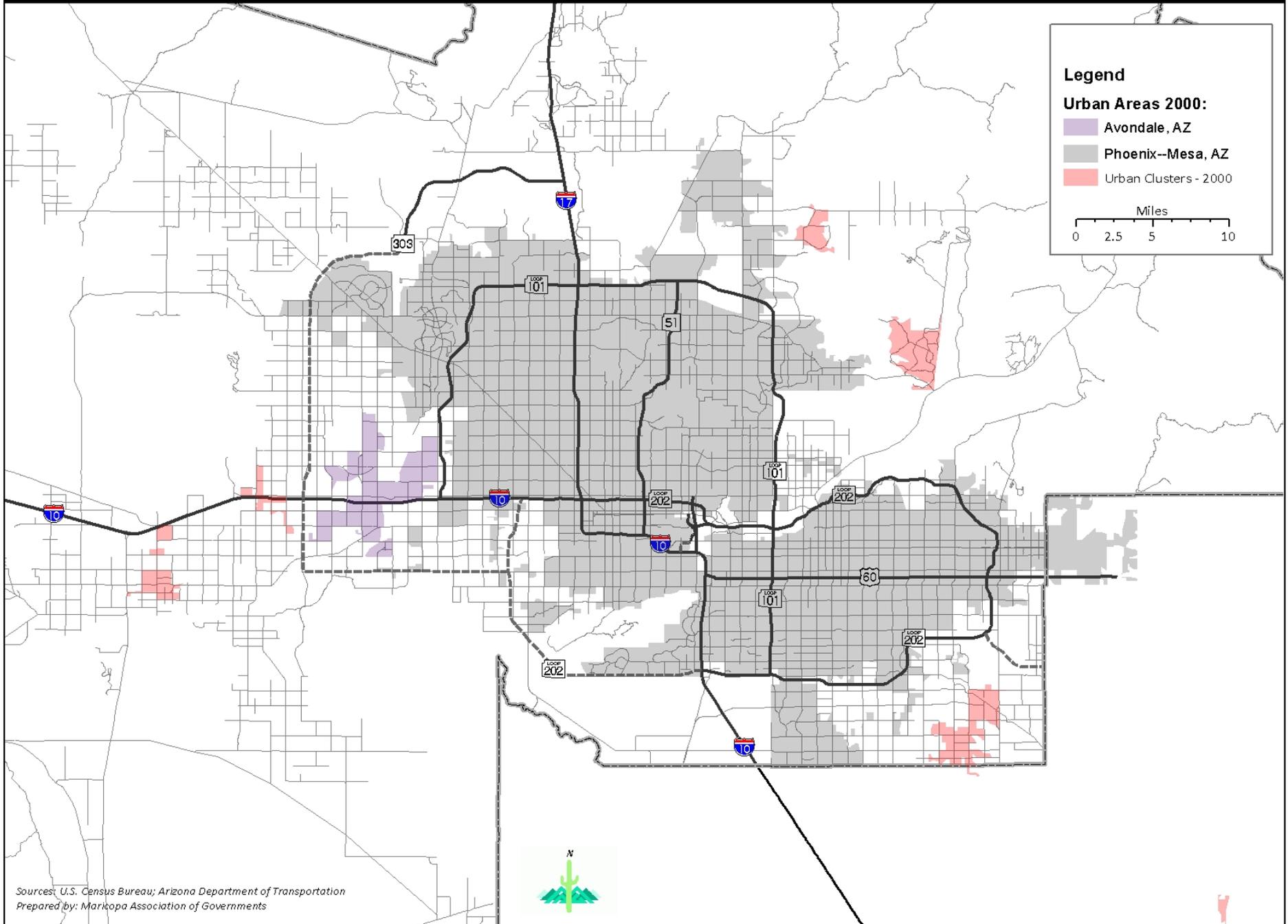
Key FHWA and FTA Programs impacted:

- Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)
- Transportation Management Areas (TMAs)
- Application of Conformity Requirements
- STP Funding availability



Comparison: Census “Original” vs “Smoothed”  
**URBAN AREA MAPS 2000 & 2010**

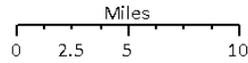
# Urban Areas 2000 - Census



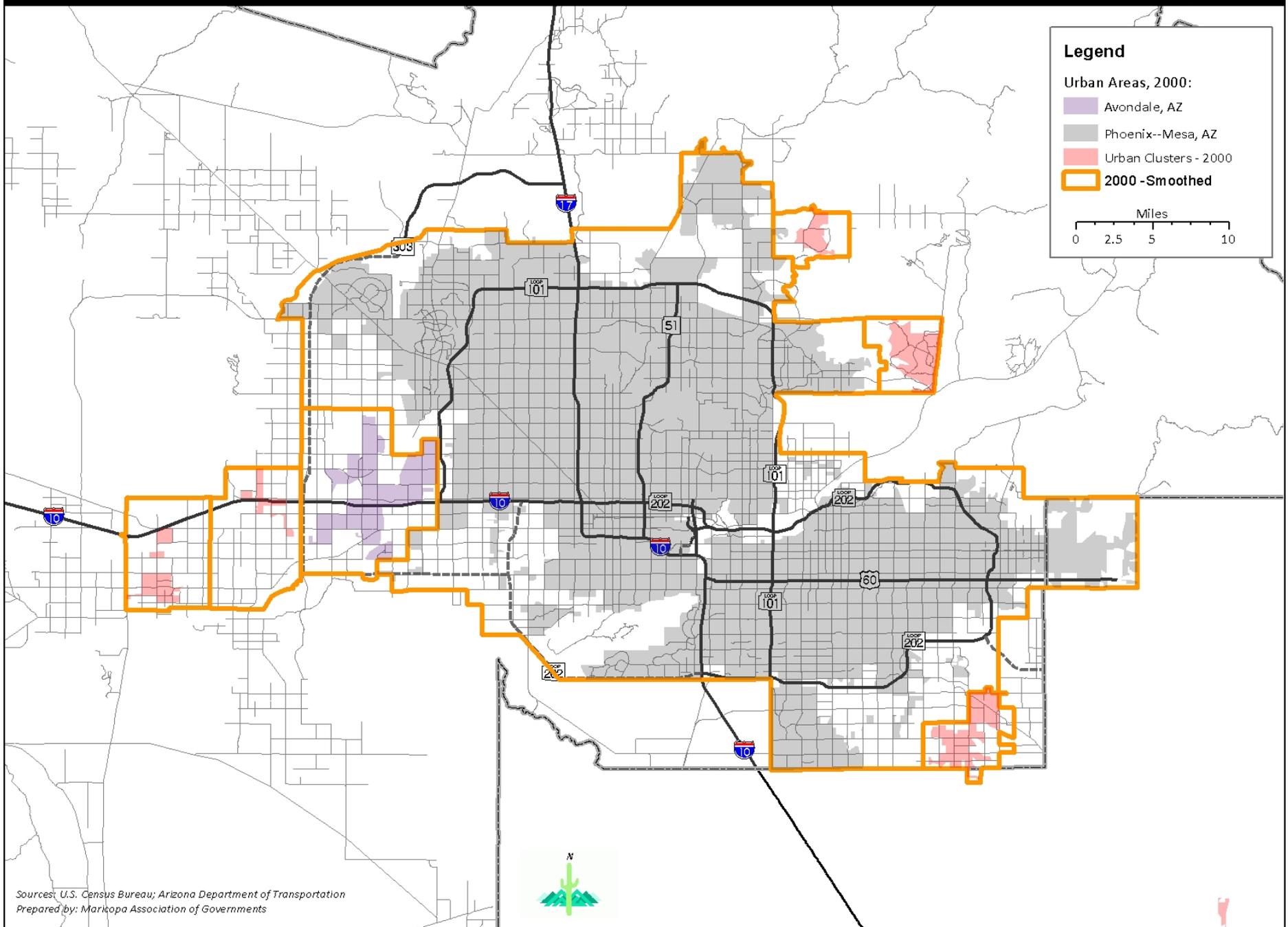
### Legend

#### Urban Areas 2000:

- Avondale, AZ
- Phoenix-Mesa, AZ
- Urban Clusters - 2000



# Urban Areas 2000 - Census and FHWA Smoothed



**Legend**

Urban Areas, 2000:

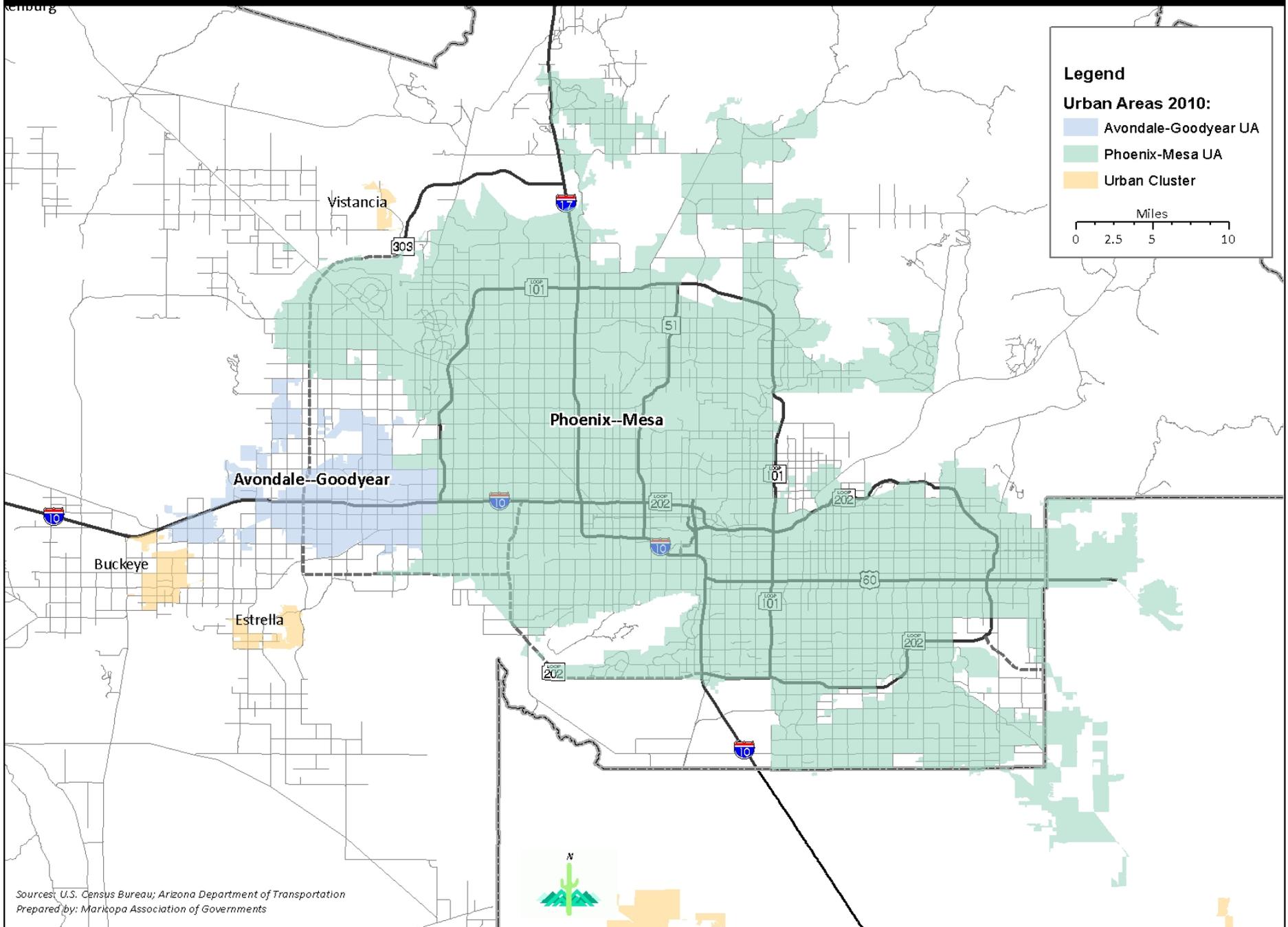
- Avondale, AZ
- Phoenix--Mesa, AZ
- Urban Clusters - 2000
- 2000 -Smoothed

Miles

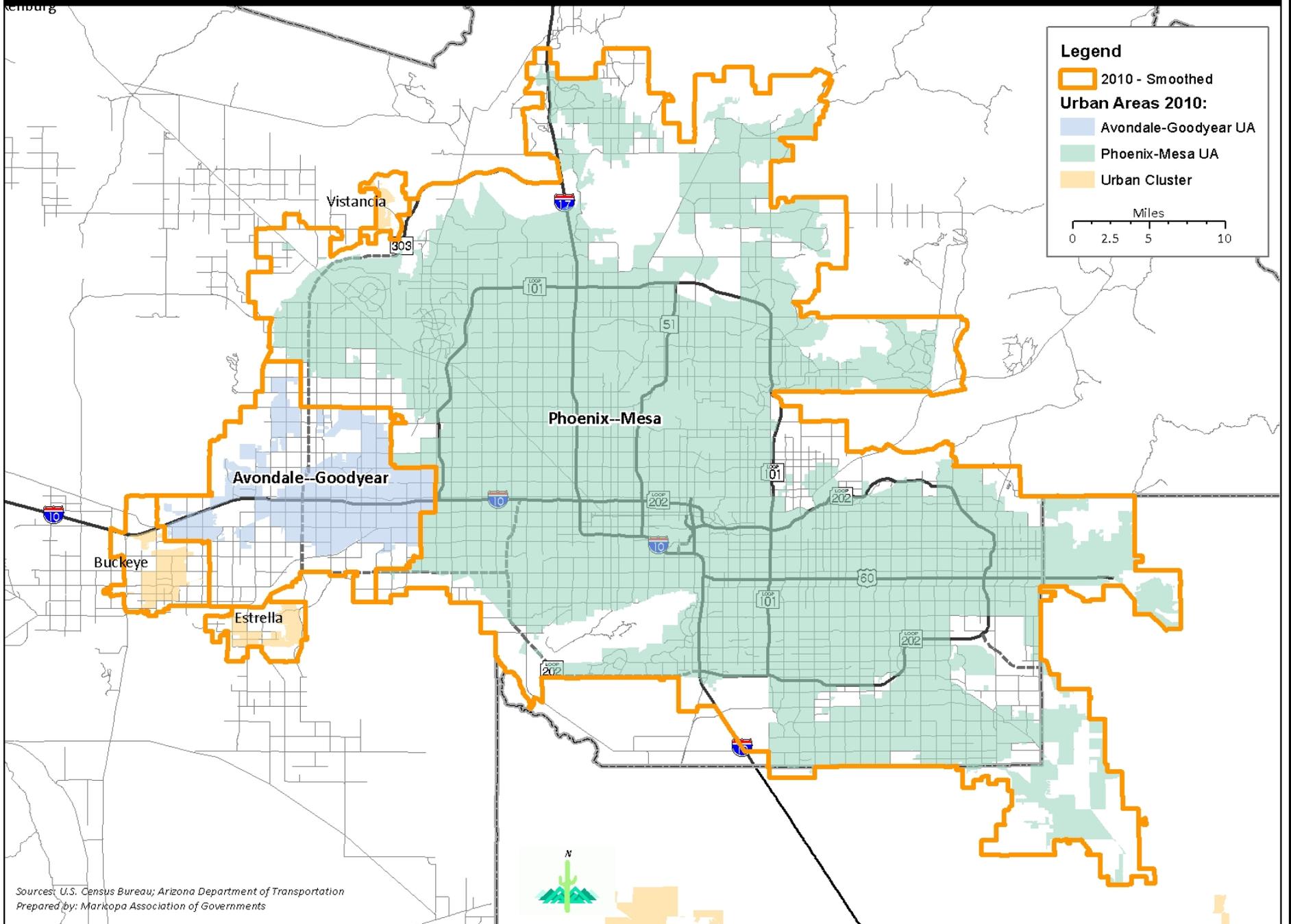
0 2.5 5 10



# Urban Areas 2010 - Census

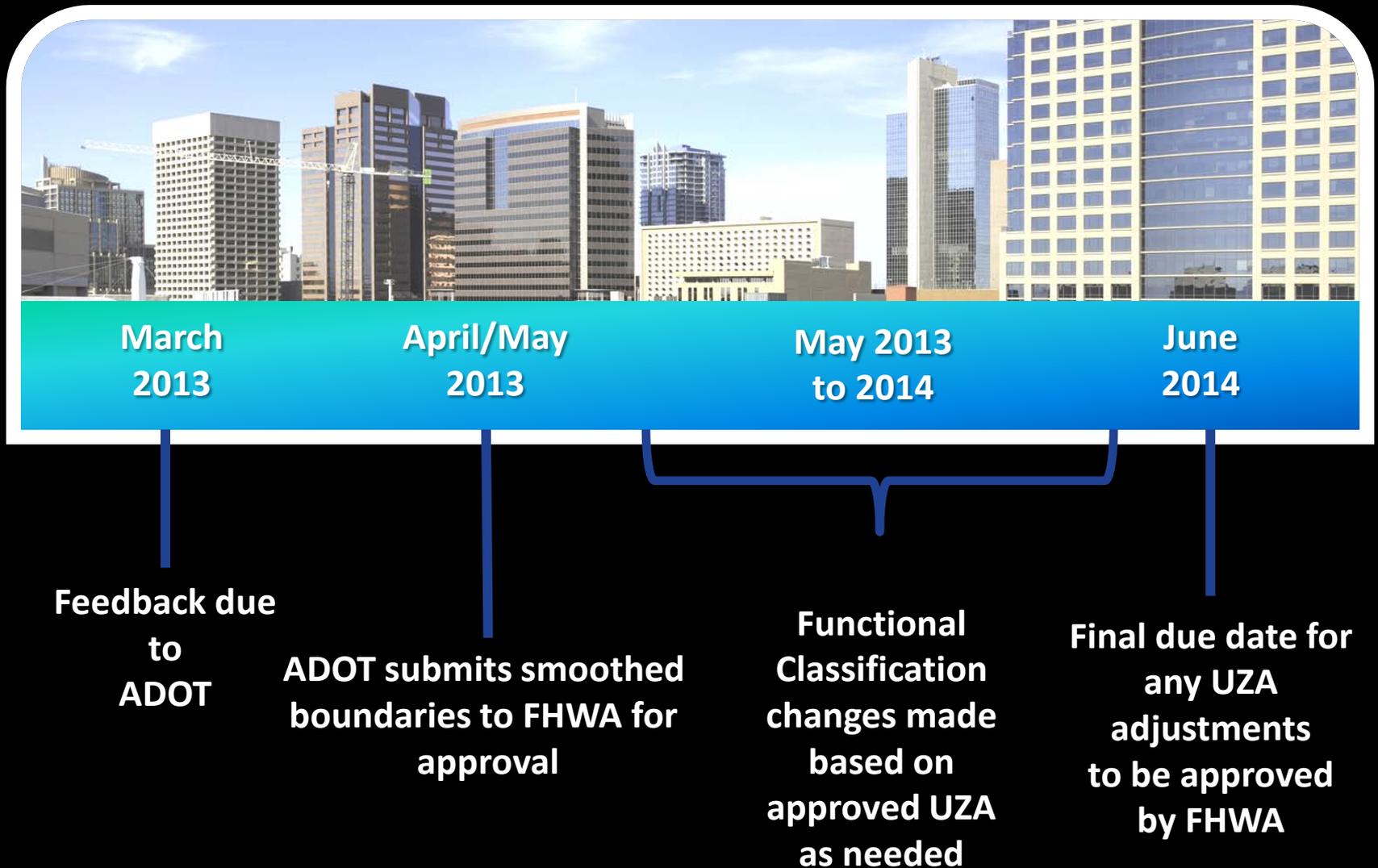


# Urban Areas 2010 - Census and Smoothed (draft)



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; Arizona Department of Transportation  
Prepared by: Maricopa Association of Governments

# Timeline



# Comments or Questions

## Contact:

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