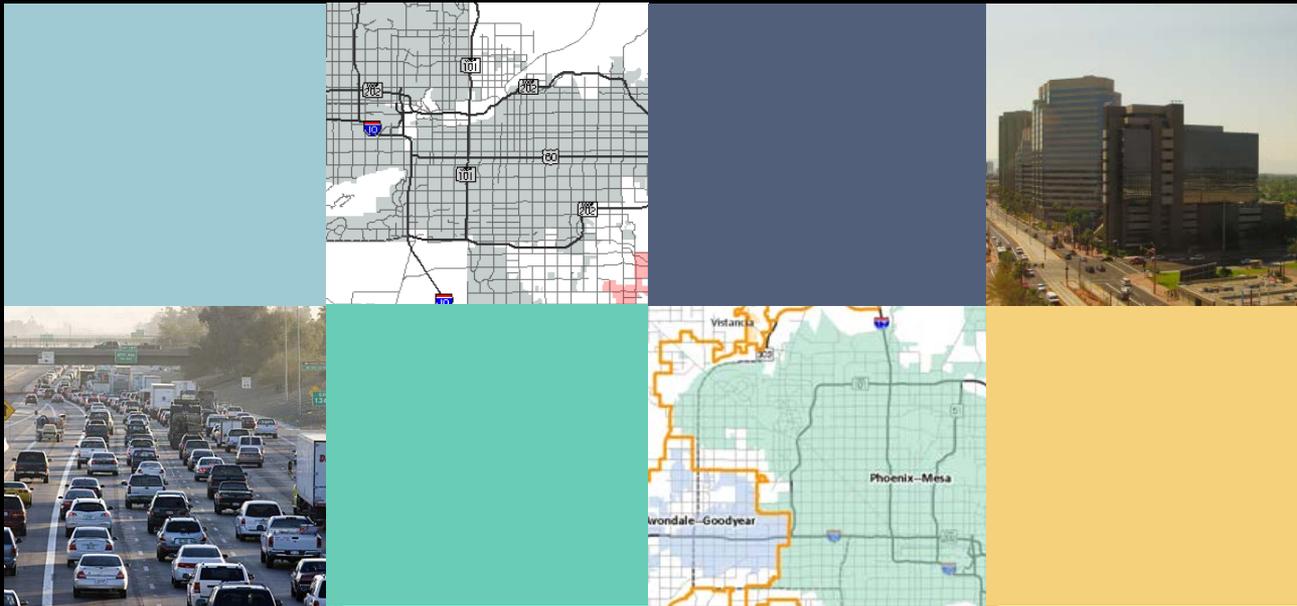


U.S. 2010 Census Urban Boundary Smoothing



Agenda Item #8

MAG Transportation Review Committee

January 24, 2013

What is an Urban Area?

The Census Bureau definition:

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

Why Smooth Boundaries?

- Does affect:
 - Where MAG STP funds are expended
 - Highway Functional Classification (Urban/Rural)
 - Highway Statistical Reporting in HPMS
- **Does not affect funding for region**
- Does not affect official population count

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

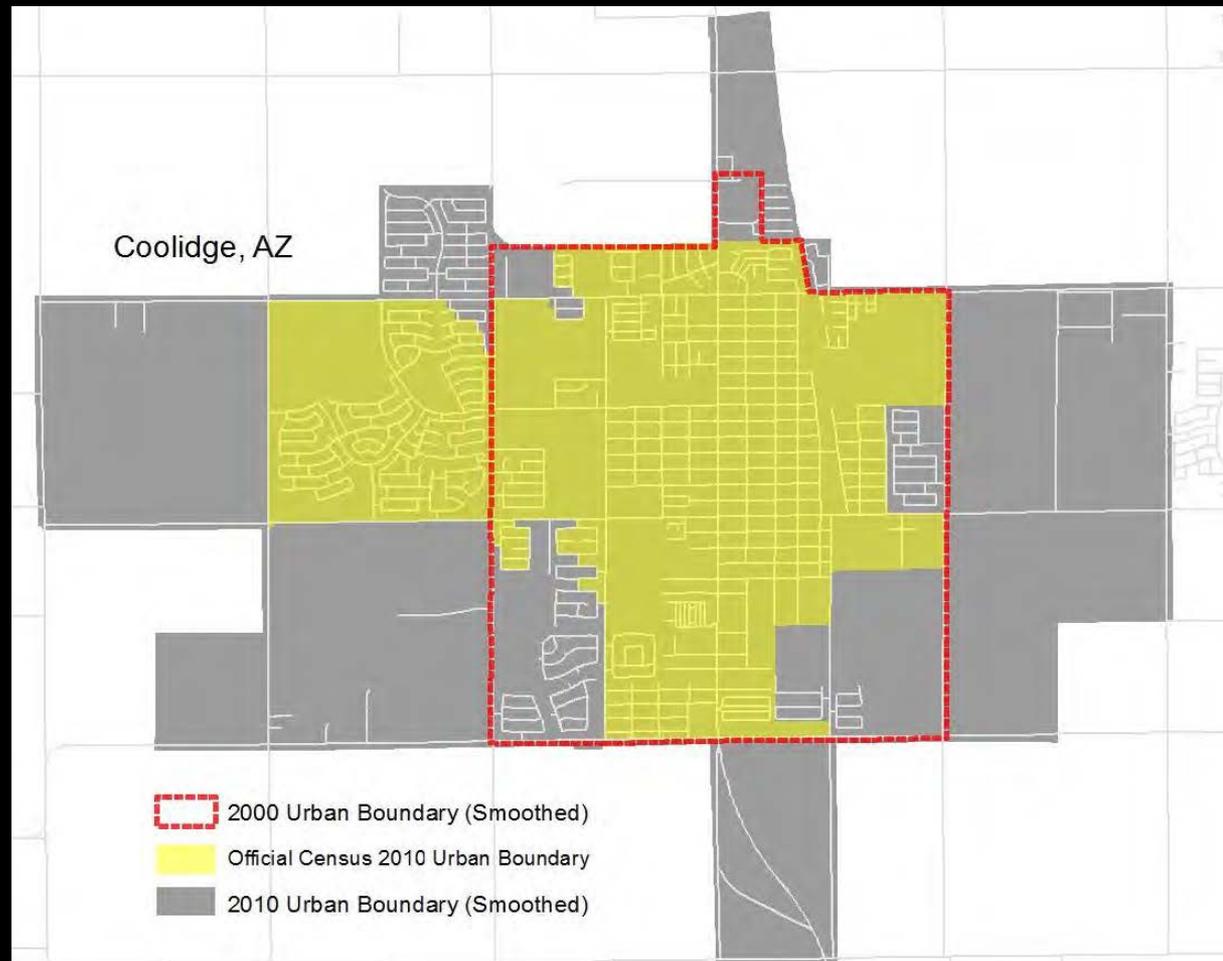
FTA and FHWA Programs

Key FHWA and FTA Programs impacted:

- Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)
- Transportation Management Areas (TMAs)
- Application of Conformity Requirements
- STP Funding availability
- **FTA Urbanized and Non-urbanized area eligibility (§5307, §5311, §5310)**

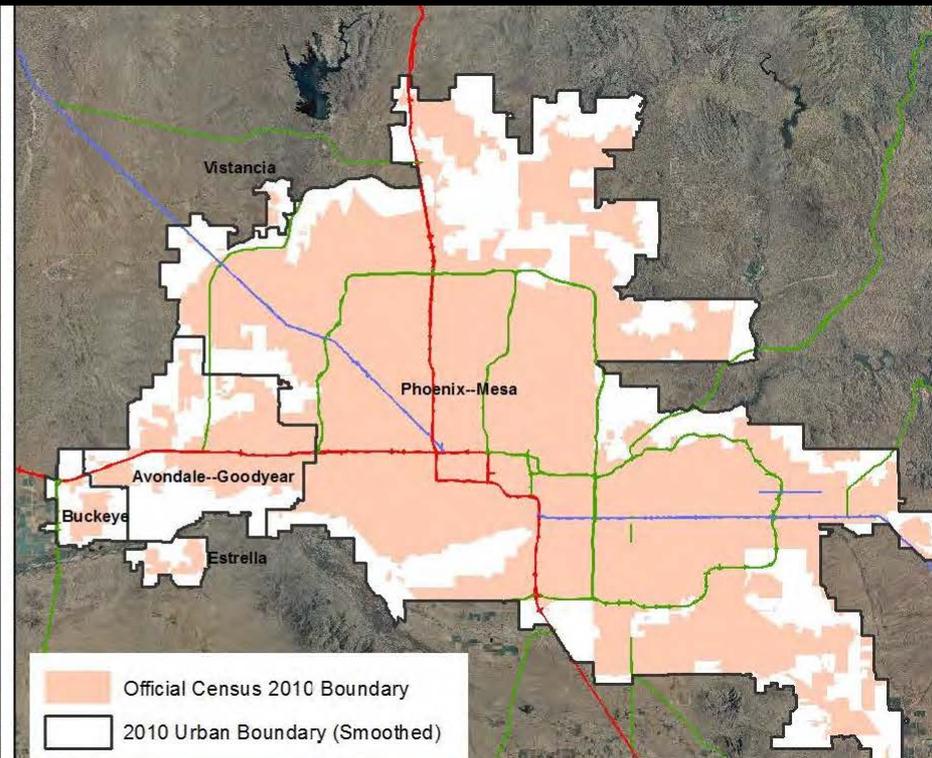
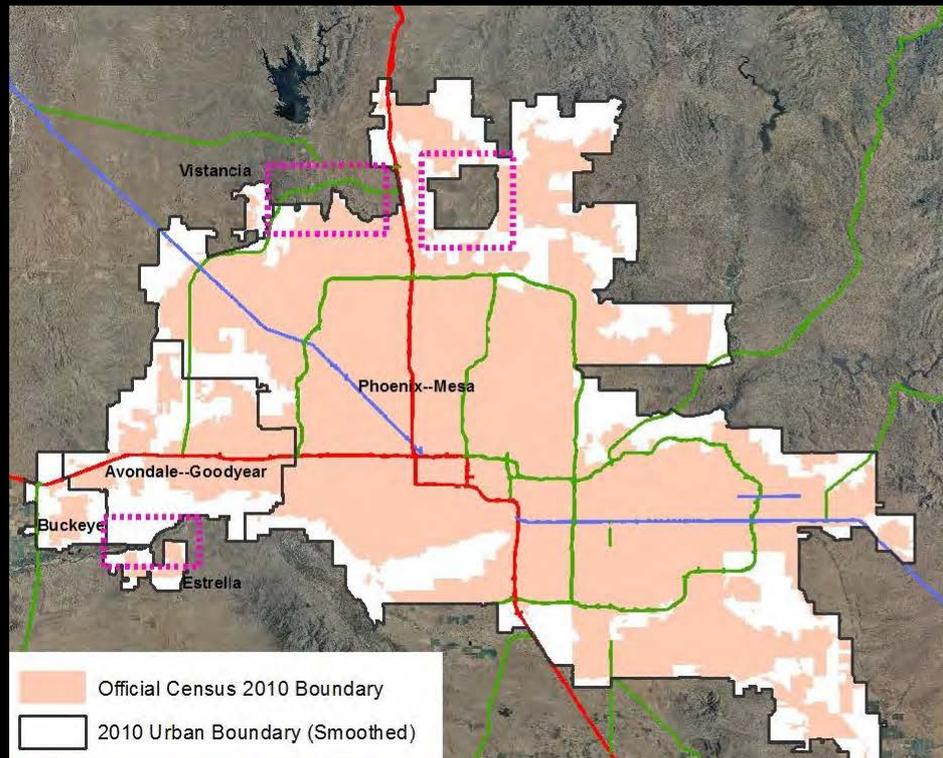
ADOT Developed 9 Rules

- 1: Considered urban areas (urban cluster or urbanized area) that has a population of more than 5,000 based on FHWA documentation
- #2: Build upon smoothed 2000 U.S. Census boundary



ADOT Developed 9 Rules, continued

- 3: Created 1-mile buffer around the original 2010 U.S Census boundary for reference. Allowing for exceptions.



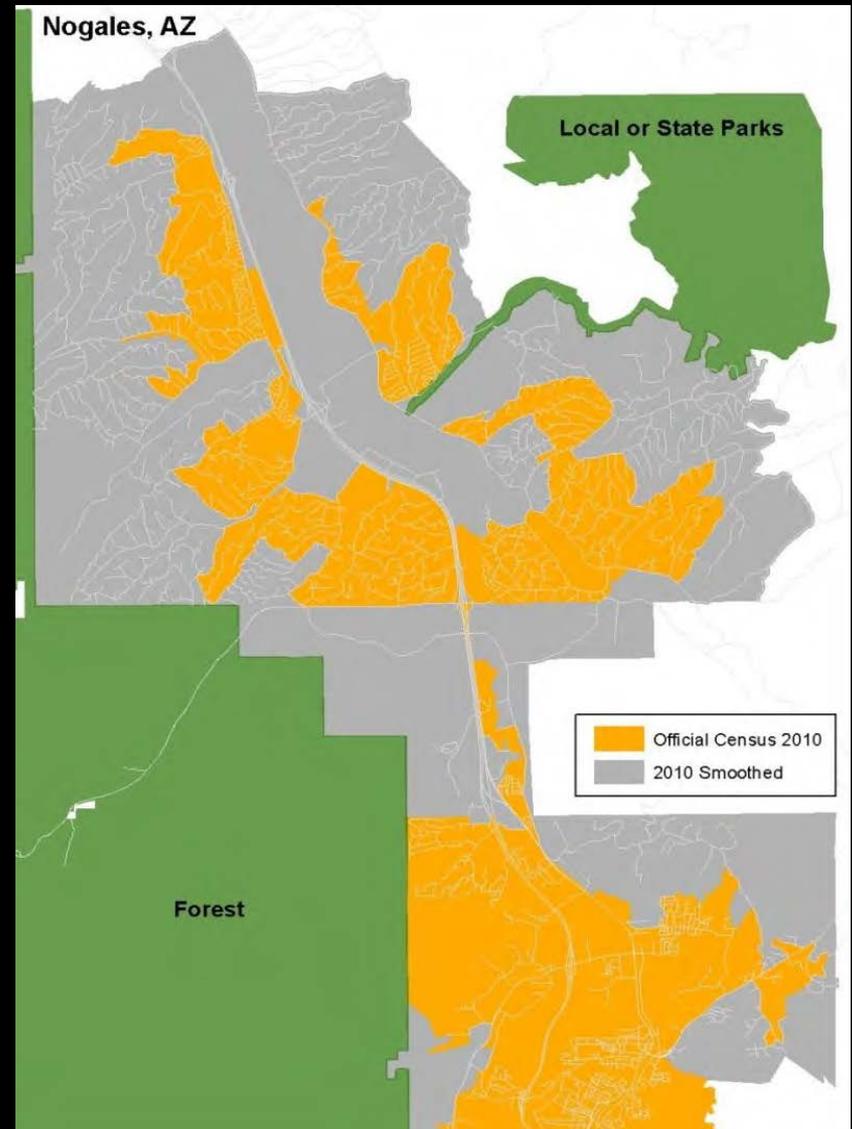
ADOT Developed 9 Rules, continued

- #4 Use the census block boundaries as a guide for smoothing the edges
- #5 • **Extended road-based boundaries to incorporate ROW, (150 feet buffer)**



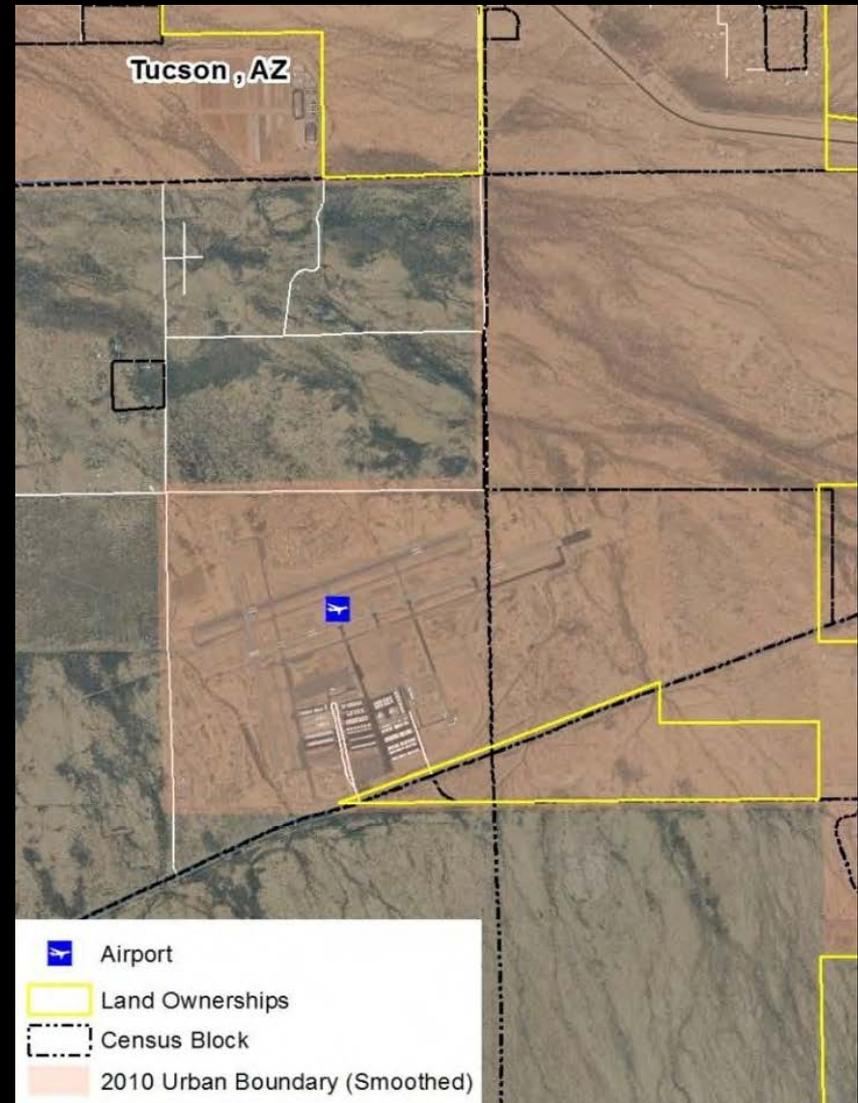
ADOT Developed 9 Rules, continued

- #6 • Follow and consider the land ownership boundary
- #7 Include roads if they are located near a major activity centers such as a Big Box or other large Commercial center.



ADOT Developed 9 Rules, continued

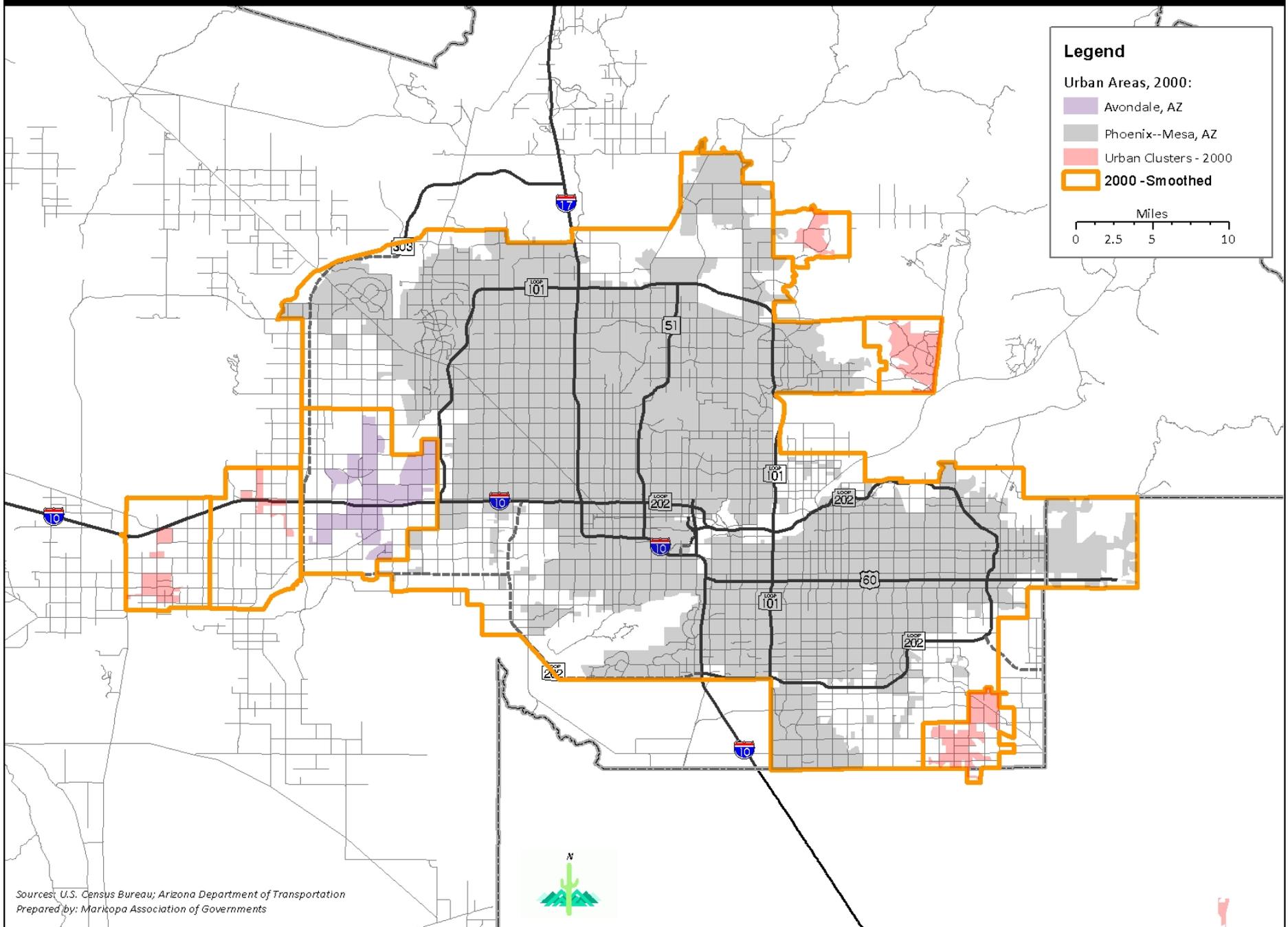
- #8 • Follow **land use** when census block and land ownership boundaries don't exist
- #9 Don't include the urbanized boundaries in other states





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

Urban Areas 2000 - Census and FHWA Smoothed



Legend

Urban Areas, 2000:

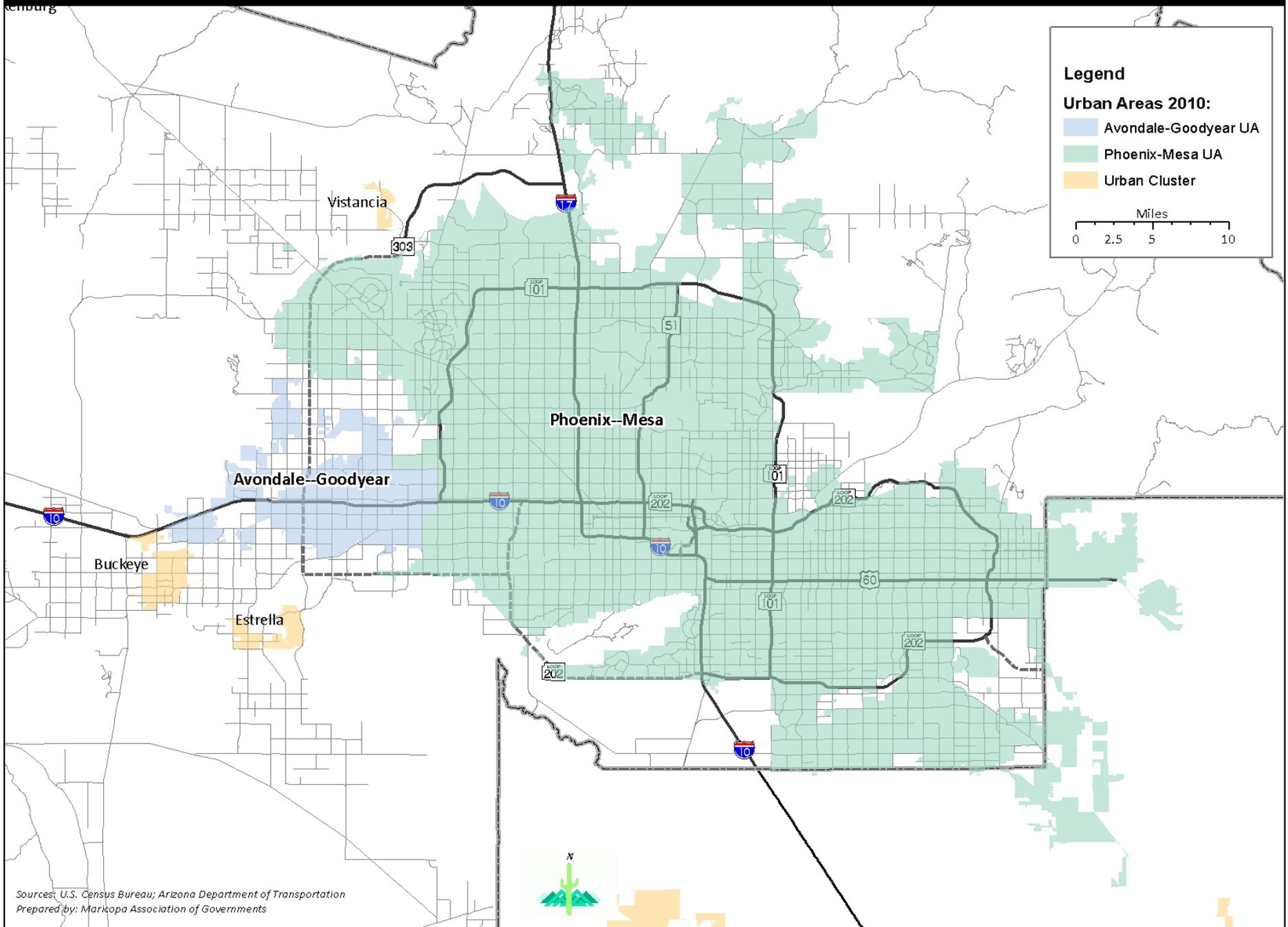
- Avondale, AZ
- Phoenix--Mesa, AZ
- Urban Clusters - 2000
- 2000 - Smoothed

Miles

0 2.5 5 10

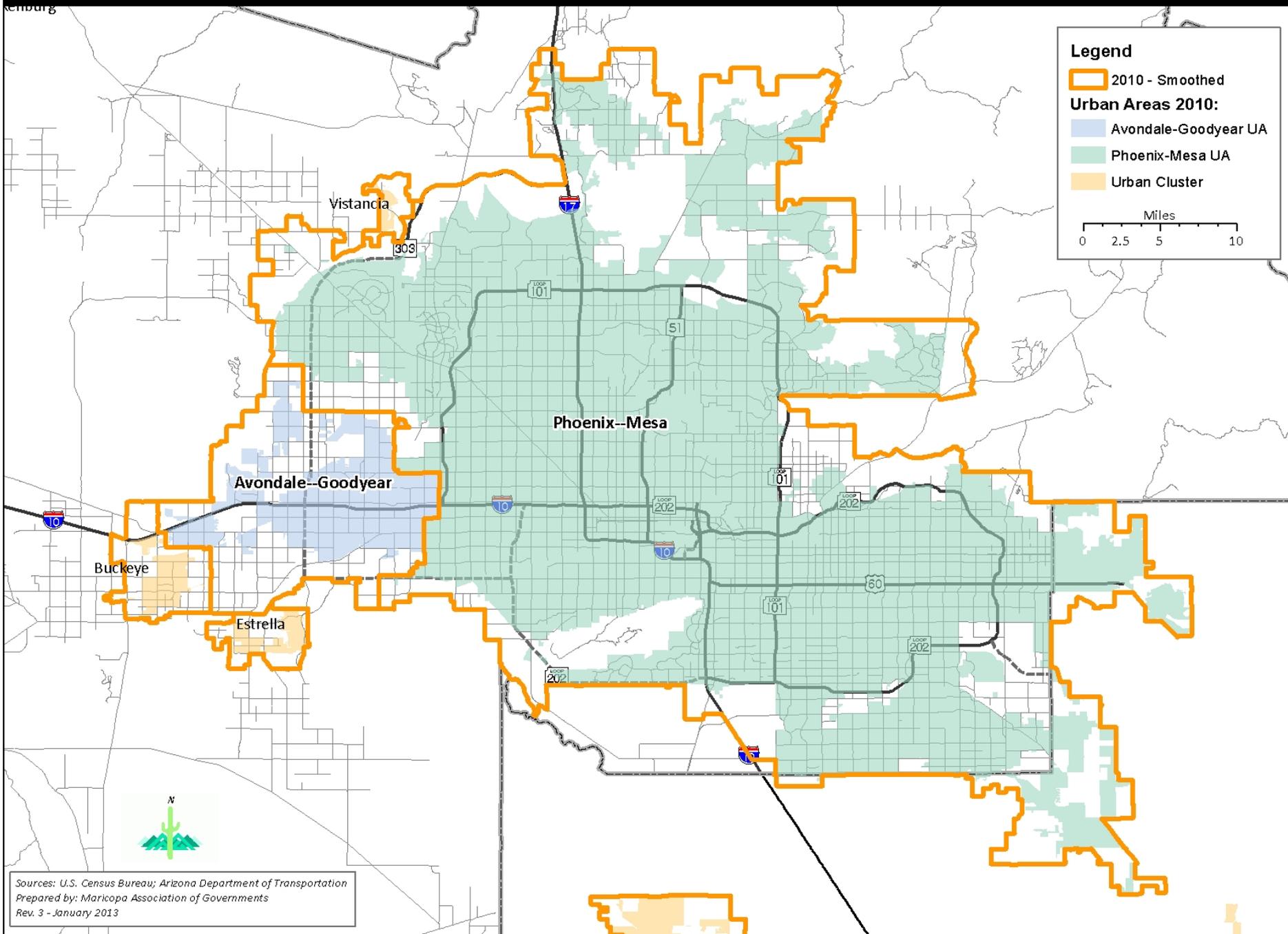


Urban Areas 2010 - Census

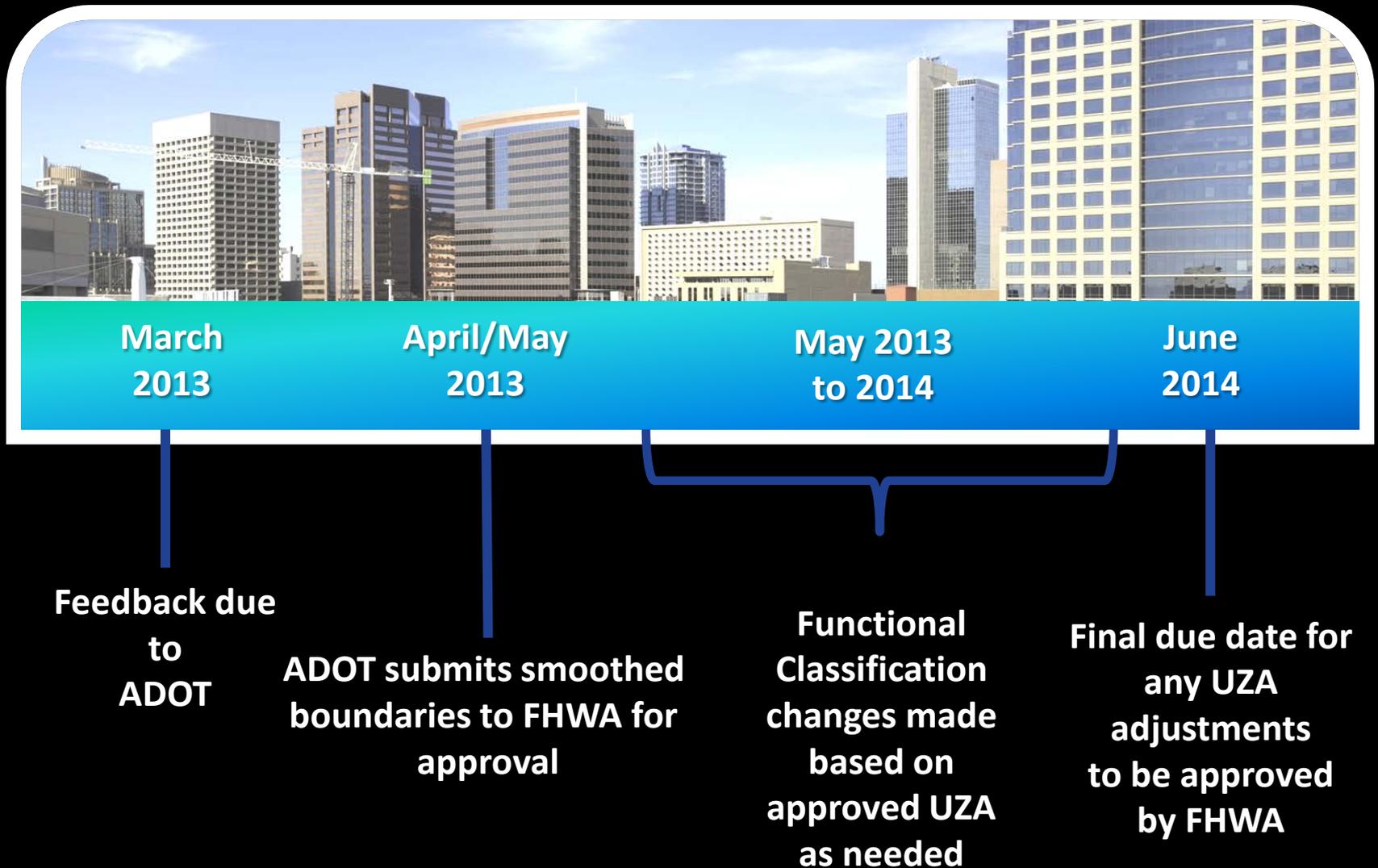


Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; Arizona Department of Transportation
Prepared by: Maricopa Association of Governments

Urban Areas 2010 - Census and Smoothed (draft)



Timeline



Comments or Questions

Contact:

Jami Garrison

jgarrison@azmag.gov

(602) 452-5006