




U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Memorandum

SENT BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

Subject: Metropolitan Planning Organizations
Engaging in the 2020 Census Participant
Statistical Areas Program

Date: September 27, 2018


From: Kenneth N. Petty, II
Director, Office of Planning

In Reply
Refer to: HEPP-30

To: Metropolitan Planning Organizations

WHO SHOULD READ THIS MEMORANDUM?

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) encourages anyone from your MPO who uses Census Standard statistical geographies¹, Tribal statistical geographies², and Census data by these geographies, including Demographers, Travel Demand Modelers, Planners, GIS Specialists to consider this memorandum and engage in the 2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP).

WHAT IS 2020 CENSUS PSAP?

The 2020 Census PSAP offers regional planning organizations the opportunity to review and modify selected statistical area boundaries for the upcoming census data tabulation. The U.S. Census Bureau will use the statistical areas defined for the 2020 Census to tabulate data for the annual American Community Survey (ACS) estimates and the Economic Census.

WHY SHOULD YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE 2020 CENSUS PSAP?

The last version of the Census Transportation Planning Products (CTPP) to use Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZ) and Transportation Analysis Districts (TAD) will be the 2012-2016 CTPP dataset scheduled for release in early 2019. The CTPP will no longer include TAZ and Transportation Analysis District TAD geographies after the 2019 release. Future CTPP tabulations will rely entirely on the standard census block group geography.

To best adapt to this change, FHWA encourages MPOs and anyone who uses CTPP data by census TAZ and census TAD to participate in the PSAP, and through it, adjust their census block group boundaries to better align with their travel demand model TAZ geographies.

¹ Standard statistical geographies include: Census tracts, Census block groups, Census designated places (CDPs), Census county divisions (CCDs).

² Tribal statistical geographies include: Tribal census tracts, Tribal block groups, Tribal designated statistical areas (TDSAs), State designated tribal statistical areas (SDTSAs), State reservations, Oklahoma tribal statistical areas (OTSAs), OTSA tribal subdivisions, Alaska Native village statistical areas (ANVSAs).

The 2020 Census PSAP is the only opportunity for MPOs to review and modify their selected statistical areas. The statistical areas defined for the 2020 Census will be used for the ACS throughout the next decade by the Census Bureau. The next likely opportunity for review and modification will be ahead of the 2030 Census. By participating in the 2020 Census PSAP, MPOs can provide the best local knowledge and help the Census Bureau produce relevant and useful data for small-area geographies.

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

In July 2018, Census Bureau sent formal invitations to PSAP participants. If you are interested in PSAP and did not received an invitation, you can email geo.psap@census.gov to determine the 2020 Census PSAP contact for your jurisdiction. The [2020 Census PSAP Invitation Recipients Map](#) lists all government entities who received a 2020 Census PSAP invitation.

UPCOMING KEY MONTHS

- Fall 2018: Final criteria for standard statistical areas published.
- January 2019: 2020 Census PSAP delineation phase begins. Participants have 120 calendar days to submit updates.
- January 2019: 2020 Census PSAP webinar trainings begin.
- July 2019: 2020 Census PSAP participants notified of delineation phase closeout.
- January 2020: 2020 Census PSAP verification phase begins. Participants have 90 calendar days to review updates.

To learn more about PSAP, visit <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/psap.html>.

UPCOMING PSAP WEBINAR

The U.S. Census Bureau and FHWA will hold a PSAP Webinar on October 24, 2018 from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM Eastern Time. The webinar will explain the criteria for standard statistical areas. Stay tuned for more details about the webinar! To learn more about the policy change on small and custom geography in the CTPP, please visit <https://ctpp.transportation.org/policy-change-on-small-geography/>.

If you have questions about CTPP, please contact:

- Joseph Hausman
 - FHWA, Office of Planning's CTPP Program Liaison
 - Email: joseph.hausman@dot.gov
 - Phone: 202-366-9629
- Penelope Weinberger
 - AASHTO's CTPP Program Manager
 - Email: pweinberger@aaashto.org
 - Phone: 202-624-3556



Memorandum

Subject: **UPDATED:** Interim Guidance on Conformity
Requirements for the 1997 Ozone NAAQS

Date: October 1, 2018

From: Gloria M. Shepherd *Gloria M. Shepherd*
FHWA Associate Administrator for
Planning, Environment and Realty (HEP-1)

In Reply Refer To:
HEPN-10
TPE-1

Elizabeth S. Riklin *Elizabeth S. Riklin*
FTA Acting Associate Administrator for
Planning and Environment (TPE-1)

To: FHWA Division Administrators
FTA Regional Administrators

This guidance provides important updated information regarding transportation conformity requirements for pending planning and project development actions in programs administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). This updated guidance replaces the “Interim Guidance on Conformity Requirements for the 1997 Ozone NAAQS” issued by FHWA and FTA on April 23, 2018. On February 16, 2018, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit issued a decision in *South Coast Air Quality Management District v. EPA*, No. 15-1115, which struck down portions of the 2008 Ozone NAAQS SIP Requirements Rule concerning the ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Those portions of the 2008 Ozone NAAQS SIP Requirements Rule included transportation conformity requirements associated with EPA’s revocation of the 1997 ozone NAAQS. The decision addresses transportation conformity determinations for two groups of ozone areas (the “orphan” areas):

1. Areas that were maintenance areas for the 1997 ozone NAAQS at the time of revocation and are designated as attainment for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS. These areas have not been required to make transportation conformity determinations for the 1997 ozone NAAQS since that NAAQS was revoked in April 2015 by EPA's Rule.
2. Areas that were designated as nonattainment for the 1997 ozone NAAQS at the time of revocation and are designated as attainment for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS. These areas have not been required to make transportation conformity determinations for the 1997 ozone NAAQS since that NAAQS was revoked in April 2015 by EPA's Rule.

Based on the information in EPA's Greenbook¹, we have identified 82 such areas encompassing as many as 228 counties in 24 States that are affected by the Court's decision². Please refer to 40 CFR Part 81 and/or EPA's Greenbook for a full description and maps of these 1997 ozone NAAQS areas. Some of these areas have already made conformity determinations for the 1997 ozone NAAQS, in light of the Court's decision.

After the Court issued its ruling in February 2018, EPA filed a petition for rehearing on various issues, both as to the merits of the Court's ruling and the remedy imposed by the Court. On September 14, 2018, the Court denied EPA's request for rehearing on the merits, but stayed its vacatur of the transportation conformity aspects of its ruling until February 16, 2019. In essence, the Court provided EPA with one year from the date of its original decision to implement its ruling, and that year expires on February 16, 2019.

While DOT is waiting for guidance from EPA clarifying the transportation conformity requirements that will apply for the "orphan" areas beginning on February 16, 2019, all planning and project development actions (including NEPA approvals) in "orphan" areas taken prior to this date may proceed and are not subject to conformity requirements for the 1997 ozone NAAQS. Projects that have already completed NEPA may continue to proceed.

The FHWA and FTA strongly encourage all impacted areas to make every effort to complete their 1997 ozone conformity determinations as soon as possible to prevent any delays of transportation plans, programs, and non-exempt projects. Conformity determinations for the 1997 ozone NAAQS will be required on plan, TIP and project actions after February 15, 2019, and agencies need to plan ahead to make sure they are prepared to make these determinations.

If you have questions or if State DOTs, MPOs and grantees need technical assistance, please contact at FHWA Cecilia Ho (202-366-9862), Karen Perritt (202-366-9066) or David Kall (202-366-6276), and at FTA Dwayne Weeks (202- 493-0316) or Megan Blum (202-366-0463).

Thank you for your immediate attention to this guidance.

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/green-book/green-book-8-hour-ozone-1997-area-information-naaqs-revoked>

² The 82 areas are set forth in the tables below

**1997 Ozone Areas Not Covered in Full by the 2008 Ozone Standard,
by State (24) and 1997 Ozone Area Name (82)**

State	1997 Ozone NAAQS Area Name
AL	Birmingham, AL
CA	Amador and Calaveras Cos. (Central Mountain Cos.), CA
CA	Mariposa and Tuolumne Cos (Southern Mtn), CA
CA	Sutter Co (Sutter Buttes), CA
DE	Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, PA-NJ-MD-DE
GA	Atlanta, GA
GA	Macon, GA
GA	Murray Co (Chattahoochee Nat Forest), GA
IL	St. Louis, MO-IL
IN	Evansville, IN
IN	Fort Wayne, IN
IN	Greene Co, IN
IN	Indianapolis, IN
IN	Jackson Co, IN
IN	La Porte Co., IN
IN	Louisville, KY-IN
IN	Muncie, IN
IN	South Bend-Elkhart, IN
IN	Terre Haute, IN
KY	Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH-KY-IN
KY	Clarksville-Hopkinsville, TN-KY
KY	Huntington-Ashland, WV-KY
KY	Louisville, KY-IN
MA	Boston-Lawrence-Worcester (E. Mass), MA
MA	Springfield (W. Mass), MA
MD	Kent and Queen Anne's Cos,
ME	Hancock, Knox, Lincoln and Waldo Cos, ME
ME	Portland, ME
MI	Allegan Co, MI
MI	Benton Harbor, MI
MI	Benzie Co, MI
MI	Cass Co, MI
MI	Detroit-Ann Arbor, MI
MI	Flint, MI

MI	Grand Rapids, MI
MI	Huron Co, MI
MI	Kalamazoo-Battle Creek, MI
MI	Lansing-East Lansing, MI
MI	Mason Co, MI
MI	Muskegon, MI
NC	Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, NC-SC
NC	Haywood and Swain Cos (Great Smoky NP), NC
NC	Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, NC
NC	Rocky Mount, NC
NH	Boston-Manchester-Portsmouth (SE), NH
NV	Las Vegas, NV
NY	Albany-Schenectady-Troy, NY
NY	Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY
NY	Essex Co (Whiteface Mtn), NY
NY	Jefferson Co, NY
NY	Poughkeepsie, NY
NY	Rochester, NY
OH	Canton-Massillon, OH
OH	Dayton-Springfield, OH
OH	Lima, OH
OH	Parkersburg-Marietta, WV-OH
OH	Steubenville-Weirton, OH-WV
OH	Toledo, OH
OH	Wheeling, WV-OH
OH	Youngstown-Warren-Sharon, OH-PA
PA	Altoona, PA
PA	Clearfield and Indiana Cos, PA
PA	Erie, PA
PA	Franklin Co, PA
PA	Greene Co, PA
PA	Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle, PA
PA	Johnstown, PA
PA	Scranton-Wilkes-Barre, PA
PA	State College, PA
PA	Tioga Co, PA
PA	York, PA
PA	Youngstown-Warren-Sharon, OH-PA
RI	Providence (all of RI), RI
SC	Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, NC-SC
TN	Clarksville-Hopkinsville, TN-KY
TN	Knoxville, TN
TX	Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX
VA	Fredericksburg, VA
VA	Madison and Page Cos (Shenandoah NP), VA
VA	Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Newport News (Hampton Roads), VA
VA	Richmond-Petersburg, VA

WI	Door Co, WI
WI	Kewaunee Co, WI
WI	Manitowoc Co, WI
WI	Milwaukee-Racine, WI
WV	Charleston, WV
WV	Huntington-Ashland, WV-KY
WV	Parkersburg-Marietta, WV-OH
WV	Steubenville-Weirton, OH-WV
WV	Wheeling, WV-OH