

APR 29 2021

*Cathy Jenkins*  
COUNTY CLERK  
VERMILION CO. IL.**Illinois Department of Transportation****MEMO PCF2021-02**

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**To:** Local Government Officials and Metropolitan Planning Organizations  
**From:** George A. Tapas, Engineer of Local Roads and Streets  
**Subject:** Feedback Request: Proposed Criteria - Urban Areas for the 2020 Census  
**Date:** April 28, 2021

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The purpose of this Memo is to provide notification that the U.S. Census Bureau has published a Federal Register notice with proposed criteria for redefining urban areas based on the results of the 2020 Decennial Census. The opportunity for review and public comment is provided by the U.S. Census Bureau, with written comments on the proposed criteria available now and before May 20, 2021.

The Federal Register notice, as well as information as to how to provide comments, is available at:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/02/19/2021-03412/urban-areas-for-the-2020-census-proposed-criteria>.

The Federal Register notice includes descriptions of the proposed changes which include, but are not limited to the following:

- Adoption of a housing unit density threshold for qualification of census blocks;
- Defining urban areas based on a minimum threshold of 4,000 housing units or 10,000 persons, instead of a minimum threshold of 2,500 persons;
- Ceasing in the distinguishing of different types of urban areas;
- Decreasing the maximum distances of jumps, and no longer providing the inclusion of the low density hop or jump "corridor" in the urban area; and
- No longer including the low-density territory designation located within indentations formed during the urban area delineation process.

These urban area classifications are used by the FHWA and IDOT to determine eligibility for some of transportation funding criteria, including the Surface Transportation Block Grant (commonly known as STP). In addition, the criteria used for defining urban areas has many other uses outside those of transportation funding. We would encourage locals review the Federal Register notice and consider the impacts.

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As an additional resource, AASHTO recently hosted a Webinar whereby the FHWA and the US Census Bureau discussed the proposed criteria changes in detail, as well as provided a question and answer session. The link to that presentation and associated information can be found at:

<https://ctpp.transportation.org/urban-areas-for-the-2020-census/>

cc: Arlene Kocher, FHWA – Illinois Division  
Brian Otten, Illinois Association of County Engineers  
Brad Cole, Illinois Municipal League  
Bryan Smith, Township Officials of Illinois  
Donald Goad, Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois  
Kelly Murray, Illinois Association of Regional Councils