# *Proposed Urban Area Criteria for the 2020 Census*

Michael Commons and Jennifer Zanoni

U.S. Census Bureau

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# *Increase the Minimum Threshold to Qualify as an Urban Area Using Either Housing Units or Population*



Housing Units: 4,000

OR



Population: 10,000

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# Adoption of Housing Unit Density Threshold for Qualification of Census Blocks

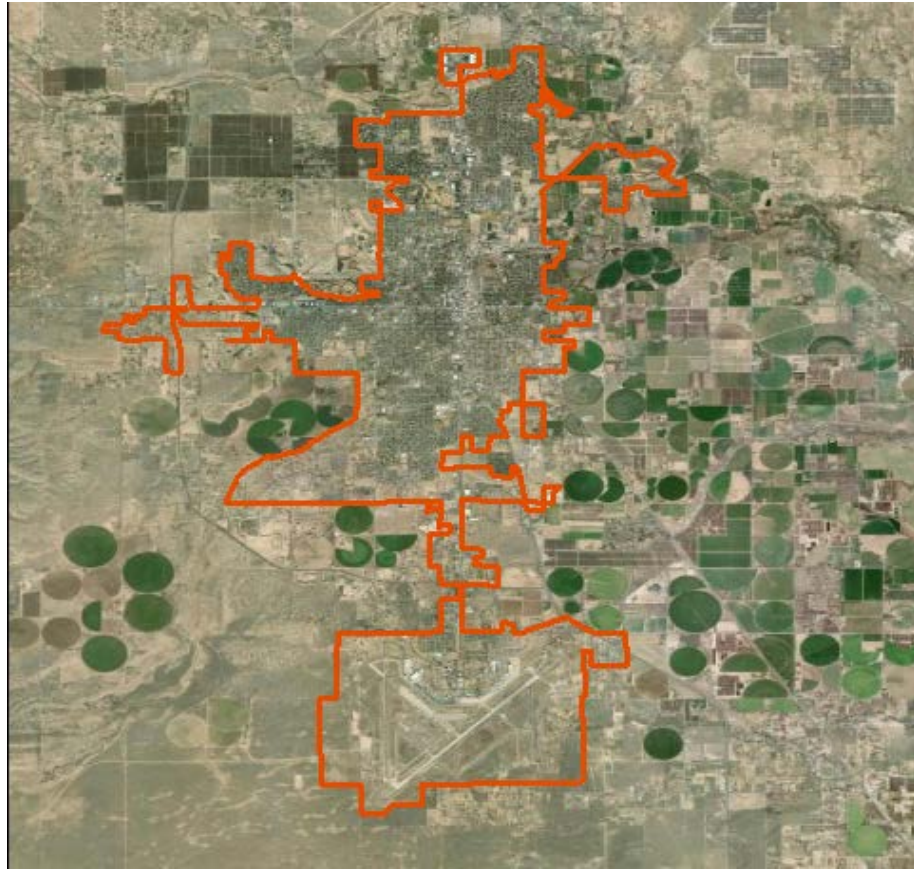385 housing units (occupied or vacant) per square mile density

Ability to update extent of Urban Areas between censuses

More direct measure of developed landscape

Census block-level housing unit counts invariant

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# *Cease Distinguishing Different Types of Urban Areas*



Roswell, NM Urban Cluster
2010 population: 49,727



Grand Island, NE Urbanized Area
2010 population: 50,440

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# Cease Distinguishing Different Types of Urban Areas

| Urban Area | 2010 Census Population | Number of Firms | Population to Firm ratio | Retail Sales | Per capita retail sales |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New Bern, NC | 50,503 | 3,994 | 12.6 | $880,434,000 | $17,433.30 |
| Grand Island, NE | 50,440 | 4,366 | 11.6 | $1,198,923,000 | $23,769.29 |
| Pascagoula, MS | 50,428 | 4,083 | 12.4 | $851,756,000 | $16,890.54 |
| Roswell, NM | 49,727 | 3,317 | 15.0 | $863,103,000 | $17,356.83 |
| Danville, VA-NC | 49,344 | 3,314 | 14.9 | $985,916,000 | $19,980.46 |

*2010 Census; 2012 Survey of Business Owners; 2012 Economic Census*

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# Maximum Distances of Jumps



2010 Jump Blocks

2010 Qualified Urban Blocks

2.4 miles

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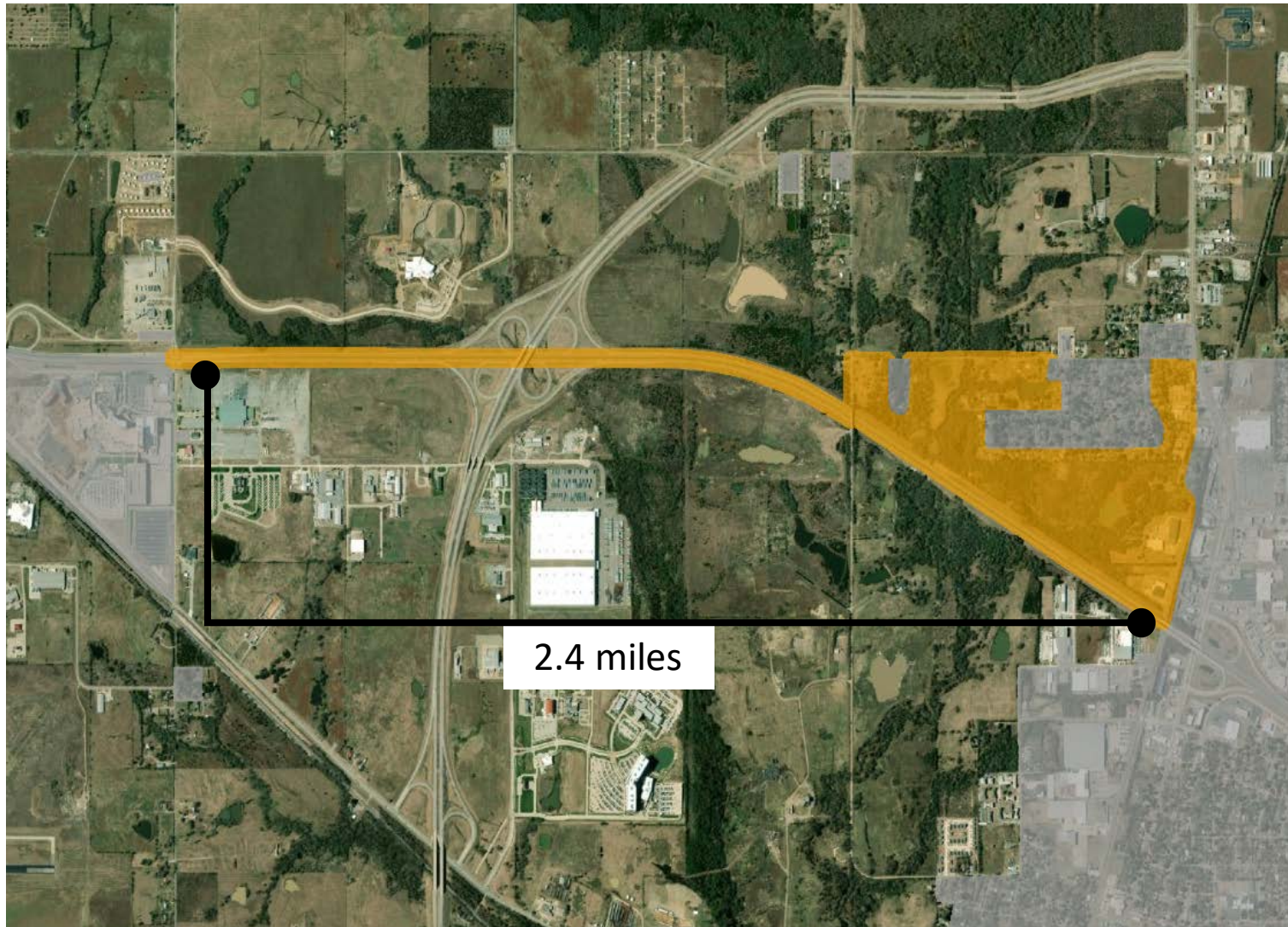
# No Longer Include the Low Density Hop or Jump "Corridor" in the Urban Area
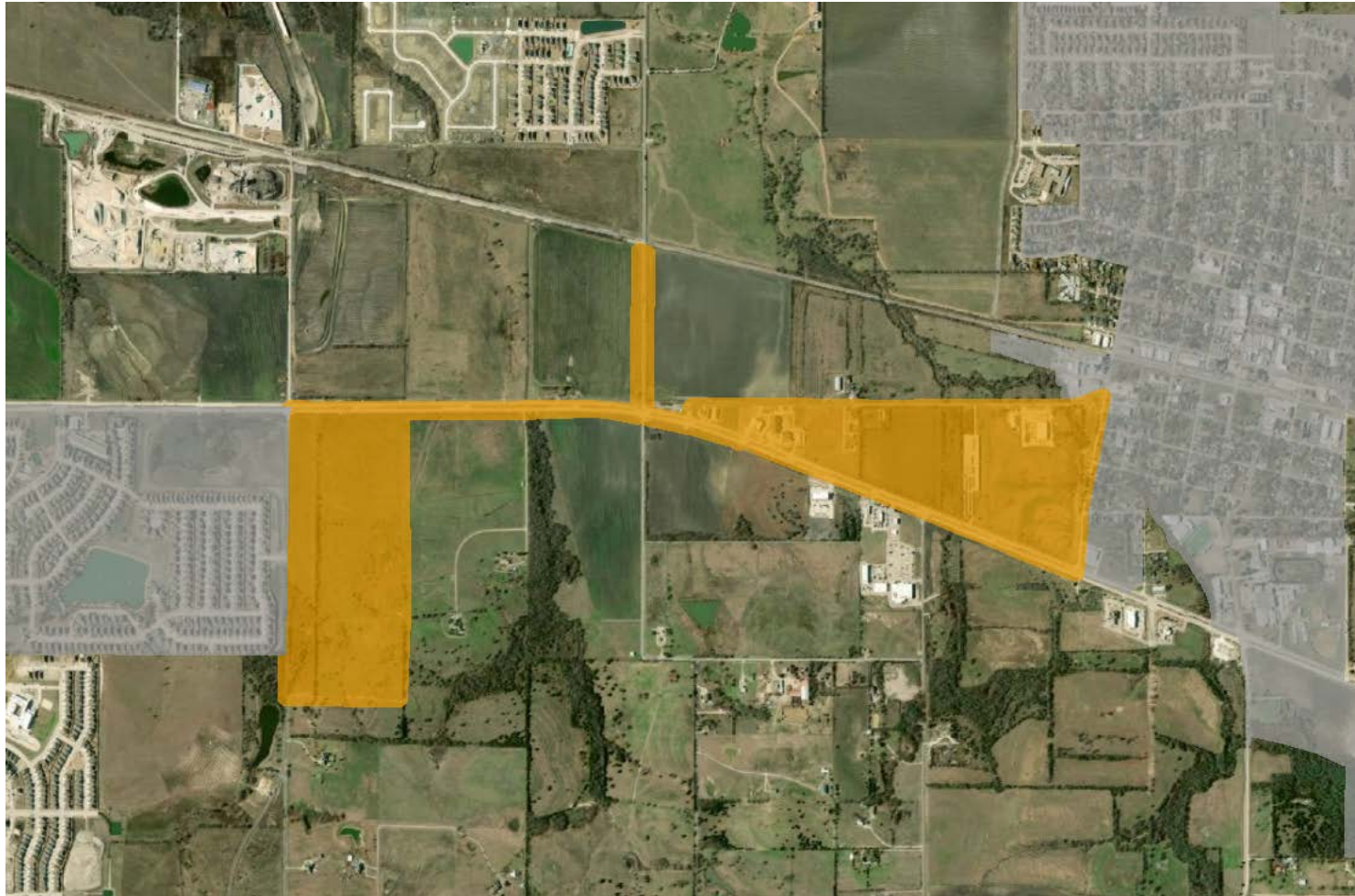


2010 Jump Blocks

2010 Qualified Urban Blocks

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# *Splitting of Large Agglomerations of Densely Settled Territory*

Utilization of Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) data

- Two-step process for accepting or adjusting 2010 split boundaries.
  - Step One. Conduct analysis of the new 2020 UAs using the 2010 UA splits.
    - Measure aggregate commuter flows into and out of each UA.
    - Upon qualification, the UA split boundaries are further analyzed in Step Two.
  - Step Two. Conduct block-level analysis of the commuter flows.
    - Using the LEHD data, apply the Leiden Algorithm to objectively identify communities.
    - Based on the results of the Leiden Algorithm, split boundaries are adjusted, or the UA is merged with the large agglomeration.

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# *Splitting of Large Agglomerations of Densely Settled Territory*

| Where do Avondale Residents work? | Count | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Phoenix--Mesa, AZ | 80,034 | 83.5% |
| Avondale--Goodyear, AZ | 11,110 | 11.6% |
| Tucson, AZ | 1,473 | 1.5% |
| Buckeye, AZ | 1,404 | 1.5% |

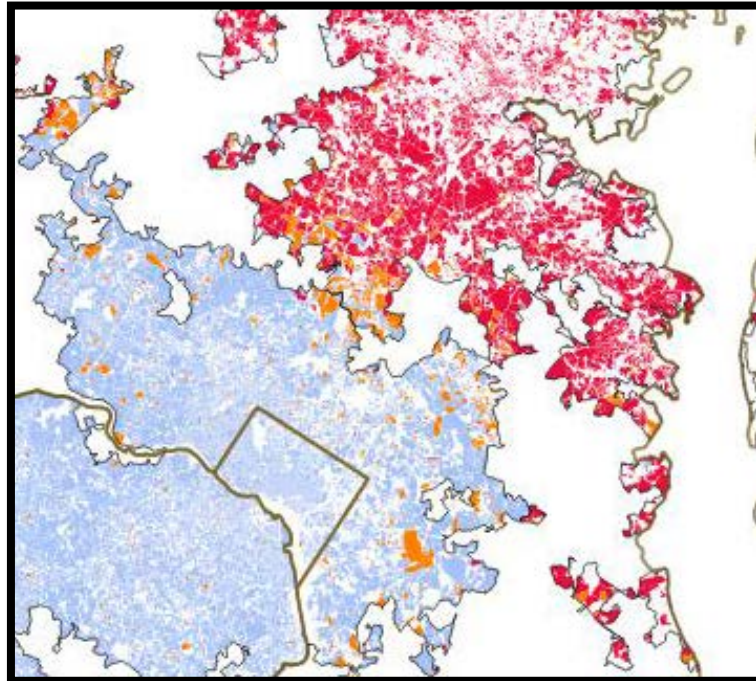| Where do Avondale Workers live? | Count | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Phoenix--Mesa, AZ | 20,124 | 57.0% |
| Avondale--Goodyear, AZ | 11,110 | 31.4% |
| Buckeye, AZ | 856 | 2.4% |
| Tucson, AZ | 712 | 2.0% |

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# Splitting of Large Agglomerations of Densely Settled Territory

| Where do Washington Residents work? | Count | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Washington, DC--VA--MD | 1,854,172 | 88.1% |
| Baltimore, MD | 120,178 | 5.7% |
| Richmond, VA | 26,252 | 1.2% |
| Virginia Beach, VA | 16,304 | 0.8% |

| Where do Washington Workers live? | Count | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Washington, DC--VA--MD | 1,854,172 | 81.6% |
| Baltimore, MD | 149,564 | 6.6% |
| Waldorf, MD | 28,690 | 1.3% |
| Virginia Beach, VA | 25,987 | 1.1% |

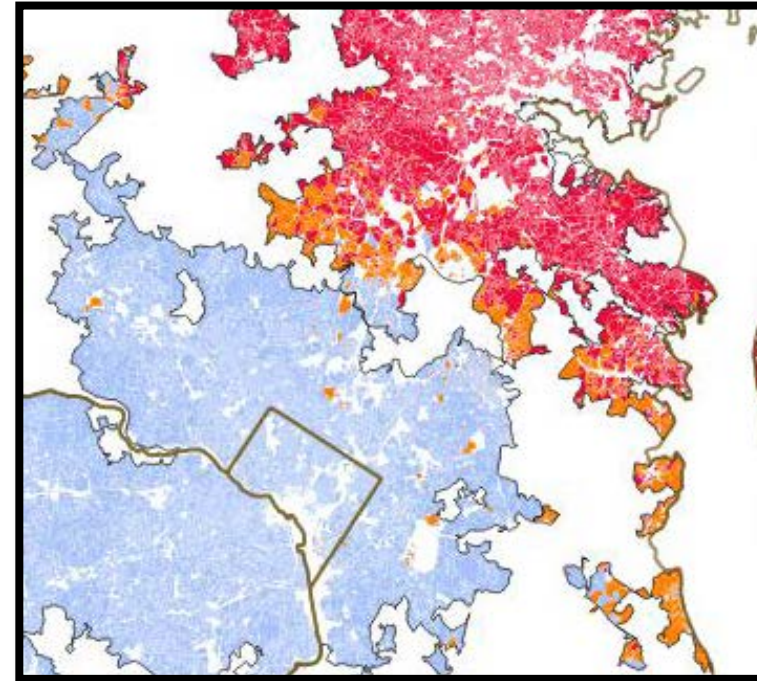# *Splitting of Large Agglomerations of Densely Settled Territory*
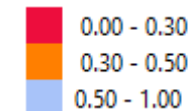
Where do Washington
Residents work?

Where do Washington
Workers live?



Percent of jobs filled by
residents of Washington

| | |
|---|---|
| 🟥 | 0.00 - 0.30 |
| 🟧 | 0.30 - 0.50 |
| 🟦 | 0.50 - 1.00 |

Percent of residents
working in Washington

| | |
|---|---|
| 🟥 | 0.00 - 0.30 |
| 🟧 | 0.30 - 0.50 |
| 🟦 | 0.50 - 1.00 |

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# Splitting of Large Agglomerations of Densely Settled Territory

### Where do Washington Residents work?


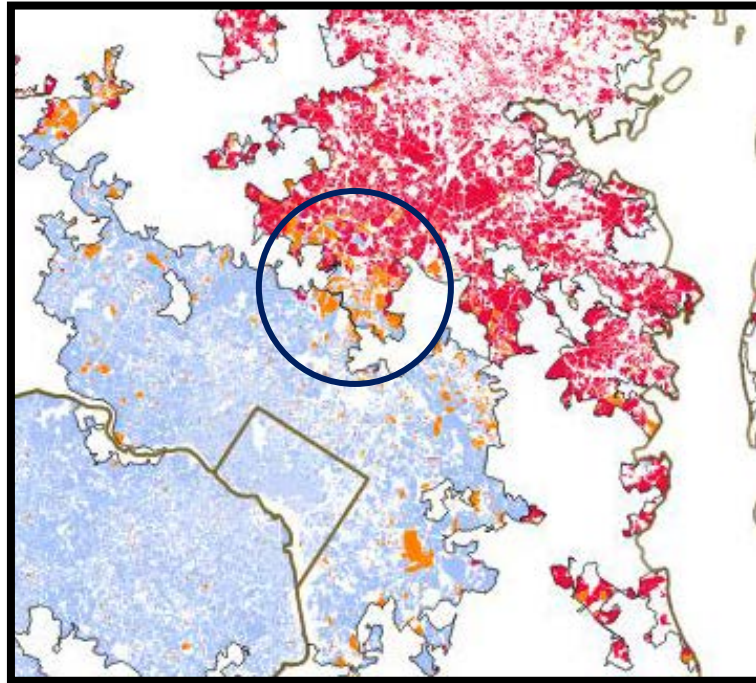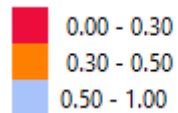
Percent of jobs filled by residents of Washington

| | |
|---|---|
| 🟥 | 0.00 - 0.30 |
| 🟧 | 0.30 - 0.50 |
| 🟦 | 0.50 - 1.00 |
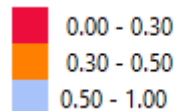
### Where do Washington Workers live?



Percent of residents working in Washington

| | |
|---|---|
| 🟥 | 0.00 - 0.30 |
| 🟧 | 0.30 - 0.50 |
| 🟦 | 0.50 - 1.00 |

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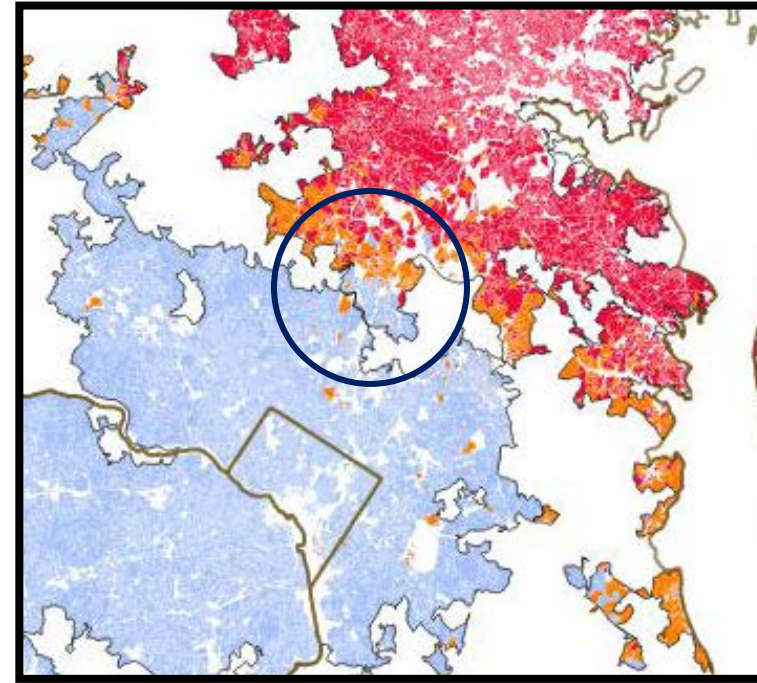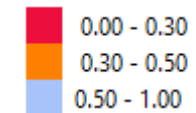
# *Next Steps*

o Complete development delineation software
   o Test software outputs

**Schedule**

| | |
|---|---|
| Spring 2021 | Publish Proposed Urban/Rural Criteria in the Federal Register Notice |
| Summer 2021 | Review comments on Proposed Urban/Rural Criteria published in the Federal Register Notice |
| Winter 2021 | Publish Final Urban/Rural Criteria in the Federal Register Notice |
| Summer 2022 | Publish Federal Register Notice announcing qualifying Urban Areas |

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# *Contact Us*

Send questions and comments to us at
## geo.urban@census.gov

**Proposed Criteria Federal Register Notice**

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

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