

EASTERN SHORE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-12

Resolution of Opposition Regarding Proposed Changes to 2020 Urban Area Designation Criteria

WHEREAS, the Eastern Shore Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is the organization designated by the Governor of the State of Alabama as being responsible, together with the State of Alabama, for implementing the applicable provisions of 23 USC 134 and 135 (amended by the FAST Act, Sections 1201 and 1202, December 2015); 42 USC 2000d-1, 7401; 23 CFR 450 and 500; 40 CFR 51 and 93; and

WHEREAS, the MPO was formed in 2012 to assist with transportation planning in the defined urbanized area in Baldwin County which includes the City of Spanish Fort, the City of Fairhope, the City of Daphne, the Town of Loxley, and the unincorporated areas of Baldwin County; and

WHEREAS, the MPO receives federal funding to plan and implement road and bridge projects, public transit, bicycles and pedestrians, freight, and other modes of transportation to accommodate the area's growth; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau has proposed changes to the Urban Area Designation Criteria for 2020 Census; and

WHEREAS, the following proposed changes could potentially impact the Eastern Shore MPO:

- Housing unit density equal to 1,000 persons/square mile threshold,
- Qualify 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,
- Maximum distances of jumps,
- No longer distinguishing between types of urban areas,
- No longer include the low density hop or jump "corridor" in the urban area,
- No longer include low-density territory located within indentations formed during the urban area delineation process, and

WHEREAS, the proposed changes listed above raise serious concerns with significantly reducing or possibly eliminating the Eastern Shore as an urbanized area; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Eastern Shore MPO hereby strongly opposes the proposed Urban Area Designation Criteria and urges the U.S. Census Bureau to reject the proposal.

The foregoing resolution was adopted and approved on the 28th day of April 2021, by the Eastern Shore Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board.

 Date: 5/10/21
Jack Burrell, Chairperson

ATTEST
 Date: 5/10/21