



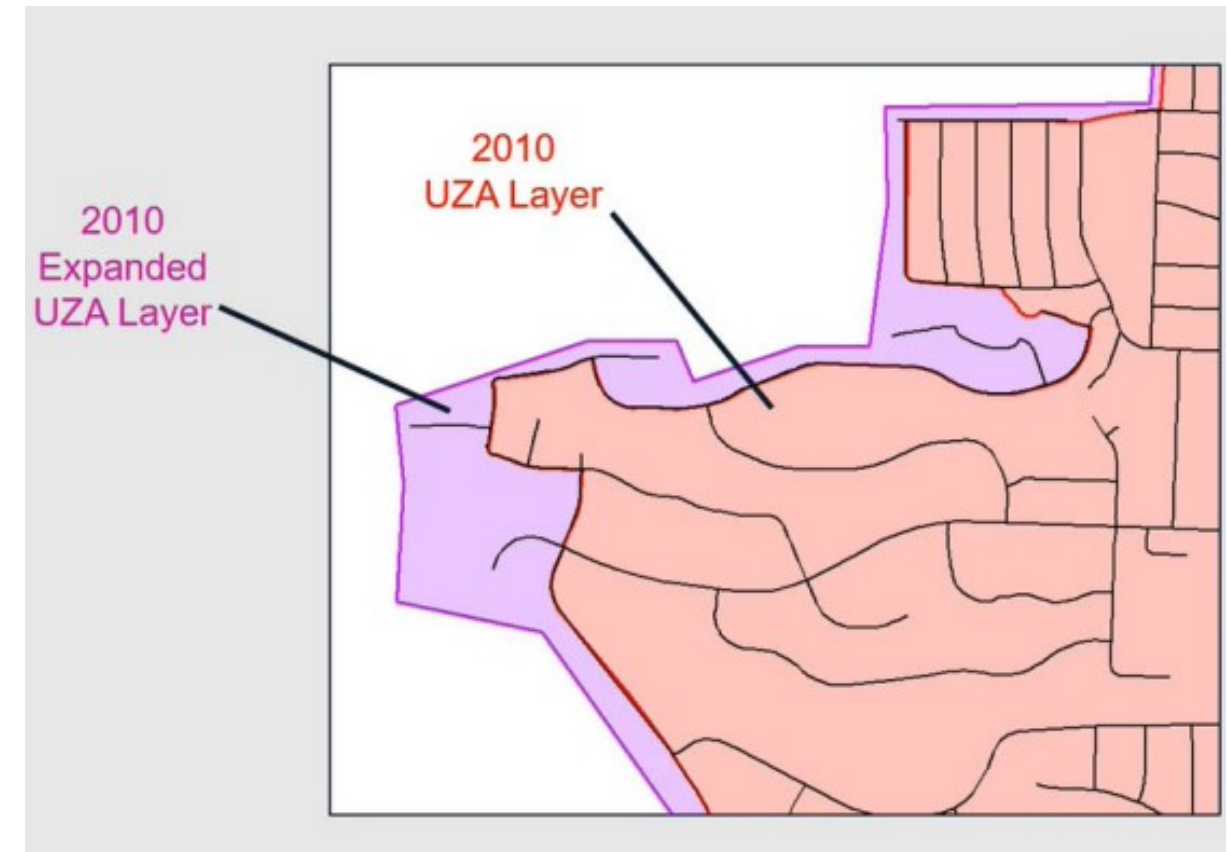
Urban Area Boundary



July 2023 - David Burns – MTS Planning

Urbanized Area Boundary Update - Background

- Urban area (UZA) boundaries are updated by the US Census Bureau after completion of the decennial census
- UZA boundaries undergo a “smoothing” process (adjusted outward) in order to follow identifiable features such as roadways (and right of way), water features, and municipal boundaries
- The smoothed UZA boundary must include the entire area identified as urban by the Census Bureau
 - Cannot shrink – only expand
- For urban areas within an MPO, the MPO leads this process



Purpose of the UZA Boundary

- In most MPOs, the UZA boundary affects federal transportation programs such as:
 - Roadway functional classification
 - The FHWA Highway Performance Monitoring System
 - Apportionment and distribution of STPBG Funds
 - Sets boundaries for US DOT data reporting
 - **Is used to determine the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) boundary**
- The MPA boundary is the MPO's area of responsibility for transportation planning and programming
- However, by state law, the Council's MPA must include the 7 counties
- This means the urban/rural distinction and subsequent UZA boundary for all areas within the 7 counties is not of great importance
- The urban area continues to include portions of Wright and Sherburne counties; staff will meet with these counties in mid-June to discuss the proposed smoothed boundaries

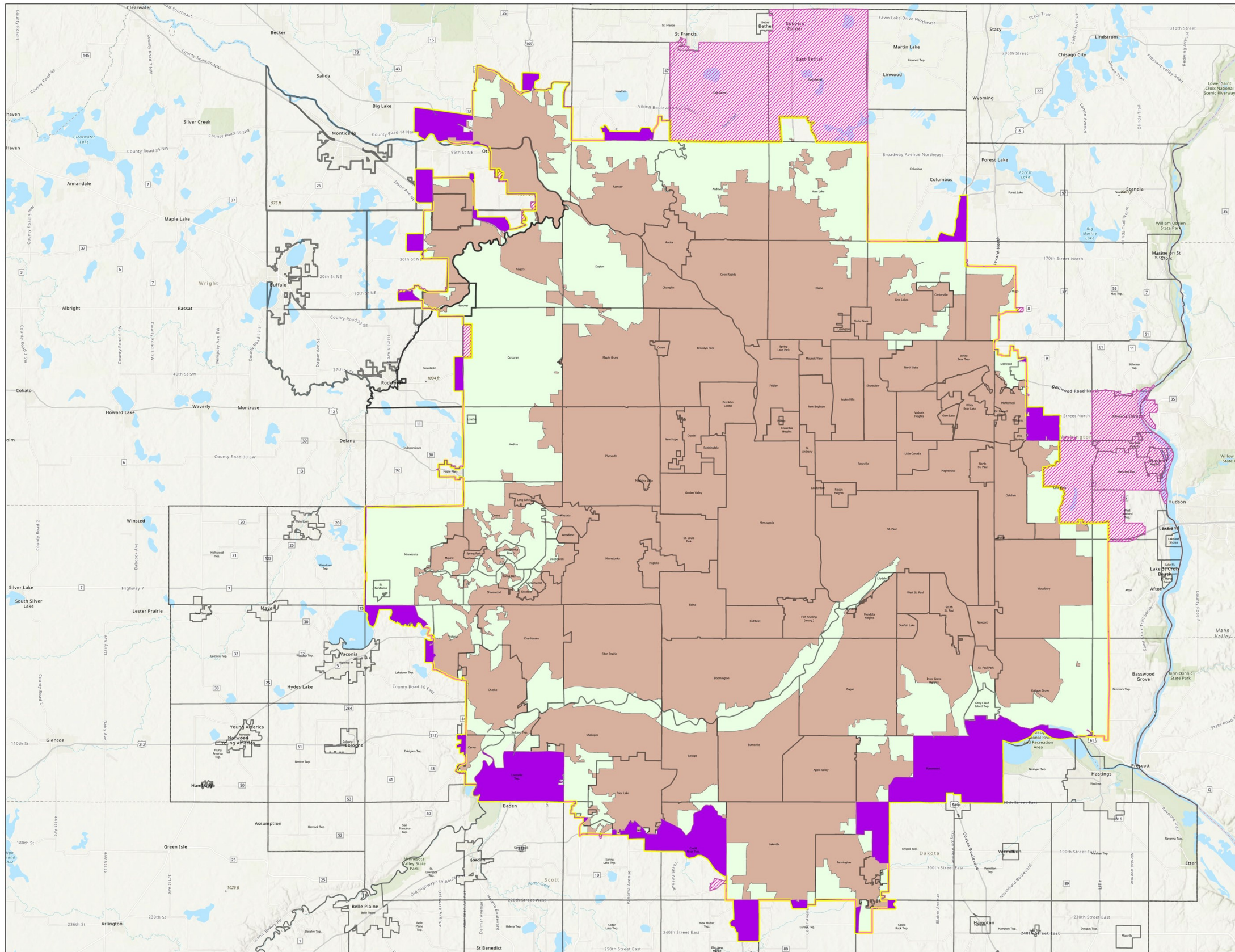
Changes since June

- Met with Wright/Sherburne county staff June 12
- Comments received from MnDOT and other stakeholders
- Noteworthy changes include:
 - Extended boundary outward to include interchanges
 - Incorporated “weaving roads” into urban area
 - Inclusion of all of Rosemount (to include Dakota Technical College)
 - Minor changes in the Wright/Sherburne county area (mainly to include interchanges)

2020 UZA
7W View
Urbanized Area Change

UZA Change 2010 to 2020

■ Added UZA in 2020
■ Removed UZA in 2020



■ City and Townships
■ 2020 Census Defined UZA
■ 2020 DRAFT Smooth UZA Metro
■ Area Removed from Draft 2020 UZA
■ 2020 DRAFT Smooth UZA Boundary
■ 2013 Smooth UZA Boundary

Timeline and Process

- **June:** Council works with jurisdictions to create smoothed urban area boundary (separate meeting with Wright/Sherburne county staff)
- **June:** Council coordinates with MnDOT on proposed boundary
- **July:** TAC Planning approval
- **August:** TAC, TAB approval
- **September:** Council approval
- **End of September:** MnDOT submits to FHWA for approval



Thank you

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