

2020 Census Urban Area Adjustment Process

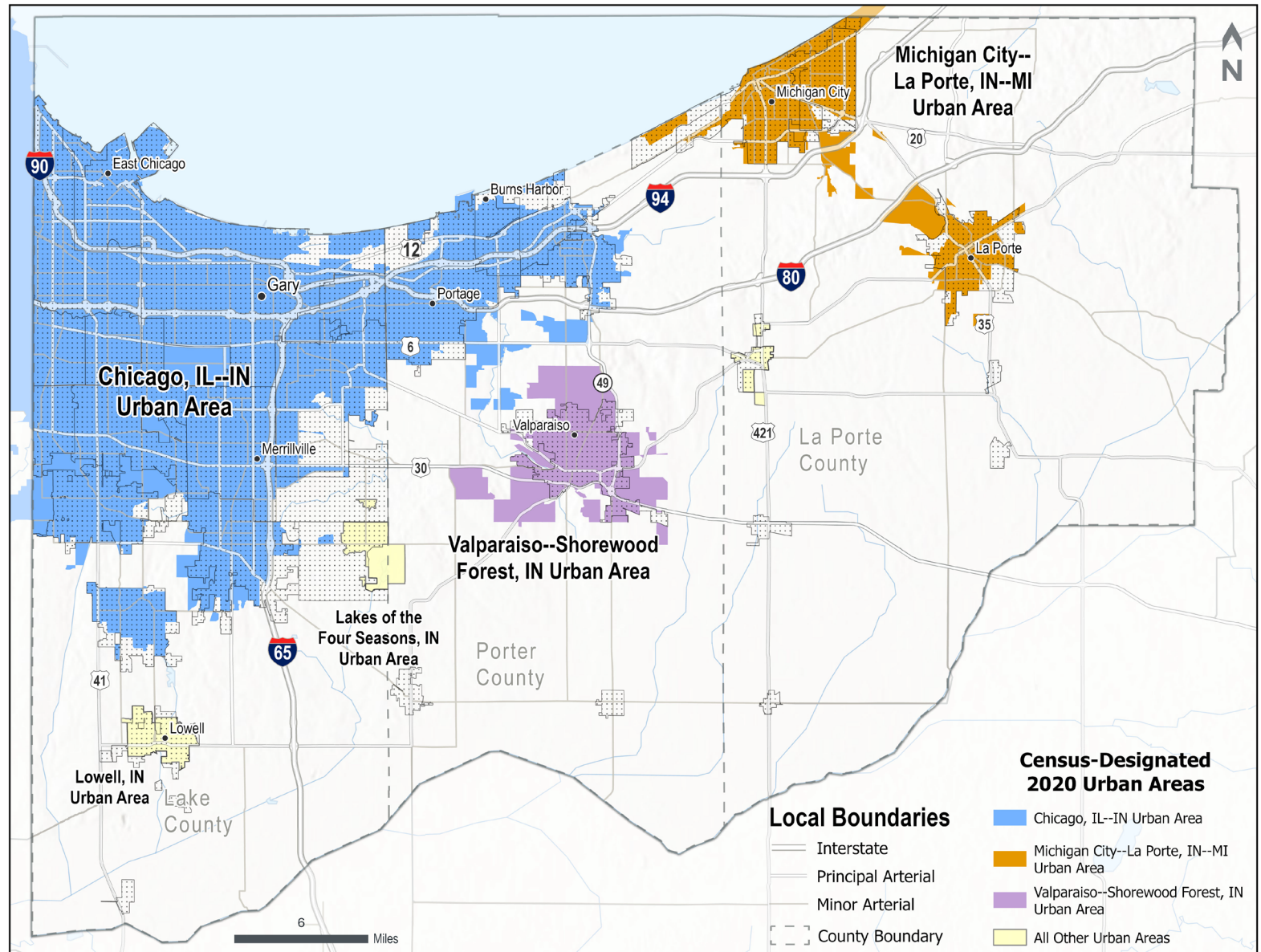
Tuesday, September 21, 2023

Census-Designated Urban Areas

- **Delineated by the US Census Bureau every 10 years**
 - At least 2,000 housing units (HUs) or 5,000 people
 - At least one nucleus of 1,275 HUs per sq mile
 - A density of at least 200 HUs per sq mile

Overview of 2020 Census Urban Areas

2020 Census Urban Areas



Adjusted Census Urban Boundary (ACUB)

- States and MPOs, in coordination with local officials, may adjust the Census-designated Urban Areas to create an Adjusted Census Urban Boundary.
 - (ref. 23 U.S.C. 101(a)(36), 23 CFR 470.103, and 23 CFR 470.105
 - The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) uses the Census-designated urban area definition as a starting point but allows for smoothing and adjusting of the urban area boundary, resulting in a slightly larger area more suited to transportation needs.
 - ACUB must include the entire Census-designated urban areas, adjustments may only expand the urban area.
 - Smoothing is the main criteria for the adjustment process. Smoothing creates a simpler urban area shape.
 - **Goal:** to prevent a road from switching back and forth between rural and urban federal funding sources and avoid confusion from irregular boundaries.

Adjusted Census Urban Boundary Implications

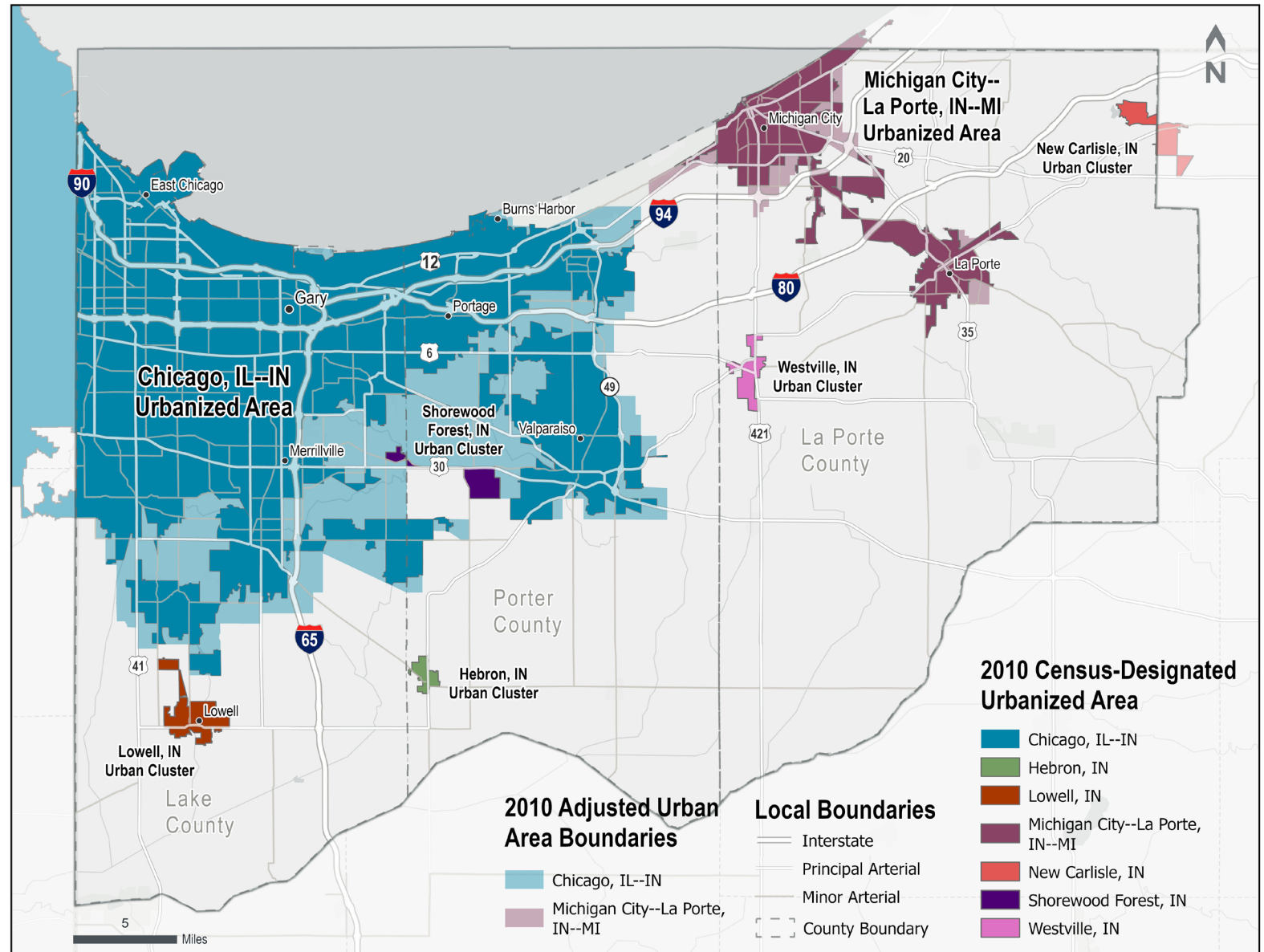
Smoothing these boundaries plays a pivotal role in the following:

- **Access to Funding Opportunities:** ACUBs can play a decisive role in determining which roads have rural or urban road designations and is used to determine funding eligibility for crucial funding categories, such as the Federal Surface Transportation Program.
- **Continuity of Funding:** To prevent a road from switching back and forth between rural and urban federal funding sources and to avoid confusion from irregular boundaries.
 - Adjusting the ACUB's does not affect the population numbers or the federal metropolitan planning (PL) funding levels that are available to local agencies.
 - The ACUB is for transportation funding purposes only, it is not used for land use designation.

Adjustment Process of 2020 Census Urban Areas

What did the adjustment to urban areas look like in 2010?

- NIRPC approved the 2010 adjusted UA in December 2012 by Resolution 12-25.

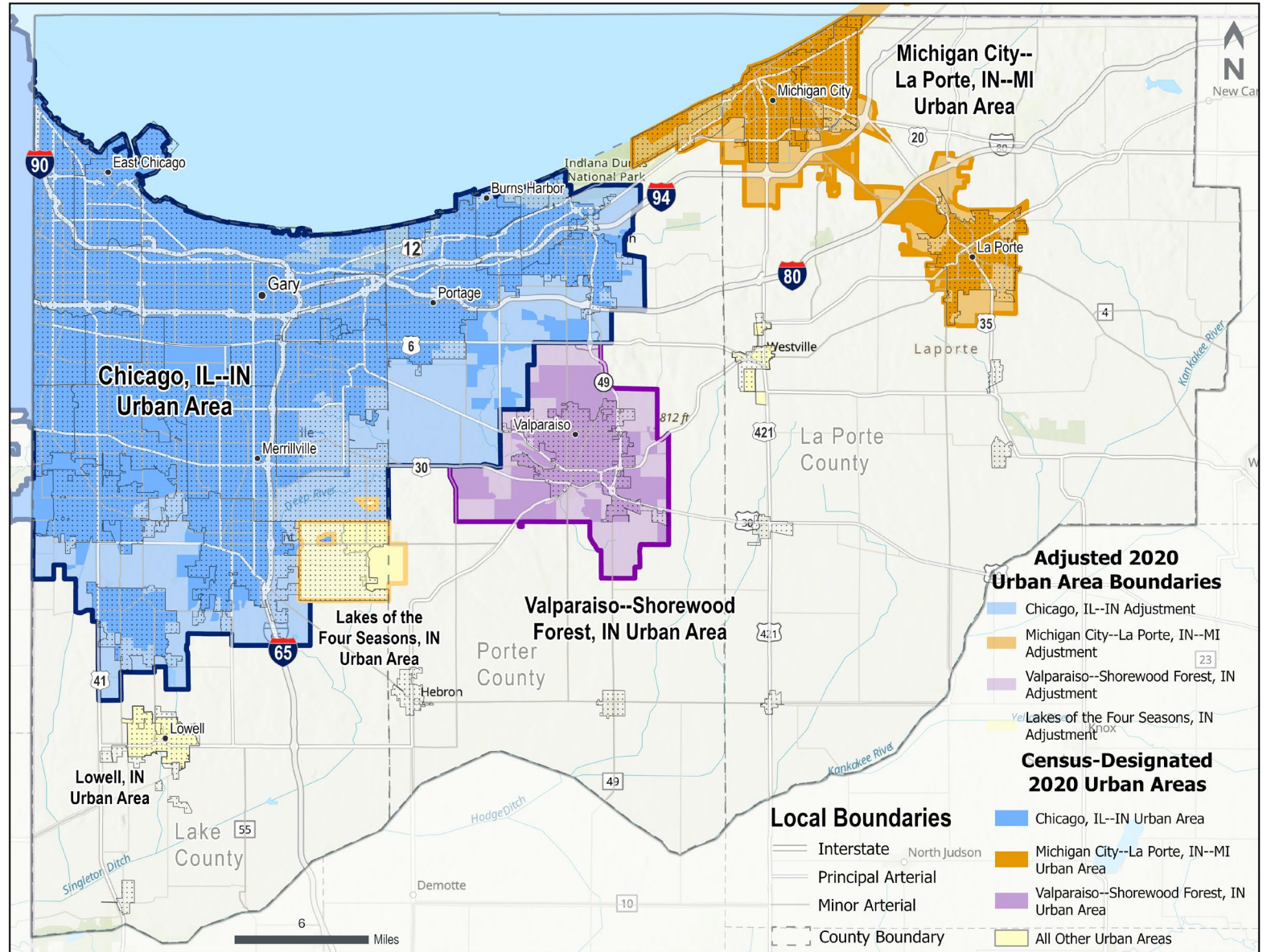


Adjustment Process of 2020 Census Urban Areas

Updated 2020 ACUBs

- Northwest Indiana urban areas with 50,000+ pop:
 - Chicago, IL-IN
 - Michigan City-La Porte, IN-MI
 - Valparaiso-Shorewood Forest, IN

2020 Adjusted Census Urban Boundaries Map



Adjustment Process of 2020 Census Urban Areas

Final Adjusted Urban Area Boundary Approval Timeline

- July 11th, 2023 — Staff developed and presented a draft adjustment to the urban area boundaries at the July Technical Planning Committee (TPC) meeting.
- July- August 2023 — Staff met individually with Winfield, Valparaiso, St. John, Schererville, Crown Point, Cedar Lake, Chesterton, La Porte, Michigan City, and Lake, Porter, and LaPorte Counties to discuss the urban area boundary adjustments.
- September 2023 — Staff will make final revisions to the ACUB and coordinate with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) on submitting the final adjusted boundaries to IDOT, MDOT, INDOT, and FHWA.
- October 3rd, 2023 — Staff will present the final urban area boundary adjustments to the Technical Planning Committee (TPC) for recommendation for final approval by the Commission.
- October 19th, 2023 — The NIRPC Executive Board will vote to approve the final urban area boundary adjustments. NIRPC staff will send the approved adjusted urban area boundaries to INDOT for review as soon as approved.
- December 29th, 2023 — Once INDOT has reviewed and approved the final adjusted urban area boundaries, the boundaries will be submitted to FHWA for final approval by December 29, 2023.

Questions and Contact Information

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