



## District 4

# 2020 Urban Area Boundary and Functional Classification Adjustments

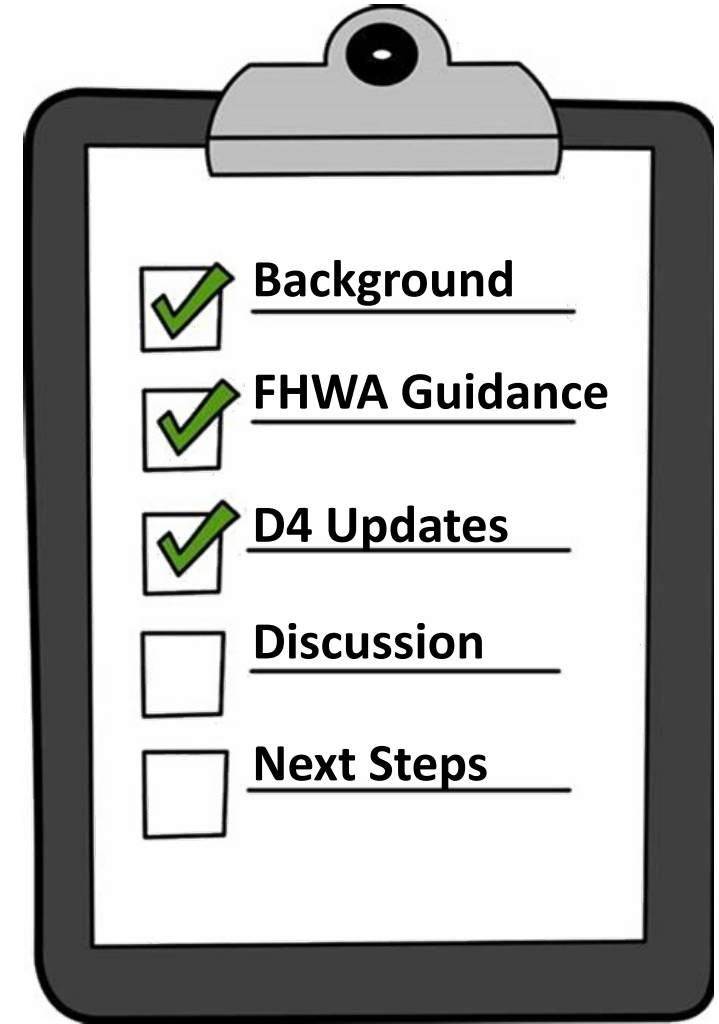
Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023





# Agenda

- 1. FDOT D4 System Analytics Group Updates**
  - UAB & FC Overview
  - UAB Modification Timeline
  - Resources
- 2. FHWA Guidance for UAB Smoothing**
- 3. D4 DRAFT Smoothed Urban Area Boundary**
  - Review
  - Discussion





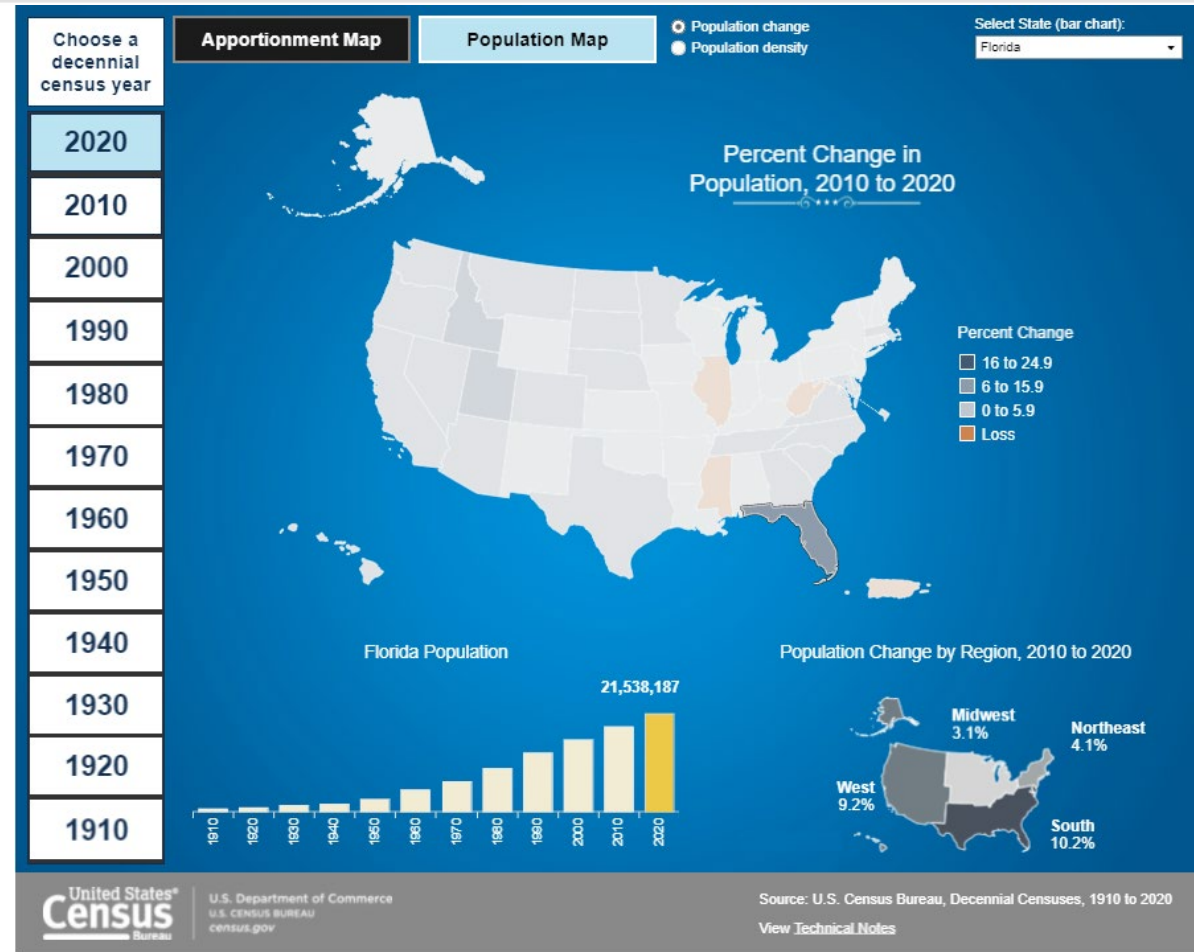
# 2020 Census Urban Boundary and Functional Classification Update

United States<sup>®</sup>  
**Census**  
**2020**

**Urban Areas** are revised every 10 years based on population counts from decennial census.

**Urban Boundaries** are adjusted to be consistent with transportation needs.

**Functional Classification** reviewed and updated in conjunction with adjusted urban boundaries.



[Historical Apportionment Data Map \(Interactive\) \(census.gov\)](https://census.gov)





# Definitions

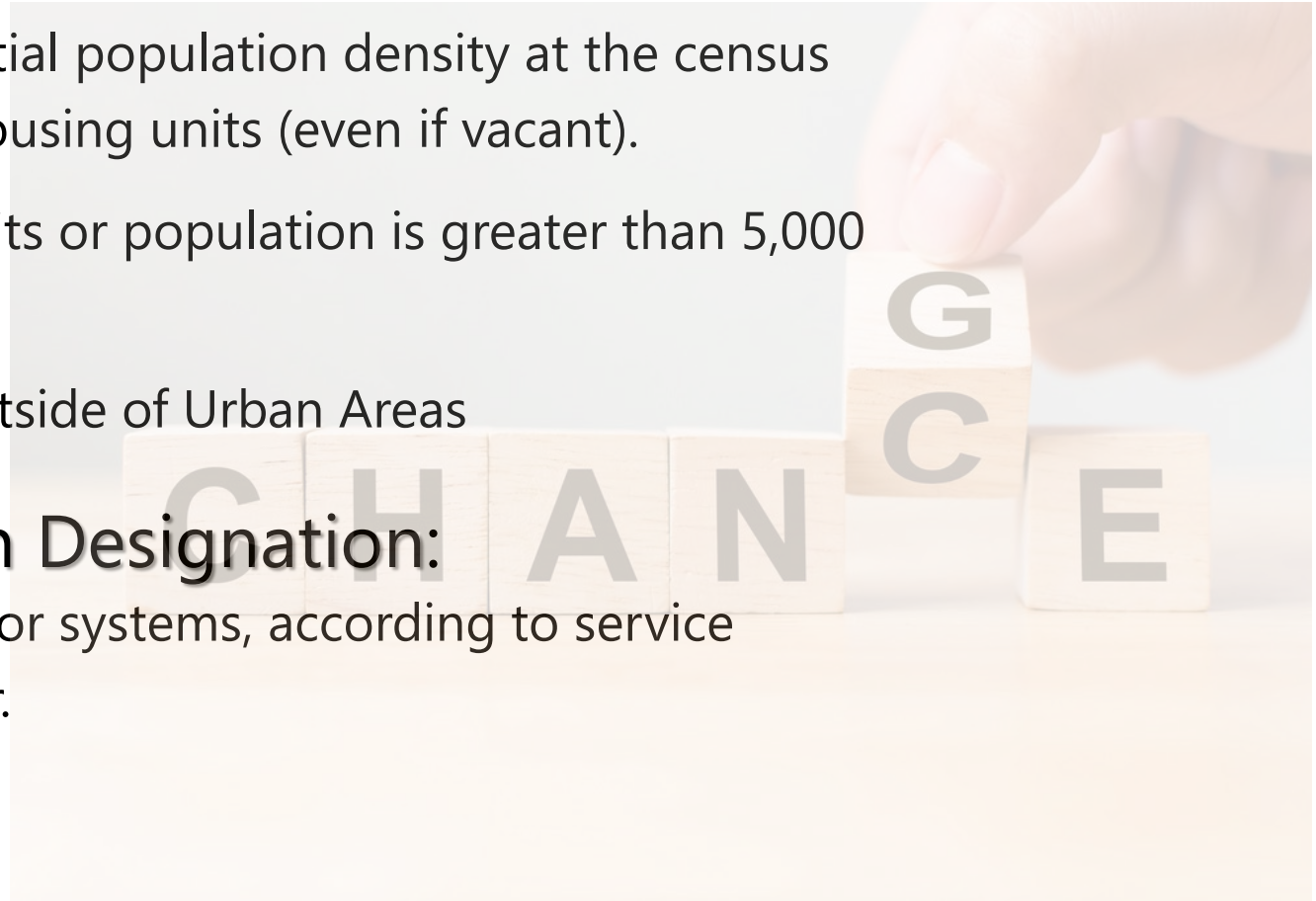
- **Urban Area Boundary:**

Determined primarily on residential population density at the census block level and the number of housing units (even if vacant).

- Urban Area – 2,000 housing units or population is greater than 5,000 people (2,500 persons in 2010).
- Rural Area – any area that is outside of Urban Areas

- **Functional Classification Designation:**

Grouping roadways into classes, or systems, according to service characteristics in the current year.





# Impact of Urban Area Boundary Designation

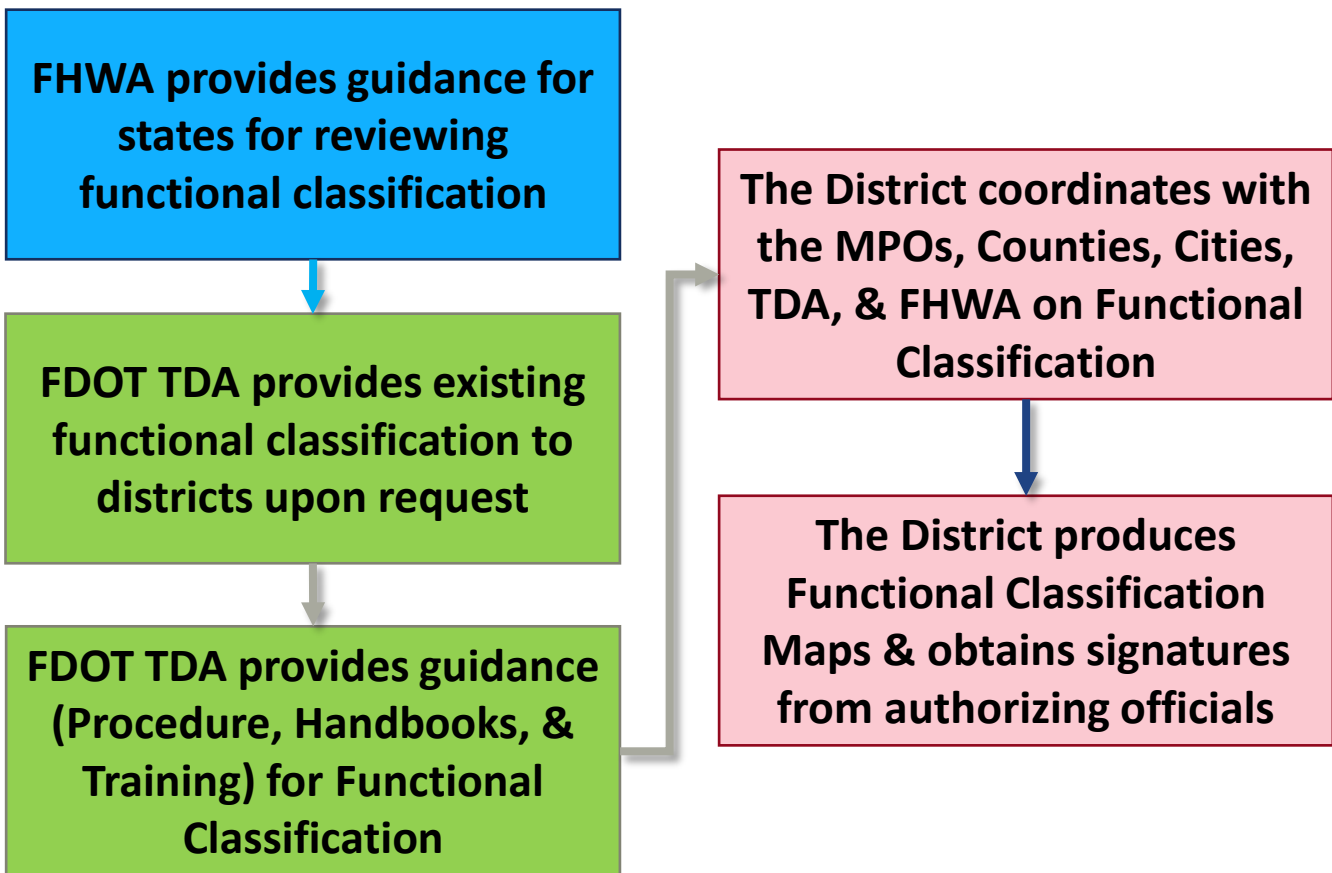
- ✓ Highway Functional Classification
  - Urban vs. Rural
  - Design Criteria
- ✓ Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS)
  - Annual Highway Statistics – Lane Miles Travelled: Urban vs. Rural
- ✓ Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Apportionment
  - Obligation of funds based on urban designation and population
- ✓ Other Key programs impacted by the urban boundary designations
  - Local Agency Programs (LAP)
  - Federal Transit Administration Apportionments (FTA)
  - Federal Transportation System Designations
  - Designation of Transportation Management Areas (TMAs)
  - Designation of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)





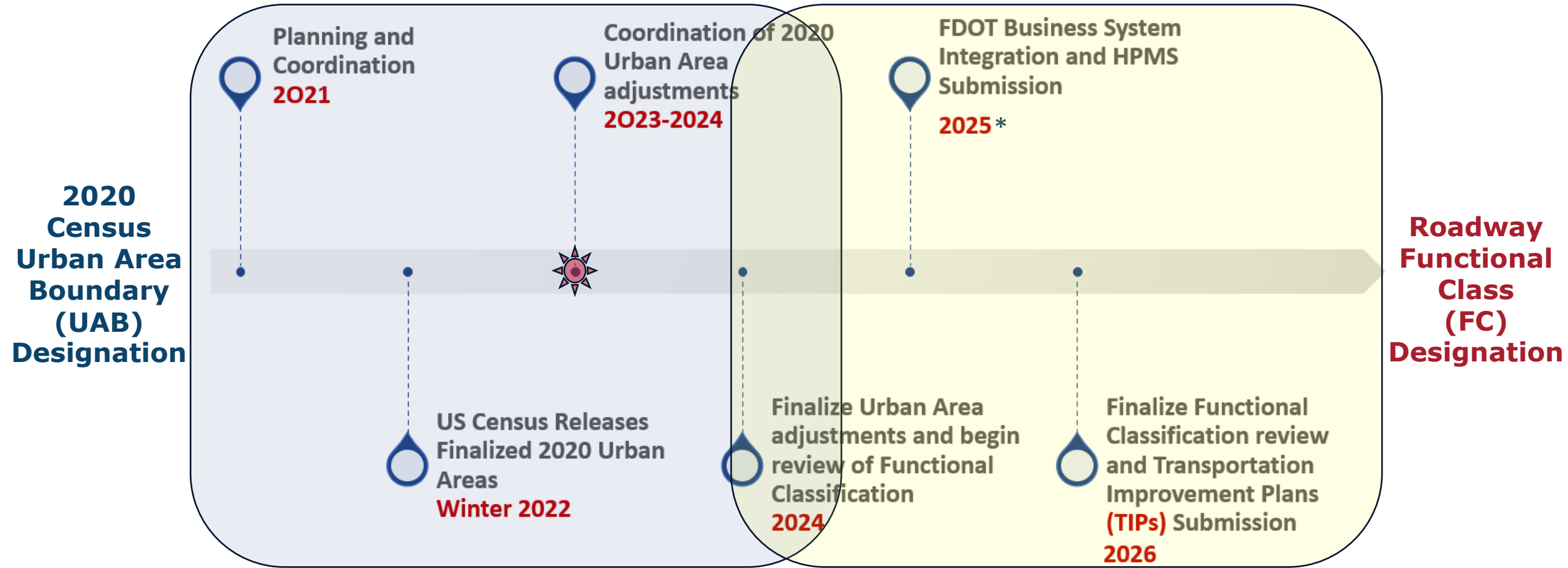
# Functional Classification & Process

- ✓ Seven Classifications in both Rural & Urban Areas
- ✓ Roadways are classified based on connectivity, access, & traffic counts
- ✓ Roadway design standards differ based on function & usage
- ✓ A well-balanced network of roadways also considers context and other modes





# Tentative Timeline



\*

FHWA will consider all **urban area boundaries final as of April 15, 2025**, and will use the original 2020 Census boundaries for all urban areas that have not been adjusted.





# FHWA Guidance for UAB Smoothing





# Census Urban Area Boundaries – Adjustment Considerations

- Should not split roadways or ramps.
- Should be one contiguous area.
- Should be easy to discern.
- Should be simple, without irregularities.
- Should follow municipal boundaries or other physical features.
- Should include areas with urban characteristics, such as airports, industrial areas, transportation terminals, major activity centers, etc.

Reference:

[https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/processes/statewide/related/highway\\_functional\\_classifications/fcauab.pdf](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/processes/statewide/related/highway_functional_classifications/fcauab.pdf)

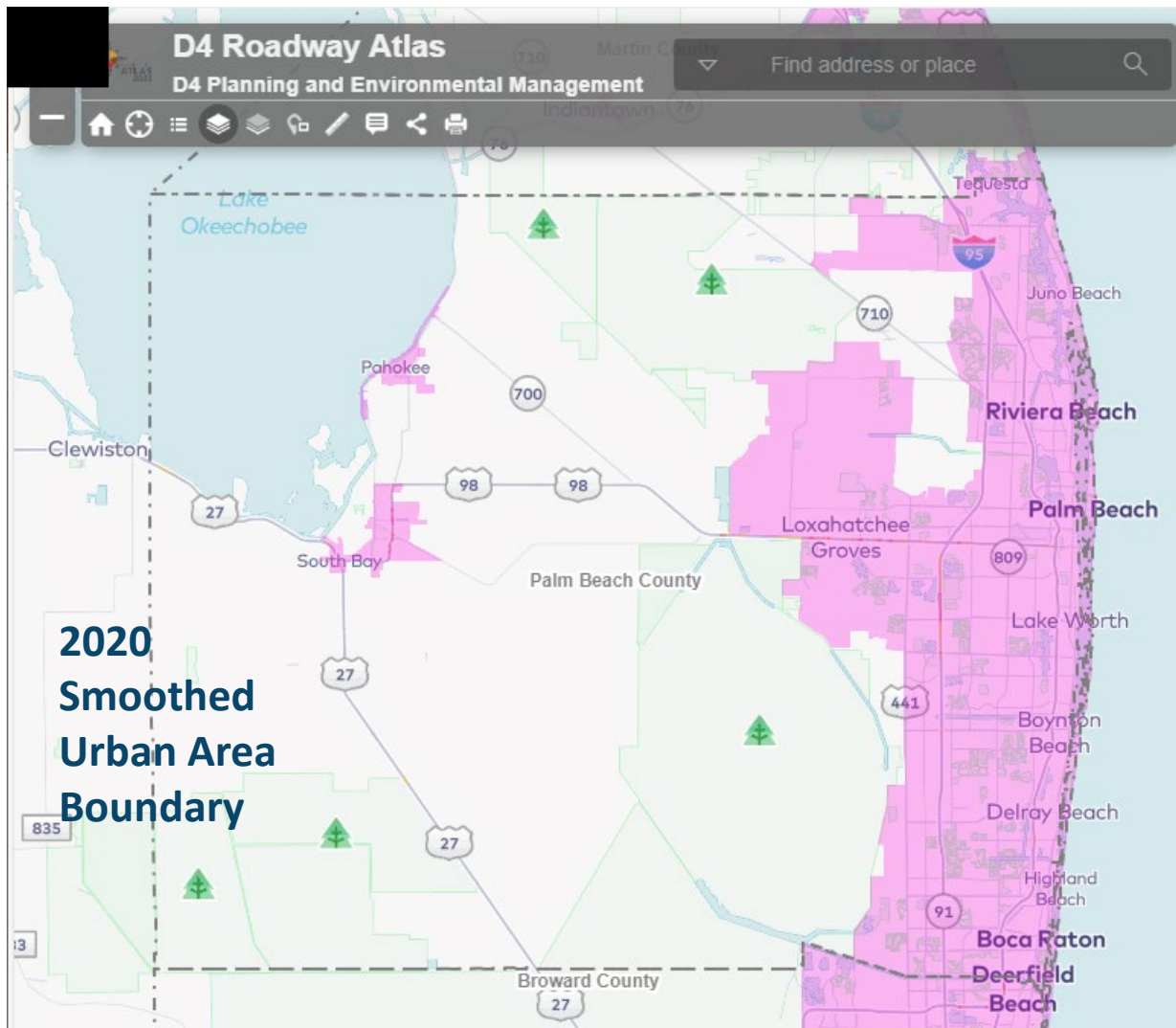
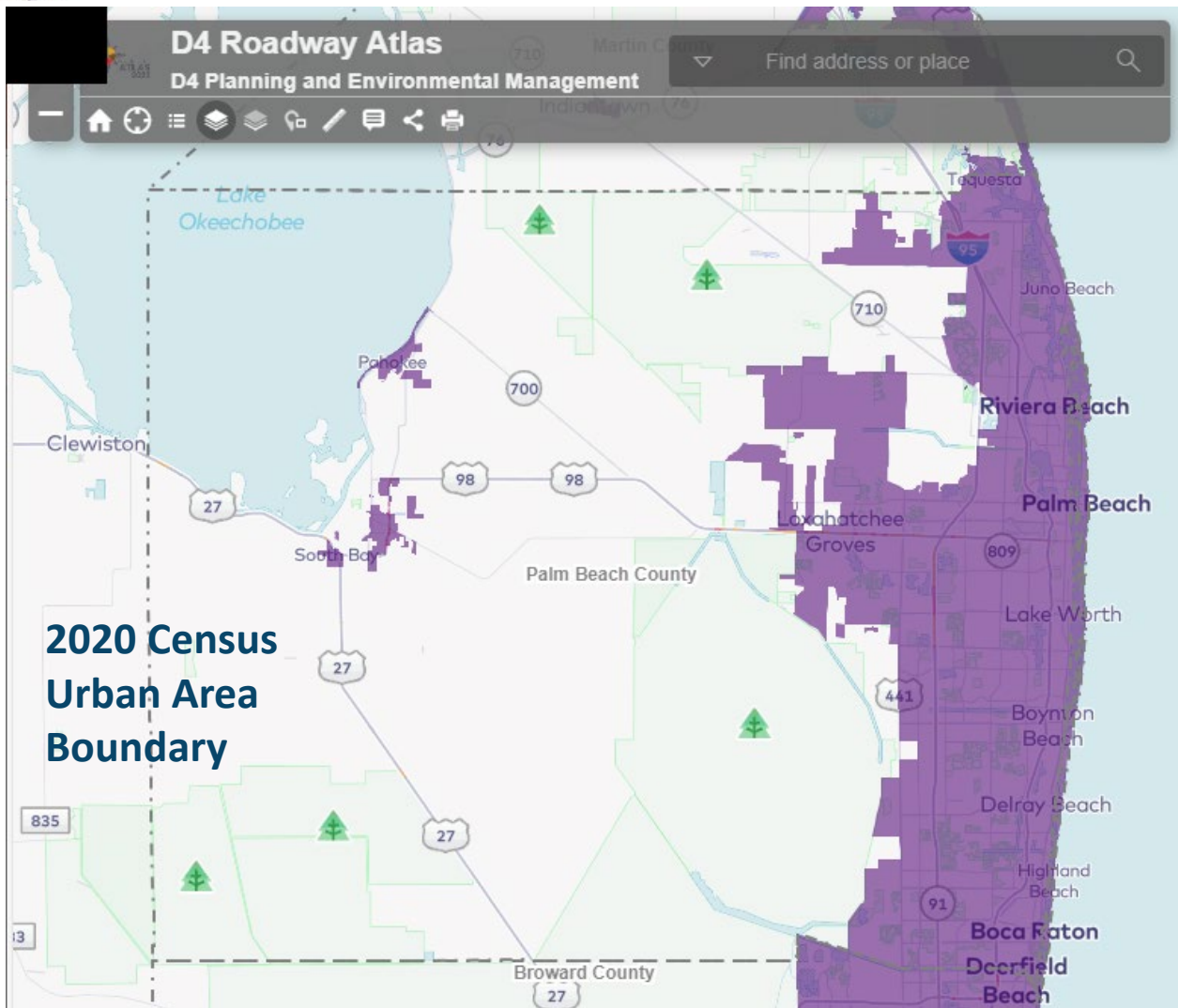




# D4 DRAFT Smoothed UAB



# 2020 Census UAB and Smoothed UAB



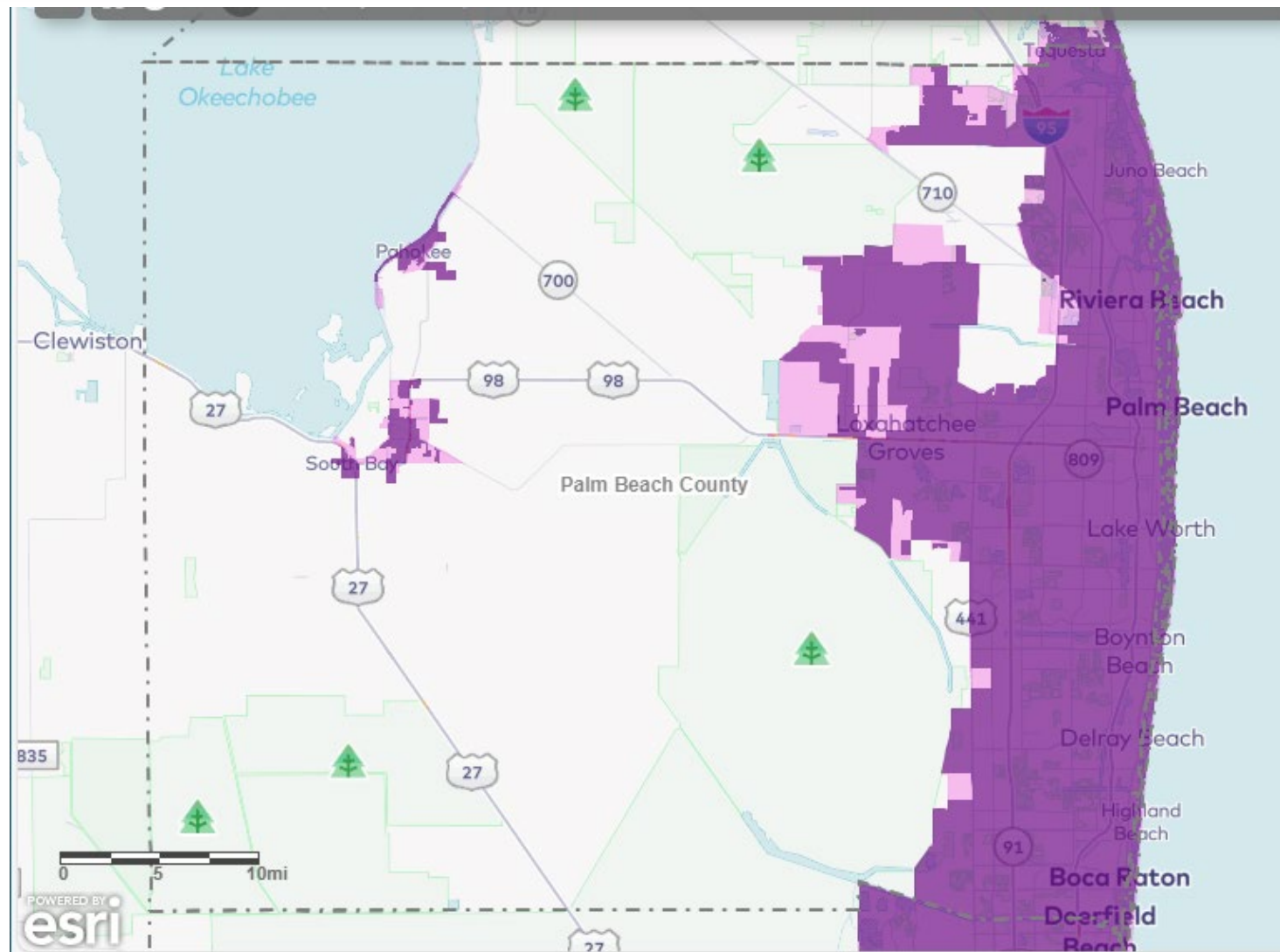
D4 Data Link: [FDOT District Four Roadway Atlas Viewer \(2022\)](#)





# 2020 Census UAB and Smoothed UAB

**2020 Census**  
**vs.**  
**2020 Smoothed**  
**Urban Area Boundaries**



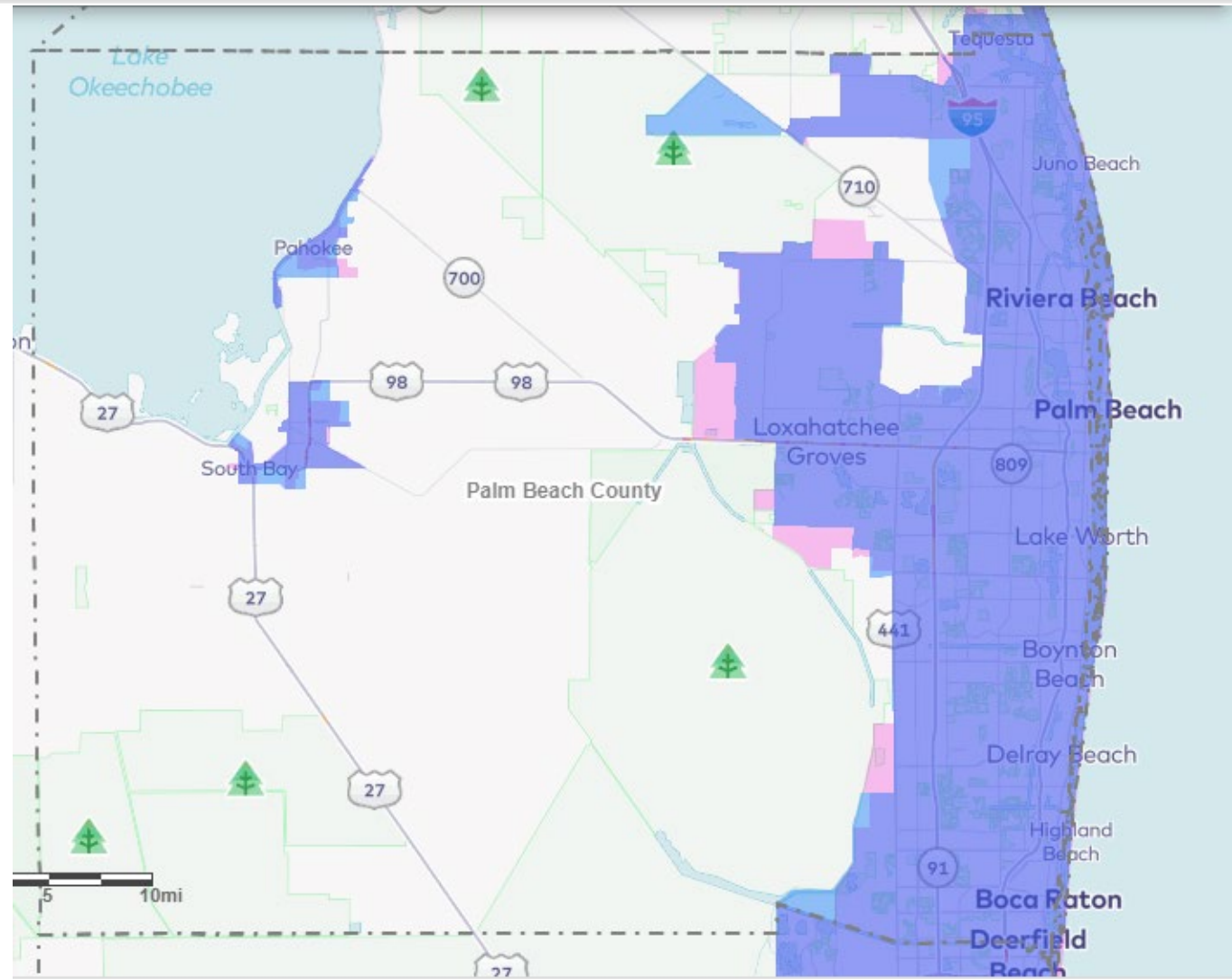
D4 Data Link: [FDOT District Four Roadway Atlas Viewer \(2022\)](#)





# 2020 and 2010 Smoothed UABs

**2020 Smoothed**  
**vs.**  
**2010 Smoothed**  
**Urban Area Boundaries**



D4 Data Link: [FDOT District Four Roadway Atlas Viewer \(2022\)](#)





# Questions

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## Resource Information

December 2022 is the estimated start date for State DOTs and MPOs to start adjusting these boundaries and to update functional classifications. The Census Bureau's final criteria for defining urban areas based on the results of the 2020 Decennial Census has been [published](#). The Census is updating their Issues FAQs.

- [2010 Census Maps](#)
- [2013 Functional Classification Guidance](#)
- [2013 FHWA Edition - Highway Functional Classification Concepts, Criteria and Procedures](#)
- [2020 Estimated Schedule of Activities](#)
- [2020 Final Urban Area Criteria](#)
- [Census Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Metropolitan Planning Program Staff \(District MPO Liaisons\) - PDE](#)
- [Urban Areas for the 2020 Census](#)
- [Urban Boundary and Functional Classification Handbook](#)
- [Urban Boundary and Functional Classification Procedure \(525-020-311\)](#)

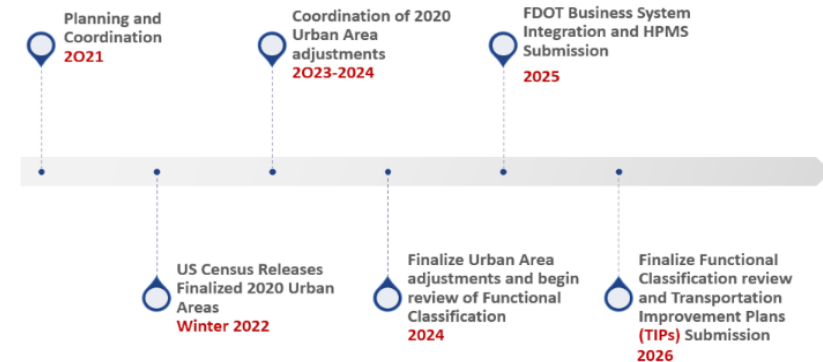


FHWA Functional Classification & Urban Boundary Training Slides




FHWA Functional Classification & Urban Boundary Training Video

## Timeline



[www.fdot.gov/statistics/hwysys/UBFC-update-process.shtm](http://www.fdot.gov/statistics/hwysys/UBFC-update-process.shtm)



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# Motion to Adopt the Adjusted Urban Area Boundary