

# **Census 2010 Urbanized Areas**

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments  
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board  
Technical Committee  
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Richard I. Roisman, AICP  
Senior Transportation Planner

# What are Urbanized Areas? (1)

- ▶ Typically abbreviated as UZAs (Census) and UAs (FHWA)
- ▶ Census Bureau national classification of land as either urban or rural
  - Urbanized Area: urban area with population more than 50,000
  - Urban Cluster (UC): urban area with population more than 2,500 and less than 50,000
  - Rural area: land not contained in a UZA or UC
- ▶ Based primarily on population counts and residential population density (computed on land area only)
  - National Land Cover Database also used to identify territory with high imperviousness

# What are Urbanized Areas? (2)

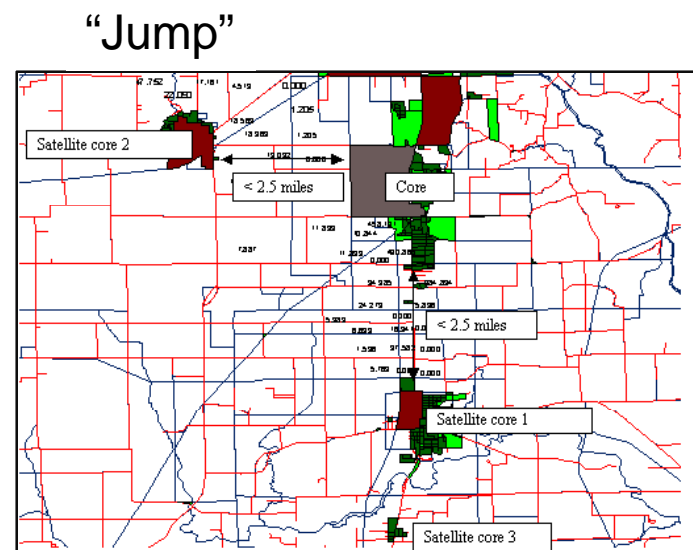
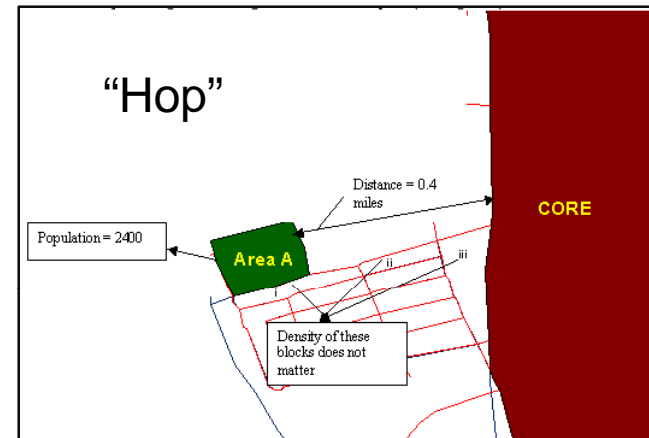
- ▶ Census “does not take into account or attempt to meet the requirements of any nonstatistical uses of these areas or their associated data”
- ▶ Nonetheless, UZAs tied to many Federal programs and formulas, including Metropolitan Planning
- ▶ Updated every ten years, following completion of decennial Census
- ▶ Draft criteria for delineating Census 2010 UZAs published in August 24, 2010 Federal Register
- ▶ Final delineation criteria published in August 24, 2011 Federal Register
- ▶ Census 2010 UZAs released on March 27, 2012

# Census Bureau Procedures for Delineating Urbanized Areas (1)

- ▶ Automated, GIS-based process performed by Census Bureau, Geography Division
- ▶ Identify initial urban area core
  - Contiguous census tracts, each having a land area of less than 3 square miles and a population density of 1,000 persons per square mile
- ▶ Add census blocks to initial urban area core if contiguous and meets at least one of the following criteria:
  - Population density of at least 500 persons per square mile
  - At least one-third of the census block is territory with at least 20% imperviousness and meets Census “compactness” criteria
  - Above imperviousness criteria and at least 40% of block boundary is contiguous with qualifying territory
- ▶ Repeat until all qualifying contiguous territory added...

# Census Bureau Procedures for Delineating Urbanized Areas (2)

- ▶ Add non-contiguous territory separated by exempted territory (water, undevelopable land, etc.)
- ▶ Add non-contiguous territory via “hops and jumps”
  - Hop: along a road connection of no more than 0.5 miles (multiple hops allowed along same road connection)
  - Jump: along a road connection more than 0.5 miles but no more than 2.5 miles (only one jump permitted along any given road connection)

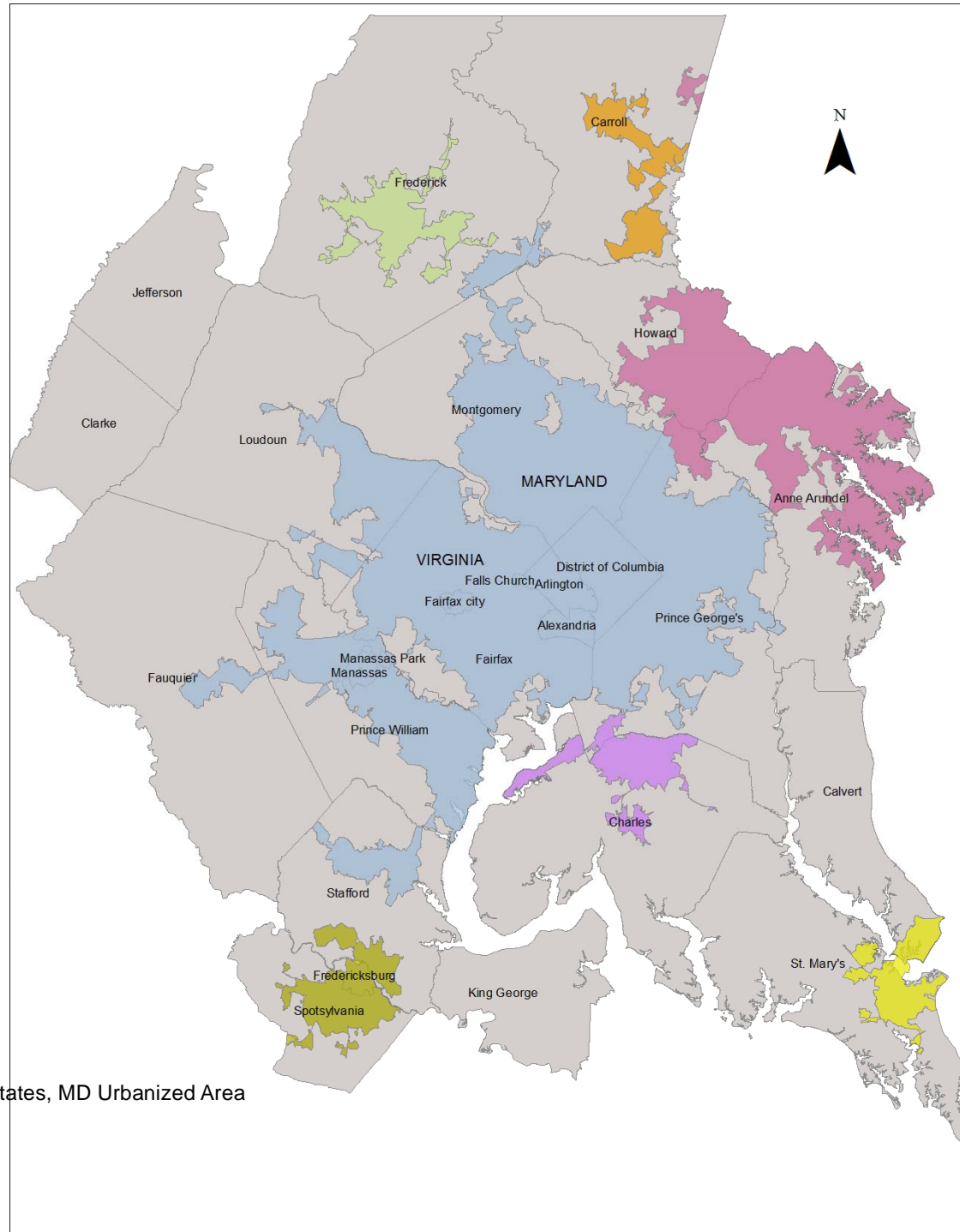


Images source: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/criteria.htm>

# Census Bureau Procedures for Delineating Urbanized Areas (3)

- ▶ Add enclaves (non-qualifying area surrounding by urban area) based on inclusion criteria
- ▶ Split large agglomerations and merge individual urban areas (if necessary)
- ▶ Add indentations, airports, and additional non-residential urban territory (if necessary)
- ▶ Assign UC/UZA name

# Map of Census 2010 UZAs in TPB Modeled Area



## Legend

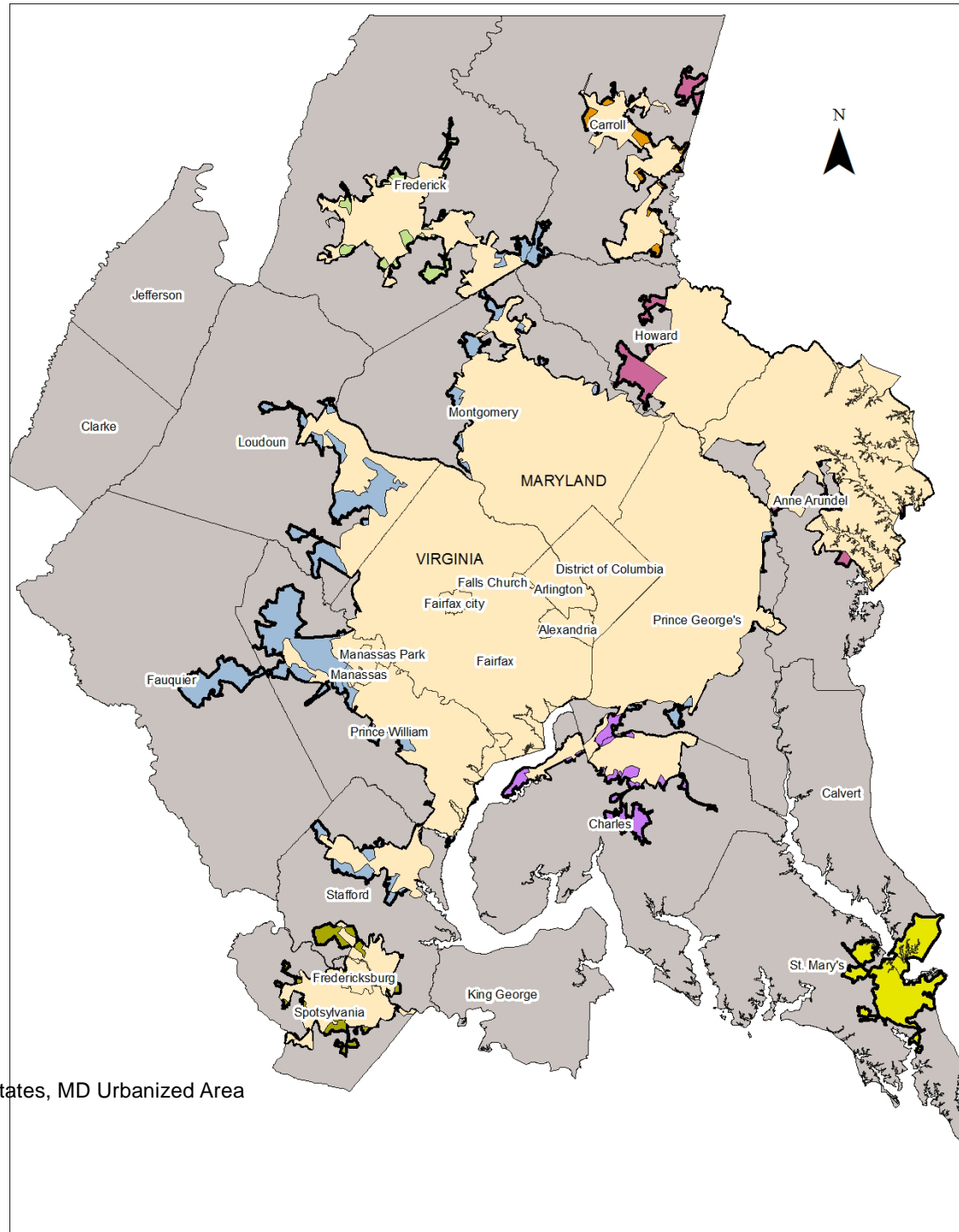
### 2010 Census Urbanized Area

- Washington, DC--VA--MD Urbanized Area
- Frederick, MD Urbanized Area
- Waldorf, MD Urbanized Area
- Fredericksburg, VA Urbanized Area
- Lexington Park--California--Chesapeake Ranch Estates, MD Urbanized Area
- Westminster--Eldersburg, MD Urbanized Area
- Baltimore, MD Urbanized Area
- TPB Modeled Area

# Comparison of Census 2000 UZAs and Census 2010 UZAs in TPB Modeled Area

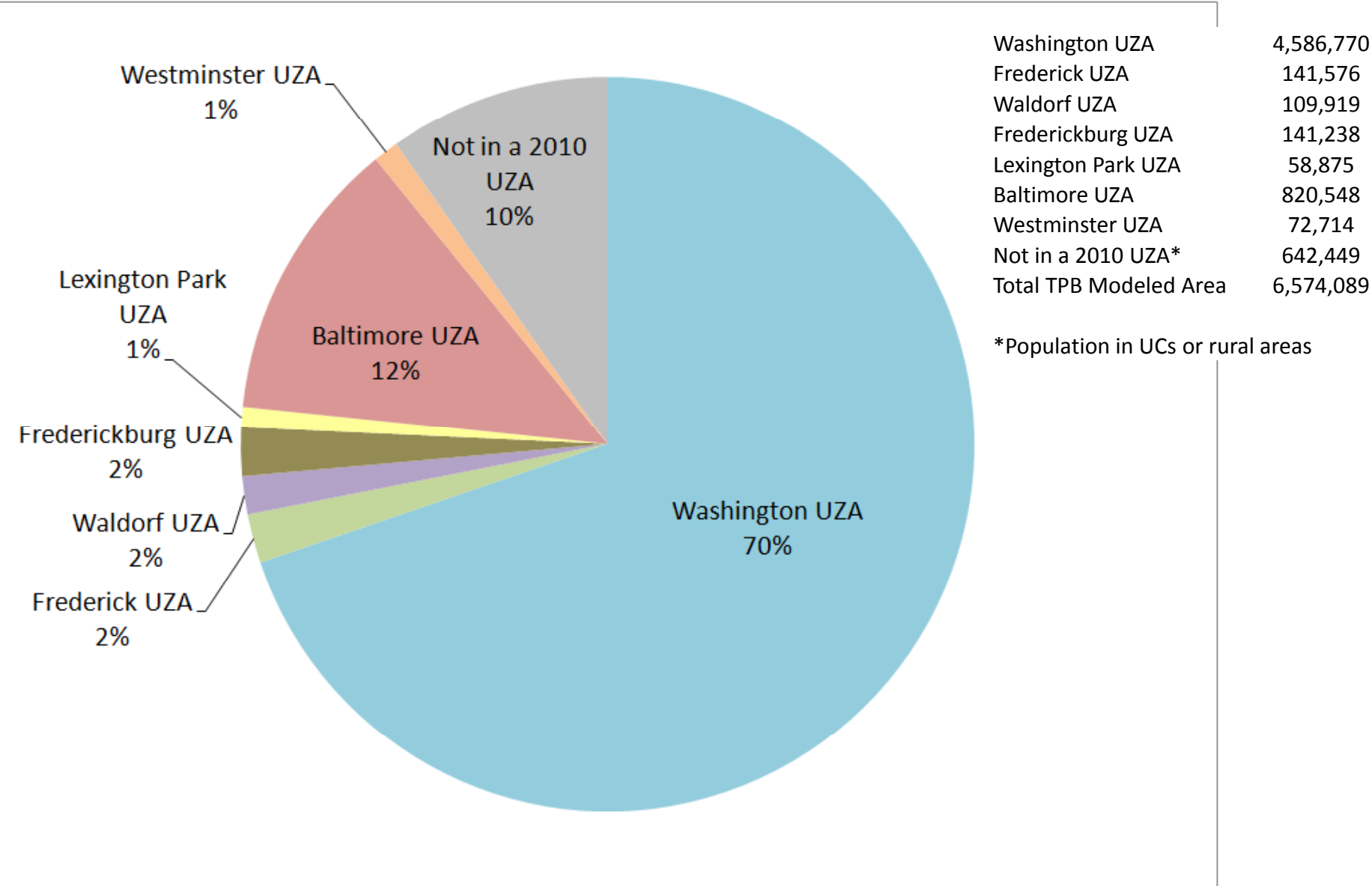
## Legend

- 2000 Urbanized Areas
- 2010 Census Urbanized Area
- Washington, DC--VA--MD Urbanized Area
- Frederick, MD Urbanized Area
- Waldorf, MD Urbanized Area
- Fredericksburg, VA Urbanized Area
- Lexington Park--California--Chesapeake Ranch Estates, MD Urbanized Area
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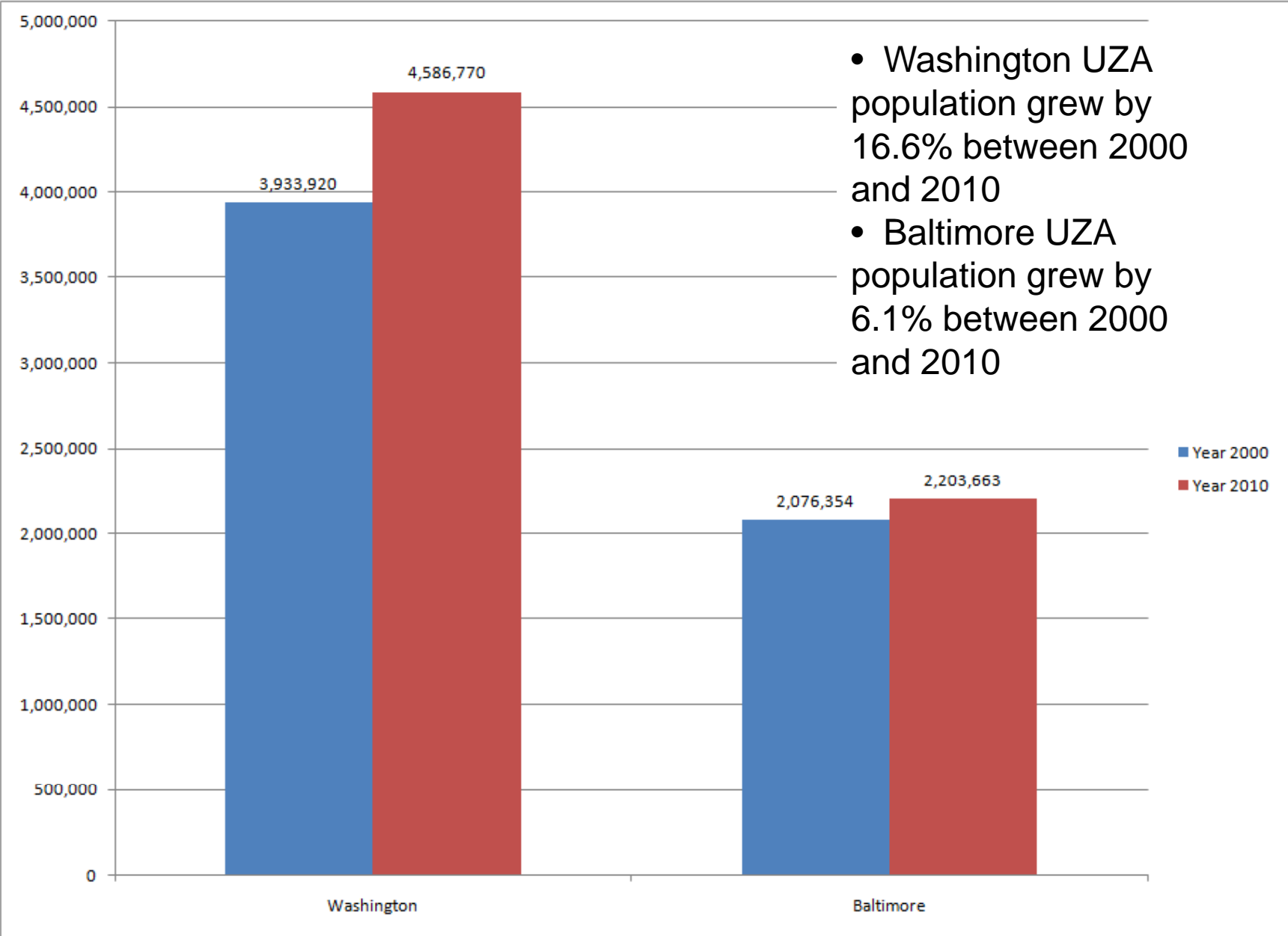




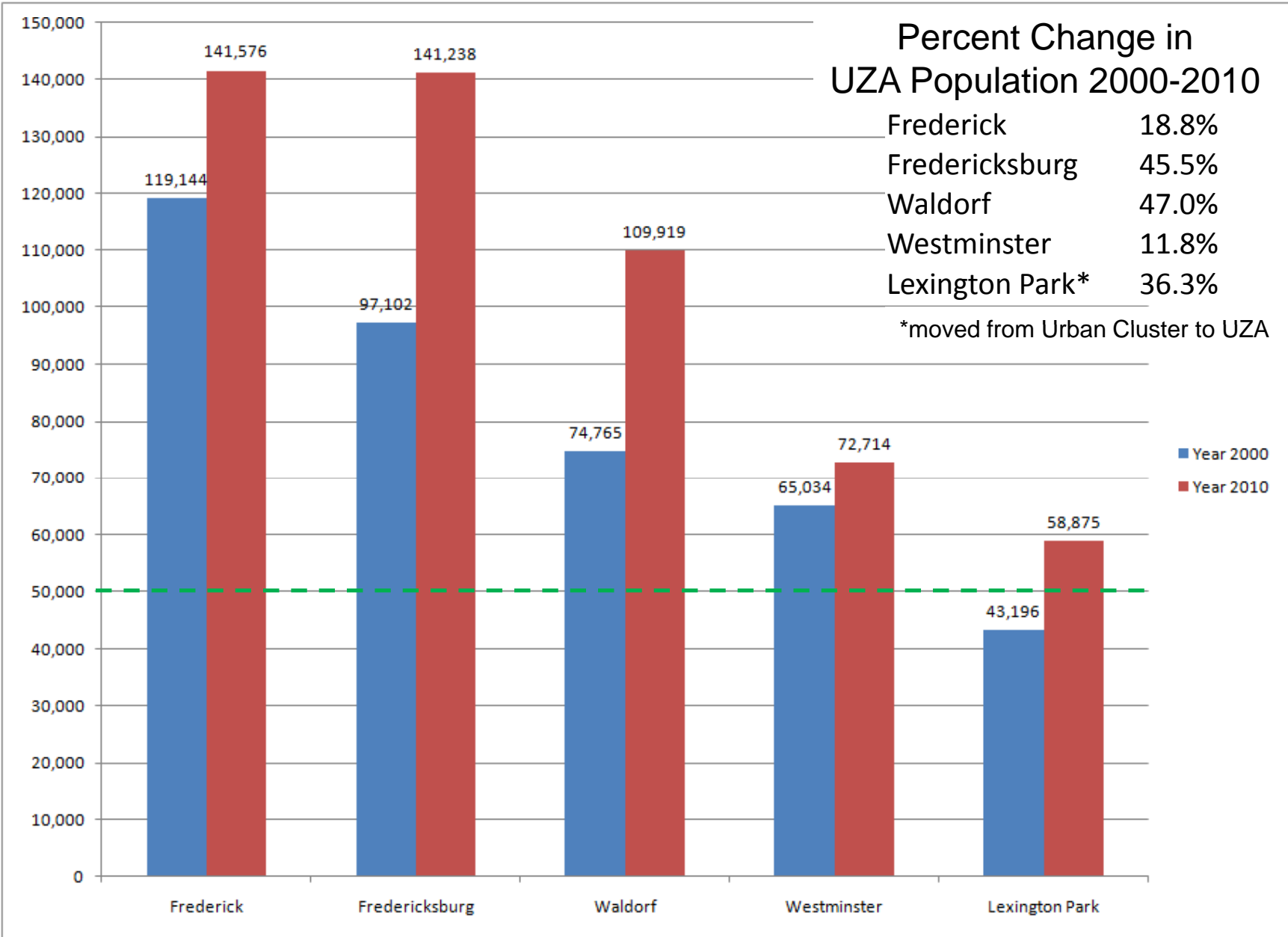
# Breakdown of TPB Modeled Area Population by Census 2010 UZA



# Compare 2000 and 2010 UZA Population (1)



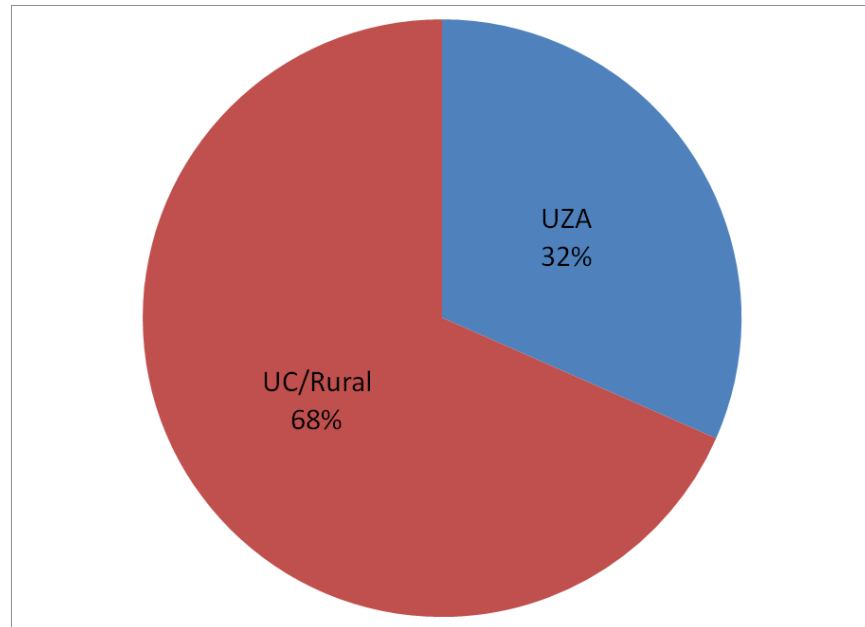
# Compare 2000 and 2010 UZA Population (2)



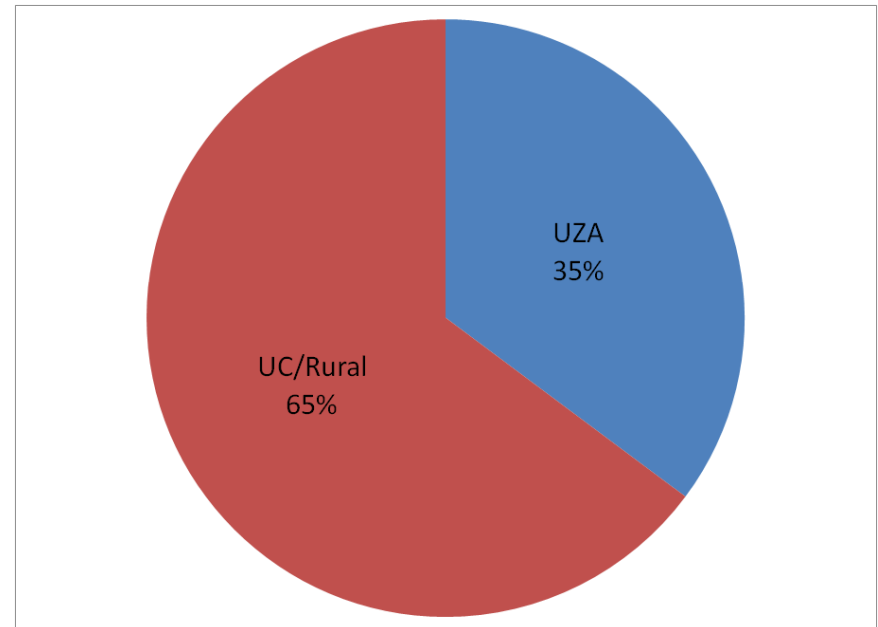
# Change in Urban / Rural Land and Population Density

*Percentage of UZA vs. UC/Rural Land, TPB Modeled Area*

Year 2000



Year 2010



Washington UZA Population Density  
3,401 persons per square mile

Washington UZA Population Density  
3,470 persons per square mile

# Significant Geographic Findings for Census 2010 Washington, DC UZA

- ▶ Most new urbanized area occurs in Loudoun and Prince William Counties, VA
- ▶ Additional new urbanized area in Montgomery and Prince George's County, MD
- ▶ 2010 Washington, DC UZA extends into Fauquier County, VA, Frederick County, MD and Carroll County, MD
- ▶ 2010 Washington, DC UZA does not connect with 2010 Fredericksburg UZA

# Significant Geographic Findings for other Census 2010 UZAs near TPB Region

- ▶ Growth in Waldorf, MD UZA (formerly St. Charles UZA) and Fredericksburg, VA UZA
- ▶ Growth in Frederick, MD UZA
- ▶ New Lexington Park--California—Chesapeake Ranch Estates, MD UZA located in St. Mary's and Calvert Counties
- ▶ Growth in Baltimore, MD UZA and Westminster--Eldersburg, MD UZA

# Next Steps

- ▶ No local government review nor appeal process
- ▶ State DOTs and FHWA will create “generalized” UZAs for transportation planning purposes
- ▶ MPO designation for Lexington Park--California—Chesapeake Ranch Estates, MD UZA located in St. Mary’s and Calvert Counties
- ▶ What happens in Fauquier County?
- ▶ Reauthorization?
- ▶ FHWA / FTA program eligibility and funding formulas
- ▶ State sub-allocation formulas