

Capital Area MPO Socio-economic Forecasts

Purpose

One of the initial critical steps in developing a Metropolitan Transportation Plan is to forecast the amount, type and location of population and jobs for the time frame of the plan. Based on an understanding of community plans and data from local jurisdictions, the Office of State Planning, the US Census Bureau and independent forecasters, estimates of “base year” (2020) and “plan year” (2055) population and jobs were developed by local planners for each of the 1,857 small zones (called Traffic Analysis Zones or TAZs) that make up the area covered by our region’s transportation model.

The information below summarizes the major elements of the socioeconomic forecasts for different portions of the area covered by the region’s transportation model. This includes both the areas within the MPO planning boundaries and areas beyond the MPO boundaries. A summary of methods used for calculating the population and employment guide totals are also included below. More detailed information on a range of socioeconomic data for each TAZ is available from the Capital Area MPO and the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO.

Actions

The TCC and Executive Board are asked to provide comments on the socio-economic data and total and will be asked to approve them for use in development of the plan. At a later step in the 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan process, the Executive Board will approve the final SE Data with the Preferred Option (for the 2055 MTP).

Use of Guide Totals

The estimated 2020 and forecasted 2055 population and employment are key inputs into the TRM, which generates important travel demand information. These population and employment values are developed at the County level (control totals) and entered into the TRM by TAZ (Traffic Analysis Zones). As an example, the Capital Area MPO is divided into 1,701 TAZs. Planners can check the accuracy of the 2020 Census and NC OSMB data (population) and 2020 employment data effort by comparing the sum of those TAZ values with the guide totals. In the case of forecasts, the MPO will use a land use modeling process called CommunityViz that will use the county-level 2055 guide totals and effectively distribute the population and employment growth to TAZs in each county.

Partial Counties and Map

It is important to note all of Wake and Johnston Counties but only parts of Chatham, Franklin, Granville, and Harnett Counties are in the TRM boundary. While not in the MPO planning boundary, a small portion of Nash County is included in the model boundary and a population forecast was completed as well. As a result, outside of Wake and Johnston Counties guide totals are only for that portion of the county within the TRM boundary.

Population Guide Totals

The population guide totals used for the 2050 MTP and those proposed for the current 2055 MTP process are displayed on page two and three for each county:

- The 2020 value is from the North Carolina Office of State Management and Budget (NC OSMB), which parallels that of the U.S. Census.
- The 2055 value is based on NC OSMB forecasts that are available through the year 2050. The growth curve of the last five years of that forecast, i.e., 2050 through 2055, is extended five years to produce a 2055 value (i.e., both agencies are using the same trend forecasts method).
- The projected population growth for Wake and Johnston Counties increased from the 2050 MTP to the 2055 MTP process. This is based on a change in the NC OSMB's projections for those counties and may, in part, reflect some of the impacts related to the recovery from the economic recession.
- There is a large increase in the population and annual rate for Johnston County and Harnett from the 2040 MTP to the 2045 and 2050 MTP process. The expansion of the model boundary as well as increased growth rates since the 2040 MTP process may account for these increased growth rates.

Partial County:

An analysis of census block data was used to determine the percent of each County's population within the TRM boundary. Review of 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020 Census data reveal that the area within the TRM boundary receives the majority of each County growth, thus the 2055 MTP forecast assumes that this trend continues to our Plan horizon year of 2055. While not in the MPO planning boundary a small portion of Nash County is included in the model boundary and a population forecast was completed using the same partial county methodology.

Population by TRM County

- Guide Totals -	2050 MTP (TRM county portion forecast)		2055 MTP (TRM portion county forecast)	
	2016	2050	2020	2055
County				
Wake	1,028,509	1,764,577	1,108,687	1,965,812
Franklin (1)	56,114	95,616	58,701	130,066
Johnston (1)	160,023	369,014	213,794	404,696
Granville (1)	37,068	70,859	33,693	54,409
Nash (1)	4,004	4,652	4,147	4,566
Harnett (1)	42,317	70,512	51,005	74,118
CAMPO Total	1,328,035	2,375,230	1,470,027	2,633,667

- (1) TRM Boundary was expanded between the previous and current modeling efforts. Partial County totals will be calculated as part of the MTP process.

Employment Guide Totals

The employment guide totals are displayed on the following page for each county:

- The 2013 value in Franklin, Granville, Harnett, Johnston, Nash and Wake counties is based on data from InfoUSA and the TRM Employment Analyst. The Woods & Poole growth rates are applied to the 2020 employment data to develop the 2055 estimate.
- The Wake County growth rate results in more than a doubling of employment over the base year 2020. This may reflect economic conditions related to the post-recession environment.

Partial County:

The employment values are based on the same methodology and assumptions that were used to forecast the partial county population for Franklin, Granville, Johnston and Harnett counties. While not in the MPO planning boundary a small portion of Nash County is included in the model boundary and an employment forecast was completed using the same partial county methodology.

EMPLOYMENT by TRM COUNTY

<i>-Guide Totals-</i>	2050 MTP		2055 MTP	
County	2016 Total	2050 Total	2020 Total	2055 Total
Wake	728,416	1,550,658	615,295	1,341,249
Franklin (1)	16,735	3,055	15,082	24,142
Johnston (1)	61,052	124,733	59,502	105,967
Granville (1)	17,277	36,065	13,203	16,553
Nash (1)	2221	2826	842	961
Harnett (1)	12,693	20,619	13,812	20,192
CAMPO Total	838,394	1,737,956	717,736	1,509,064

(1) TRM Boundary was expanded between the current and previous modeling efforts.