

# Agenda Item #13 – Handout

## New Business Item – Revised Delineation of the MSA

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Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

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## **AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **ITEM #13: REVISED DELINEATION OF THE MSA**

#### **SUBJECT:**

The Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News VA-NC Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was recently revised by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Surry County, VA was removed from the MSA while Gates County, NC was added to the MSA.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

##### **Summary**

Effective immediately, the OMB has changed the delineation of the Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News VA-NC Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), based on the 2010 Census and American Community Survey 2006-2010 commuting data. This change removes Surry County, VA and adds Gates County, NC to the MSA for Hampton Roads.

The removal of Surry County from the MSA is likely a consequence of the delineation of a new “urbanized area” in Williamsburg and James City County. Because of this new delineation, Williamsburg and James City County are no longer “central counties” to the MSA so the commuters from Surry County to Williamsburg and James City County are not counted towards the required threshold to be considered an “outlying county” in the MSA.

##### **Removal of Surry County, VA**

Surry County did not reach the required 25% threshold of workers who live in the County which commute to central counties of the MSA. This is likely because Williamsburg and James City County are no longer central counties in the MSA due to the creation of the newly designated urbanized area of Williamsburg. Approximately 20% of the workers in Surry County commute to the central counties of the MSA with roughly 9% working in James City County and Williamsburg. Currently, Surry County does not belong to any MSA.

##### **Addition of Gates County, NC**

Gates County, NC was added to the MSA because it reached the required 25% threshold of workers who live in Gates County and commute to central counties of the MSA. This is likely because Suffolk is now considered a central county (it was not a central county previously). Nearly 50% of Gates County workers commute to the central counties of the MSA, including 19% to Suffolk alone.

Attachment 13

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

For informational purposes only.

## **Revised Delineation of the Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News VA-NC Metropolitan Statistical Area**

### **Summary**

Effective immediately, the OMB has changed the delineation of the Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News VA-NC Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), based on Census 2010 and American Community Survey 2006-2010 commuting data. This change removes Surry County, VA and adds Gates County, NC to the MSA for Hampton Roads. The new delineation includes (see Map 1):

Principal Cities: Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Newport News, Hampton, Portsmouth

Central Counties (includes Independent Cities): Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Newport News, Hampton, Portsmouth Chesapeake, Suffolk, Poquoson, York County, Gloucester County

Outlying Counties: Isle of Wight County, Mathews County, James City County, Williamsburg, Currituck County (NC), Gates County (NC)

The removal of Surry County from the MSA is likely a consequence of the delineation of a new “urbanized area” in Williamsburg and James City County. Because of this new delineation, Williamsburg and James City County are no longer “central counties” to the MSA so the commuters from Surry County to Williamsburg and James City County are not counted towards the required threshold to be considered an “outlying county” in the MSA.

### **Removal of Surry County, VA**

Surry County did not reach the required 25% threshold of workers who live in the County that commute to central counties of the MSA. This is because Williamsburg and James City County are no longer central counties in the MSA due to the creation of the newly designated urbanized area of Williamsburg, VA (see Map 2). Approximately 20% of the workers in Surry County commute to the central counties of the MSA. Approximately 9% work in James City County and Williamsburg. Surry County does not currently belong to any MSA.

### **Addition of Gates County, NC**

Gates County, NC was added to the MSA because it reached the required 25% threshold of workers who live in Gates County and commute to central counties of the MSA. This is likely because Suffolk is now considered a central county (it was not a central county previously). Nearly 50% of Gates County workers commute to the central counties of the MSA, including 19% to Suffolk alone.

## **Future Revisions**

There is no appeals process to change the current delineation but the Core Based Statistical Areas (CBSA) will be reviewed and possibly redelineated in 2018 after the release of the 2011-2015 American Community Survey commuting data. However, the urban areas and central counties will still be based on 2010 Census data so only a change in commuting patterns could potentially alter the MSA delineation in 2018.

## **Definitions**

A Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA) has two categories: Metropolitan Statistical Area (urban area population over 50,000) or a Micropolitan Statistical Area (urban area population between 10,000 and 50,000). CBSAs are made up of a combination of principal cities, central counties/cities, and outlying counties/cities:

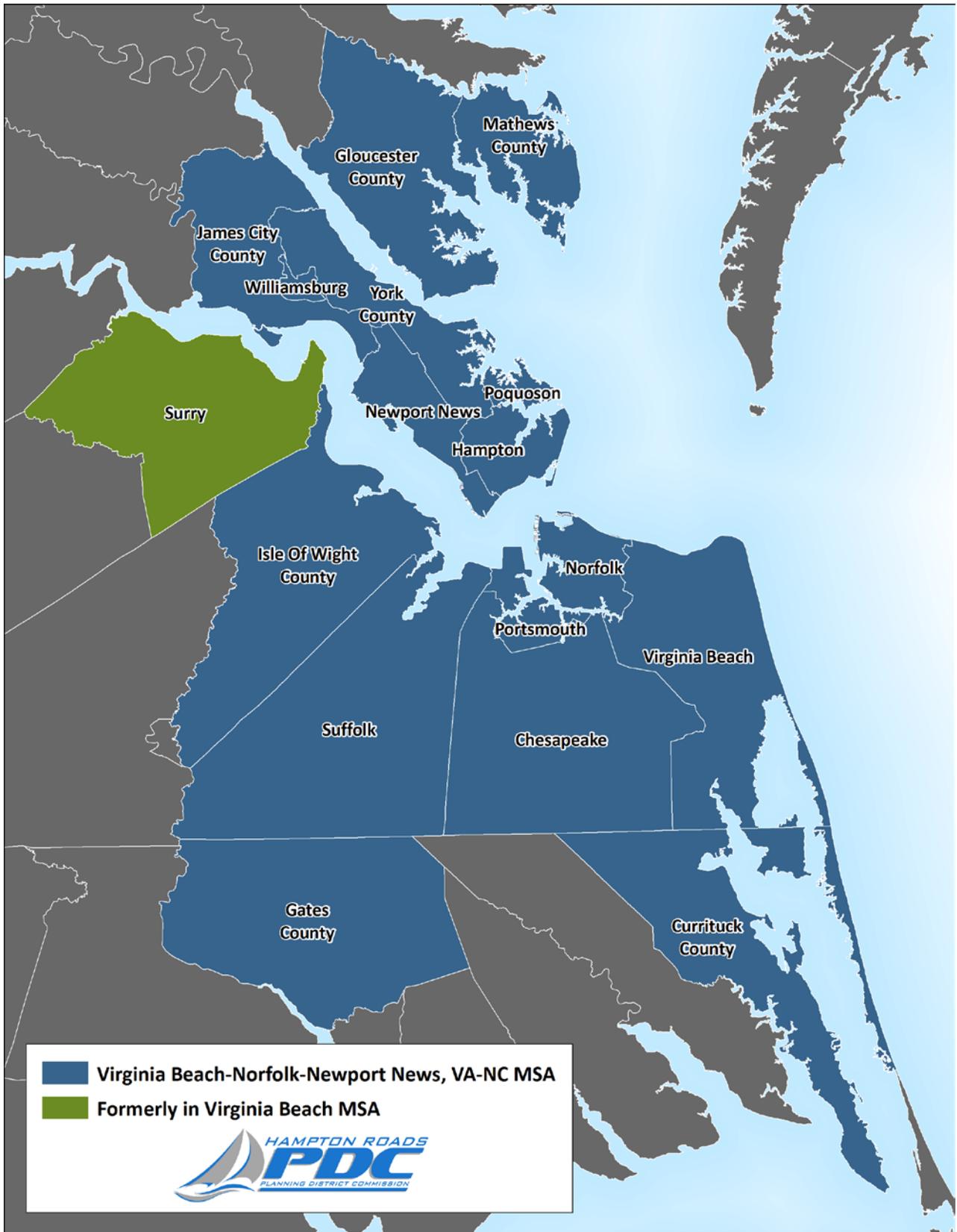
Principal Cities are a Census delineated urbanized area of at least 50,000 population or a delineated urban cluster of at least 10,000 population (urbanized area and urban cluster are collectively called “urban areas”)

Central Counties have at least 50% of their population in urban areas of at least 10,000 population or have within their boundaries a population of at least 5,000 location in a single urban area of at least 10,000 population.

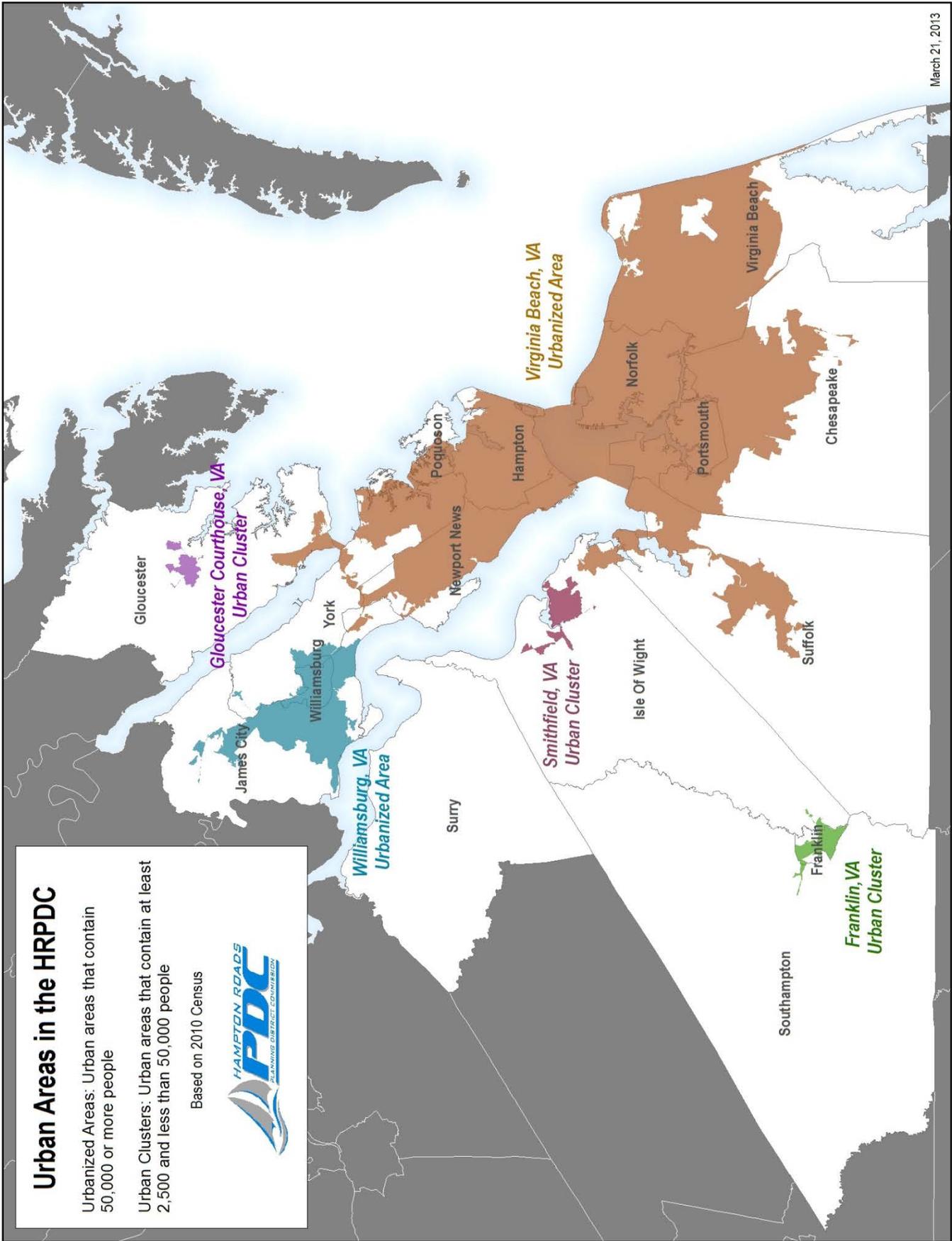
Outlying Counties have the following commuting requirements: at least 25% of the workers living in the county must work in the central counties of the MSA or at least 25% of the employment in the county is accounted for by workers who reside in the central counties. Outlying counties must also be contiguous with the MSA.

## **Purpose and Use of CBSAs**

- CBSAs are for statistical purposes only
- CBSAs provide for consistently calculated Federal statistics across the country
- CBSAs do not establish an urban-rural classification
- The OMB cautions agencies and organizations against using the CBSA delineations for nonstatistical programs and policies, including allocation of Federal funding
- The MSA designation does not affect membership to the HRPDC



**Map 1: Current MSA Delineation**



March 21, 2013

Map 2: Urban Areas in the HRPDC