



Item Overview

Item Number: 5C

Date: 16 July 2026

To: AMATS Policy Committee

From: Aaron Jongenelen, AMATS Executive Director/MPO Coordinator

Subject: AMATS Boundary

Action Requested

AMATS staff recommends the Policy Committee review the information provided in this memo and on the agenda and considered the Technical Advisory Committee's recommendation to direct staff to establish a work session in August 2026 on the MPA boundary with the parameters established by the TAC in this memo.

TAC Action

The Technical Advisory Committee reviewed the information provided and recommended to the Policy Committee to establish a work session with the TAC and PC to review and walk through the concerns regarding the AMATS PC approved boundary from September 2024.

The TAC discussed having the work session start with what can be/is agreed upon and then move into the portions of the boundary where there is not current agreement. They requested staff provide something for the work session that shows the 2014 boundary, the 2024 boundary, the DOT&PF boundary, the Chugach State Park Access Service Area - "CASA" boundary, and satellite view. The TAC would like to see this work session happen in time to have something ready for the September TAC/PC meetings.

Background

The AMATS Boundary is required to be updated after each census to ensure it encompasses fully the U.S Census Bureau released Urbanized Areas. The AMATS boundary was updated based on the 2020 census starting in 2023. The full timeline of effort is as follows:

- 02/27/2023 The Urban Area was originally downloaded and clipped from the FHWA website
- 11/16/2024 The Urban Areas were smoothed and provided to AMATS by DOT&PF as a layer
- 01/2024 The AMATS Policy Committee approved the new boundary
- 04/9/24 Additional edits were sent to us by DOT to further smooth the layer to include all urbanized boundaries.
- 8/2024 The AMATS Policy Committee moved to revisit the boundary for further discussion to address some concerns from DOT&PF.
- 9/2024 The AMATS Policy Committee approved the 2024 boundary with no objections.

MPO boundary requirements are as followings as outlined in federal regulation:

- a. § 450.312 Metropolitan Planning Area boundaries.

The boundaries of a metropolitan planning area (MPA) shall be determined by agreement between the MPO and the Governor.



- b. (1) At a minimum, the MPA boundaries shall encompass the entire existing urbanized area (as defined by the Bureau of the Census) plus the contiguous area expected to become urbanized within a 20-year forecast period for the metropolitan transportation plan.
- c. (2) The MPA boundaries may be further expanded to encompass the entire metropolitan statistical area or combined statistical area, as defined by the Office of Management and Budget.

At the June 2026 AMATS Policy Committee meeting, a request was made by a member to have an action item in July on the PC agenda to review and re-affirm the PC approved boundary.

Attached

AMATS Boundary Backup
PC Approved Boundary
DOT&PF Letter on Boundary
DOT&PF Maps for Discussion