



TO: RPA 8 Technical & Policy Boards
FROM: Dan Fox, Senior Planner, ECIA
DATE: September 26, 2024

SUBJECT: RPA 8 and DMATS Joint Agreement Resolution for Metropolitan and Regional Population

BACKGROUND

As a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the Dubuque Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (DMATS) is required to update its Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) boundary following the 2020 decennial census.

The Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) allocates federal transportation funding to MPOs based on population and to RPAs based partly on population. The default population used for this allocation is the Census-defined Urban Area population, but MPOs and RPAs can mutually agree to adjust this population using the using the MPA boundary.

RPA 8 and DMATS agreed to the current MPA boundary and population adjustment following the 2000 Census and agreed to continue using the same MPA boundary and population adjustment following the 2010 Census.

DISCUSSION

With the 2020 boundary update, DMATS has made some minor adjustments to the boundary to better align it with current census geographies. However, no major changes to the boundary are being made. The attached map shows the differences between the 2010 and 2020 MPA boundaries. The table below compares the population numbers from the 2010 and 2020 censuses. The revised 2020 boundary maintains the status quo, so any population changes are the result of population growth or decline between 2010 and 2020 rather than boundary adjustments.

	2010	2020
Dubuque Census Urban Area Population (Iowa)	64,642	67,774
MPA Boundary Population Adjustment	10,454	12,012
Resulting Total Population for DMATS (Iowa)	75,096	79,786
RPA 8 Census Population ¹	115,739	114,925
Resulting Total Population for RPA 8 ²	105,285	102,913

¹ Total population of Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque, and Jackson Counties minus the population of the Dubuque Census Urban Area in Iowa.

² Total population of the same four counties as above minus the population of the Dubuque MPA in Iowa

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2024-09-01 is a joint resolution agreement between RPA 8 and DMATS that specifies the population adjustment to be used by the Iowa DOT for federal funding allocation. The DMATS Policy Committee approved the resolution on September 12, 2024, and it is now being presented to the RPA 8 Policy Committee for approval.

ILLINOIS AND WISCONSIN POPULATIONS

The resolution lists the population figures for the parts of Illinois and Wisconsin that fall inside the DMATS MPA boundary. These population numbers do not affect the RPA.

ACTION

RPA 8 staff respectfully request that the RPA 8 Policy Committee review and approve the resolution.