

Memorandum

To: MPO Technical Committee
From: Ryan Mickles, Regional Planner
Date: October 17, 2023
Reference: Update on CAMPO Transportation Analysis Zones for Transportation Model

Throughout September, the Charlottesville Albemarle MPO staff has been working with the Virginia Department of Transportation on their change requirements for transportation analysis zones (TAZs) for traffic modeling purposes. With consideration of staff time needed to obtain and manipulate socio-economic data for long range transportation modeling, staff provided a geographical information system data set of proposed new TAZs, which boundaries aligned with the census block group geography for easier calculations; upon its review, VDOT informed staff that the proposed TAZ boundaries were too large for modeling purposes and made recommendations that clarified the updated changes.

In addition to the scale of the zone, changes or verifications include that the new TAZ boundary specifically align with the census block geography. Also, the new TAZ boundary should not bisect the transportation road line network used in the modeling. Staff believes that with these change requirements any new TAZ proposed would form based primarily on the “restrictions” thereby leaving the new TAZ boundary to a matter of an appropriate modeling scale, in some cases. Staff is mindful that there are other factors and criteria needed for TAZ development.

In a general context, the current CAMPO transportation analysis zone boundaries do not all adhere to the new VDOT standards, therefore, the physical look/shape of the new TAZs may differ from the previous CAMPO TAZ geography. To this effort, staff is preparing a map showing the existing/current TAZ boundaries, and a separate map showing the proposed TAZ boundaries based on VDOT correspondence.

The recommended TAZ boundaries were developed to first meet the minimum federal requirements, and second in consideration of the staffing resources that will be needed to update and manage the data as the information in the model needs to be updated for use. While we are preparing a map of the proposed TAZ boundaries for your review and consideration, we are more so requesting your approval of the general approach MPO staff are taking.