

# **Data Management Plan (DMP) for Urban Areas (Census) 1997-Present Dataset**

U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC)  
United States Census Bureau (USCB),  
U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)  
Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)  
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## **Recommended Citation:**

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## **Change log:**

2021-03-22: Initial DMP written

2025-05-29: Document revised, including dataset description.

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### **0. Dataset and Contact Information**

Title of Dataset: Urban Areas (Census) 1997-Present Dataset

URL: <https://doi.org/10.21949/1520798>

This is an ☐ initial DMP or a ☒ revised DMP.

#### **Organizational Contact Information**

Institution: U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC), United States Census Bureau (USCB)

Address: 4600 Silver Hill Rd., Washington D.C. 20233

Contact: [geo.bas@census.gov](mailto:geo.bas@census.gov) / [geo.geography@census.gov](mailto:geo.geography@census.gov)

#### **Data Distributor Contact Information**

Name: National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD)

Institution: U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)

Address: 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Washington D.C. 20590

Email: [ntad@dot.gov](mailto:ntad@dot.gov)

## **1. Data Description:**

The Urban Areas 1997-Present dataset, formerly known as Urbanized Areas, is from the United States Census Bureau (USCB), and is part of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)/Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS's) National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD). The TIGER/Line shapefiles and related database files (.dbf) are an extract of selected geographic and cartographic information from the U.S. Census Bureau's Master Address File / Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (MAF/TIGER) Database (MTDB). The MTDB represents a seamless national file with no overlaps or gaps between parts, however, each TIGER/Line shapefile is designed to stand alone as an independent data set, or they can be combined to cover the entire nation. After each decennial census, the Census Bureau delineates urban areas that represent densely developed territory, encompassing residential, commercial, and other nonresidential urban land uses. In general, this territory consists of areas of high population density and urban land use resulting in a representation of the "urban footprint." There are two types of urban areas: urbanized areas (UAs) that contain 50,000 or more people and urban clusters (UCs) that contain at least 2,500 people, but fewer than 50,000 people (except in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam which each contain urban clusters with populations greater than 50,000). Each urban area is identified by a 5-character numeric census code that may contain leading zeroes.

## **2. Standards Employed:**

The data files collected here are saved in the ubiquitous and common geospatial shapefile (.shp) and file geodatabase (.gdb) formats.

As the files created for this ingest were migrations from the original format in a SQL geodatabase, each data file name includes a date stamp indicating when the data in the shapefile was from.

Documentation will include this data management plan, and the metadata and readme files created in 2021.

Documentation will also include the shapefiles, data dictionary, and relevant supporting files created alongside the data from 1997-Present.

A Project Open Data Version 1.1 .xml metadata file will be created to describe the archival location of this data, and that .xml file will be uploaded to data.gov and transportation.data.gov

Necessary software tools: The file formats found in the zip files include: .txt files which can be opened using any text editor; .dbf files, which can be opened with Microsoft Excel; shapefiles (.shp, .shx, and .dbf) which can be opened with any GIS software program; and .pdf files which can be opened with PDF readers.

## **3. Access Policies:**

These data files are in the public domain, and can be shared without restriction. The data files contain no sensitive information.

## **4. Re-Use, Redistribution, and Derivative Products Policies:**

These data are managed by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. The data are in the public domain, and may be re-used without restriction.

Citation of the data is appreciated. Please use the following recommended citation:

U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC), United States Census Bureau (USCB); U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) [distributor]. Urban Areas (Census) 1997-Present [datasets]. <https://doi.org/10.21949/1520798>

## **5. Archiving and Preservation Plans:**

The dataset will be archived in the National Transportation Library Repository and Open Science Access Portal (ROSA P). Prior to archiving, the data are stored on the secured BTS networks and drives, which are backed up nightly. The US DOT systems are secured from outside users and backed up daily.

Files in ROSA P are backed up in NTL drives at US DOT, daily; at the Centers for Disease Control, the repository managing facility, daily; and in Amazon Web Service Cloud servers in Virginia and Oregon daily.

The dataset will be retained in perpetuity.

NTL staff will mint persistent Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) for each dataset stored in ROSA P. These DOIs will be associated with dataset documentation as soon as they become available for use.

The DOIs associated with this dataset include: <https://doi.org/10.21949/1520798>

The assigned DOI resolves to the repository landing page for the “Urban Areas (Census) 1997-Present” dataset, so that users may locate associated metadata and supporting files.

ROSA P meets all the criteria outlined on the “Guidelines for Evaluating Repositories for Conformance with the DOT Public Access Plan” page: <https://ntl.bts.gov/publicaccess/evaluatingrepositories.html>

## **6. Policies Affecting this Data Management Plan**

This document was created to meet the requirements enumerated in the U.S. Department of Transportation's Plan to Increase Public Access to the Results of Federally-Funded Scientific Research' Version 1.1 << <https://doi.org/10.21949/1520559> >> and guidelines suggested by the DOT Public Access website << <https://doi.org/10.21949/1503647> >>, in effect and current as of December 03, 2020.