



## Planning Department

Telephone: 701-298-2370

Fax: 701-298-2395

planning@casscountynd.gov

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### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Cass County Board of Commissioners

**FROM:** Cole Hansen, County Planner

**DATE:** November 1, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Consent Agenda Topic for the November 6, 2023 Commission Meeting: AUZA Boundary Determination

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In December 2022, the United States Census Bureau released an updated Urbanized Area (UZA) boundary for the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area, with the stipulation that local communities, acting through their respective MPO, have the authority to request adjustments to the UZA to reflect certain local conditions and trends.

Metro COG used various studies (sub-area, corridor, consultant-produced, and in-house studies), comments, suggestions, and direction from Cass County technical staff, and FHWA guidance to determine the appropriate 2020 Adjusted Urbanized Boundary Area (AUZA), and on August 17, 2023, the Metro COG Policy Board approved the AUZA boundary for the Final Draft Submittal for NDDOT and FHWA.

For Cass County, areas within the dry side of the FM Area Diversion, significant roadways (Interstate 29; Cass County Roads 14, 17, 20, and 22; and 170<sup>th</sup> Ave SE), and the entirety of the cities of Harwood and Reile's Acres were included when considering the determination of the AUZA. Also, if a particular roadway along the periphery of the AUZA is seen as significant to the urban area and the roadway centerline was bisected or encroached upon by the AUZA, then the entire right of way of that particular roadway was included for boundary determination.

The significance of the 2020 AUZA allows for the utilization of federal transportation funds that are distributed to urbanized areas through a programmatic formula. Metro

COG's boundary determination allows additional areas that are expected to grow within the next 10 years to have the potential to access these funds.

With the approval by the Cass County Commission, Metro COG can forward a final submittal to NDDOT and FHWA for the finalization of the 2020 AUZA boundary.

**SUGGESTED MOTION:** To approve resolution #2023-11 to adopt the updated AUZA as distributed by MetroCOG.

**Resolution in Support of the Adjusted Fargo-Moorhead Urbanized Area Boundary**

**Whereas**, the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments (Metro COG), as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the FM Metropolitan area, is responsible for transportation planning decisions for the FM Metropolitan area; and

**Whereas**, Metro COG maintains the metropolitan area’s transportation planning process in accordance with federal regulations; and

**Whereas**, in December of 2022, the United States Census Bureau released an updated Urbanized Area (UZA) boundary for the FM Metropolitan area, with the stipulation that local communities acting through their respective MPO have the authority to request adjustments to the UZA to reflect certain local conditions; and

**Whereas**, Metro COG has undertaken the task of making necessary technical adjustments to the Census-defined 2020 UZA reflective of local conditions with respect to the guidance from the *Urban Area Criteria for the 2020 Census – Final Criteria* (87 FR 16706) documentation; and

**Whereas**, the adjusted UZA was approved by the Metro COG Policy Board on August 17, 2023, after substantial input from local technical staff; and

**Whereas**, the adjusted UZA approved by Metro COG is ultimately submitted to the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the consideration of the approval of the finalized 2020 adjusted UZA; and

**Now, Therefore Be It Resolved**, the Cass County Commission does hereby concur with the adjusted 2020 UZA for the FM Metropolitan as approved by the Metro COG Policy Board.

Approved and adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of **November, 2023**

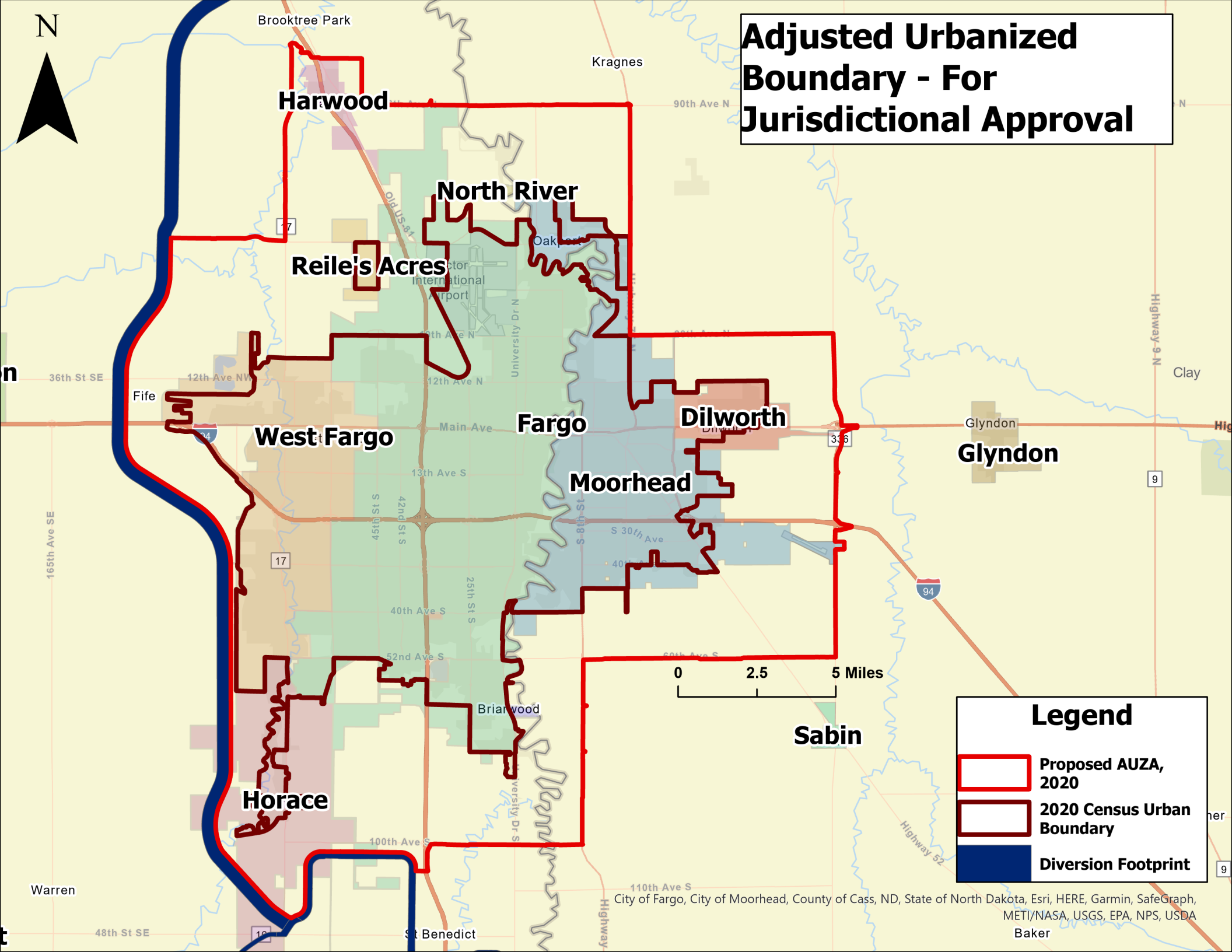
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**Cass County Finance Director**



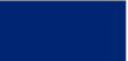
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**Cass County Commission Chair**

# Adjusted Urbanized Boundary - For Jurisdictional Approval



### Legend

-  Proposed AUZA, 2020
-  2020 Census Urban Boundary
-  Diversion Footprint

0 2.5 5 Miles

City of Fargo, City of Moorhead, County of Cass, ND, State of North Dakota, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA Baker