COOPERATIVE FORECASTING GROUP
December 18, 2019
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Ms. Kui Zhao, Chair of the Cooperative Forecasting Group (CFG), called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Following a round of introductions, Ms. Zhao asked for approval of the minutes from the October meeting of the CFG. Mr. Jeff Bronow moved to approve the minutes with Ms. Jamie Williams seconding the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. ROUND 9A – UPDATE SUMMARY

Mr. Shawn Kimberly said that three jurisdictions chose to participate in the Round 9A forecasts: Anne Arundel County; Baltimore County; and Howard County. In each case, adjustments were made to households and population. There were no changes made to employment forecasts in Round 9A. For jurisdictions not participating in Round 9A, the Round 9 data will be utilized.

With a series of graphs and tables, Mr. Kimberly provided a jurisdictional level summary of the population and household forecast data submitted by each of the participating counties. In Anne Arundel County, a major difference from Round 9 was that an updated address point file was utilized in the development of both the population and household forecasts. Overall, the Round 9A base year population estimate (2015) and horizon year forecast (2045) were similar when compared with Round 9, with minor differences in the intervening years (slightly higher growth in the early years and lower growth in the later years of the forecast period). While the Round 9A base year and horizon year household figures were adjusted upward slightly from Round 9, the growth followed a similar pattern to population through the time period.

In Baltimore County, the Round 9A growth rate for population increased more quickly in the near term (through 2025) than it had in Round 9, with similar growth in the later years of the forecast period. Ms. Zhao noted that the reason for the short-term adjustment was that there

had been increases in occupancy permits as well as additional approved development in the county since the Round 9 forecast data set was completed. She added that projects in Towson, Owings Mills, and Middle River accounted for a large share of the new residential development. An adjustment was also made to the jurisdiction's holding capacity analyses in the outer years, resulting in the redistribution of some population and household growth at the TAZ level. Mr. Kimberly said that household growth followed a similar pattern to population growth, but with a less pronounced differential between Round 9A and Round 9 through 2025 (than had been observed in population). Ms. Zhao added that there were changes made to the group quarter populations and household size assumptions.

In Howard County, Round 9A base year estimates and horizon year forecasts were similar to those of Round 9, while downward adjustments were observed in the intervening years. Mr. Bronow said that growth is slowing more quickly than had been anticipated, primarily due to recent changes in the county's Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO). The Schools Test portion of the APFO, which places a cap on school capacity utilization, was a contributing factor in the updated growth expectations.

At the regional level, Round 9A adjustments were modest, with base year and horizon year population and household totals all within 0.2 percent of Round 9 totals.

Mr. Kimberly then presented a table comparing interpolated Round 9A 2018 forecasts to the vintage 2018 Census Bureau Population Estimates Program (PEP) data, and a series of graphs illustrating 2010 to 2018 PEP data with Round 9A population data appended for years 2015-2025. The comparisons at the regional level show that the Round 9A forecasts match-up closely with the trajectory indicated by the PEP for years 2010 through 2015. However, the regional level PEP data illustrates a slowing of growth in recent years (2016 through 2018), largely attributable to reported population decline in Baltimore City and flat growth in Baltimore County, which is not observed in the Round 9A forecasts. Ms. Zhao noted that Baltimore County is going through a comprehensive zoning map update process (with expected county council adoption in August of 2020), which may inform revisions for the next update.

[PowerPoint: Draft Round 9A Jurisdictional Level Summary]

3. ACCESSING DATA WITH DATA.CENSUS.GOV

Mr. Krishna Akundi, Maryland Department of Planning, explained that the American FactFinder (AFF) data access application is being retired. While AFF is currently still online, it contains only archival material. Census data for years 2018 forward will be available on the data.census.gov platform, but not AFF. Mr. Akundi explained how to access the site, recent Census data releases available on the site, and recent updates to the site. He also mentioned that the Census Bureau provides a series of informative webinars on their data that can be accessed through the "Census Academy" (census.gov/academy). Mr. Akundi then provided a demonstration of how to use data.census.gov by performing a series of data search examples (by keyword, table number etc). He also explained how to refine searches (by geography, year,

and survey), how to filter and customize data tables, and several methods for downloading the data.

4. YEAR IN REVIEW AND LOOK FORWARD

Mr. Kimberly provided an overview of the activities and meetings of the CFG during calendar year 2019. The primary accomplishment of the CFG during calendar year 2019 was the development of the Round 9A data set. The deadline for participating jurisdictions to submit their forecasts was November 30, and jurisdictional and regional level summaries of Round 9A were provided at this meeting. Other topics covered at CFG meetings in 2019 included: the Maryland Department of Planning's public school enrollment methodology; the new data sharing agreement with the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation which provides the CFG members with access to the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages data set; the Anne Arundel County holding capacity analysis methodology; a summary of the vintage 2018 Census Bureau Population Estimates Program data; regular updates on the Census Bureau's Participant Statistical Areas Program (a program enabling participants to review and verify selected statistical area boundaries for 2020 Census data tabulation); a summary of the region's building permit activity for calendar year 2018; a summary of Baltimore County's 2018 Annual Growth Report; regional coordination efforts for Census 2020 promotion; updates on the Transportation Data Book UPWP task; a summary of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCoG) work on their Regional Housing Initiative; and an introduction to a dashboard developed by the Maryland Department of Planning to facilitate easier identification of low-response and hard to survey areas within Maryland for Census 2020.

Mr. Kimberly then asked the CFG members to look forward to the next calendar year, and requested input on topics they would be interested in exploring in 2020. The CFG members and BMC staff generated a list of ideas for consideration including: descriptions of local jurisdiction forecasting methods; Maryland Department of Planning methods for jurisdiction-level projections; a Census Bureau presentation on data.census.gov; an introduction to CommunityViz (an ArcGIS based planning tool); a scenario planning workshop/training session (Uri Avin, National Center for Smart Growth); the development of an agreed upon method for employment forecasting; updates on the activities of the MWCoG Cooperative Forecasting and Data Subcommittee (CFDS); conducting a joint meeting with the MWCoG CFDS; development of a draft Round 10 schedule; a summary of the Census Bureau's planned use of a new disclosure avoidance system called Differential Privacy, and the impacts that it may have upon data quality and fitness-for-use; methods for small-area allocation of self-employment; trainings on other Census data (PUMS data set, LEHD On-The-Map, LEHD Quarterly Workforce Indicators, LEHD Job-to-Job Flows, LEHD Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes); updates on the PSAP verification phase (in early 2020); and other local planning topics of interest.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Zhao asked about plans for the next Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Roundtable. Mr. Kimberly said that the next roundtable is planned for the spring of 2020, and will be hosted by the MWCoG. Topics, dates, and other details are forthcoming.

The meeting adjourned at 11:51 A.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Krishna Akundi, Maryland Department of Planning
Jeff Bronow, Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning
Rick Fisher, Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning
Joel Gallihue, Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning
Erik Hovland, Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning
Sara Paranilam, Baltimore City Department of Planning
Cody Spaid, Carroll County Department of Planning
Al Sundara, Maryland Department of Planning
Jamie Williams, Baltimore City Department of Planning
Kui Zhao, Baltimore County Department of Planning

Staff and Guests

Charles Baber, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Blake Fisher, BMC
Shawn Kimberly, BMC
Brian Ryder, BMC