COOPERATIVE FORECASTING GROUP
February 23, 2022
Virtual Meeting
10:05 A.M. to 12:05 P.M.

MINUTES

Mr. Jeff Bronow, Howard County, called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Deborah Price, Harford County, moved to approve the minutes from the December meeting of the CFG, with Ms. Kathleen Comber, Carroll County, seconding the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. U.S. CENSUS BUREAU COMMUNITY RESILIENCE ESTIMATES

Mr. Chase Sawyer of the U.S. Census Bureau gave a presentation on the Community Resilience Estimates (CRE), and provided a live demonstration on the use of the CRE Dashboard.

Community resilience is a measure of the capacity of individuals and households within a community to cope with the external stresses of the impacts of a disaster. The Census Bureau measures resilience through a series of individual and household characteristics.

Census Bureau staff noticed that some measures of population resilience developed by other agencies and organizations use publicly available Census data from the Decennial Census or American Community Survey (ACS) as their main sources. The measures developed via the use of publicly available Census data are typically not as granular in a spatial sense, and can lack precision. The CRE dataset makes use of restricted microdata from the ACS, allowing the estimates to retain correlation of individual risks – making it ideal for identifying the most vulnerable populations. The goal of the CRE program is to create data products to help measure the capacity of communities to endure and recover from disaster that are relevant, precise, and timely. The estimates are developed utilizing a combination of ACS microdata and auxiliary data from the Population Estimates Program.

The Census Bureau's CRE program produces metrics for how at-risk neighborhoods across the country are to the impacts of disasters by identifying and measuring a series of ten risk factors including: low-income households; single or zero caregiver household; unit-level

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Voting: City of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Harford County, Howard County, Queen Anne's County, MD Department of Transportation and Annapolis Transit. Non-Voting: MD Department of the Environment, MD Department of Planning, and MD Transit Administration.

crowding; communication barrier (language or no high school diploma); age 65 or older; no full-time employed persons in household; disability; lack of health insurance; households with no vehicle; and households without broadband internet access. Where risk factors are identified, they are recorded for all individuals in the household and tabulated, and then small area modeling techniques are applied to create estimates. The estimates are categorized and summarized into three different groups to help quantify level of risk: zero risks; one to two risks; and three or more risks.

The Census Bureau's CRE program data provides the timeliest, statistically precise, and granular measures of vulnerability. The dataset differs from other measures in that it estimates number of persons at risk, percentage of population, and margins of error for geographies ranging from the nation down to the tract level. Other measures cannot provide the spatial granularity and precision of the CRE, as they are not built upon the ACS microdata. The Census Bureau's methods for the development of small area estimates are proven, and the agency is open to discussing data products tailored to user needs. The CRE data are publicly available in a variety of formats including an interactive dashboard, a series of spreadsheets, and GIS shapefiles.

[PowerPoint: U.S. Census Bureau: Community Resilience Estimates]

3. ROUND 10 UPDATE

Mr. Shawn Kimberly, Baltimore Metropolitan Council, provided a summary of the draft Round 10 data submitted by CFG membership, described the Round 10 approval process, and next steps.

Mr. Kimberly began his summary at the regional level, then provided summary charts for each jurisdiction. In each case, he first covered historical population trends from decennial censuses, then summarized population and employment growth expectations from the draft Round 10 dataset.

In the Baltimore region, during the 70 year period from 1950 through 2020, the population grew by 1.37 million, reaching a total of 2.84 million in 2020. The region's share of state population declined over the time period from 62.8% in 1950 to 46.0% in 2020. The region's population is forecast to grow by 12.3% from 2020 to 2050, to a total of 3.2 million in horizon year 2050. Employment is forecast to grow by 23.7% over the same time period.

In Anne Arundel County, during the 70 year period from 1950 through 2020, the population grew by approximately 470,000, reaching a total of 588,000 in 2020. The county's share of regional population increased from 8.0% in 1950 to 20.7% in 2020. The population is forecast to grow by 17.1% from 2020 to 2050 to a total of 694,000 in horizon year 2050. Employment is forecast to grow by 32.6% over the same time period.

In Baltimore City, during the 70 year period from 1950 through 2020, the population declined by approximately 364,000, to a total of 586,000 in 2020. The city's share of regional population decreased from 64.5% in 1950 to 20.6% in 2020. The population is forecast to grow by 4.1%

from 2020 to 2050 to a total of 610,000 in horizon year 2050. Employment is forecast to grow by 22.1% over the same time period.

In Baltimore County, during the 70 year period from 1950 through 2020, the population grew by approximately 584,000, reaching a total of nearly 855,000 in 2020. The county's share of regional population increased from 18.4% in 1950 to 30.0% in 2020. The population is forecast to grow by 8.5% from 2020 to 2050 to a total of 927,000 in horizon year 2050. Employment is forecast to grow by 6.3% over the same time period.

- Mr. James Wilkerson, Howard County, noticed a spike in population growth between 2030 and 2035. He asked if there is anything in particular that caused it.
- Ms. Jennifer Meacham, Baltimore County, said that it may be due to a change in methodology for the 2035 to 2045 years. Prior to 2035, they used households and approved residential units as the basis for growth. Starting in 2035 they applied a different approach, utilizing the observed difference between the Round 9A 2020 and decennial census 2020 households, and accounting for the gap between them. Ms. Meacham noted that one reason for the change in methodology is that they anticipate that approved residential units will be built out by that time.
- Mr. Bronow asked if the projections incorporate Baltimore County's latest general plan.
- Ms. Meacham said that they do not because the plan is not yet complete. They are hoping to complete the plan by the end of 2022 or early in 2023.

In Carroll County, during the 70 year period from 1950 through 2020, the population grew by approximately 128,000, reaching a total of 173,000 in 2020. The county's share of regional population increased from 3.1% in 1950 to 6.1% in 2020. The population is forecast to grow by 9.4% from 2020 to 2050 to a total of 189,000 in horizon year 2050. Employment is forecast to grow by 14.3% over the same time period.

- Mr. Bronow asked where Carroll County is in the process on their general plan update.
- Ms. Comber said that they completed their land use and comprehensive plan in 2019 and will be working on an update over the next several years.

In Harford County, during the 70 year period from 1950 through 2020, the population grew by approximately 209,000, reaching a total of 261,000 in 2020. The county's share of regional population increased from 3.5% in 1950 to 9.2% in 2020. The population is forecast to grow by 18.4% from 2020 to 2050 to a total of 309,000 in horizon year 2050. Employment is forecast to grow by 61.3% over the same time period. Harford County has forecast the largest 30-year employment growth in the region in percentage terms, and is third largest in numeric growth over the time period.

In Howard County, during the 70 year period from 1950 through 2020, the population grew by approximately 309,000, reaching a total of 332,000 in 2020. The county's share of regional population increased from 1.6% in 1950 to 11.7% in 2020. The population is forecast to grow by 24.8% from 2020 to 2050 to a total of 415,000 in horizon year 2050. Employment is forecast to grow by 32.3% over the same time period.

- Mr. Bronow said that their latest general plan update ("HoCo by Design"), while not expected to be adopted until early 2023, is nearly complete. As such, they have included much of the growth expectations identified in the plan in the Round 10 dataset. Should there be changes in growth expectations between now and the adoption of the general plan, the forecasts will be updated accordingly in the next cooperative forecast update. Mr. Bronow made specific mention of the inclusion in Round 10 of the large-scale redevelopment of the Gateway Office Park area, which is roughly four times the size of downtown Columbia.

- Mr. James Wilkerson, Howard County, commented on the large discrepancy between the population projections in Round 9A and Round 10. He said that in the chart comparing the population growth between the two forecasts, one can see how the Round 9A population growth drops dramatically after 2025. The decline is due to the fact that the 9A forecast primarily considered growth associated with undeveloped land. For Round 10 Howard County incorporated more of the impacts of redevelopment and infill potential into the forecast, which has allowed them to adjust their population projection.

- Mr. Al Sundara, MDP, asked where in Howard County the Gateway Office Park development is located. Mr. Sundara also asked if the redevelopment calls for a mixture of residential and non-residential uses.

- Mr. Bronow said the Howard County the Gateway Office Park development is south of Route 175, between Snowden River Parkway and I-95. The redevelopment is to include both residential and non-residential uses, similar to the downtown Columbia Master Plan. He added that because downtown Columbia will not be complete until after 2035, the Gateway plan will not start until after 2030 or 2035.

In Queen Anne's County, during the 70 year period from 1950 through 2020, the population grew by approximately 35,000, reaching a total of 50,000 in 2020. The county's share of regional population increased from 1.0% in 1950 to 1.8% in 2020. The population is forecast to grow by 14.4% from 2020 to 2050 to a total of 57,000 in horizon year 2050. Employment is forecast to grow by 6.9% over the same time period.

- Mr. Steve Cohoon, Queen Anne's County, said that the bridges crossing the Chesapeake Bay built in 1952 and in 1973 led to population growth in the County. He also said that they were surprised by the Census 2020 count. The population increase from 2010 to 2020 was reported to be around 2,100, according to decennial census data. Mr. Cohoon noted that he thought the growth would have been higher, based upon building permit activity in the county over the time period.

- Mr. Cohoon pointed out that the County's population projections look different in Round 10 than they did in Round 9A because of a methodology change. The methodological adjustment does a better job of accounting for the constraint that limited sewer service areas have upon growth expectations.

- Mr. Cohoon said he also expects household size to decrease with future rounds, as the County's largest developments are comprised of age restricted communities and apartments.

Moving on to next steps for Round 10, Mr. Kimberly said that CFG membership can submit edits and adjustments to their draft forecasts through the end of February. The next step will be for the CFG to vote to approve the Round 10 dataset at the April 27 meeting of the group. After that, it is tentatively scheduled to go to Technical Committee on May 3rd for their recommendation for BRTB approval. Mr. Kimberly requested that CFG membership brief their jurisdiction's Technical Committee member on the Round 10 dataset prior to the Technical Committee meeting. Finally, in June or July it is expected that Round 10 will go to the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board for final approval.

Mr. Kimberly said that Round 10 methodology statements are due April 30th. The methodology statements should provide a detailed explanation of the sources and methods utilized in the development of jurisdictional and TAZ level base-year estimates and forecasts from 2020 to 2050. Membership should make reference to any policy documents that informed the forecasts, discuss methods for short-term and long-term growth, and cite data sources used in forecast development. He noted that the statements should also provide an explanation in cases where there is considerable deviation from known markers (at jurisdiction and/or TAZ levels); provide detail on specific projects that are expected to have substantial impacts on population, households or employment; and requested that membership supply notes in cases where there exist significant differences between Round 10 and Round 9A. He added that the documents will be made available to the public, and that detailed methodology statements will help to increase transparency in the forecast process.

[PowerPoint: Draft Round 10 Summary – Draft and Regional Jurisdictional Totals, and Next Steps]

4. NEW BUSINESS

The next CFG meeting will be held Wednesday, April 27th. It is to be determined whether this will be a virtual meeting, in person meeting or a hybrid meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Krishna Akundi, Maryland Department of Planning
Jeff Bronow, Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning
Steve Cohoon, Queen Anne's County Department of Public Works
Kathleen Comber, Carroll County Department of Planning
Jennifer Meacham, Baltimore County Department of Planning
Sara Paranilam, Baltimore City Department of Planning
Deborah Price, Harford County Department of Planning
Alfred Sundara, Maryland Department of Planning
Kristopher Weaver, Baltimore County Department of Planning
James Wilkerson, Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning

Jamie Williams, Baltimore City Department of Planning

Staff and Guests
Charles Baber, BMC
Blake Fisher, BMC
Shawn Kimberly, BMC
Crystal McDermott, BMC
Brian Ryder, BMC
Chase Sawyer, U.S. Census Bureau - Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division