

POLICY STATEMENT

Board Policy No. 2024-04

Adopted: August 19, 2024
By: COMPASS Board of Directors
Last Revision:

Policy Statement:

Federal Highway Funding Eligibility

Purpose:

This policy is intended to provide guidance and sideboards for programming federal highway funding in the COMPASS planning area for programs administered by COMPASS. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) provides criteria to guide where different types of funding may be used. The COMPASS Board of Directors provides direction for COMPASS' project selection process and is allowed to use more stringent criteria than provided by the FHWA.

Census 2020 changed the boundaries of several geographies in the COMPASS planning area. This policy clarifies which areas may compete for specific funding sources and how project eligibility is determined.

Background

Federal funds for transportation projects are administered through the application process outlined in the [COMPASS application guide](#)¹ each year. The following programs are administered by COMPASS:

- Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG)
- Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
- Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)

Funding eligibility for these programs is based on the 2020 Census urban area designations (see map, page 3):

- Transportation Management Area (TMA): over 200,000
 - Boise Urban Area, Ada County; only TMA in Idaho
 - Includes the Cities of Boise, Eagle, Garden City, and Meridian
- Large Urban: 50,000 – 200,000
 - Nampa Urban Area, Canyon County; one of six Large Urban areas in Idaho
 - Includes the Cities of Nampa and Caldwell
- Small Urban: 5,000 – 49,999
 - Kuna, Middleton, and Star Small Urban Areas; three of 20 Small Urban areas in Idaho
- Rural: under 5,000

¹ COMPASS Application Guide: <https://compassidaho.org/resourcedevelopment/#AppProcess>

COMPASS administers the STBG and CRP programs in the TMA and Large Urban areas, as well as the TAP program in the TMA. Small Urban and Rural projects are selected by other agencies and are not included in this policy.

Eligibility

Per federal code^{2 3}, TMA funds can be used anywhere within the COMPASS planning area boundary; however, Large Urban funds may only be used within the Nampa Urban Area. This policy provides additional sideboards to the federal code regarding the TMA funds:

- TMA funds are eligible in Ada County only, except on shared corridors along the Ada/Canyon County line.

COMPASS follows project eligibility qualifications provided by the FHWA for all programs with no additional limitations, as provided in [FHWA Program Guidance](#)⁴.

Projects for sidewalks and pathways that need to acquire property may be difficult because land acquisition for these projects must be through a cooperative agreement with the landowner. Sidewalk and pathway projects with right-of-way needs will include significant time between the right-of-way and construction phases. COMPASS staff are directed to monitor these projects closely.

Previous Policy:

This policy replaces policies 2019-04 and 2019-05, approved by the COMPASS Board of Directors on February 25, 2019.

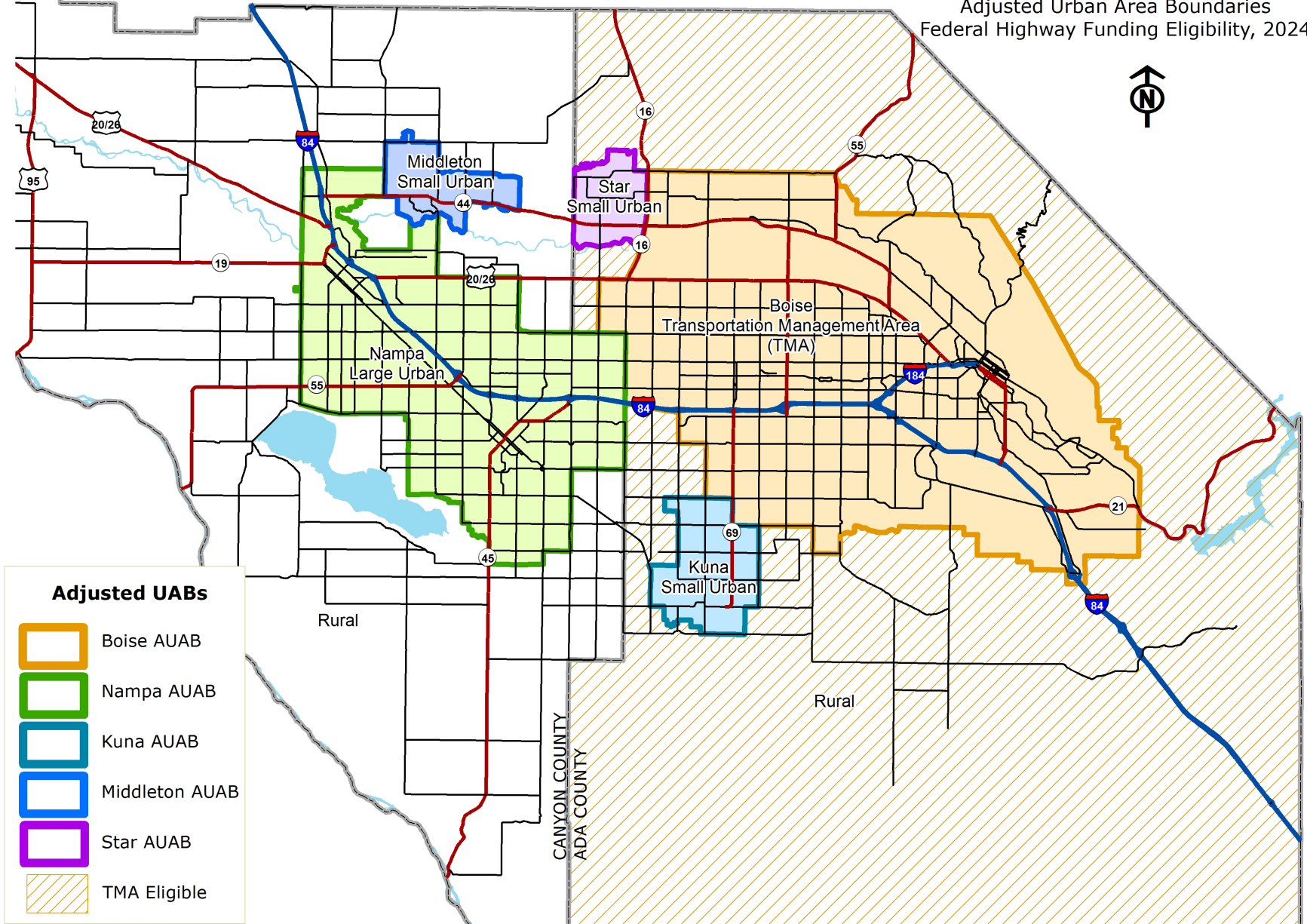
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² 23 USC 133 (d)(2): <https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=granuleid:USC-prelim-title23-section133&num=0&edition=prelim>

³ 23 USC 175 (e)(2) : <https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=granuleid:USC-prelim-title23-section175&num=0&edition=prelim>

⁴ FHWA Program Guidance: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/guidance.cfm>

COMPASS Planning Area
Adjusted Urban Area Boundaries
Federal Highway Funding Eligibility, 2024



Adjusted UABs

- Boise AUAB
- Nampa AUAB
- Kuna AUAB
- Middleton AUAB
- Star AUAB
- TMA Eligible