

Chapter 18

FUTURE METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA

DEFINING THE METROPOLITAN AREA BOUNDARY

Federal Statute governs the planning boundaries for Metropolitan Planning Organizations. Specifically, Title 23 Part 450.38 states that:

- (a) The metropolitan planning area boundary shall, as a minimum, cover the UZA(s) and the contiguous geographic area(s) likely to become urbanized within the twenty year forecast period covered by the transportation plan described in §450.322 of this part. The boundary may encompass the entire metropolitan statistical area or consolidated metropolitan statistical area, as defined by the Bureau of the Census.

During the development of this Metropolitan Transportation Plan, KATS started the preliminary work of incorporating the small urbanized area of Mattawan and Paw Paw, located directly west of KATS, into the Metropolitan Area Boundary (MAB). KATS currently works with this area as part of its air quality planning efforts.

While projects from this area are not incorporated into the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, KATS intends to incorporate these areas prior to the development of a subsequent Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

OTHER AREAS LIKELY TO BECOME URBANIZED

Current growth patterns do not indicate the Metropolitan Area Boundary expanding within the next twenty years in a direction other than west. While the small urban area of Plainwell lies directly to the north and the Battle Creek MPO lies directly east, growth within the county has not indicated that the MAB should be expanded to cover these areas.