



METROPLAN

SMART PLANNING MAKES SMART PLACES.



METROPLAN

SMALL CITIES
COUNCIL

SMALL CITIES COUNCIL

September 29, 2021 • 9:00 AM

AGENDA

1. Call to Order & Welcome
2. Introductions & Announcements
3. Summary of Previous Meeting
4. 2020 Census Briefing
5. Metroplan Update
6. Preview of Upcoming Meetings
7. Adjourn

SCC MEMBERS

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Alexander | 10. Lonoke |
| 2. Austin | 11. Mayflower |
| 3. Bauxite | 12. Mount Vernon |
| 4. Cammack
Village | 13. Shannon Hills |
| 5. England | 14. Traskwood |
| 6. Greenbrier | 15. Vilonia |
| 7. Guy | 16. Ward |
| 8. Haskell | 17. Wooster |
| 9. HSVillage | 18. Wrightsville |



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INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Projects**
- **Updates**
- **Successes**
- **Challenges**



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SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS MEETING

July 28, 2021



**Small Cities Council
Meeting Summary**

Wednesday, July 28, 2021 | 9:00 AM
Metroplan | Pulaski County Regional Building
DRAFT

Meeting PowerPoint slides are available at <https://metroplan.org/small-cities-council/>
Meeting recording may be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/Metroplan/videos/780600239285445>

SCC Members Attending:

1. Mayor Sammy Hartwick, President
2. Mayor Bernie Chamberlain
3. Mayor Charles Gastineau
4. Mayor Sam Higdon
5. Mayor Randy Holland
6. Mayor Terry Mizer
7. Mayor Trae Reed

City of Greenbrier
City of Austin
City of Ward
City of Guy
City of Mayflower
City of Wrightsville
City of Lonoke

Metroplan Staff:

8. Mr. Casey Covington
9. Ms. Bernadette Rhodes
10. Ms. La'Kesa Stewart
11. Mr. Tab Townsell

CARTS Study Director
Community Planner
Planner/Public Outreach
Executive Director

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Mayor Hartwick called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. He welcomed the attendees and asked Ms. Rhodes to proceed with the agenda. Ms. Rhodes asked attendees to share announcements and any recent decisions about spending their American Rescue Plan funding.

2. Introductions and Announcements

All attendees reported their cities have received half of their American Rescue Plan allocation.
Lonoke: Mayor Reed shared that Lonoke had previously completed water, sewer, and broadband upgrades, and that the city did not have any lost revenue due to Covid. The city is still weighing options for spending the ARP funding.

Ward: Mayor Gastineau stated that its Parks and Recreation department lost a \$4,000 in revenue due to Covid. The City of Ward is planning to install radio readers with AMR (Automatic Meter Read) technology to allow drive-by water meter readings.

For those cities still considering options for spending their ARP funds, Ms. Rhodes said funds could also be spent on residents or businesses that were adversely impacted by the pandemic, and on premium pay for workers who had to report to work in-person throughout the pandemic, such as first responders, healthcare workers, and city employees. She reminded attendees to take advantage of the Arkansas Municipal League's guidance.

Austin: Mayor Chamberlain is using ARP funding on sewer upgrades, removing pump stations, and performing smoke tests to determine where water is infiltrating the system.

Wrightsville: Mayor Mizer shared that the City is receiving \$270,000 worth of street funding through the Street Aid program, including **GANNAWAY** Rd (which runs parallel to the railroad) on Zip Ln, and others. He met with the project manager and is waiting for work to begin.

Northwest Arkansas Study Tour Report: Mayor Reed shared his takeaways from the study tour along the Razorback Greenway, led by Lane Shift and paid for by Metroplan for the benefit of the Central Arkansas Regional Greenways steering committee members. The tour included the Railyard pump track in Rogers and the bicycling culture that has developed in the NWA region over the last 2-3 decades. The Razorback Greenway accommodates all modes of transportation: bicycles, pedestrians, scooters, and others. Mayor Reed's major takeaways were:

- The importance of wayfinding, including the use of colors, signage, and textures.
- At street crossings, the street names were embedded in the concrete.
- The Razorback Greenway made creative connections through alleyways, behind buildings, and adding new pavement and planters to **made** the space more welcoming.
- Importance of cultivating a bike culture through education and promotion to increase buy-in for the greenway.
- Greenways address the 4 pillars of health: physical, social, emotional, and spiritual.
- Don't forget about the element of fun.

Mr. Townsell added that the Executive Committee will be exploring the idea of funding individual counties/municipalities to go take local elected officials, commissioners, and stakeholders on their own study tours in NWA. Metroplan's unspent travel budget could be used to fund the tours. Tour cost is \$10,600 for 12 participants, plus the cost of meals and hotel.

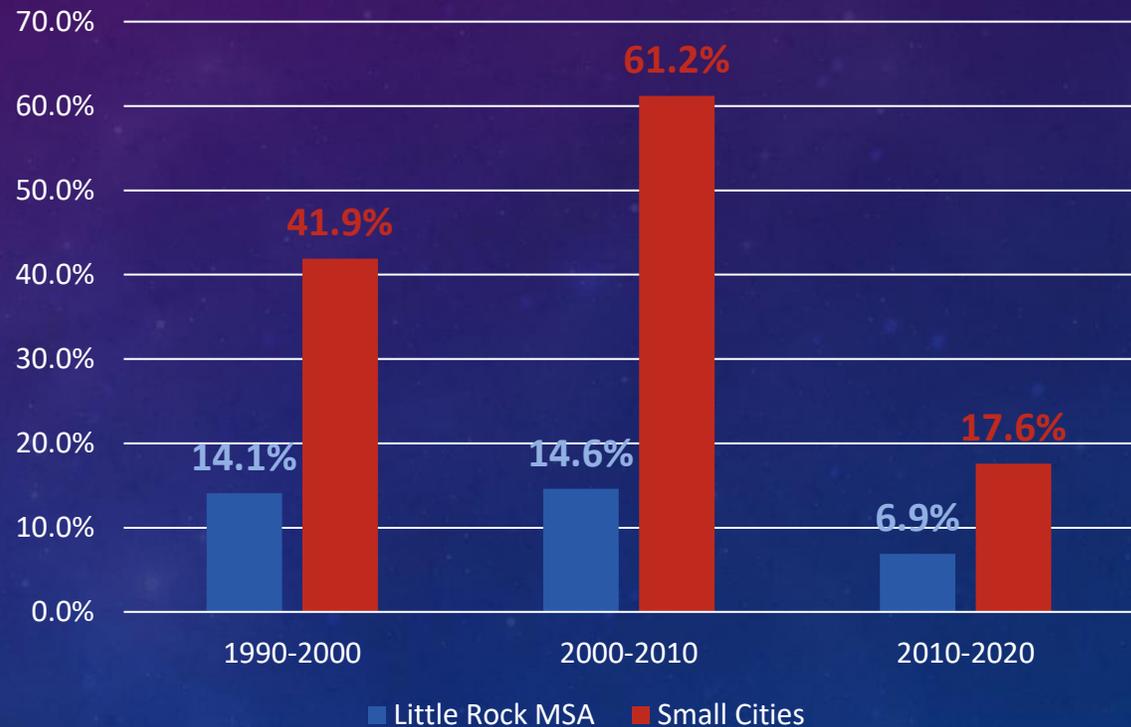
CENSUS 2020

SMALL CITIES IN CENTRAL ARKANSAS

OVERVIEW

- The region's small cities grew faster than the regional average
- Growth slowed in the past decade, still faster on average
- Major variations among cities
- We selected twelve cities for this analysis

Growth Trends 1990-2020

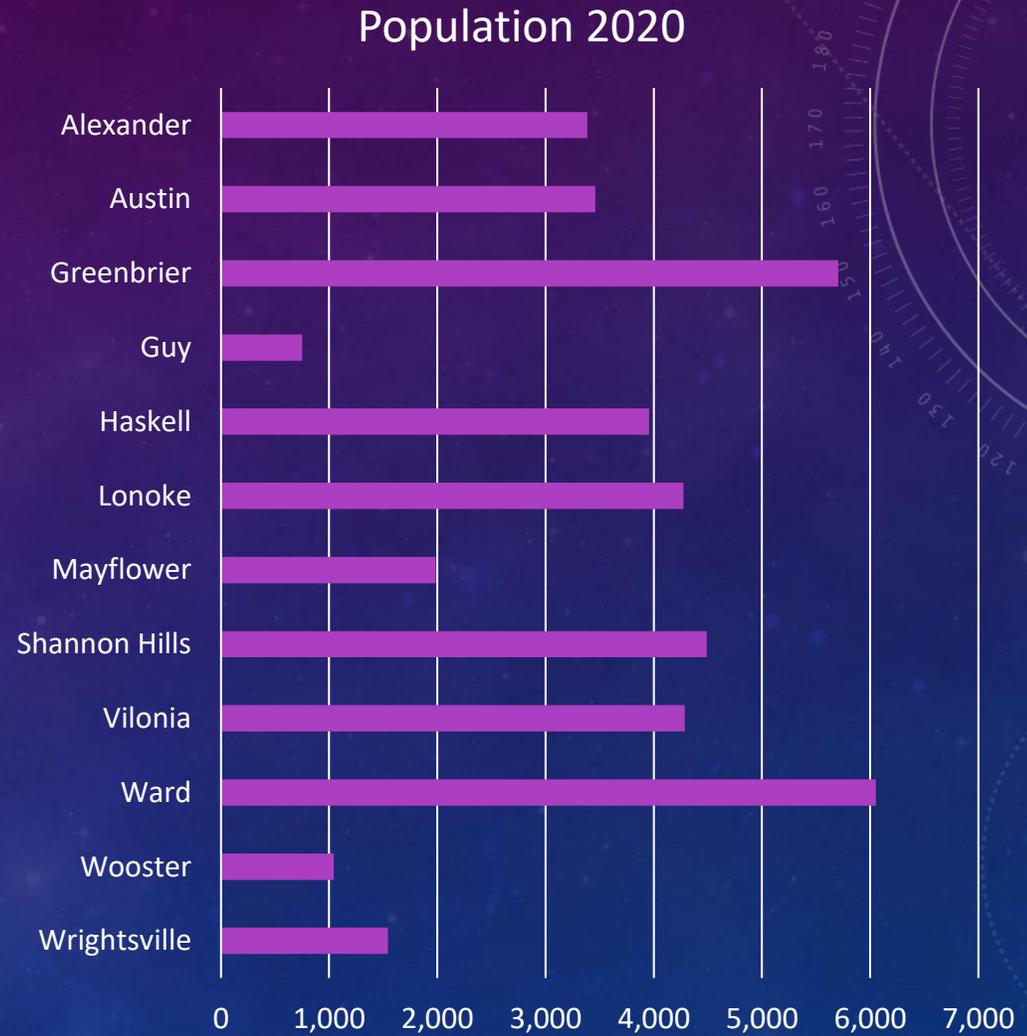


TWELVE STARS



MANY CITIES

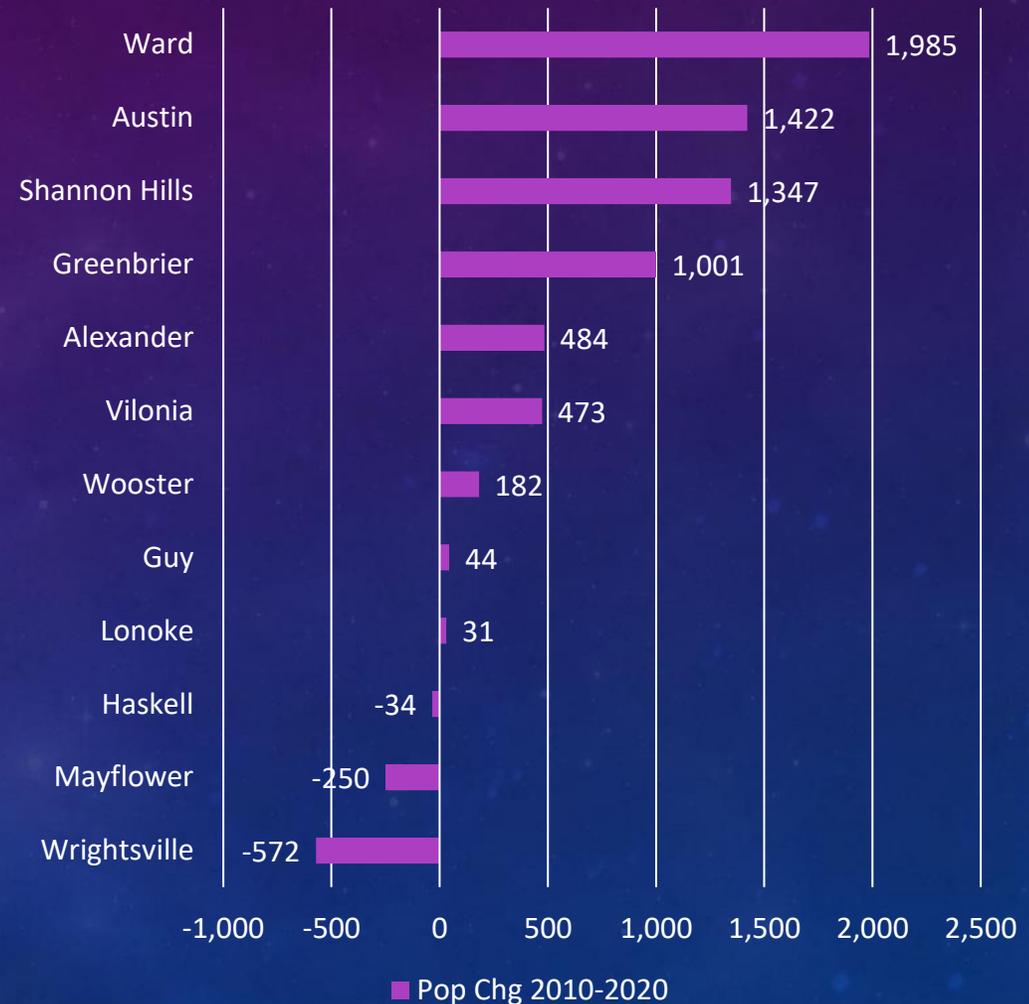
- Average population size: 3,400
- Largest: Ward (6,052)
- Smallest: Guy (752)
- Specific data and generalizations
- Most are gaining population - not all



POPULATION CHANGE

- Most small cities in Central AR are adapting to the challenges of rapid growth
- A few (mainly Wrightsville, Haskell, and Alexander) have sizeable institutional populations which can go up or down with little outward evidence
- Population change isn't identical to housing change

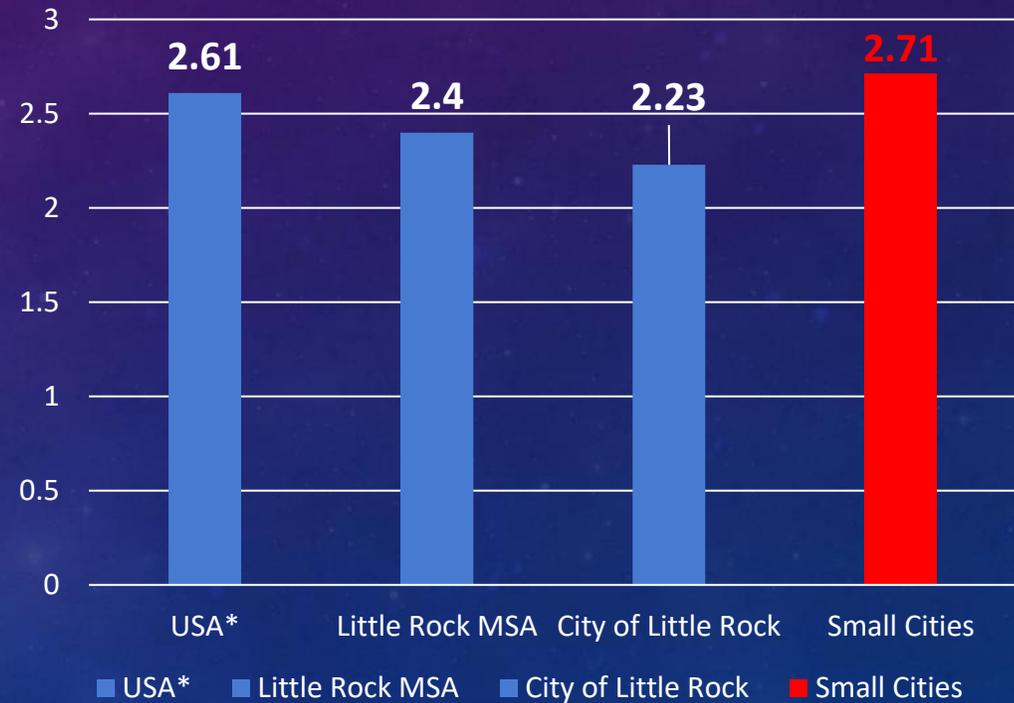
Total Population Change 2010-2020



PERSONS PER HOUSEHOLD

- Slight change can affect population disproportionately
- Rural areas generally have larger household sizes
- Local small cities have larger households than U.S. and regional average

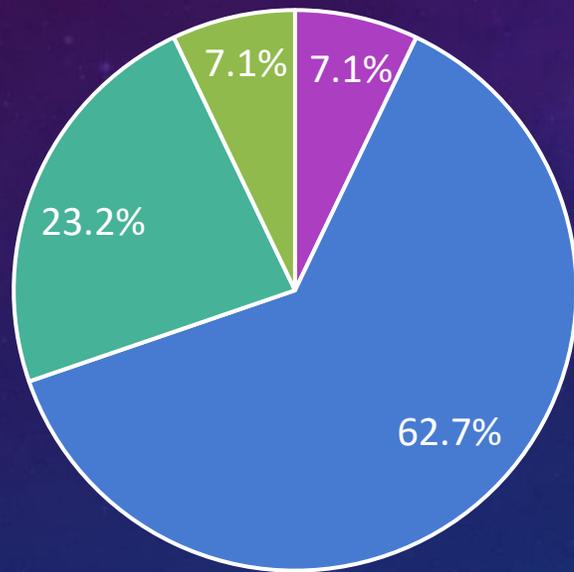
Persons per Household 2020



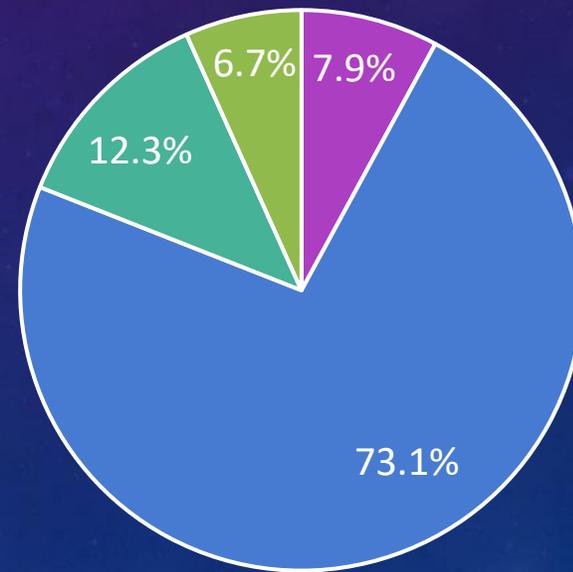
* USA data from ACS 2019

RACIAL / ETHNIC BREAKDOWN 2020

Little Rock MSA



Small Cities (Central AR)

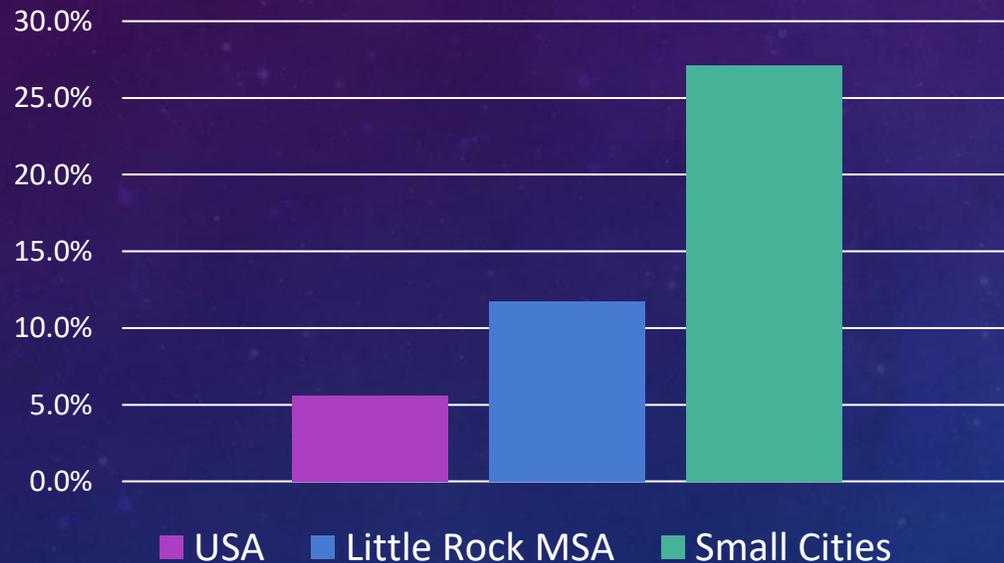


Hispanic Non-Hisp White Black Other

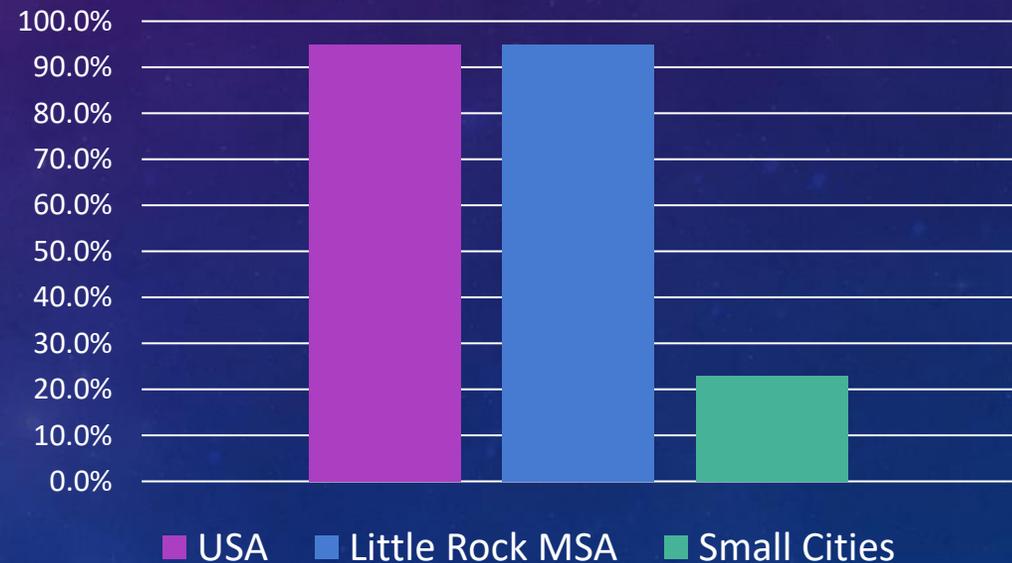
Hispanic Non-Hisp White Black Other

RACIAL CHANGE

Change in Black Population 2010-2020

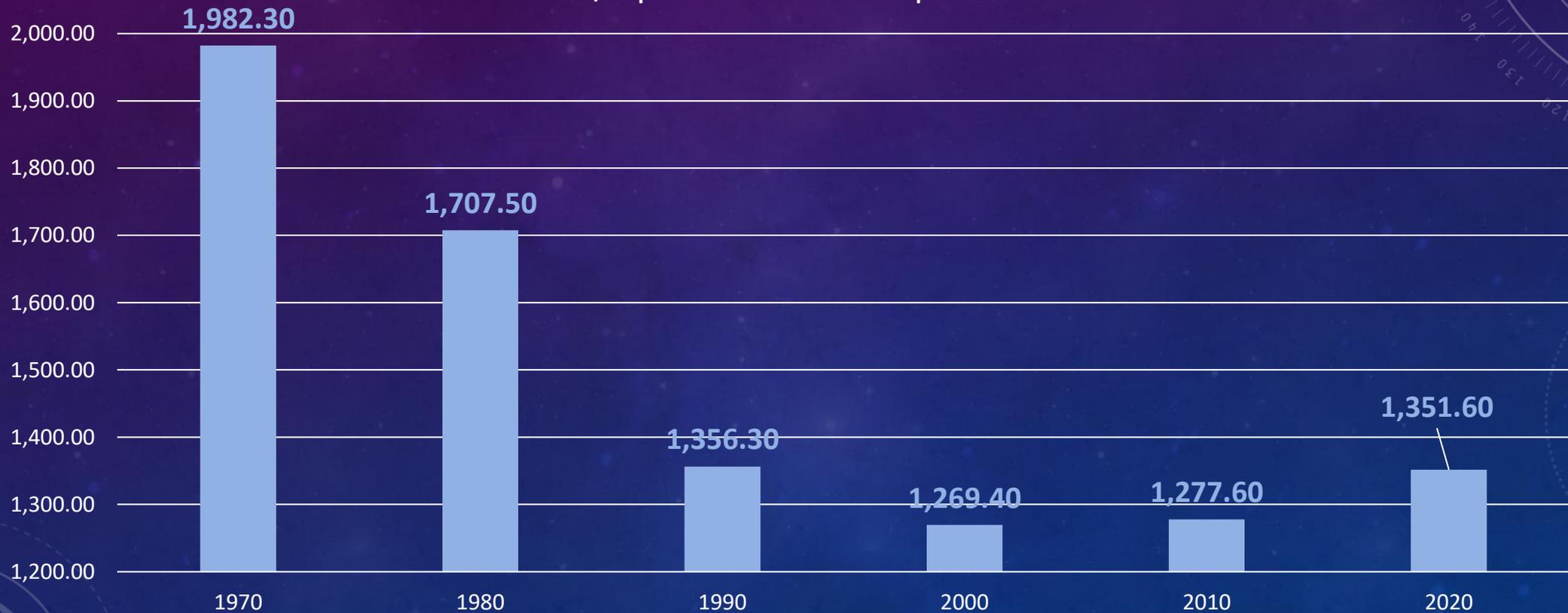


Change in Hispanic Population 2010-2020



REGIONAL* POPULATION DENSITY 1970-2020

Persons/Square Mile of Incorporated Area

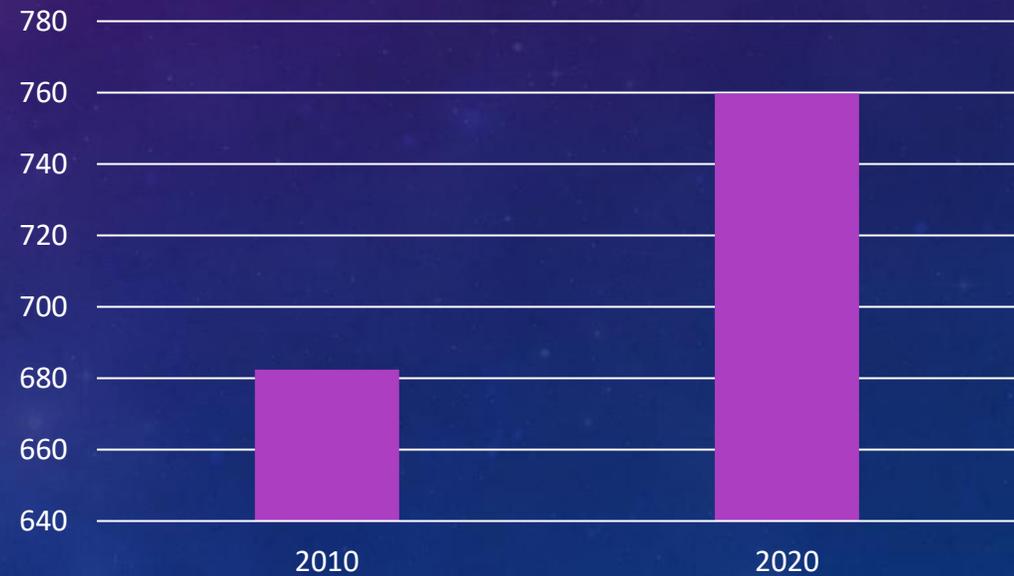


* CARTS Area pre-2012

SMALL CITIES DENSITY

- Regional density rose 5.8 percent 2010-2020
- Small cities density rose 11.3 percent 2010-2020

Persons/Square Mile 2010-2020

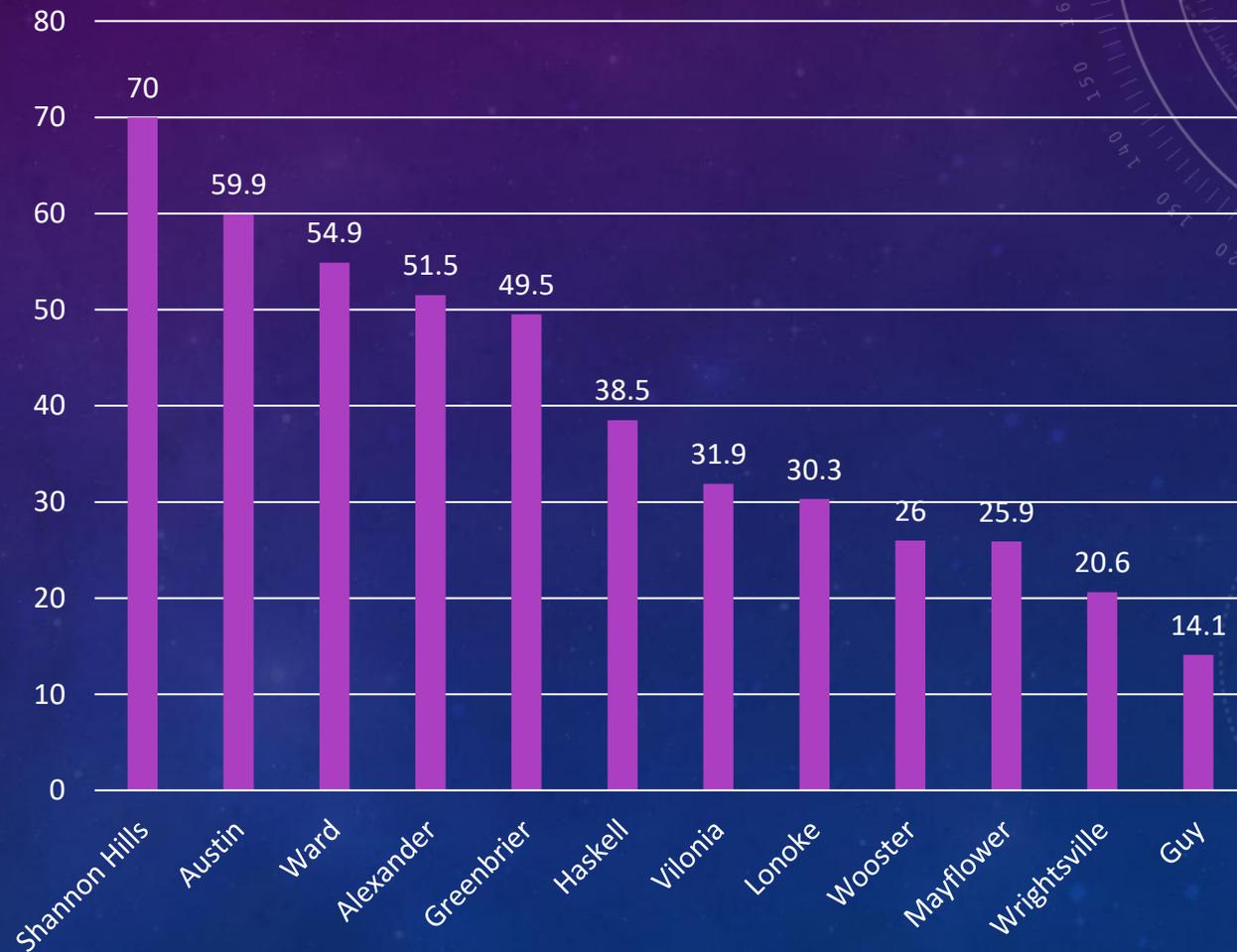


A HELPFUL METRIC

A raw measure to help with service delivery costs

Higher values correlate with stronger fiscal positions

Households per Road or Street-Mile 2020



FURTHER QUESTIONS

1. Ask me – jlupton@metroplan.org
2. Metroplan website – www.metroplan.org
3. UALR State Data Center – Google it



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METROPLAN UPDATE

- Redistricting Reminders
- NWA Study Tours
- **Multi-Modal Guidelines**
- **Model UDO Update**



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REDISTRICTING

Maps out for review:

- Alexander
- Guy
- Lonoke
- Wrightsville



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NWA STUDY TOUR

- 2-day tours, flexible scheduling, up to 12 participants
- City's cost share: \$471 + 1-night hotel stay
- City staff & officials, Chamber of Commerce, community developers, real estate developers, school administrators, civil engineers, anyone interested in understanding how to execute and implement bike infrastructure and related culture.



MULTIMODAL INFRASTRUCTURE GUIDELINES

TOWN MAIN STREET

SAFETY + ACCESSIBILITY

As the center of activity for many small communities, Town Main Street corridors experience relatively high volumes of vehicular traffic, comprised of both through trips and local trips. Because the destinations found along Town Main Street corridors are attractive to all age groups, design features should encourage low vehicle speeds, including the use of travel lanes no wider than 11', on-street parking, curb extensions, crossing islands, and tree canopies. At complex or simply busy intersections, treatments should provide clear priority and sight lines for people who are walking, riding bicycles, accessing transit or using other micromobility modes.

PICKUP AND DROPOFF ZONES

Accessible parking and loading spaces should be designated near key destinations. Loading zones should be located every block where on-street parking is present. Loading zones should be designed to

IC7

CURB RAMPS

Curb ramps that are perpendicular to crosswalks should be provided along every leg of intersecting streets.

IC2

DAYLIGHTING

On-street parking should be prohibited in proximity to intersections and driveways to provide clear sightlines and ensure people in crosswalks are visible to drivers.



IC10

DRIVEWAY CROSSINGS

IC8

RAISED CROSSINGS

SIDEWALK LIGHTING

- Training at Oct. 27 Board Meeting
- Potential application to Master Street Plan



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MODEL UDO UPDATE

- Article 5 (Subdivision) included in draft
- Review meeting following this meeting
(stay on same Zoom)



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**NEXT SCC MEETING:
WED, NOV 17, 2021 @ 9AM**

MONTHLY MODEL UDO WORKSHOPS

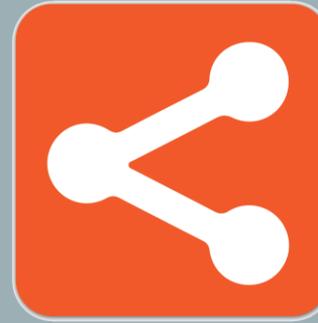
- 9:00 am before every Board meeting
(even months) – Wed, Oct. 27
- 10:00 am following every SCC meeting
(odd months) – Wed, Nov. 17
- Individually with cities/planning commissions
- *Mayor, city council, planning commission, key personnel*



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 - ❖ Shareworthy
7. Adjourn



SHARE-WORTHY

'Safe System' infrastructure approach could cut traffic deaths

www.smartcitiesdive.com/news/safe-system-infrastructure-approach-could-cut-traffic-deaths-experts-say/600235/

Systematic Safety: The Principles Behind Vision Zero

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5aNtsVvNYKE>



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THANK YOU!

Contacts:

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