

## Methodology for Incorporated Place Population Forecasts

In the development of the population forecast for incorporated places in the Central Arizona Governments' (CAG) region, the population was first determined for the forecast years 2020, 2030, and 2040. Linear growth was then assumed for each interim year. The process for determining the forecast year populations was slightly different for Pinal County and Gila County due to the different type of data available for analysis.

In Pinal County, Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) used the AZ Smart model to develop population projections at the traffic analysis zone (TAZ) level for the Years 2020, 2030 and 2040. Those projections were then aggregated to determine the total population for each community's municipal planning area (MPA). These numbers were then reviewed and approved, with slight alterations by the planning staff of each community as well as the various CAG committees to approve the numbers for each MPA. MAG then made additional alterations to the approved MPA forecasts after speaking to its member agencies, which resulted in a slightly different allocation of populations among the MPAs. Following reallocation of the population among the MPAs, they provided population forecasts for the incorporated places. Because these estimates for incorporated places were based on MAG's revised MPA population forecasts, and not the MPA forecasts already approved by the CAG member agencies, it was necessary to adjust the estimates for incorporated places to reflect the MPA population levels previously approved. The population forecasts for each incorporated place were proportionally based on the ratio between the approved MPA population totals and MAG's modified MPA population totals. For example, if MPA X had 50,000 people in the approved MPA forecast and it had 60,000 people in MAG's adjusted MPA forecast, the corresponding incorporated place population of 30,000 people was scaled back to 25,000 people using the same 5/6 ratio. This was done for all three forecast years for every MPA.

In Gila County there was a meeting held with the managers of all of the incorporated places to determine the best way to allocate the population growth in Gila County. This was necessary because the population forecasts from previous studies suggested higher growth than the ADOA projections for Gila County. Based on the chosen method, Globe received all of the growth predicted in the most recent PARA Study and the remainder of the county grew in the same ratio that was established in the Gila County SATS. These studies only went through year 2030, however, the growth ratios were carried through to 2040.