



DRAFT

GROWTH IN THE RAPID CITY REGION

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

JULY 6, 2005

RAPID CITY AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

LSA
LSA ASSOCIATES, INC.

POPULATION AND EMPLOYMENT GROWTH

Population and employment growth are invariably expected to continue increasing both inside and outside of the Rapid City Metropolitan Planning Area as we move into the future. Since demographic activity forms the basis for travel demand, new growth will spur the need for additional transportation facilities and services. In effect, these internal and external demands for travel within the Rapid City region provide the impetus for developing the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Population

The Rapid City Metropolitan Planning Area includes 269 square miles within Pennington County and 144 square miles in the southern portion of Meade County. Neither county is entirely within the MPO planning area.

Historical population growth trends for Rapid City and Pennington and Meade Counties are shown in Table 1. These figures are based on U.S. Census data. As the table indicates, the areas in and around the Rapid City planning area have experienced steady growth for decades.

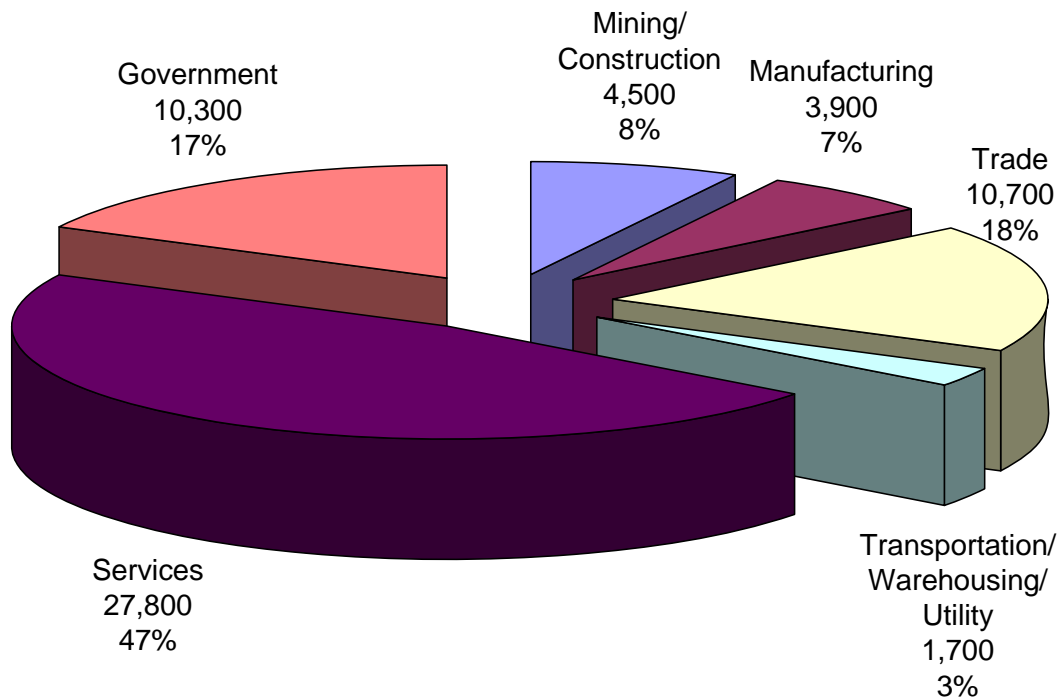
**Table 1
Historic Population Growth**

Year	Rapid City	Pennington County	Meade County
1940	13,844	23,799	9,735
1950	25,310	34,053	11,516
1960	42,399	58,195	12,044
1970	43,836	59,349	16,618
1980	46,492	70,361	20,717
1990	54,523	81,343	21,878
2000	59,607	88,565	24,253
Annual Growth Rate (1940 to 2000)	2.5%/year	2.2%/year	1.5%/year
Annual Growth Rate (1990 to 2000)	0.9%/year	0.9%/year	1.0%/year

Employment

Employment estimates for the Rapid City area are more difficult to come by because this information is not collected as part of the U.S. Census. However, the South Dakota Department of Labor and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics provide estimates of workers for the Rapid City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes all of Pennington and Meade Counties. These estimates are prepared to identify workers covered by unemployment insurance and to determine the number of workers and annual pay information. According to this data source, there are approximately 58,900 non-farm wage and salaried workers in the Rapid City MSA as of April 1, 2005. Figure 1 shows the industries in which these workers are employed.

Figure 1
2005 Workers by Industry in the Rapid City MSA



FUTURE GROWTH

Demographic growth projections were developed by the Rapid City Area MPO based on the *Rapid City Area Future Land Use Plan*, adopted Neighborhood Future Land Use Plans, and the South Dakota State Data Center. These growth plans consider historic trends, changing demographic characteristics such as the aging of the population, economic factors, land use and zoning designations, and other information related to growth planning.

Future Households

The *Rapid City Area Future Land Use Plan* defines sixteen Neighborhood Study Areas that comprise the Metropolitan Planning Area, as shown in Figure 2. Household data was estimated and forecasted for each of these study areas based on existing development, land use designations, infrastructure development costs, and other factors. Households, instead of population, are used in the regional travel model, so households have been forecasted. Table 2 identifies the year 2000 and projected 2030 household estimates for each neighborhood study area. Figure 3 maps the distribution of existing and forecasted households.

Figure 2
Neighborhood Study Areas in the Rapid City
Metropolitan Planning Area

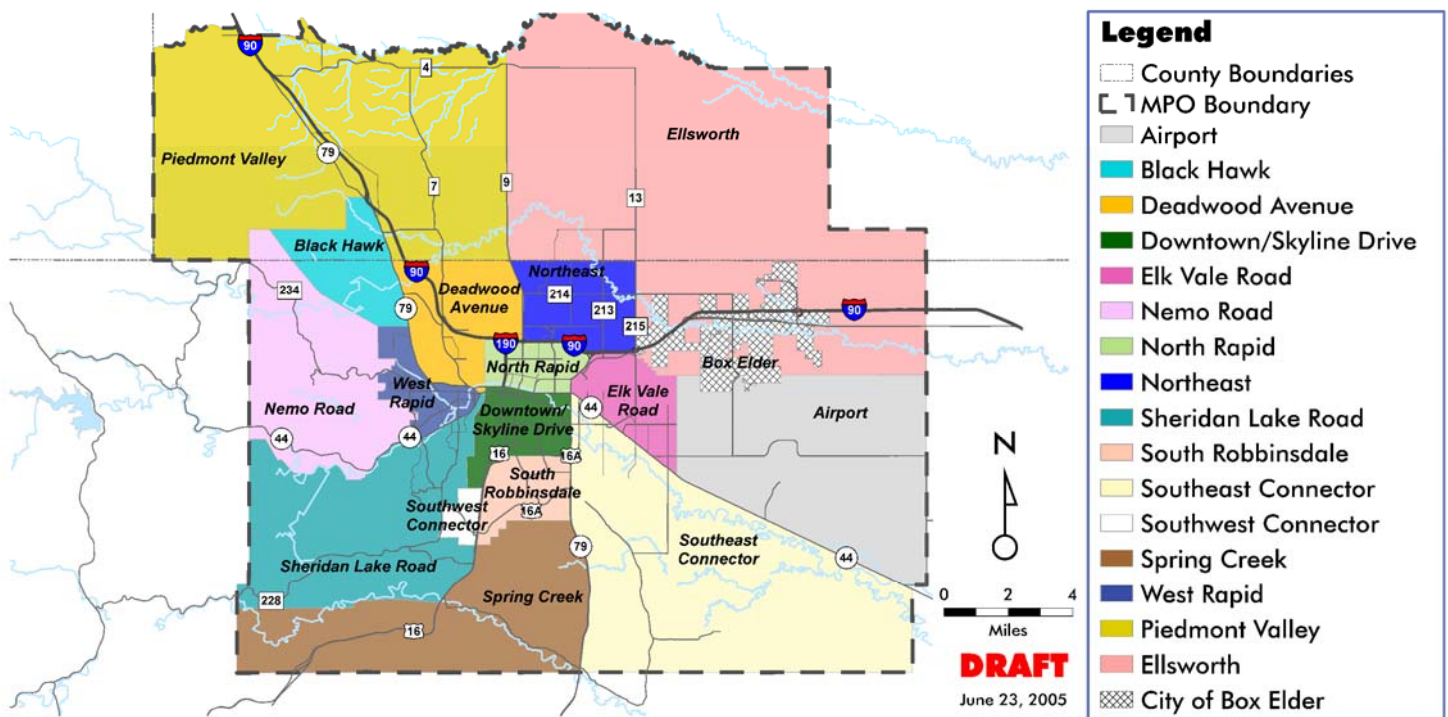


Table 2
Existing and Projected Households

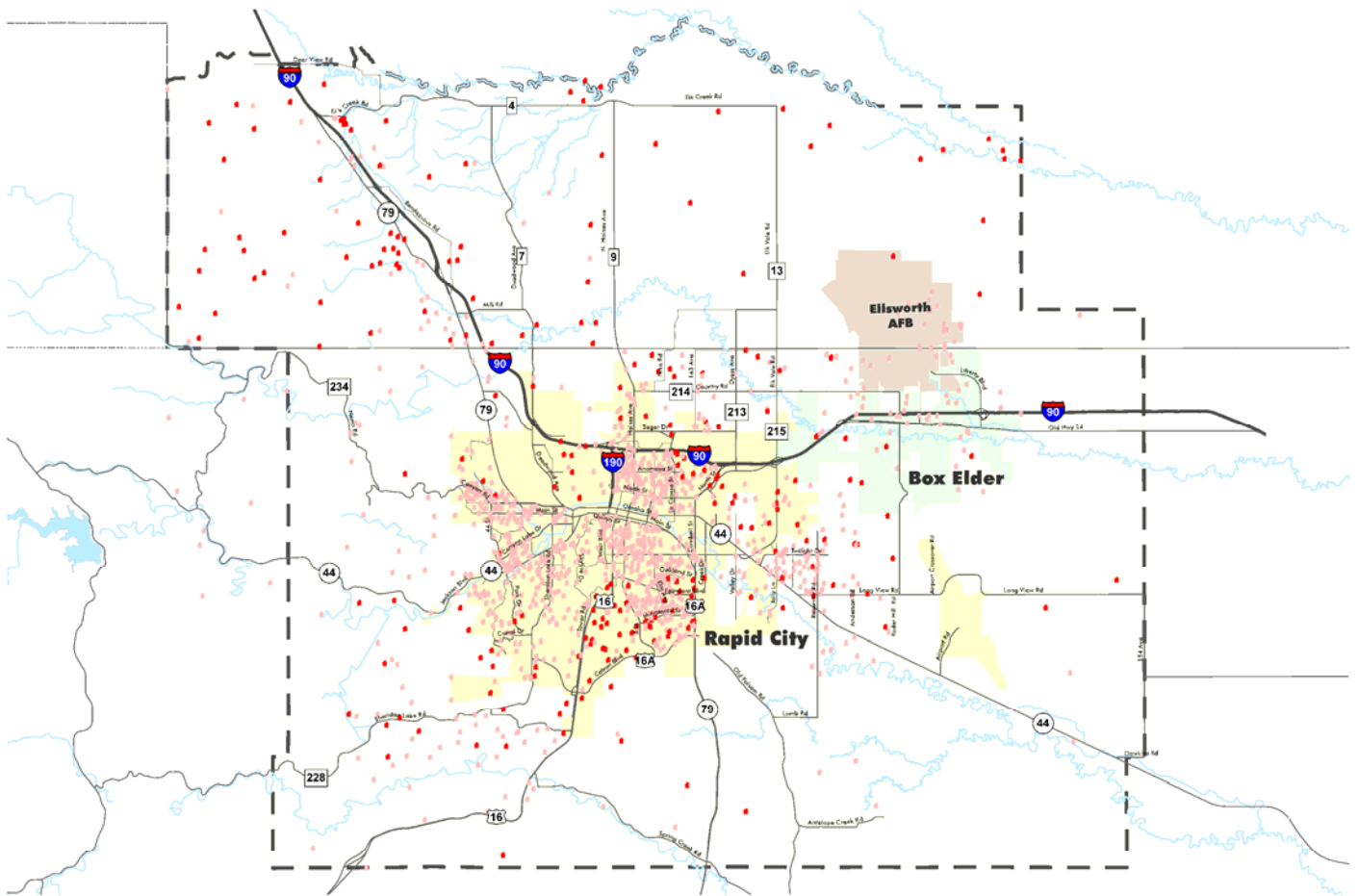
Neighborhood	2000 Households	2030 Households	Average Annual Growth Rate
Airport	498	961	2.2%
Black Hawk	261	355	0.8%
Deadwood Avenue	948	1,501	1.5%
Downtown/Skyline	5,930	6,829	0.5%
Elk Vale	2,341	3,524	1.4%
Nemo Road	308	385	0.7%
Northeast	582	1,461	3.1%
North Rapid	5,257	6,086	0.5%
Sheridan Lake Road	4,603	5,919	0.8%
South Robbinsdale	2,821	5,050	2.0%
Southeast Connector	1,060	1,437	1.0%
Southwest Connector	340	794	2.9%
Spring Creek	66	198	3.7%
West Rapid	4,349	4,650	0.2%
Piedmont Valley	2,450	5,321	2.6%
Ellsworth	2,844	3,801	1.3%
Total	35,047	49,116	1.1%

Future Employment

Employment growth was similarly projected in the neighborhood study areas for four industry categories – retail, service, industrial, and public. The regional travel demand model assigns different trip generation rates to each industry. For example, retail jobs attract significantly higher amounts of trips than industrial or service jobs. Table 3 shows the current and future employment totals for each neighborhood study area; and 2030 employment is also displayed by industry.

Figure 4 maps the distribution of existing and future employment. At the time the 2030 LRTP was prepared, detailed employment data and land use plans did not exist for the Meade County portions of the Metropolitan Planning Area.

Figure 3
Existing and Projected Households



Legend

- T MPO Boundary
- County Boundaries
- Rapid City
- Box Elder
- Ellsworth AFB
- 50 Existing Households
- 50 New Households



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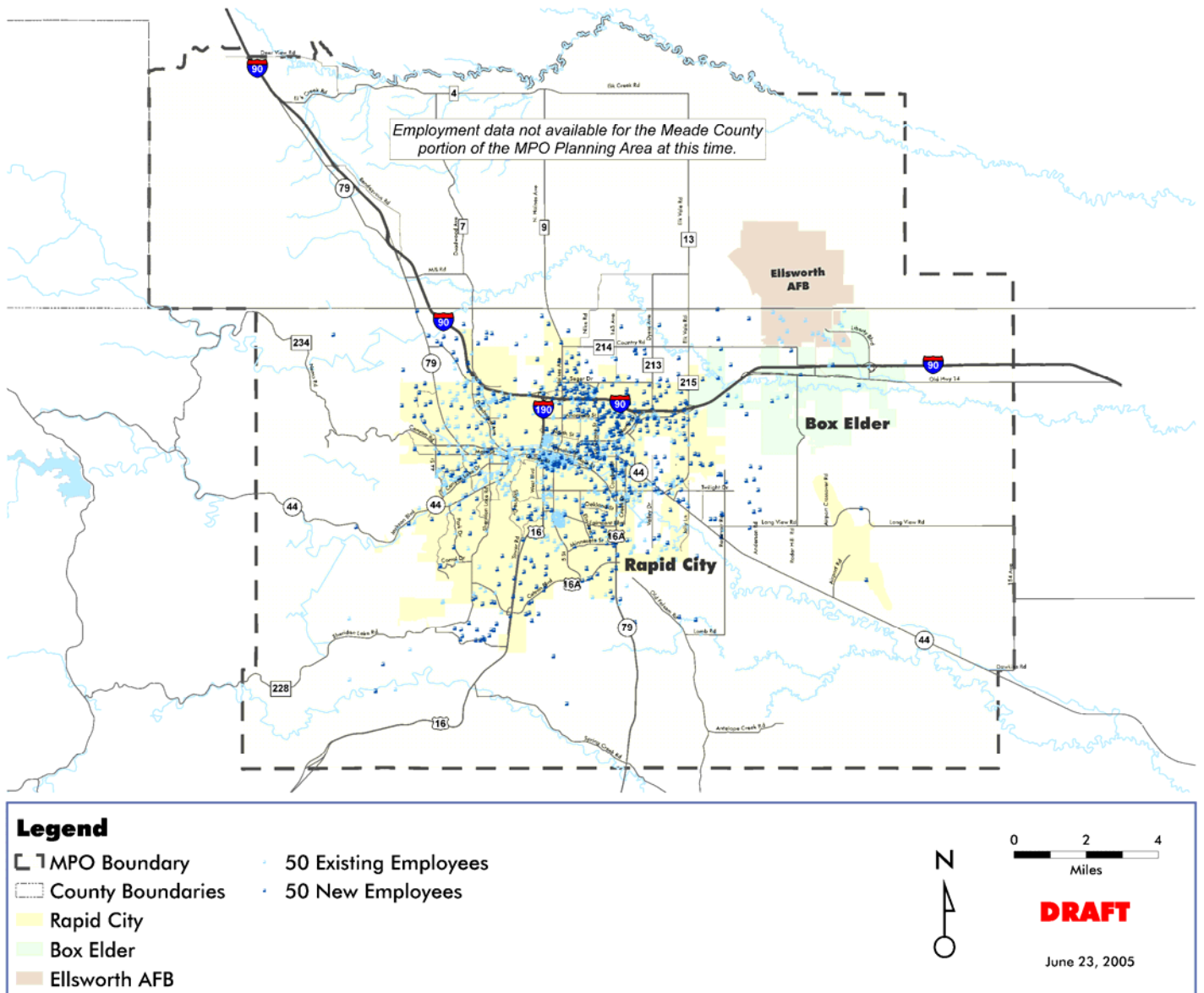
June 23, 2005

Table 3
Existing and Projected Employment
(Pennington County portion of MPO Only)

Neighborhood*	2000 Total Employment	2030 Total Employment	Annual Growth Rate (2000 to 2030)	2030 Employment by Industry			
				Retail	Service	Industrial	Public
Airport	34	211	6.3%	18	47	35	111
Black Hawk	6	84	9.2%	58	26	0	0
Deadwood Avenue	4,447	7,165	1.6%	2,449	1,777	2,891	48
Downtown/Skyline	10,895	13,512	0.7%	5,095	5,098	728	2,591
Elk Vale	2,093	6,023	3.6%	2,157	1,449	1,677	740
Nemo Road	46	105	2.8%	51	22	0	32
Northeast	1,340	5,757	5.0%	3,655	304	1,660	138
North Rapid	5,611	10,685	2.2%	5,913	1,381	1,238	2,153
Sheridan Lake Road	1,214	1,792	1.3%	838	516	9	429
South Robbinsdale	1,053	3,143	3.7%	1,068	1,264	433	378
Southeast Connector	3,237	5,286	1.6%	1,498	925	2,751	112
Southwest Connector	335	1,512	5.2%	636	384	364	128
Spring Creek	4	103	11.4%	40	26	37	0
West Rapid	4,796	5,939	0.7%	1,496	2,401	176	1,866
Piedmont Valley	Not in Pennington County						
Ellsworth*	1,312	1,959	1.3%	628	374	377	580
Total	36,423	63,276	1.9%	25,600	15,994	12,376	9,306

* Pennington County portion only – Meade County figures not available.

Figure 4
Existing and Projected Employment



Ellsworth Air Force Base

The 2030 socioeconomic assumptions that drive the analysis for the LRTP's development assume activity at Ellsworth Air Force Base (AFB) in the year 2030. The projections in the socioeconomic dataset are based on current and forecasted activity with the facility operating as a military base. If the base closes in the coming years, it is likely that redevelopment will occur and new activities will generate travel demand that will need to be served with improved transportation facilities and services.

It is not possible to determine if the 2030 assumptions for Ellsworth are realistic until the base closing process is resolved and, if applicable, a redevelopment plan is prepared. The regional long-range transportation planning process requires that the LRTP be updated at least every 5 years, so it has a built-in mechanism to allow for updated socioeconomic assumptions and other changes. In addition, the process allows for amendments to the LRTP during its 5-year life.