Memorandum

DATE: May 7, 2024
TO: Victoria MPO
CC:
FROM: ATG|DCCM
RE: Demographic Growth Analysis

The Victoria Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) planning area is comprised of all of Victoria County. This is also the extent of the Move Victoria 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, since the MPO is responsible for transportation planning within this area. This memo will examine current and forecasted population and employment trends in order to inform where future transportation investments may be necessary.

Current Population and Employment Trends

A major component of identifying transportation needs is creating an in-depth understanding of the current population and employment trends occurring in the region. Land use patterns and demographic trends directly influence which modes of travel people choose to use. In areas where development is spread out and land uses are separated, people will be more likely to use personal automobiles and travel further distances throughout the day. Inversely, areas with dense, mixed-use development typically have shorter trips and higher utilization of alternative modes of transportation, such as transit, cycling, and walking. In order to assess the transportation needs of the Victoria planning area, the project team first considered where areas of high employment and population totals are located within the region.

The recently updated Victoria MPO Travel Demand Model (TDM), as developed by TxDOT and the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), was used to represent existing conditions and projected future conditions in the study area by Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZs). TDM data for total population and employment was normalized by area in square miles to allow for comparison of densities between TAZs.

Population

The city of Victoria, Texas makes up the urban core of the planning area. There are also smaller communities in the county, such as Quail Creek, Inez, and Bloomington. Figure 1 below shows that most of the study area has a low population density, especially the northernmost and southernmost TAZs. Despite the rural and sparse nature of the county, there are some areas that contain higher concentrations of people. The TAZs within and surrounding the city of Victoria have the highest population densities, at over 2,000 people/square mile. Other clusters of higher population density are near Quail Creek, Bloomington, Placedo, and Telferner.

Figure 1: 2022 Population Density

Legend

Victoria County

2022 Population Density (People/Sq mi)

≤ 20

21 - 100
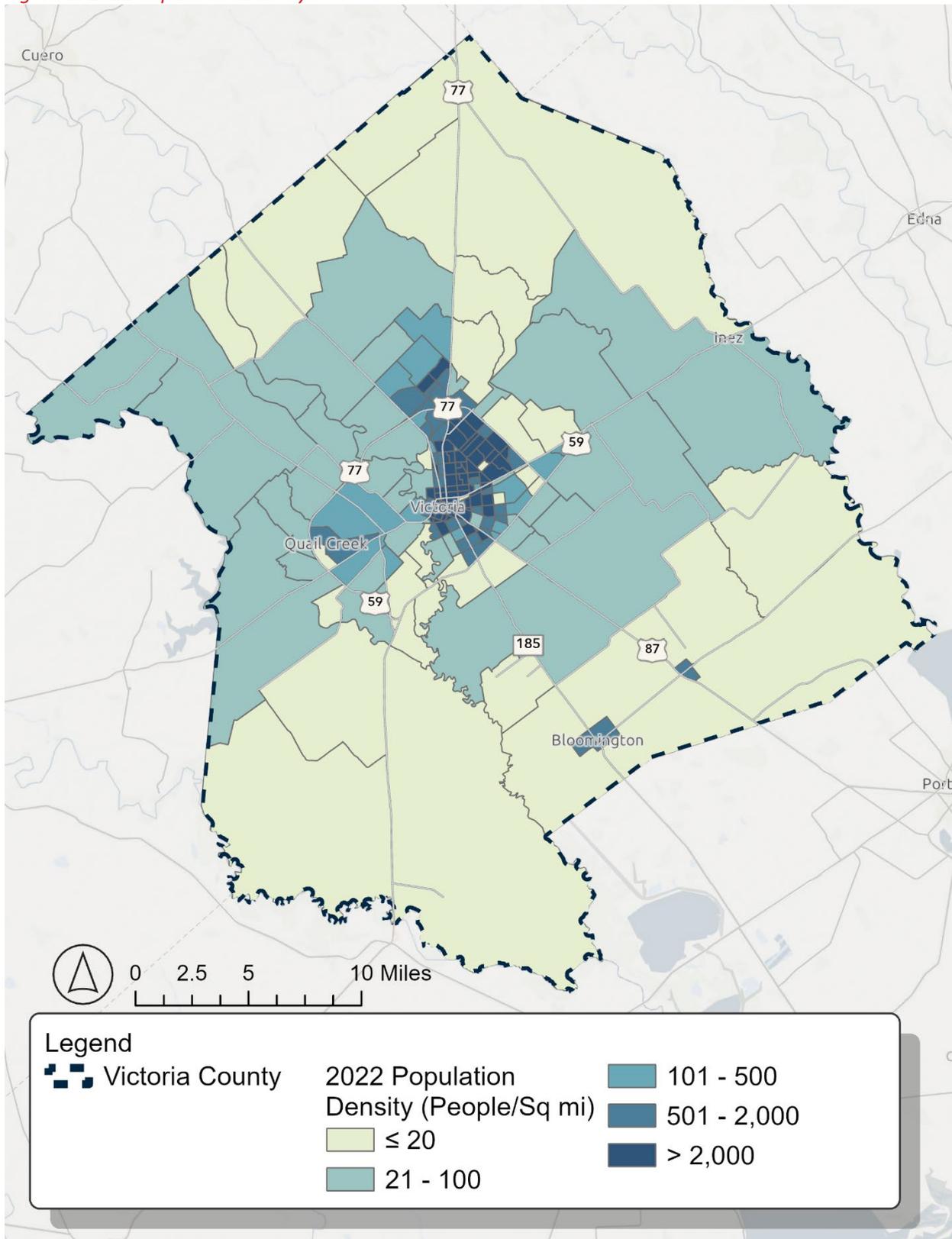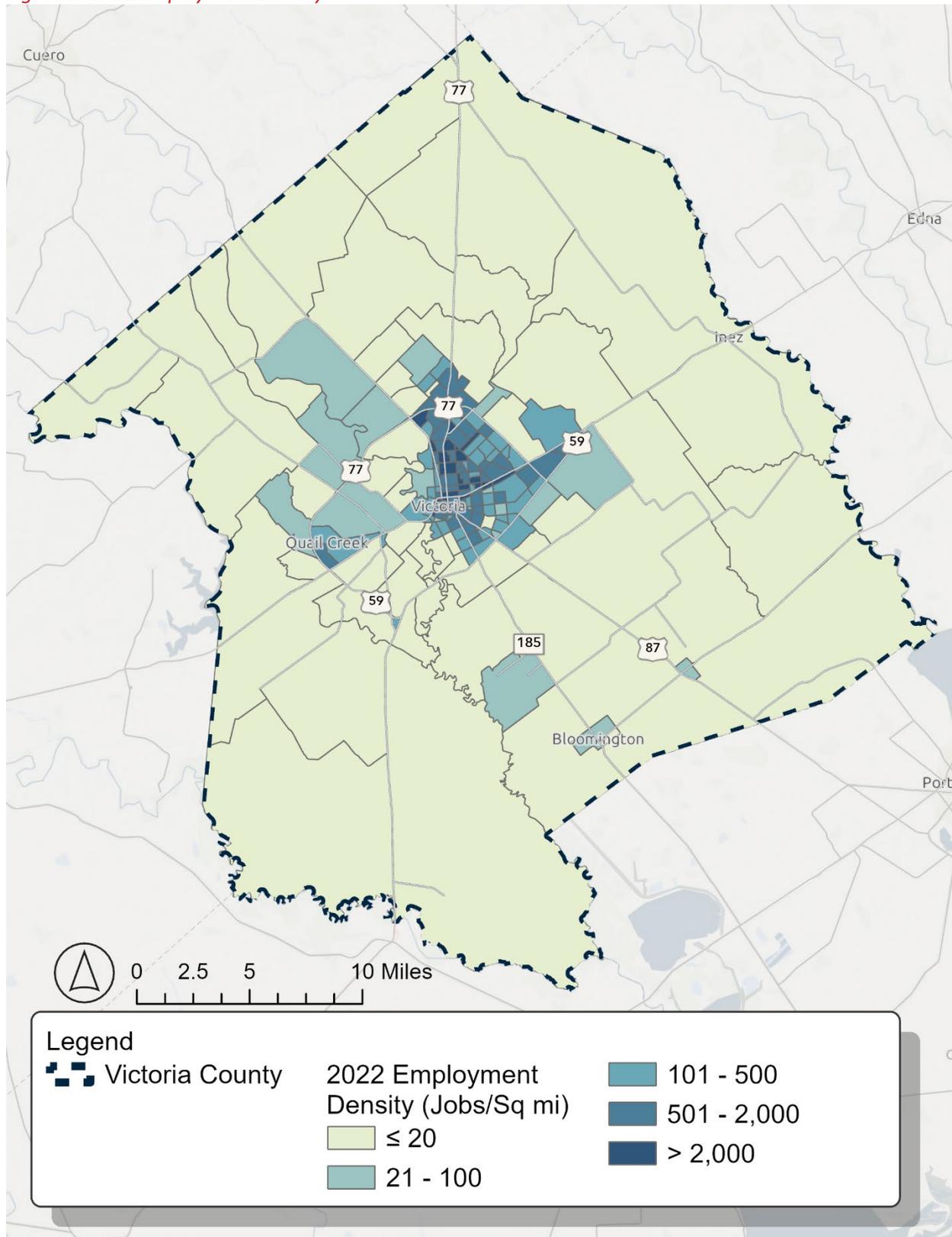
101 - 500

501 - 2,000

> 2,000

Figure 2 shows the employment density by TAZ for 2022. Like population, employment density in 2022 is concentrated centrally, with the TAZs within and around the city of Victoria having the highest number of jobs per square mile. Some of these central TAZs have a density equal to 2,000 or more jobs per square mile. In addition, several TAZs that border a major corridor have higher concentrations of employment density. For example, TAZs that are along US 87 northwest of Victoria, US 77, or US 59 around Victoria, and near the Port of Victoria all have up to 100 jobs per square mile.

Figure 2: 2022 Employment Density

Legend

Victoria County

2022 Employment Density (Jobs/Sq mi)
- ≤ 20
- 21 - 100
- 101 - 500
- 501 - 2,000
- > 2,000

0   2.5   5   10 Miles

Future Conditions

Future conditions, as projected by the TDM, show that population and employment patterns will continue to be concentrated centrally and along major corridors. Figure 3 shows the projected population density for 2050. A few TAZs show growth in population density from that of 2022, primarily within Victoria City limits, south of Quail Creek, and the west half of Bloomington.

Figure 4 shows employment density that can be expected in 2050. According to the TDM projections, several of the western TAZs will see growth in employment.
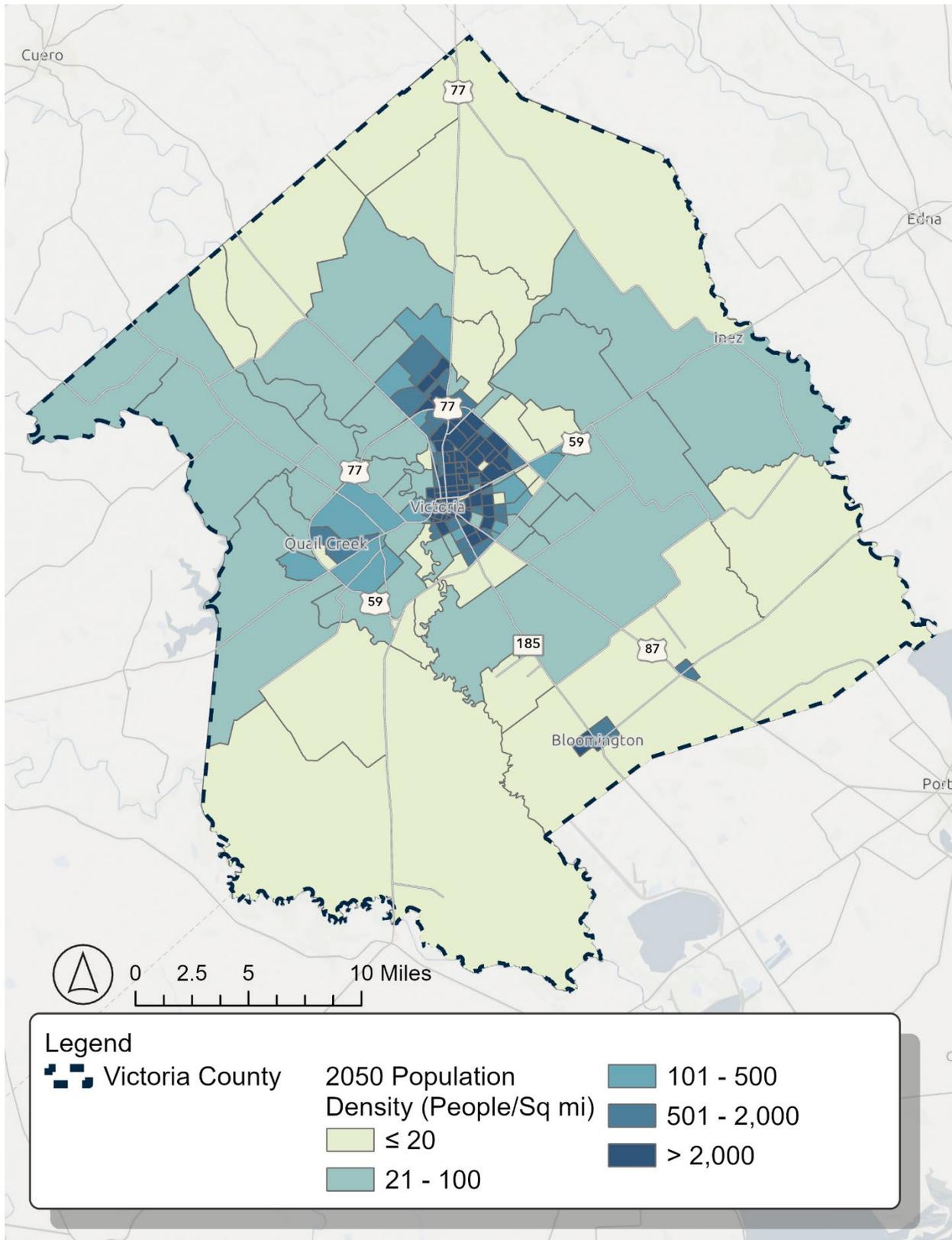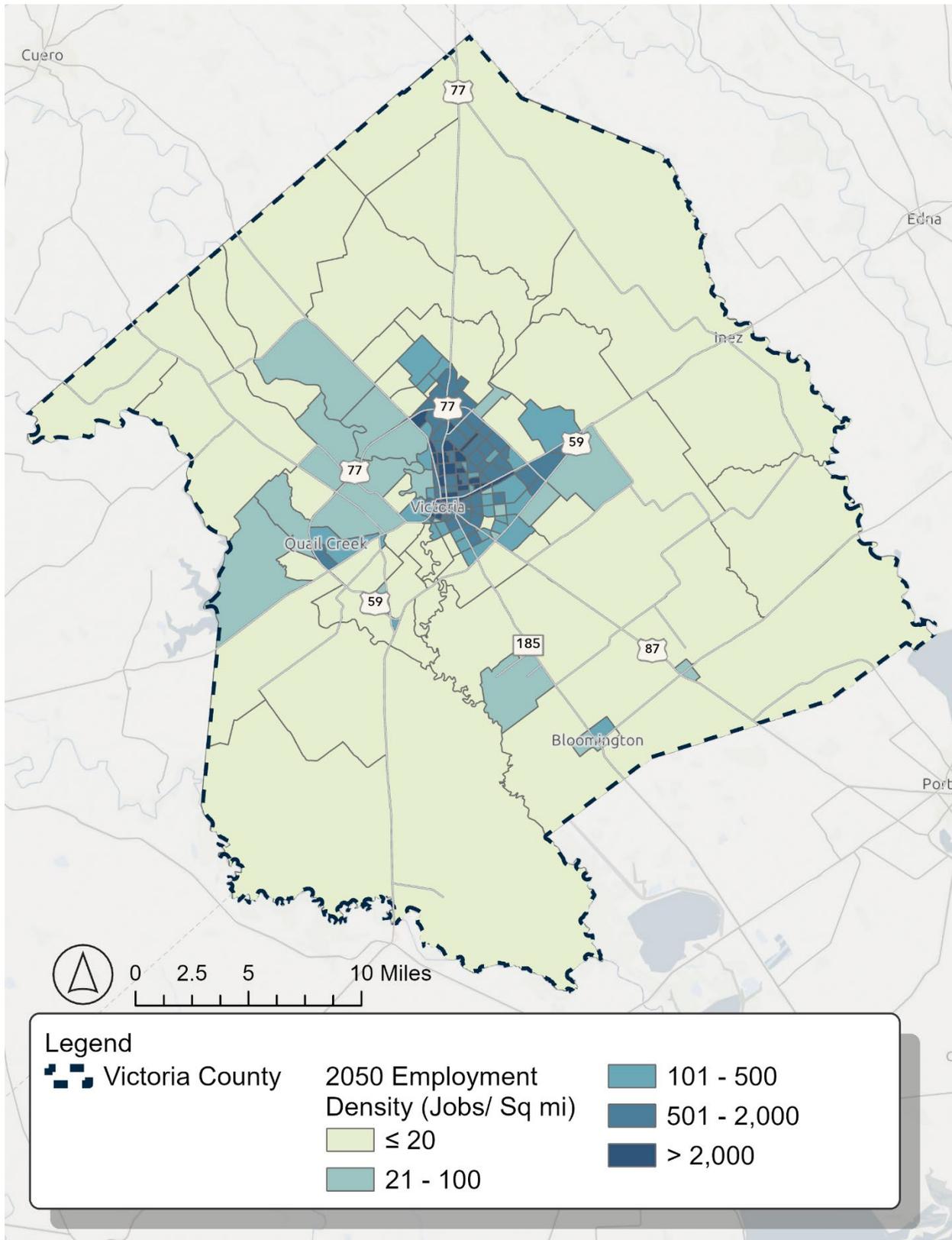
Figure 3: 2050 Population Density

Legend

Victoria County

2050 Population Density (People/Sq mi)

≤ 20

21 - 100

101 - 500

501 - 2,000

> 2,000

Figure 4: 2050 Employment Density

Legend

Victoria County

2050 Employment Density (Jobs/ Sq mi)
- ≤ 20
- 21 - 100
- 101 - 500
- 501 - 2,000
- > 2,000

Change Over Time

Table 1 provides the total number of people and jobs for 2022 and 2050, along with the percent change that is projected over time. Figure 5 below illustrates the change that can be expected from 2022 to 2050 for both employment and population densities. The northernmost, southernmost, and easternmost portions of the study area all have very minimal or no expected increases in either category (represented by grey TAZs). TAZs with an increase in population per square mile are shown in blue, while those with an increase in jobs per square mile are shown in red. The TAZs with an increase in both population and employment density are shown in purple. The darker the TAZ color, the larger the increase over the time period.

Figure 5 and Table 1 help to summarize how conditions can be expected to change over the Move Victoria 2050 planning horizon. From now to 2050, the study area will experience growth in employment and population. Most of this growth will occur within the city of Victoria, with a mixture of growth along major corridors and the central portion of the county as well.

Table 1: Total Population and Employment, 2022 and 2050

Year	Population	Growth	Employment	Growth
2022	92,185	-	38,267	-
2050	106,365	+15.4%	47,107	+23.1%

Figure 5: Change in Population and Employment Densities 2022 to 2050