Chapter 4. Growth in the County

Existing Land Uses & Demographics

Based on the latest US Census Bureau Decennial Survey (2020), El Paso County is Colorado's most populous county, with a population of 730,395. Incorporated communities represent two thirds of the county population, with the remaining third living in unincorporated areas of the county. The State Demographer's Office projects the County to grow at an annual rate of 1.15 percent over the next 10 years. The MTCP model, which aligns with the Master Plan, projects the unincorporated growth to to be more than double the growth in the County's incorporated areas for the next 10 years. Overall population is expected to grow to close to a million by year 2050.

Household, employment and population growth is anticipated between 2018 and 2050, with over 250,000 residents, 175,000 jobs and over 90,000 households being added to the county. With five military installations, the U.S. military continues to employ more than 25 percent of the county's workforce. This number includes 57,000 military personnel and civilian contractors employed by the Department of Defense and 50,000 indirect and induced jobs.

Demographics

Based on US Census Bureau data, a detailed demographic assessment was performed to understand the composition of El Paso County residents. This assessment is key for understanding the use of the transportation system and where new and/or improved transportation facilities and services may be needed. In addition, vulnerable populations are important to consider when analyzing county-wide demographics because they may have unique transportation needs compared to other groups. Table 2 provides an overview of the County's vulnerable populations, which includes older adults (65 and older), youth (younger than 15), people with disabilities, minorities, low-income populations, and zero-vehicle households.

Population Fast Facts

730,395
residents in El Paso County

Source: US Census Bureau Decennial Survey (2020)

Population Count | 400,000 | 800,000

498,373
(incorporated communities)

232,022
(unincorporated communities)

1.15%
Population growth over the next 10 years

Nearly 1 million
residents by 2050, adding approximately 256,000 residents

Employment Fast Facts

425,447
jobs in El Paso County (2018)

600,025
jobs in El Paso County by 2050

Households Fast Facts

260,851
households in El Paso County

Source: Your El Paso Master Plan

Military Fast Facts

107,000
residents employed by the US Military in El Paso County (25% of all jobs)

Source: Your El Paso Master Plan

Table 2. Vulnerable Populations

Older Adults (65 and older) 13% of residents	A growing interest in independent living among older adults and providing services and amenities to allow older adults to age in place have increased the focus on providing more accessible transportation services to support older adult lifestyles.
Youth (younger than 15) 20% of residents	Children under the legal driving age and without a driver's license must rely on walking, biking, or those who can drive to meet their transportation needs. Additionally, safe routes to walk and bike can encourage more active lifestyles that contribute to improved health.
People with Disabilities 12% of residents	Persons with disabilities who are unable to drive must rely on other forms of transportation, such as walking, transit, paratransit or others who can drive to meet their transportation needs. Some persons with disabilities may require the use of a mobility aid (e.g., wheelchair).
Minorities 34% of residents	Minority populations have historically been underserved communities throughout the United States.
Low-income populations 9.8% of residents	Low-income populations often have limited financial means to afford a vehicle and may rely on lower-cost transportation options such as walking, biking, transit or carpooling with others to meet their transportation needs.
Zero-vehicle households 1.4% of residents	Residents with limited or no access to a vehicle rely on others or on other transportation modes for daily trips and errands, including walking, transit, biking, or carpooling.

Land Use Forecasts

Household and employment growth tend to cause future traffic and will drive a need for new roads and improvements in future years. The MTCP uses modeling to forecast future traffic patterns, but laying a reliable foundation of how land use patterns are likely to change over time is a key step in ensuring that the future improvements suggested by the Traffic Demand Model are reasonable. For this plan, scenarios for the distribution of jobs and households in El Paso County were developed for 2020 (base year), every 5 years between 2025 and 2045, and 2065 (long range build-out).

Based on the methodology in the Technical Memorandum, **Table 3** summarizes the final population, household, and employment projections for city and county transportation analysis zones (TAZs). **Figure 17** shows the growth within the County TAZs. **Figure 18** and **Figure 19** show the forecasted household and employment, respectively, by TAZ.

Table 3. Land Use Forecasts

	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2065
City TAZs							
Population	494,190	537,361	578,218	630,547	659,673	680,603	832,125
Households	204,484	221,199	236,786	257,701	269,520	278,687	338,061
Employment	304,824	326,743	359,055	393,513	410,027	430,652	531,326
County TAZs							
Population	189,004	216,747	256,333	280,874	315,838	326,368	388,831
Households	70,294	81,893	99,024	107,663	121,178	125,521	150,791
Employment	88,651	89,606	96,398	98,093	105,227	107,510	122,590
Total							
Population	683,194	754,108	834,551	911,421	975,511	1,006,971	1,220,956
Households	274,778	303,092	335,810	365,364	390,698	404,208	488,852
Employment	393,475	416,349	455,453	491,606	515,254	538,162	653,916

Figure 17. County TAZ Land Use Forecasts
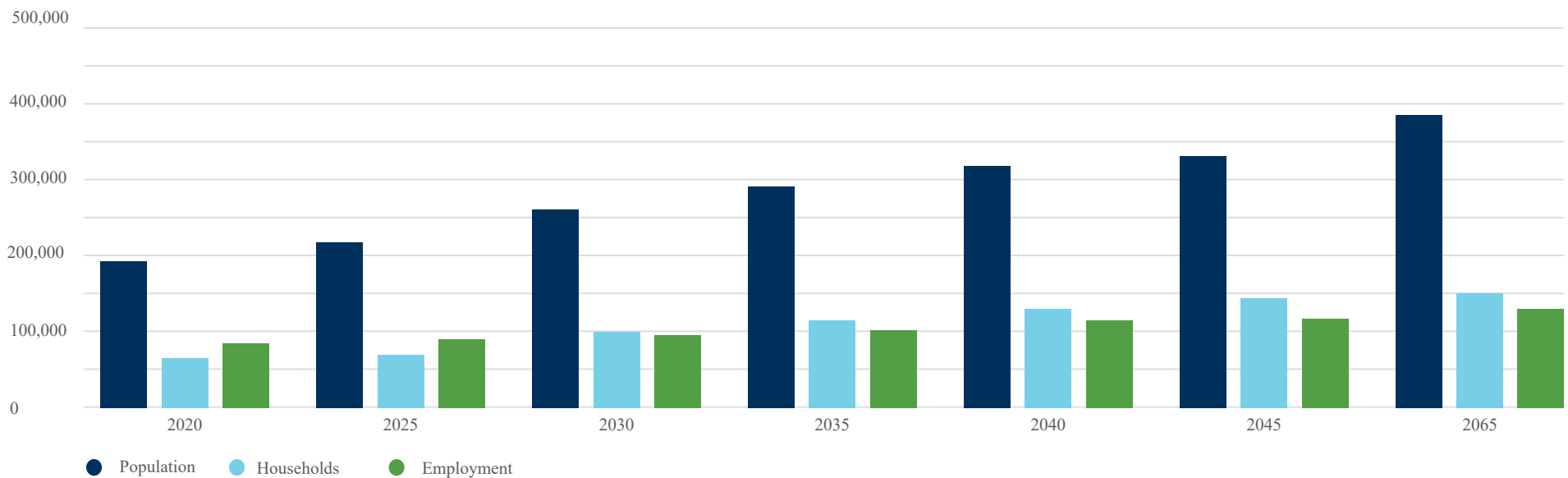
Figure 18. Household Growth Estimates

Legend

2045 Households by TAZ

- 0 - 250 Households
- 251 - 700 Households
- 701 - 1,500 Households
- 1,501 - 3,200 Households
- 3,201 - 7,400 Households
- Greater Than 7,400 Households
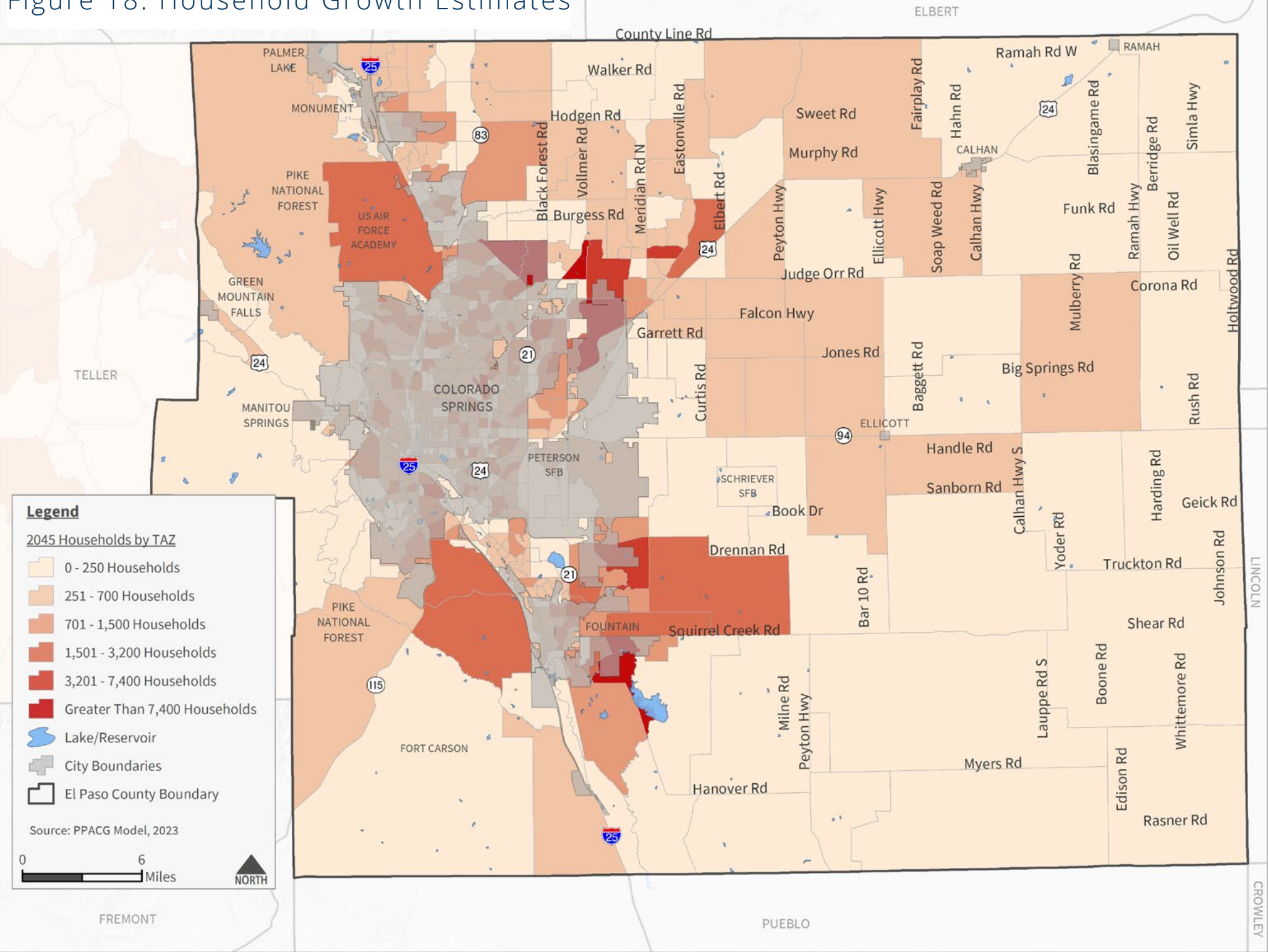- Lake/Reservoir
- City Boundaries
- El Paso County Boundary

Source: PPACG Model, 2023

Figure 19. Employment Growth Estimates

Legend

2045 Employment by TAZ

- 0 - 150 Jobs
- 151 - 400 Jobs
- 401 - 750 Jobs
- 751 - 1,400 Jobs
- 1,401 - 2,900 Jobs
- Greater Than 2,900 Jobs
- Lake/Reservoir
- City Boundaries
- El Paso County Boundary

Source: PPACG Model, 2023

0   6 Miles

NORTH