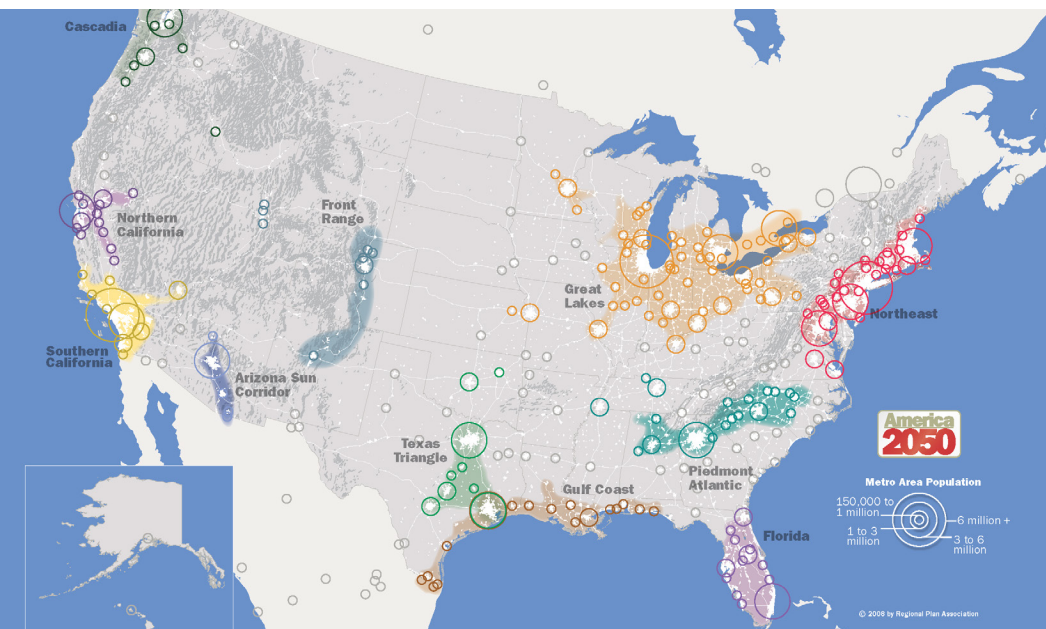


# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - *updated FEBRUARY 2019*

USDOT Tier-1 University Transportation Center



Mega-Travel in Megaregions: An Update on Growth Trends and Research Needs (#CM2-29)

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Project Information Form:

<http://sites.utexas.edu/cm2/files/2018/03/Year-2-Dean-Frederick-Steiner-Robert-Yaro-and-Ming-Zhang-Mega-Travel.pdf>

## MEGAREGIONS TRENDS AND RESEARCH

### AN UPDATE

Over a decade ago a team of faculty and students from University of Pennsylvania—along with their collaborators from the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy—studied spatial trends of demographic and economic growth in the US and identified eleven emerging megaregions in the US continent (RPA 2006). Since the publication of the Penn study (Carbonell and Yaro 2005, RPA 2006), the megaregion phenomenon has gained ever-increasing attention from academia, public agencies, and NGOs.

Over the past twelve years however there have been important changes in the economic and political environment, both globally and in the US domestically. Information technologies have also advanced quickly, affecting every aspect of transportation. Given these new trends of the past twelve years, it is necessary to update the information and knowledge base for megaregions, re-assess research needs, and contemplate needed institutional and technical innovations to meet the new challenges.

This project updates the knowledge base on megaregions. Building on prior research, the project plans to carry out seven tasks. Task 1 aims at refining the conceptual definition of megaregions and developing a framework for mega-regional coordination, planning, and policy making, with a focus on transportation. Task 2 and 3 examine the demographic and economic trends, respectively, and study the travel demand implications of these trends. Task 4 focuses on technological innovations and applications. Task 5 investigates the spatial dimension of the socioeconomic and demographic trends in megaregions. Task 6 conducts a survey of MPOs and state DOTs in the US megaregions, asking for their concerns and input on cross-jurisdictional transportation issues. Task 7 proposes a research agenda for megaregions based on the analyses completed in previous tasks and the survey results.

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