CM²
Cooperative Mobility for
Competitive Megaregions

VIRTUALLY THERE
POTENTIAL OF TELECONFERENCE TO REDUCE TRAVEL WITHIN AND BETWEEN MEGAREGIONS IN THE AFTERMATH OF A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

The high demand for travel in megaregions leads to high delay as well as a general lack of predictability in travel times. To what extent could teleconference serve as a travel demand management strategy for intercity travel? Such a replacement would not only have system wide delay reduction benefits, but also environmental benefits from the perspective of institutions (i.e. 20% of UPenn's Carbon Footprint is faculty and staff intercity travel)

Towards understanding the extent to which teleconferencing could replace some intercity travel and travel through and within megaregions, the study takes a mixed methods approach. The study focuses on a single category of institutions – Universities across selected megaregions – and interview a diverse and representative sample of faculty and staff on their actions and thoughts on their cancelled travel during the COVID-19 Travel Bans instituted at Universities. This information is used to estimate the quantity and characteristics of travel that could be reduced with teleconferencing going forward, and the environmental and delay impacts such a move could inspire.