

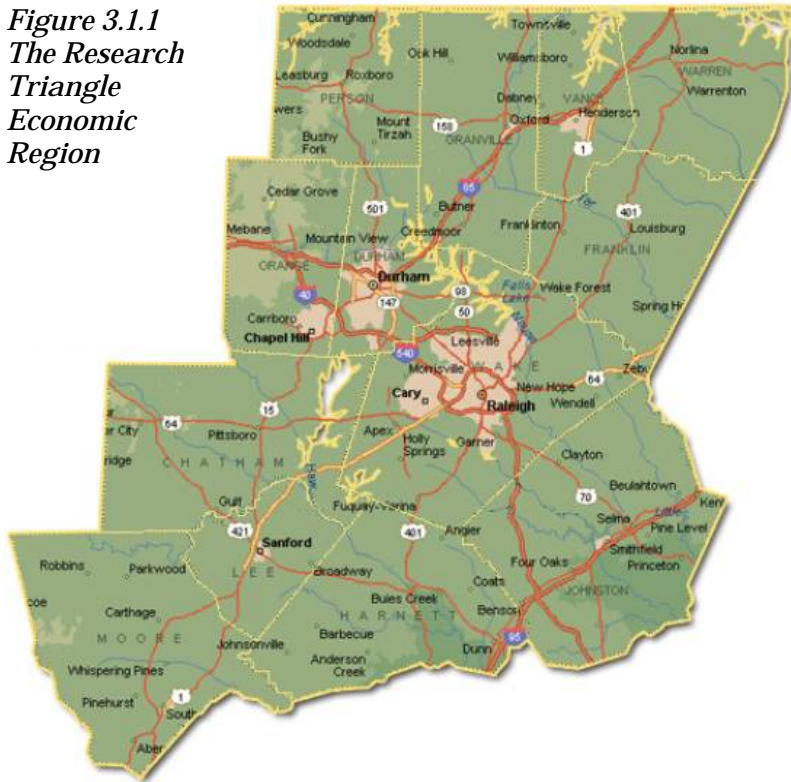
3. About Our Home

Transportation investments link people to the places where they work, learn, shop and recreate, and provide critical connections between businesses and their labor markets, suppliers and customers. So an important starting point for planning future investments is understanding the current state of our communities, and how they might change over the next generation.

3.1 Our Region

The Research Triangle is a burgeoning sunbelt metropolitan region. As defined by the census bureau, the region’s metropolitan areas cover seven counties; six that are members of one or the other MPO plus Person County. More broadly, the economic region covers 13 counties, stretching from the Virginia border on the North to Harnett, Lee and Moore counties in the south.

Figure 3.1.1
The Research Triangle Economic Region



Today, the seven metropolitan counties are home to about 1.6 million people and the 13-county economic region is home to two million people.

The Triangle Economic Region

Metropolitan Counties

Chatham	DCHC
Durham	DCHC
Franklin	CAMPO
Johnston	CAMPO
Orange	DCHC
Person	
Wake	CAMPO

Nonmetropolitan Counties

Granville	CAMPO
Harnett	CAMPO
Lee	
Moore	
Vance	
Warren	

As the MPOs plan their transportation networks, it is important to consider not only mobility within their boundaries, but also the connections to the wider economic region and other regions in North Carolina. The Triangle is one of three large, complex metro areas along North Carolina’s Piedmont Crescent, along with the Triad and Charlotte. Each of these regions has more than 1.5 million people and together, these three regions account for 46% of the state’s population, 52% of its jobs and 64% of the value of all goods and services produced in North Carolina.

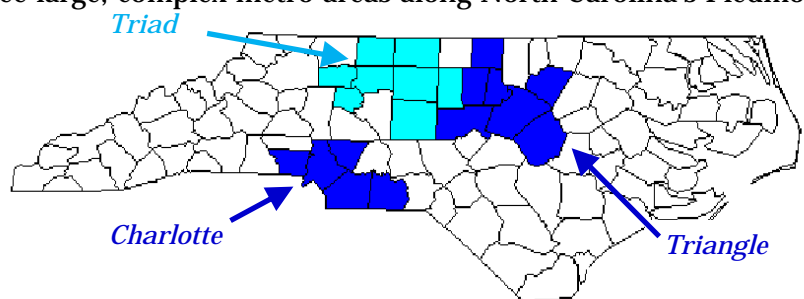


Figure 3.1.2 The “Big 3” Metro Regions