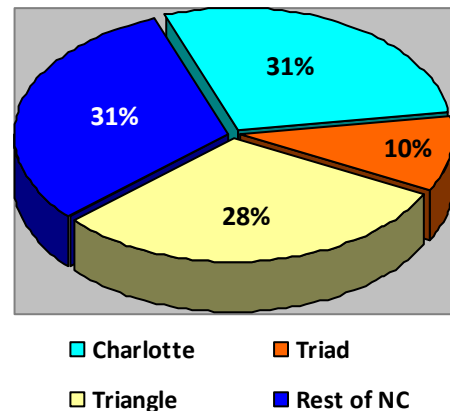


More importantly, as we consider future transportation investments, these three regions are expected to account for almost 70% of North Carolina's population growth over the next generation, with the Triangle accommodating more growth than any other region.

This rapid population growth is part of a larger national trend, where two-thirds of all population growth is expected to occur in a series of "megaregions," the fastest-growing of which are located in sunbelt areas like the Triangle. The Triangle, along with the Triad and Charlotte, are part of the Piedmont Atlantic Megaregion (PAM), stretching from Raleigh to Atlanta, and which is forecast to grow from 12.6 million people in 2000 to 19.1 million people by 2030.

Figure 3.1.3 Where Future Population Will Locate in North Carolina (2000-2030)

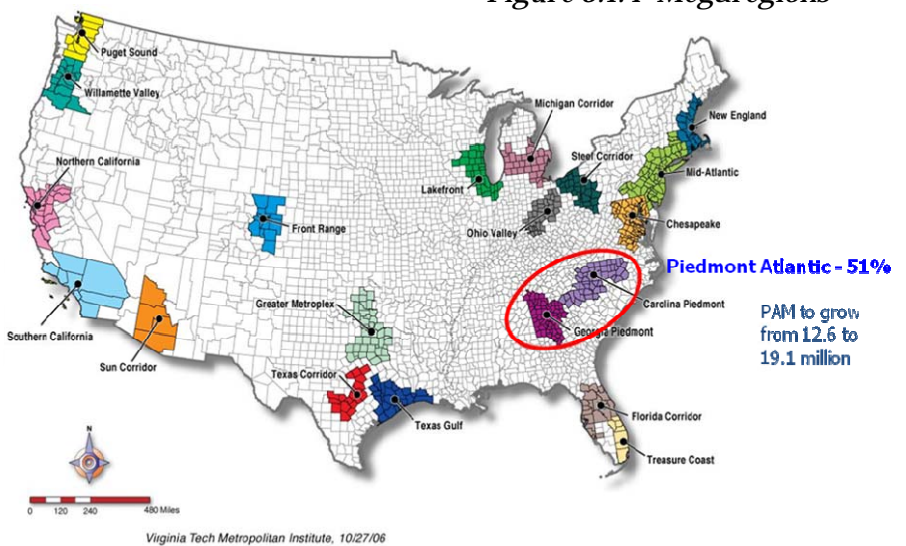


3.2 Our People

As our region has grown and as we add 1.6 million new people over the next generation, the composition of our population is changing in ways that can influence the types of transportation investments we may choose to make:

- By 2030, 15% of Triangle residents will be 65 or older, up from 9.5% in 2000.
- 32,000 households in the Triangle have no vehicle available, up from 29,000 in 2000 and 27,000 in 1990.
- We are highly mobile: 10% of households lived in a different county a year ago and another 10% changed houses within their home county.

Figure 3.1.4 Megaregions



- 370,000 households – 62% of the total – are households with only one or two people, and another 51,000 people live in group quarters such as university dormitories.
- Surveys report that 20% to 30% of households today would prefer to live in a compact, walkable neighborhood with a mix of activities, the kinds of neighborhoods that can be effectively served by transit. This would suggest that by the Year 2035, between 500,000 and 800,000 Triangle residents would select a compact, walkable, mixed-use neighborhood if that option is available for them.