Northeast Megaregion: Growth and Sustainability Challenges
A Planner’s Viewpoint

ACES, Naples, Florida, December 10, 2008
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- Environmental systems and topography
- Infrastructure systems
- Economic linkages
- Settlement patterns and land use
- Shared culture and history
Northeast Megaregion

- 18% US population
  (49.5m → 58m in 2025)
- 21% US GDP
- 2% of US land
Over 50 Years

Population + 68%

Area +311%

Density - 57%

Table 1  Population in megalopolitan urbanized areas (millions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Area*</th>
<th>Density</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Area*</th>
<th>Density</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>24.5</td>
<td>3283</td>
<td>7315</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>34.4</td>
<td>8390</td>
<td>4100</td>
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<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>29.4</td>
<td>5348</td>
<td>5285</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>36.6</td>
<td>10185</td>
<td>3590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>34.0</td>
<td>7006</td>
<td>4768</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>42.4</td>
<td>13490</td>
<td>3155</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Area in square miles.

Robert Morrill, Classic Map Updated *Professional Geographer* 58:2 (2006)
Oswald, Gayley, McNeil and Ames, Megolopolis and Transportation Corridors, University of Delaware, 2006
From Lang and Dhavale.
U.S. Growth of Driving

Growth of Urbanized Land vs. Population
**Figure 8. Nonattainment & Maintenance Areas in the United States – 8-hour Ozone Standard**

From: EPA, [http://www.epa.gov/nrtoday/airgreenbk/map8hrm.html](http://www.epa.gov/nrtoday/airgreenbk/map8hrm.html)

**States with GHG Targets**
Vast Ecosystem
1923 to 1971
2,175 miles
14 states,
250,000 acres protected
The Rail Corridor Issue

Top speed 150 mph*
Average speed 82 mph
456 miles

* France 357 mph

*Red = Bottleneck

Newark / New York
At full capacity – headways of nearly 2 minutes in peak

Metro-North
Heavy traffic; Amtrak limited to 2 slots per hour

Baltimore-Washington
Congested 2/3-track railroad

* Top speed 150 mph
* Average speed 82 mph
* 456 miles
Water Issues

CSOs

Sprawl/infiltration

Non-Point Pollution
Highlands System

4 states
3.5 million acres

Highlands Restoration Act (2004) $100 million for restoration, authorized
Highlands Planning Area
859,000 acres (1,343 sq. mi) 17% NJ
(75% undeveloped)
821,000 residents
water for 64 % of state population
88 municipalities, 7 counties
The Challenge
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