THINK GLOBAL, ACT REGIONAL

MegaRegion Symposium
Georgia Tech
Atlanta, GA
January 30, 2006
## Unparalleled Population Growth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>U.S. Total</th>
<th>Southeastern States (TN, NC, SC, GA, AL, FL)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000 actual</td>
<td>280 million</td>
<td>46.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2050 projection</td>
<td>436 million (55.7% increase)</td>
<td>82.3 million (76.7% increase)</td>
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Unparalleled Population Growth

Population Growth, centered on centers

2000 : 46,547,000 people

2050 : 82,267,000 people

Source: Woods & Poole and calculations
What is a SuperCity?

- Several independent metropolitan areas
- Connected by infrastructure
- Substantial interactions between/among areas
- Characterized by:
  - Relatively high density population and employment
  - Concentration of economic activity
What is a MegaRegion?

- The SuperCity and areas tied to the SuperCity by:
  - Natural environment
  - Flows of goods and services
  - Shared resources (water, labor, infrastructure, federal funding)
  - Social identity
  - Political boundaries
Emerging U.S. MegaRegions

Source: (Carbonell et al, 2005)
Importance of MegaRegion Concept

- Captures the economic, social, and population core for the U.S.
- Delineates the natural, economic, and social connections between cities, metropolitan areas, and rural places
- Is not new in Europe
### Comparing the U.S. and the European Union

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Land Mass</strong></td>
<td>2.9 million square miles</td>
<td>1.5 million square miles</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Population, 2004</strong></td>
<td>287.8 million</td>
<td>456.8 million</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expected population</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>97 / sq. mi.</td>
<td>141 / sq. mi.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Population density,</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2004</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2030</strong></td>
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European Union Regional Approaches

- Incorporates coordinated approaches to economic growth, social services, and environmental protection
- Focuses on planning across local jurisdictional and national boundaries
- Ensures greater economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, prosperity for EU
Purpose of Symposium

- Understand the concept of multi-state regionalism
- Explore examples of megaregions and their issues
- Focus on Southeastern MegaRegion
  - Issues
  - Challenges
  - Opportunities
- Chart a set of next steps
Format for Today

- Participants from throughout Southeast region
  - Elected officials
  - Business leaders
  - Government/Agency representatives
  - Nonprofit organizations (environment, business, education)
    (See White sheet in packet)
- Presentations of 4 megaregional studies
Panel discussion exploring relevance of megaregional thinking

Breakout Sessions based on geographic scale
  • Importance/Relevance of regional thinking
  • Key issues/challenges/opportunities
    (See Blue sheet in packet)
Next Steps

- Addressing issues
- Upcoming actions

(Complete Green sheet – symposium feedback)