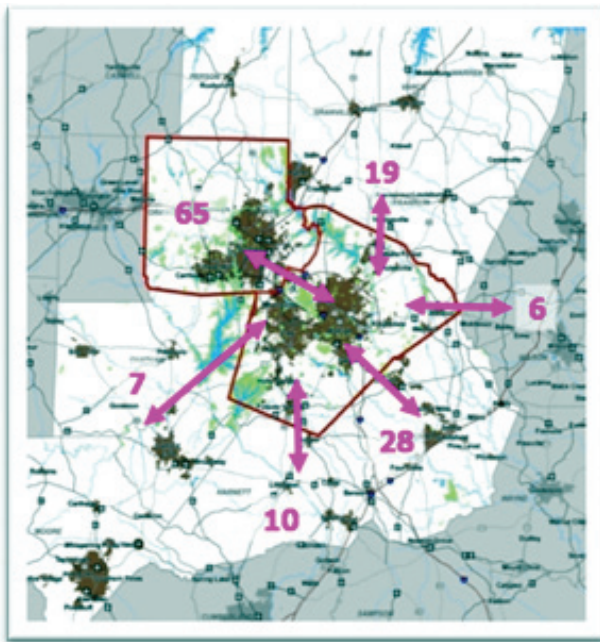
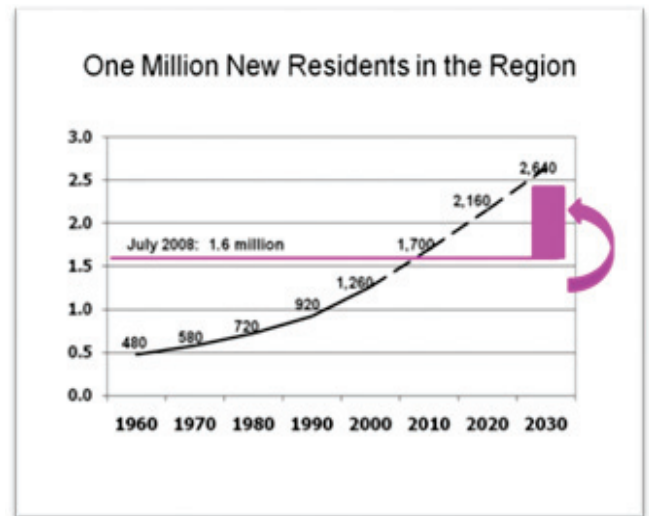


The Triangle region, home to over 1.5 million people, is projected to grow rapidly to over 2.5 million by 2035. We will add more people in the next 25 years than the existing population of our 10 largest municipalities. Our growth rates have outpaced population growth for the nation and for North Carolina. As of 2007, Wake County was the 7th fastest growing county in the U.S. The Raleigh-Cary metro area continues to grow, adding an additional 100 people every day.

This extraordinary rate of growth has created one of the most sprawling, auto-centric regions in the nation. It threatens our economy and quality of life with long commutes, congestion, and lack of transportation choices, especially for elderly, children and lower income households. For more information on population growth, visit: www.wakeupwakecounty.org



We are changing, and can't all drive. We are experiencing changing demographics that predict an even greater number of future residents who will need alternatives to driving, because of age or economic status. By 2035, those aged 65 and older will increase from less than 10% of our population in 2000 to more than 15% by 2035. Either by choice or necessity (because of cost or disability), today 32,000 households in the Triangle do not have a car (up from 29,000 in 2000).

We are driving more, crossing county lines daily. 31% of Triangle residents work outside their county of residence (2006). Fifty-two percent of Durham's workforce commutes from another county and for Duke it is closer to 60%. Only 34% of the faculty & staff at UNC live in Orange County. The map shows some of the 180,000 people who commute across county lines for employment each day (whole numbers represent 1,000's of people).

Triangle commuters are spending more time commuting. **From 1990 to 2000, the average commute time in the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill metropolitan area increased 23%.** The number of workers who were able to reach their jobs in 20 minutes or less declined, while the percent of workers reporting one-way commutes of greater than 60 minutes increased.

We are sprawling. Despite our added people, our population density is lower than it was in 1980. With few natural barriers to development, we have spread out into undeveloped land at a far more rapid pace than the increase in our population. **Among the largest 83 metropolitan areas, we are the third most sprawled region, more so than Atlanta.**

As we have sprawled, we have followed a pattern of widely separated land uses for homes, shops, jobs, schools, and civic and cultural facilities, increasing the number and length of trips. **This pattern has increased air and water pollution resulting in impaired health for citizens and negative environmental impacts.** Sprawling, bedroom communities lack a robust local economy and tax base to pay for infrastructure, police, fire and schools. Sprawl has destroyed farms, wildlife habitat and polluted waterways. Auto-dependency also affects our physical and mental health, creating fewer opportunities for exercise, family interaction and community involvement.

Be a 'Friend of Transit', Sign transit petition today!

Add your name to the Friends of Transit online petition and make a statement that you support regional, multi-modal transit options for Durham, Orange and Wake Counties to connect us all. Once you add your name, we will keep you informed with timely email updates.

*Capital Area Friends of Transit – for Wake County residents and organizations
visit www.capitalareafriendsoftransit.org and sign the petition!

*Durham-Orange Friends of Transit – for Durham and Orange County residents and organizations
visit www.durhamorangefriendsoftransit.org and sign the petition!

Contact Local Elected Officials

Tell your county commissioners that you support putting a referendum on the ballot dedicating a ½ cent sales tax for building a regional transit system. Let citizens vote for transit! County Boards of Commissioners will make the decision to hold transit funding referenda in the Triangle Counties.

* **Durham County Board of Commissioners** - www.co.durham.nc.us/departments/bocc/

* **Orange County Board of Commissioners** - www.co.orange.nc.us/contact.htm

* **Wake County Board of Commissioners** - www.wakegov.com/commissioners/default.htm

Invite a CAFT or DO Transit speaker to your local community meeting

Get informed! Our local transit coalitions will gladly send a speaker to community or organizational meetings to inform you and others about the latest developments on transit plans and why transit makes sense for the Triangle. For meetings in Wake County, contact: chapmangg@earthlink.net and in Durham or Orange Counties, contact: boglenn@nc.rr.com.

Blog or Write a letter-to-the-editor supporting transit. Speak up for regional transit!

Blog on local news sites or write a short letter-to-the-editor calling for expanded bus service, building light rail and commuter rail connections to provide more transportation choices for the Triangle and to connect us all! For talking points, visit our website, www.capitalareafriendsoftransit.org and click on the "Why Transit?" link in our main menu.

The Capital Area Friends of Transit (CAFT) is a Wake County based alliance of over 30 local and state organizations, more than 100 civic leaders and many citizens who support a plan for regional public transit in the Triangle. CAFT supports a multi-modal transit plan that uses a variety of transit options, including expanded and improved bus service, light rail, commuter rail, high-speed rail, and local circulators like streetcars.

CAFT supports public education about transit and encourages civic engagement in promoting and developing plans for regional transit. CAFT members meet monthly, and CAFT members are invited to participate. For more information, contact:

caft@capitalareafriendsoftransit.org or visit www.capitalareafriendsoftransit.org