

Megapolitan Areas: America's New Metropolis

2005 METROPOLITAN INSTITUTE AT VIRGINIA TECH'S CENSUS REPORT SERIES

Pete Meitzner



A Megapolitan Area:

1. Combines at least two, but may include dozens of existing metropolitan areas.
2. Totals more than 10 million projected residents by 2040/
3. Derives from contiguous metropolitan and micropolitan areas.
4. Constitutes an "organic" cultural region with a distinct history and identity.
5. Occupies a roughly similar physical environment.
6. **Links large centers through major transportation infrastructure.**
7. Forms a functional urban network via goods and service flows.
8. Creates a usable geography that is suitable for large-scale regional planning.
9. Lies within the United States.
10. Consists of counties as the most basic unit.