Planning the New York Metropolitan Region

Tom Wright

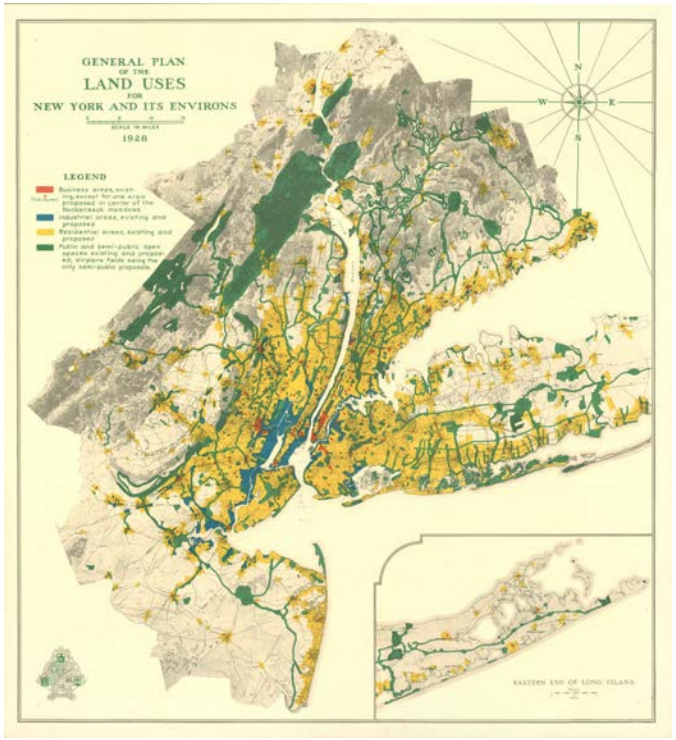
President & CEO

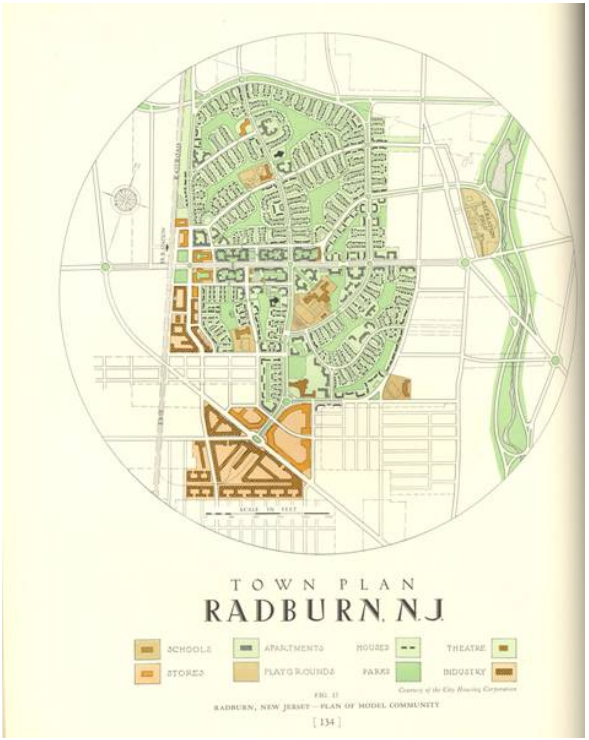
Regional Plan Association

Since 1922, Regional Plan Association has prepared long-range plans for the tri-state metropolitan region

3 states
31 counties
782 towns
23M residents

The First Regional Plan (1929)





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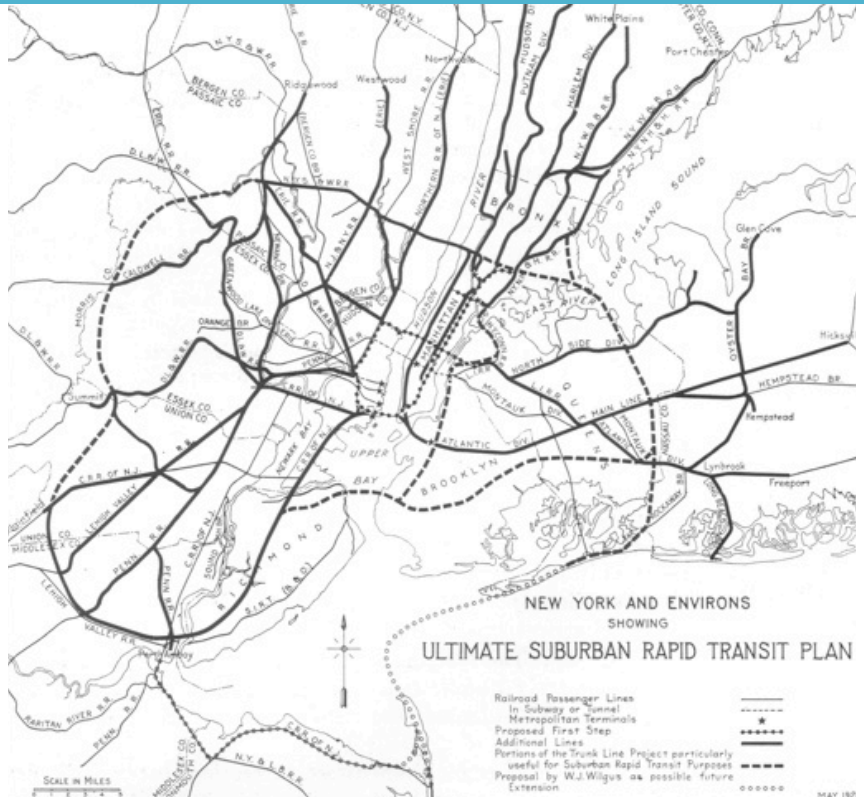

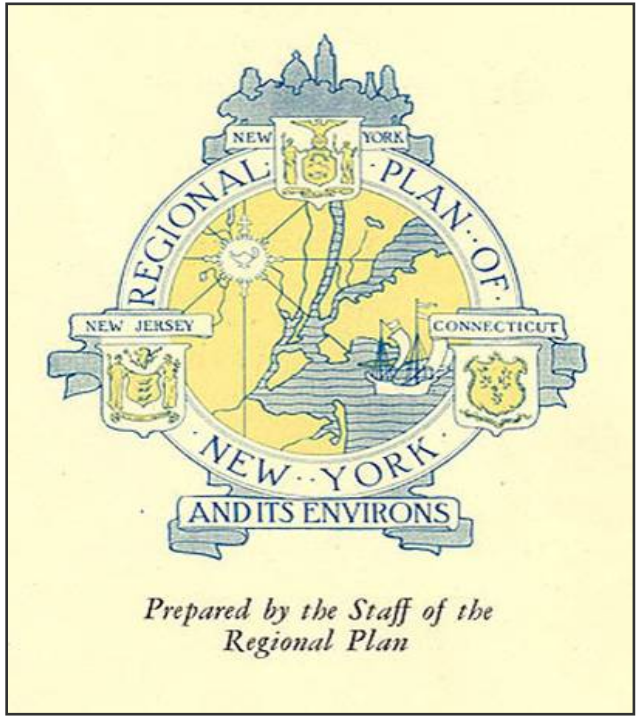

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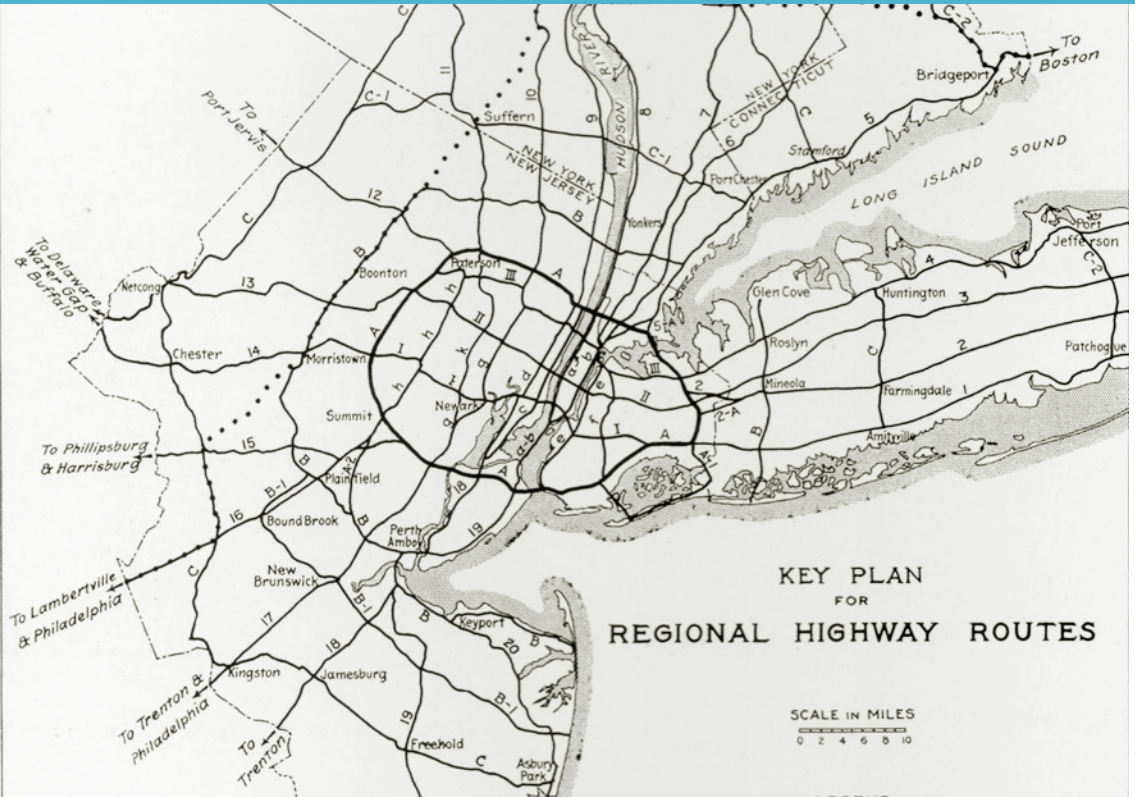
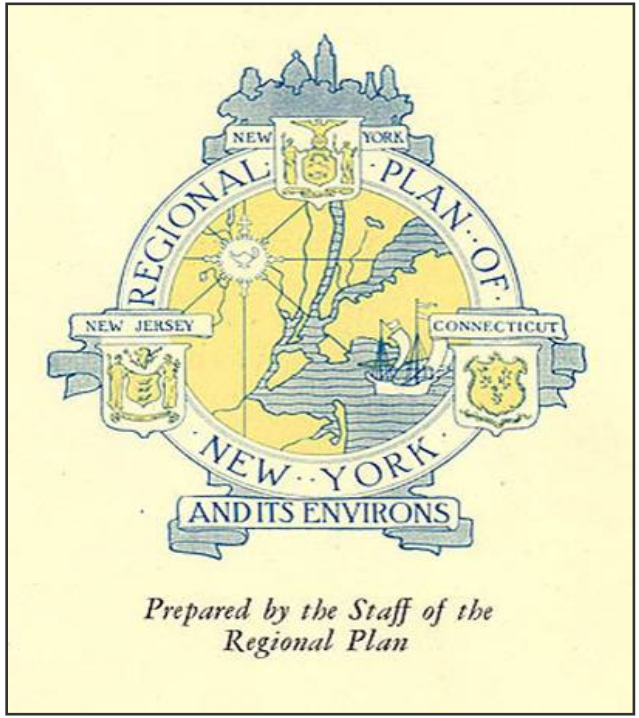
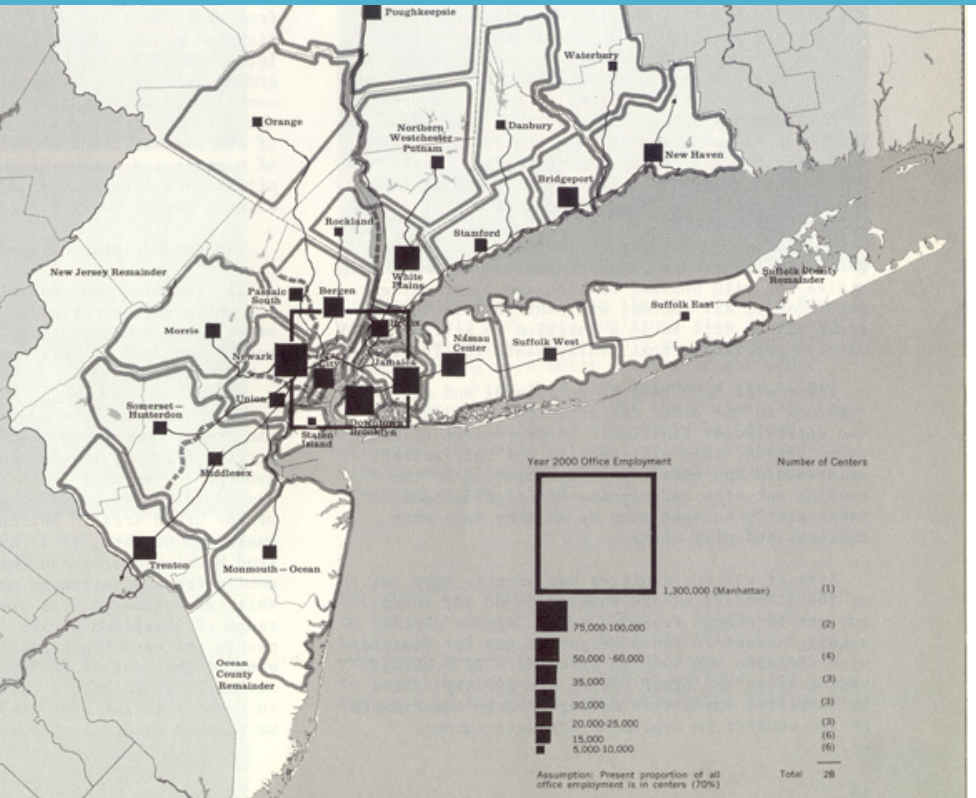
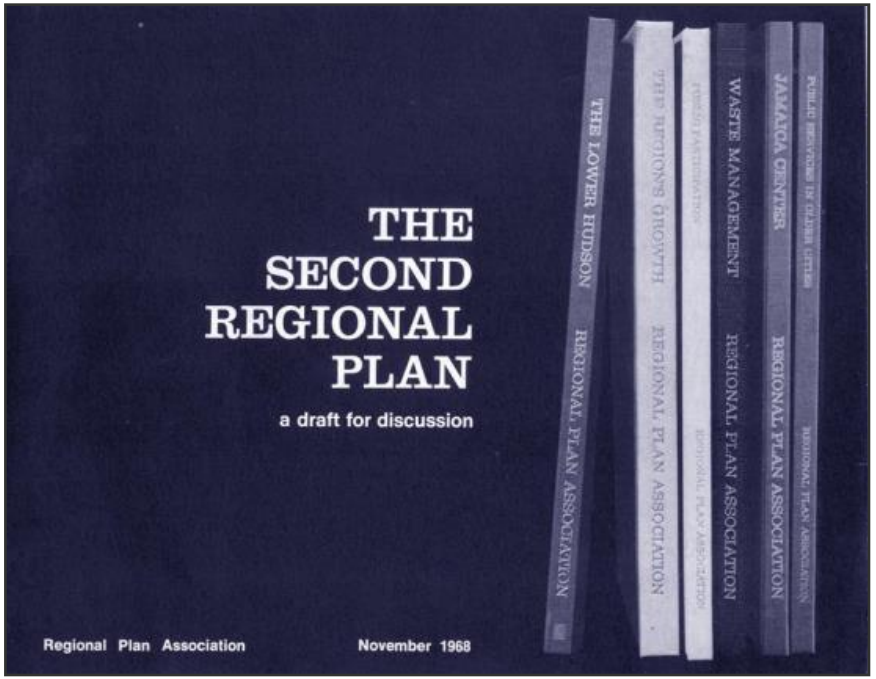




The Second Regional Plan (1969)





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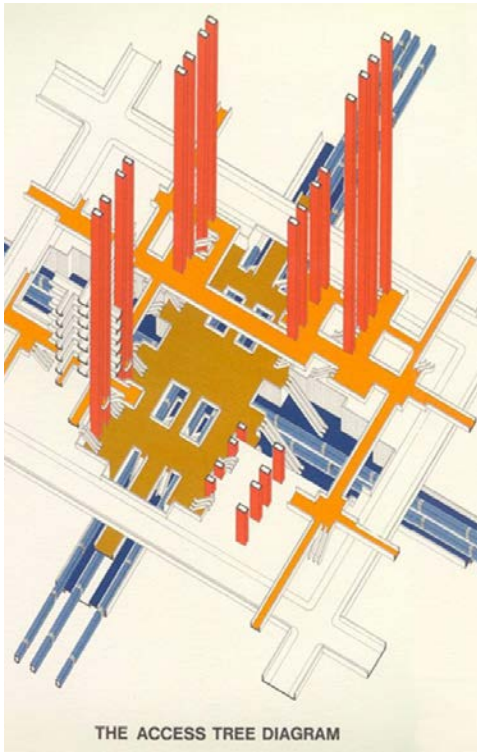

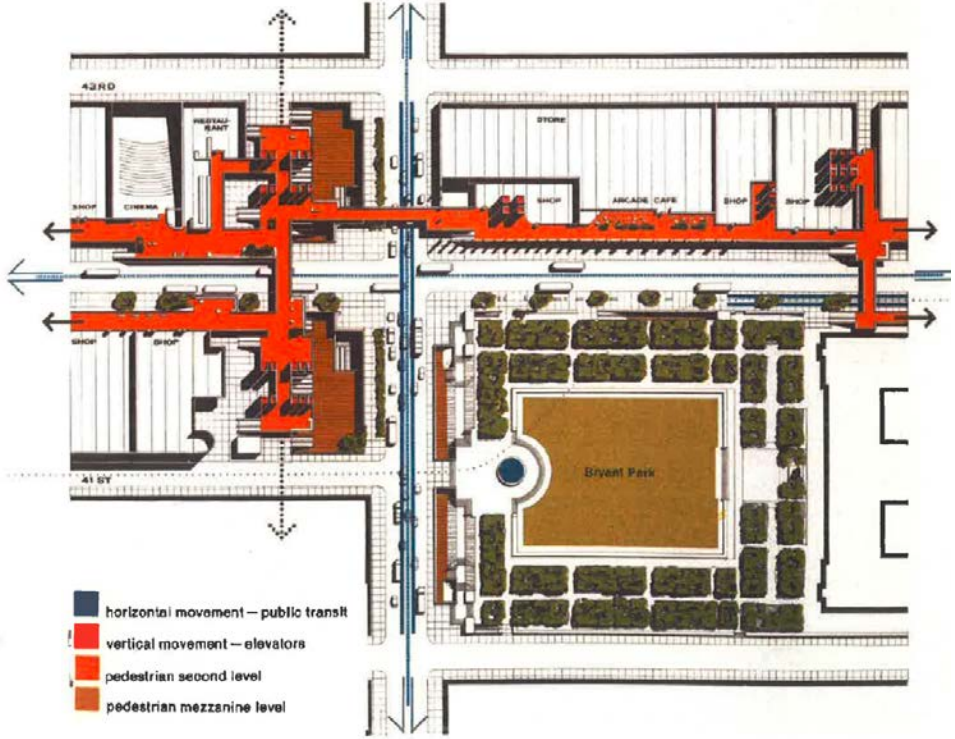

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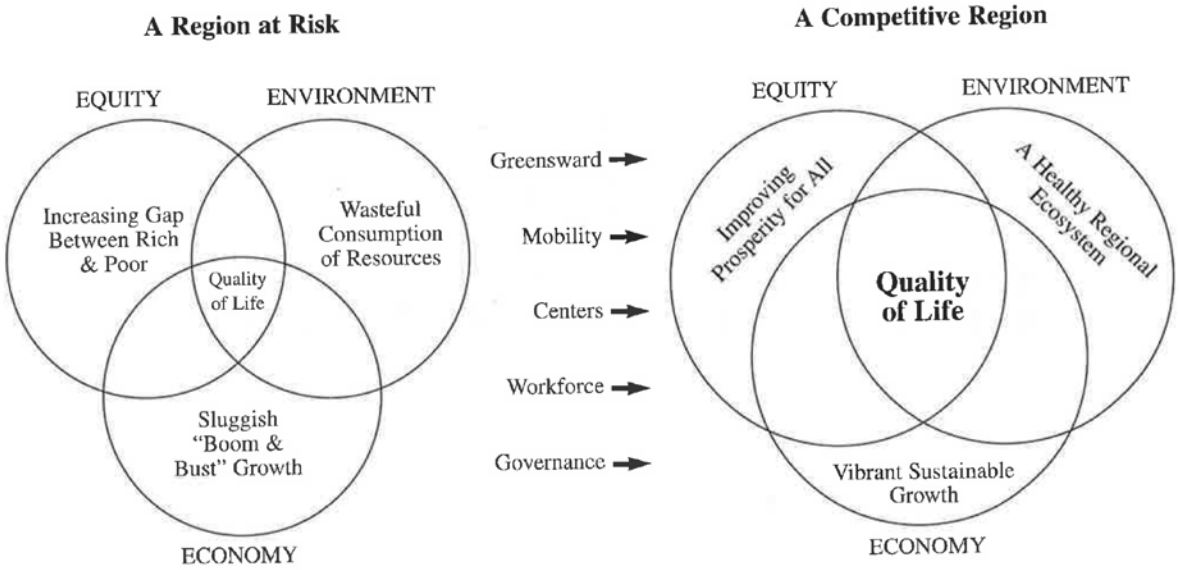
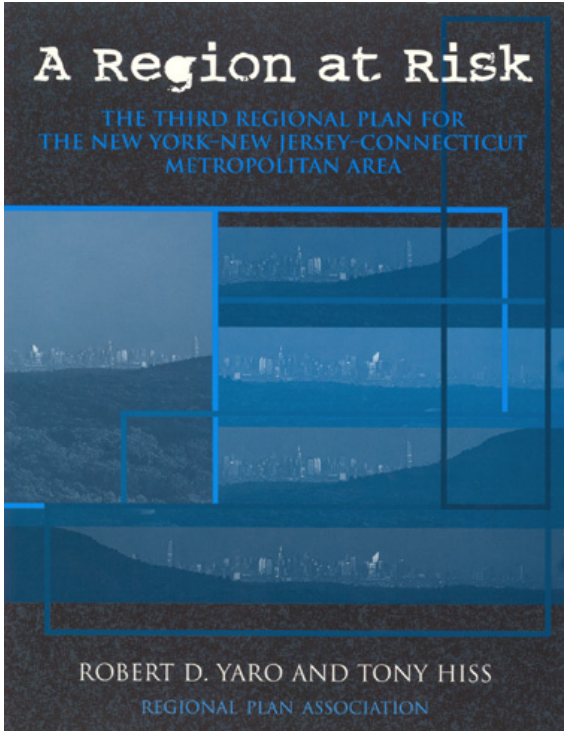


Figure 43: The Three E's Transformed by the Five Campaigns.



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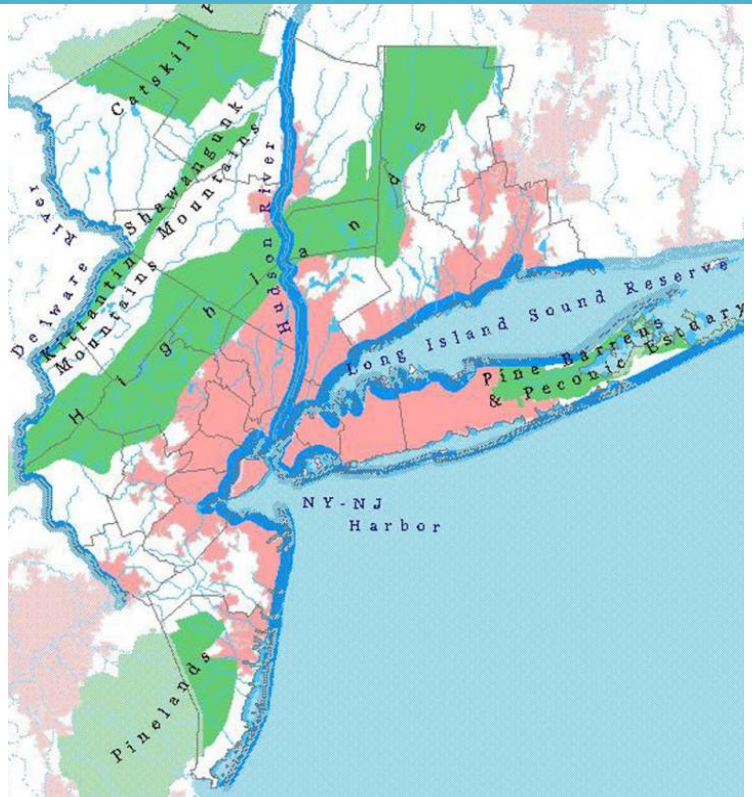

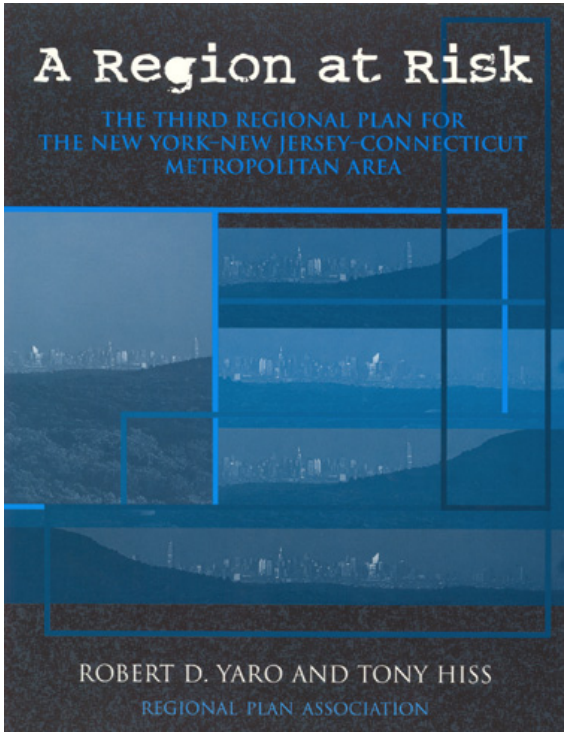

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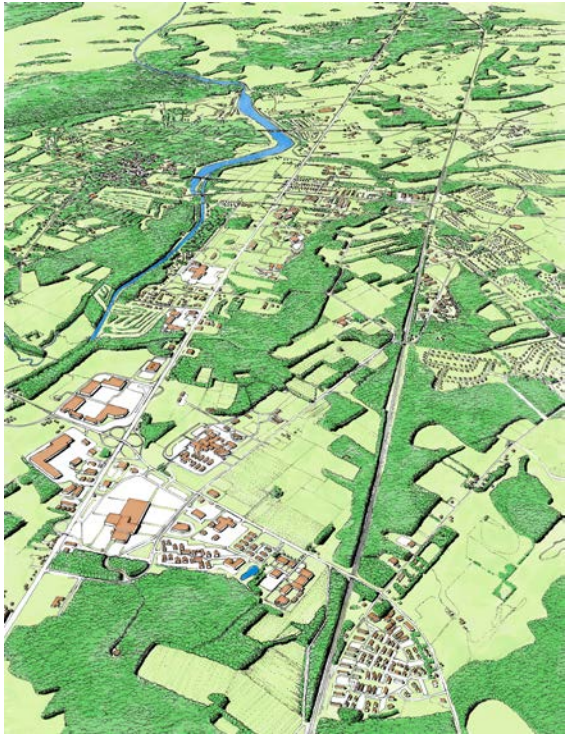

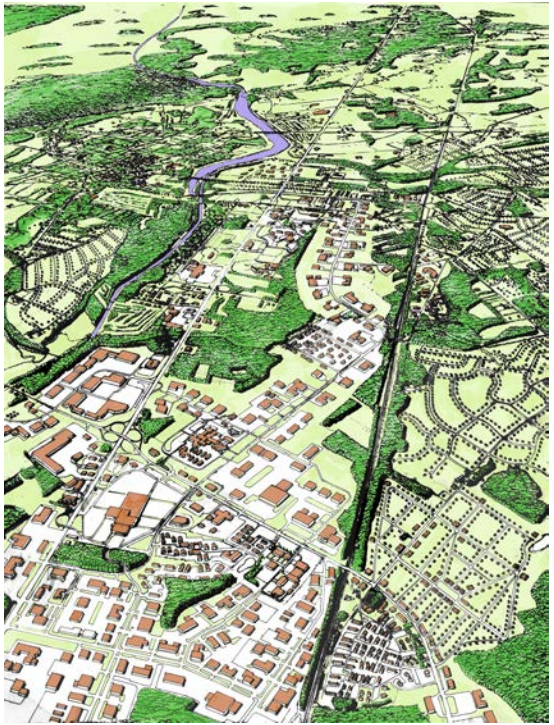

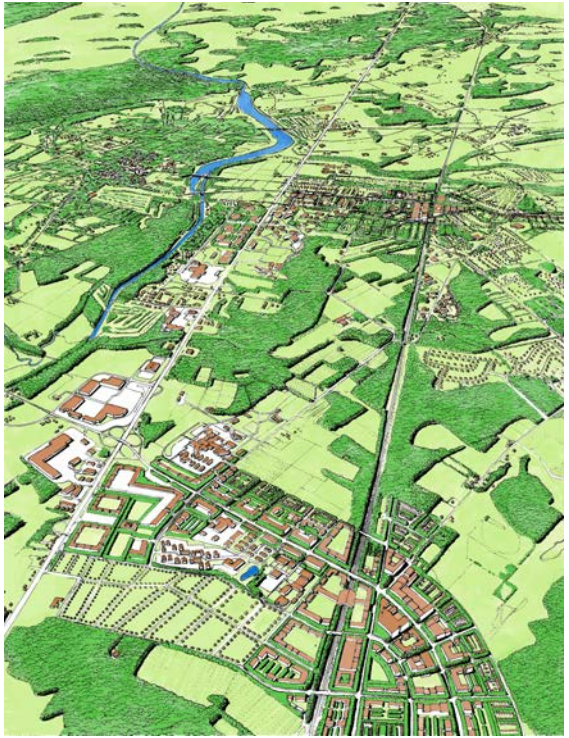

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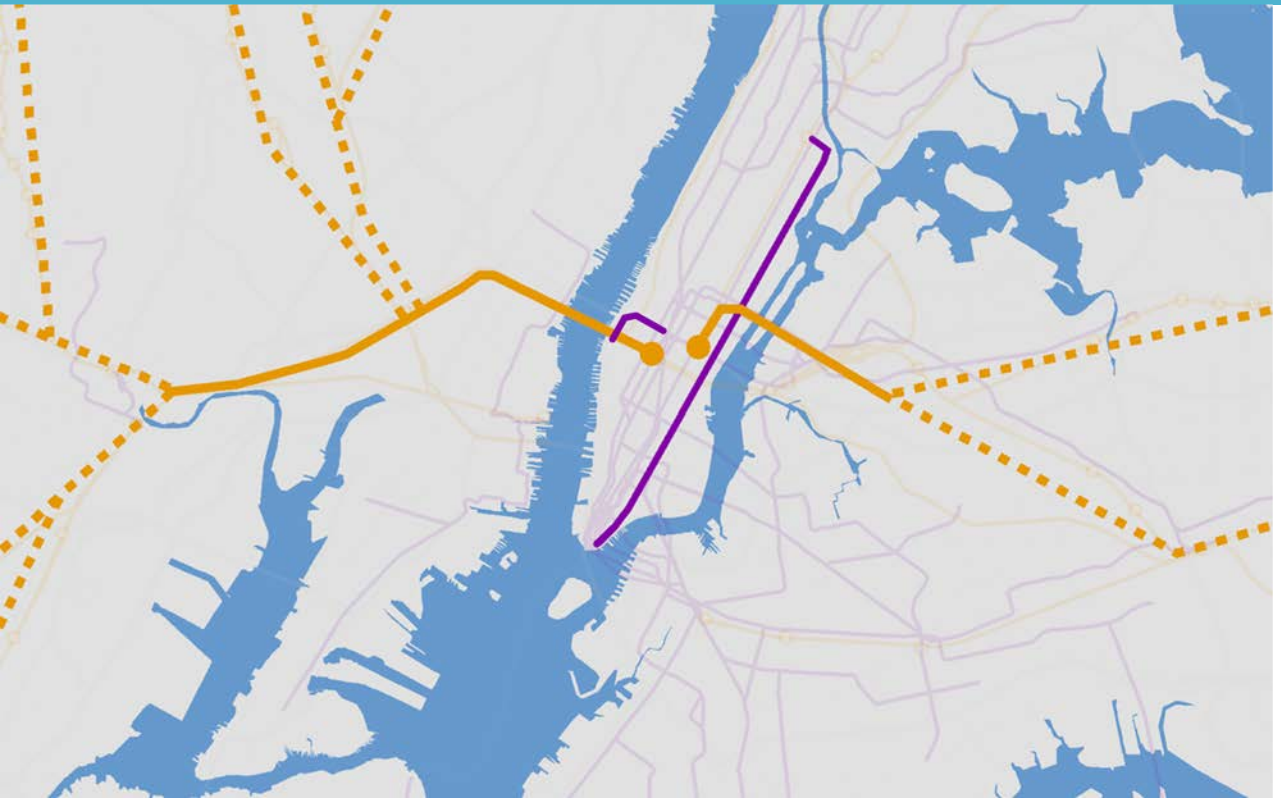
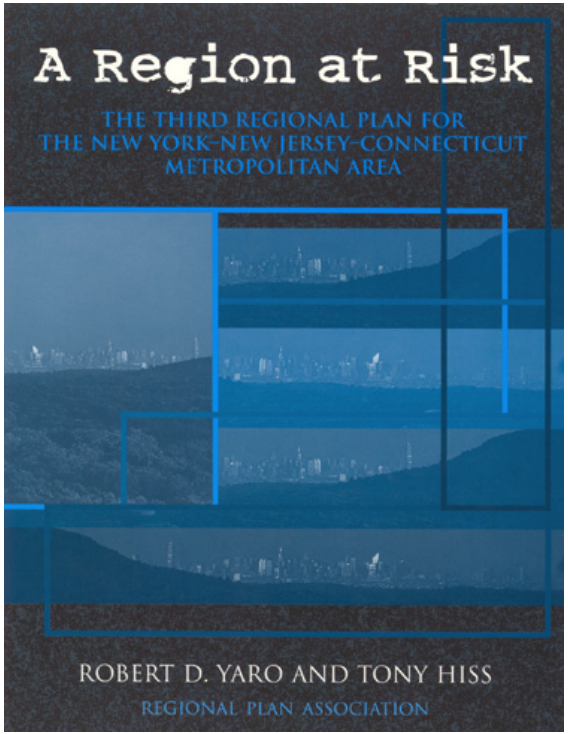




The Fourth Regional Plan

rpa.org/fourth-plan

Equity

Health

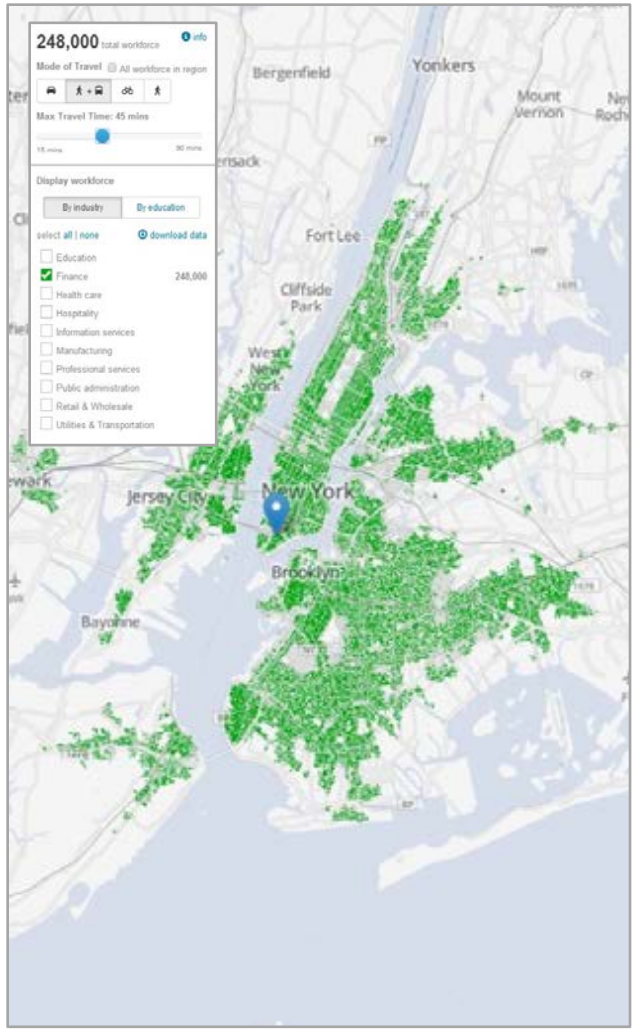
Prosperity

Sustainability

CLEAN UP ALBANY!

Diagnosis

Regional Plan Association
Fragile Success
TAKING STOCK OF THE NEW YORK METROPOLITAN REGION


248,000 total workforce
info
Mode of Travel
All workforce in region
Max Travel Time: 45 mins
Display workforce
By industry
By education
select all | none
download data
Education
Finance
248,000
Health care
Hospitality
Information services
Manufacturing
Professional services
Public administration
Retail & Wholesale
Utilities & Transportation
Bergenfield
Yonkers
Mount Vernon
Fort Lee
Cliffside Park
New York
Jersey City
Brooklyn
Bayonne

349,000 total workforce
info
Mode of Travel
All workforce in region
Max Travel Time: 60 mins
Display workforce
By industry
By education
select all | none
download data
Education
Finance
349,000
Health care
Hospitality
Information services
Manufacturing
Professional services
Public administration
Retail & Wholesale
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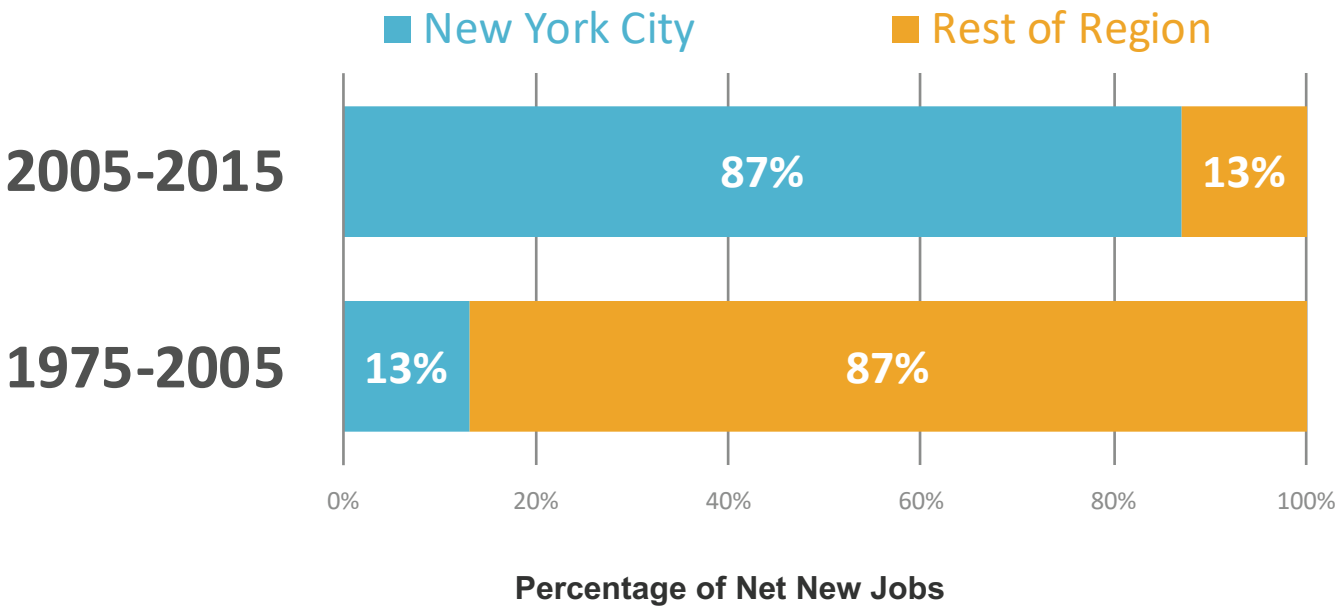
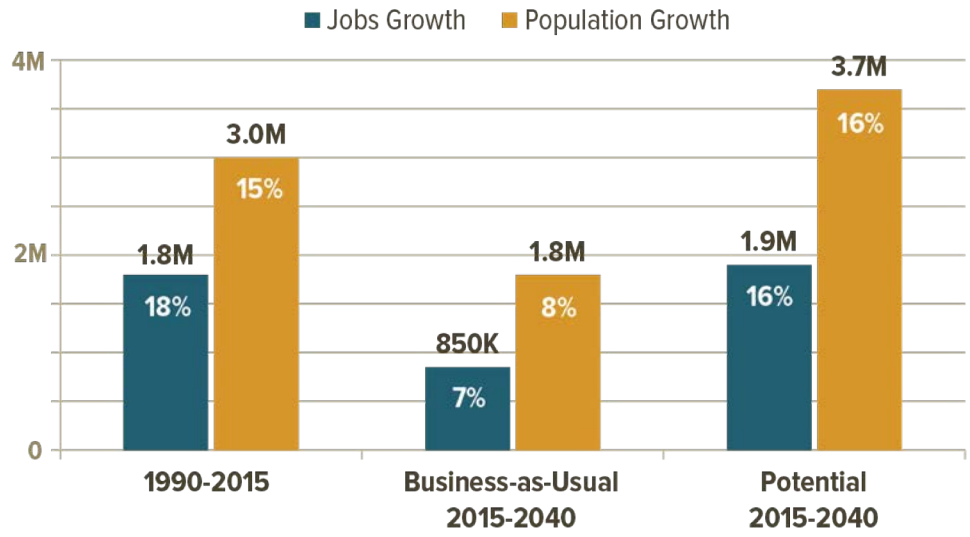
Mount Vernon
Fort Lee
Cliffside Park
Newark
New York
Jersey City
Brooklyn
Bayonne

A complete reversal of postwar growth patterns



Diagnosis

Vision



2015 Jobs: 11.6 M
2015 Population: 22.9 M

Diagnosis

Vision

Problem Statements

Fix the institutions
that are failing us

Rise to the challenge
of climate change

Create a dynamic, customer-
oriented transportation system

Make the region
affordable for everyone

Fix the institutions that are failing us

- **Put a price on driving, through congestion pricing, tolling and eventually VMT fees**
- Reform our regional transportation authorities and reduce the costs of building new transit projects
- Price GHG emissions using California's comprehensive approach
- Establish a Regional Coastal Commission and state adaptation funds
- Increase civic engagement and make planning and development more inclusive, predictable and efficient

Congestion Pricing

- Triboro Bridge and Tunnel Authority in charge
- MOU with NYCDOT
- Implementation no sooner than 1/1/21
- $15B
- 80% funding to subways and buses, 20% to commuter rail
- Exemptions/credits

Make the region affordable for everyone

- **Create a million additional new homes in transit-accessible locations**
- Create well-paying job opportunities throughout the region
- Turn environmentally burdened neighborhoods into healthy communities

We can create a half million new homes without any new construction.

We can create an additional 250,000 new homes by redeveloping under-utilized parking lots near rail stations.

And we can overhaul outdated zoning to allow more housing near train stations – yielding new homes in walkable, transit-friendly locations.

Rise to the challenge of climate change

- **Establish a National Park in the Meadowlands**
- Protect places where the densities justify it; transition away from lower-density places or places at particularly high risk
- Create a modern, smarter, greener energy grid

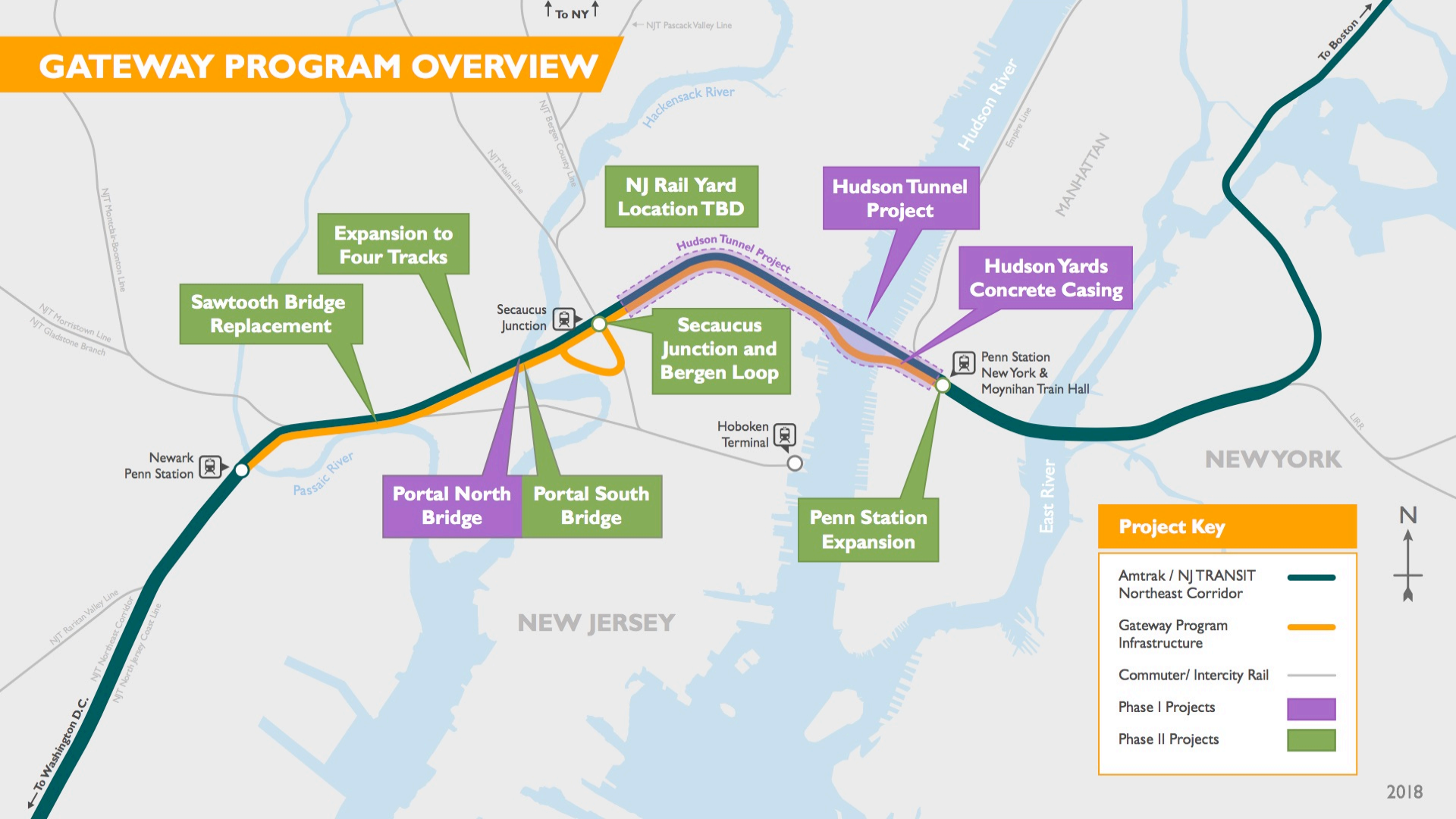
The Meadowlands 2017

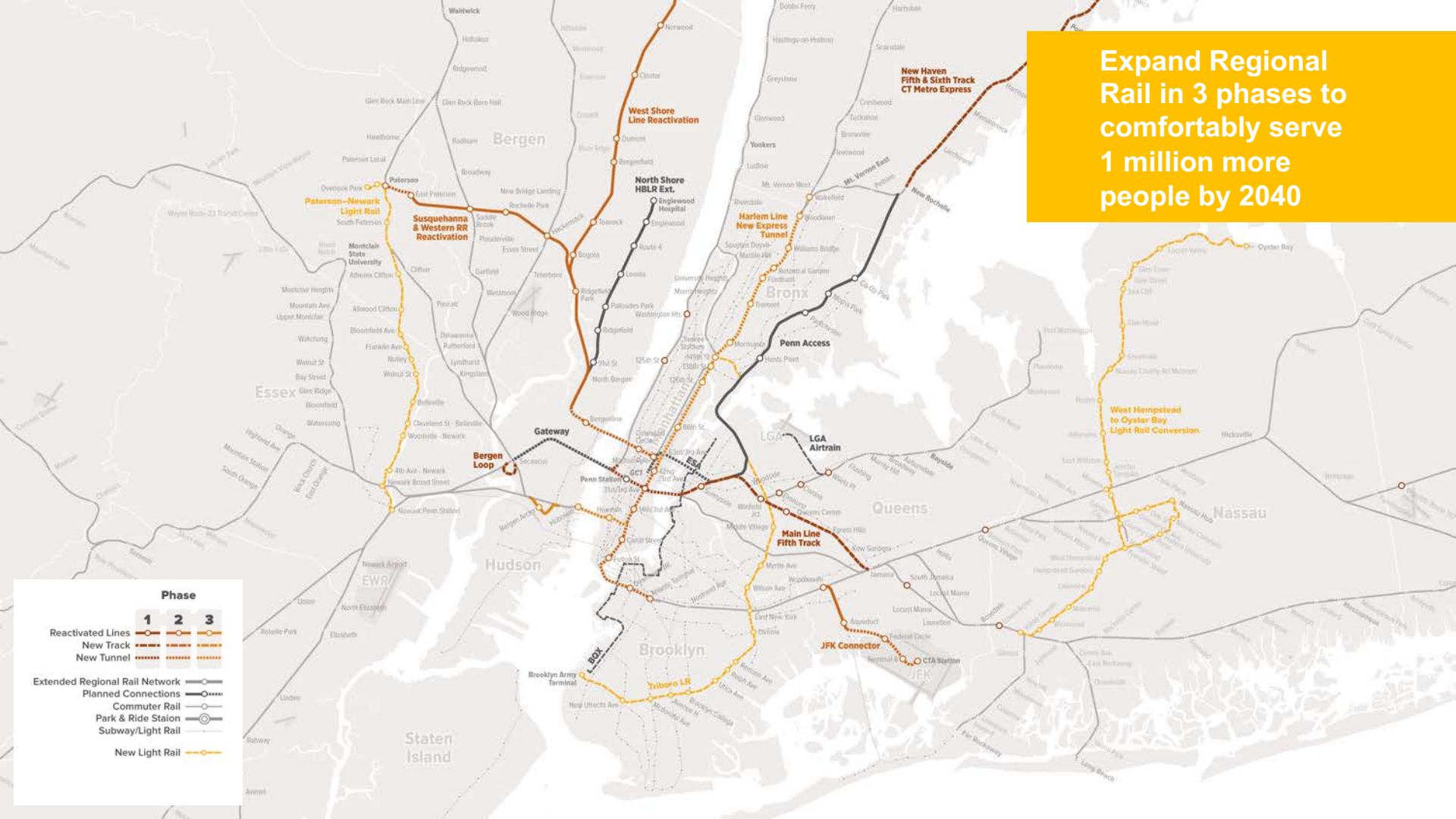
Transform the Meadowlands into a National Park.

Create a dynamic, customer-oriented transportation system

- **Expand Trans-Hudson capacity and regional connectivity with a unified, integrated, expanded regional rail**
- Totally reconstruct and modernize the subway within 15 years
- Design streets for people & open up more public space in the urban core
- Expand and redesign Kennedy and Newark airports to increase capacity

GATEWAY PROGRAM OVERVIEW




Expand Regional Rail in 3 phases to comfortably serve 1 million more people by 2040
Phase
1
2
3
Reactivated Lines
New Track
New Tunnel
Extended Regional Rail Network
Planned Connections
Commuter Rail
Park & Ride Staion
Subway/Light Rail
New Light Rail
West Shore Line Reactivation
North Shore HBLR Ext.
New Haven Fifth & Sixth Track CT Metro Express
Paterson–Newark Light Rail
Susquehanna & Western RR Reactivation
Harlem Line New Express Tunnel
Penn Access
Gateway
Bergen Loop
LGA Airtrain
Main Line Fifth Track
JFK Connector
West Hempstead to Oyster Bay Light Rail Conversion
L BQX
Tribore LR
Bergen
Hudson
Essex
Bronx
Queens
Brooklyn
Staten Island
Nassau
LGA
JFK
EWR

New York's Next Comeback:
5 Reasons to bet on New York and the Region

1. Urban density is still an advantage
2. Diversity and talent drive success
3. Many of our unique assets can't be replicated
4. New businesses and households will seize opportunities
5. We have a wake up call to address structural problems

What’s likely

- Remote work and e-commerce are here to stay
- The region will get hotter and wetter
- Population will become older and more racially diverse
- Fear of contagion will fade after the pandemic
- Inequality between those who can and can’t work from home
- Energy and fuel prices will be volatile
- Population is more likely to decentralize than jobs

Biggest wildcards

- Extent and pattern of work-from-home
- Pace and impacts of climate change
- Global and national economic growth
- Immigration
- Labor market dynamics
- Transportation, energy and digital technologies
- Residential and consumer preferences

New Scenarios for Growth and Remote Work

A: Low WFH with High Growth

- **25%** of office work is from home
- Jobs grow at **0.5%** per year

B. Low WFH with Low Growth

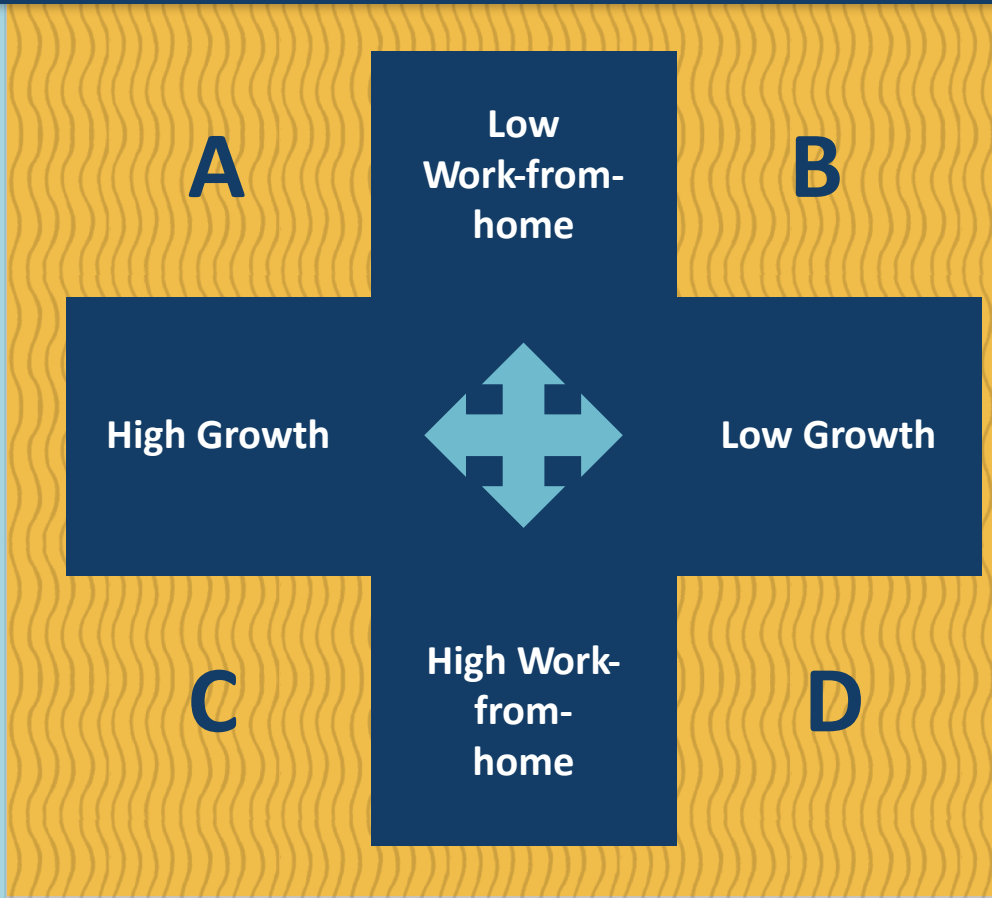
- **25%** of office work is from home
- Jobs grow at **0.25%** per year

C. High WFH with High Growth

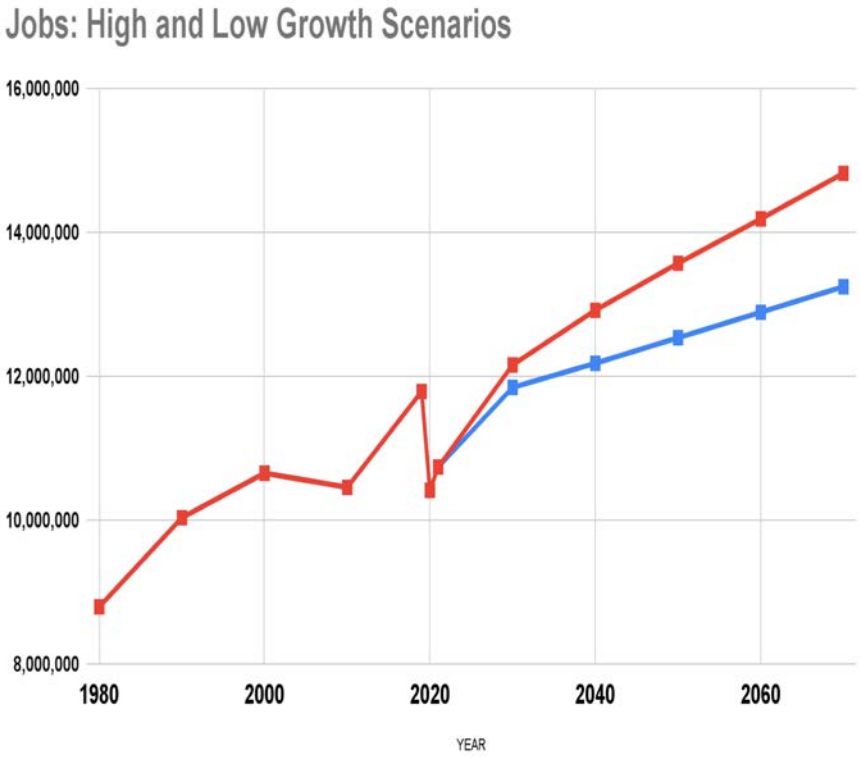
- **50%** of office work is from home
- Jobs grow at **0.5%** per year

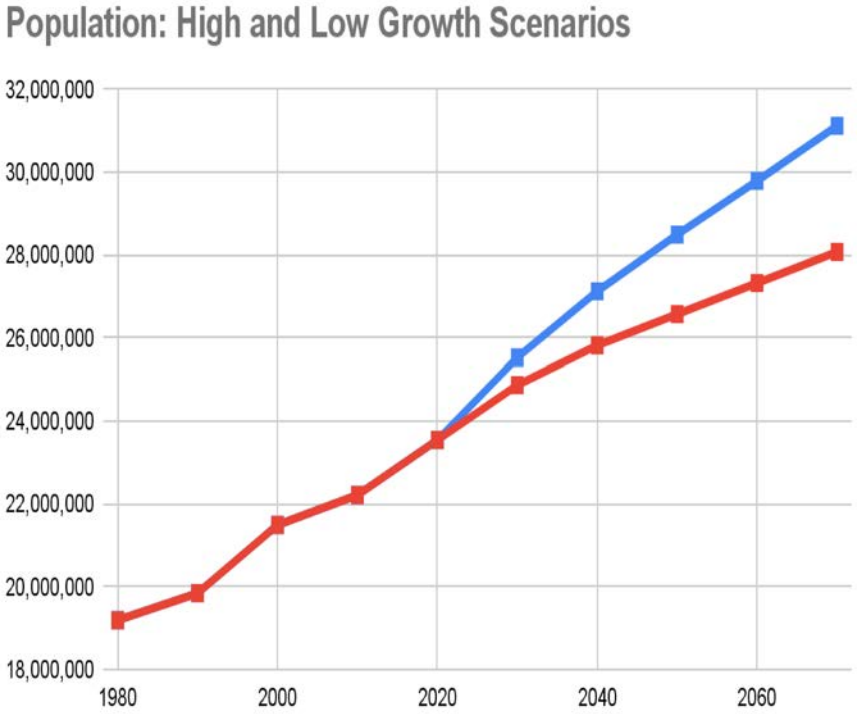
D. High WFH with Low Growth

- **50%** of office work is from home
- Jobs grow at **0.25%** per year



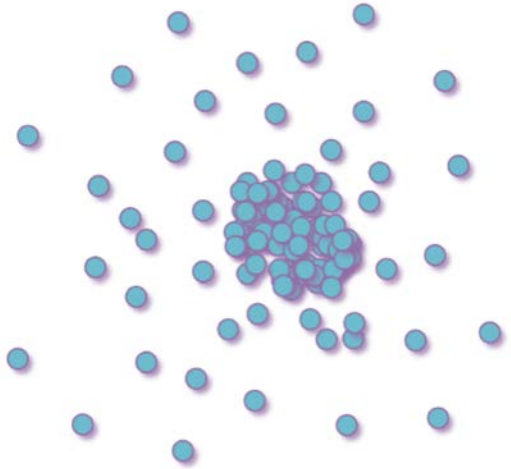
High and Low Growth Scenarios



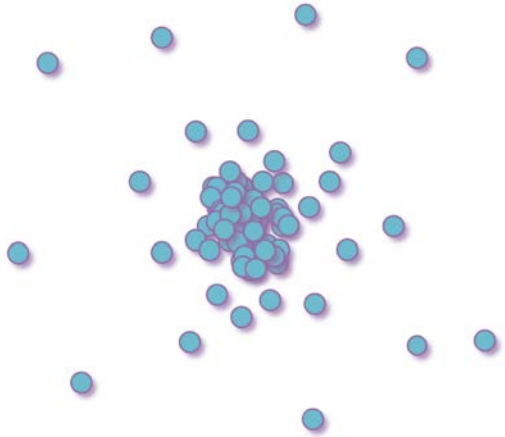


Distribution of jobs and population

A. Low WFH, High Growth

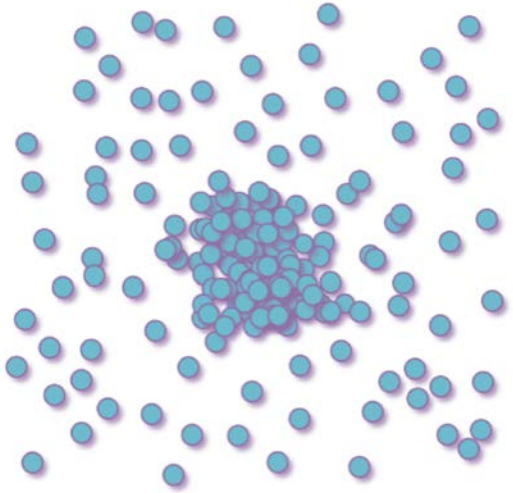


B. Low WFH, Low Growth

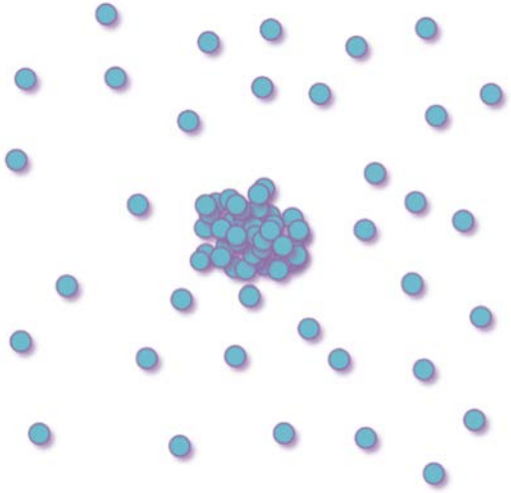


Distribution of jobs and population

C. High WFH, High Growth



D. High WFH, Low Growth



Change in Work Trips to Manhattan CBD, from outside NYC

Absolute change from 2020

N
The Tri-State Region
AND ITS ENVIRONS
0
10
20
30
40 Miles
RPA
Regional Plan Association
NEW YORK
CONNECTICUT
RHODE ISLAND
PENNSYLVANIA
NEW JERSEY
ULSTER
DUTCHESS
LITCHFIELD
HARTFORD
TOLLAND
WINDHAM
PROVIDENCE
BRISTOL
KENT
NEWPORT
WASHINGTON
NEW LONDON
MIDDLESEX
NEW HAVEN
FAIRFIELD
SULLIVAN
WAYNE
PUTNAM
ORANGE
PIKE
LACKAWANNA
WESTCHESTER
ROCKLAND
SUSSEX
PASSAIC
MONROE
BERGEN
WARREN
MORRIS
ESSEX
SUFFOLK
NASSAU
NORTHAMPTON
UNION
LEHIGH
HUNTERDON
SOMERSET
MIDDLESEX
BUCKS
MERCER
MONTGOMERY
MONMOUTH
OCEAN
DELAWARE
BURLINGTON