

THE AEROTROPOLIS VISION

As we enter the 21st century economy, one indisputable law will determine competitive success. Quality and value are still necessary, but are no longer sufficient. Speed and agility now take center stage.

Today's most successful companies are using advanced information technology and high-speed transportation (airports) to source parts globally, minimize their inventories, and provide fast and flexible responses to customers' unique needs, nationally and worldwide.

Where do we fit in this new economy?

Professor John Kasarda, the world's leading expert on the development of Airport Cities, says Southeast Michigan is especially well positioned to become a national and global center of aviation oriented business, spawning massive numbers of new economy jobs and redefining the industrial image of the area and the entire state. Furthermore, Dr. Kasarda has stated that the job creation and economic development potential of the Detroit/Wayne County Metropolitan Airport, the state's leading economic generator, has yet to be fully harnessed.

A Turbo Charged Fusion – Metro and Willow Run Airports (Michigan's Twin Engines of 21st Century Economic Growth)

Fueled by 25,000 acres of undeveloped property, an international gateway airport and a major cargo airport, as well as an underutilized infrastructure system, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties are well positioned to meet the criteria for becoming an airport city (Aerotropolis) according to Dr. John Kasarda of the Kenan Institute. This development opportunity spans seven communities and two counties, including – Belleville, Romulus, Huron Township, Taylor, Van Buren Township, Ypsilanti, and Ypsilanti Township, in the counties of Wayne and Washtenaw. Working together, the community's goal is to create a state of the art 21st century business environment, which includes the highest quality in land use, public services, architecture, green design and open spaces.

Tax Base, Jobs and Quality of Life-

Southeast Michigan is well positioned to become a national and global center of aviation-oriented business, spawning new jobs for the immediate area as well as the entire State. Only a handful of places around the globe possess the combination of a Detroit/Wayne County Metropolitan Airport, one of the world's largest hub airports, and nearby Willow Run, a leading international air cargo and general aviation facility. Add to these special aviation resources, outstanding multi-modal surface transportation linkages and 25,000 acres of developable land and all the fundamental ingredients exist to create a major new development, called Aerotropolis.

Aerotropolis (air. oh.trop.ul.lis, pl.: aer.oh.trop.ul.lie) – clusters of business and logistics parks, industrial parks, distribution facilities, information and telecommunications complexes centered around an airport driven sustainable community environment.