Vision North Texas Alternative Futures Workshop

Welcome

Danny Scarth
Council Member, City of Fort Worth
Vision North Texas Overview

Fernando Costa FAICP
Assistant City Manager, City of Fort Worth &
Chair, VNT Management Committee

Objectives for today

• Share initial findings
  - North Texas Alternative Futures research in progress
• Seek feedback from participants
  - Feedback will refine our continuing research
• Ask for your involvement
  - Other issues we should address
  - Contribute your expertise & other resources to help create North Texas 2050
What is Vision North Texas?

- Private-public-academic partnership
- Begun in late 2004
- Objectives
  - Increase awareness about expected growth
  - Serve as a forum for dialogue among all stakeholders about critical issues
  - Build support for initiatives that create a successful and sustainable future for North Texas

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The University of Texas Arlington

Many other public and private sponsors
Initial regional visioning workshop held at UT Arlington in April 2005

Diverse stakeholders from 10 county region
How can we accommodate the growth that’s coming by 2030?

Result: 83% supported a ‘preferred growth scenario’; strong interest in continuing the project

Four Subregional Workshops

Southeastern Subregional Workshop (Jan. 2007)
   Included Southern Dallas County, most of Kaufman and Ellis counties

Southwestern Subregional Workshop (June 2007)
   Included parts of Tarrant, Parker, Palo Pinto counties, all of Hood & Johnson counties

Northeastern Subregional Workshop (Apr. 2008)
   Included Northern Dallas County, part of Denton County, all of Collin, Hunt & Rockwall counties

Northwestern Subregional Workshop (May 2008)
   Included parts of Tarrant, Denton, Parker, Palo Pinto counties, all of Wise county
Across the region, stakeholders have consistently said they want a future for North Texas that is better than business as usual.

Should sustainability be a criterion when North Texas makes regional investments?

Essential = 89.0%
Should we set regional investment priorities based on a preferred growth scenario?

Essential or desirable = 93.6%
**North Texas 2050**

- Will be created by the end of 2009
- Addresses all 16 counties, through year 2050
- Key components
  - Vision
    - What kind of a region we want
    - Preferred scenario(s)
    - Integrated infrastructure framework
  - Action Package
    - Tools to achieve the vision
    - For use by all decision-makers

**How is North Texas 2050 different?**

- Provides information so infrastructure investments can be more coordinated & effective
- Gives tools to all decision-makers that can help them make choices that are better than business as usual
- Describes a shared vision of a preferred future for North Texas
- Brings together leaders from many areas for better coordination on important issues
- Bottom line: gives us all a ‘gamebook’ for a future that will attract and keep people and businesses
Focus of today’s workshop

• Initial findings
  - Foundation for ‘guiding principles’ for the region
  - Preliminary results from evaluation of alternative futures

• Today’s results will refine our alternatives analysis and shape **North Texas 2050**

• Your input will help create a successful and sustainable North Texas

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**North Texas 2050 Creation: Guiding Principles**

Mike Eastland
Executive Director
North Central Texas Council of Governments
Guiding Principles

• What are they?
  - Key concepts that describe important aspects of the best future for the region.

• Why are they important?
  - Provide broad policy guidance for all decision-makers – public & private – that they can use in making their own decisions & investments.

• How will they be created?

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Center of Development Excellence
For the future of North Central Texas

The Mission Statement for Development Excellence is to promote quality growth in North Central Texas that
  - enhances the built environment
  - reduces vehicle miles of travel
  - uses water & energy resources effectively and efficiently, and
  - helps advance environmental stewardship in order to ensure continued economic vitality and provide the highest attainable quality of life for all residents.
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10 Principles of Development Excellence

1. Development Options
2. Efficient Growth
3. Pedestrian Design
4. Housing Choice
5. Activity Centers
6. Environmental Stewardship
7. Quality Places
8. Transportation Efficiency
9. Resource Efficiency
10. Implementation

CLIDE Award Example: Fort Worth Urban Village Program
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2. Efficient Growth – Foster redevelopment and infill of areas with existing infrastructure and promote the orderly and efficient provision of new infrastructure

CLIDE Award Example:
Gables Republic Tower

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3. Pedestrian Design – Create more neighborhoods with pedestrian-oriented features, streetscapes, and public spaces

CLIDE Award Example:
Addison Circle


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4. **Housing Choice** - Sustain and facilitate a range of housing opportunities and choices for residents of multiple age groups and economic levels

CLIDE Award Example:
The Block

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5. **Activity Centers** - Create mixed use and transit-oriented developments that serve as centers of neighborhoods and community activity

CLIDE Award Example:
Southlake Town Square
6. **Environmental Stewardship** – Protect sensitive environmental areas, preserve natural stream corridors, and create developments that minimize impact on natural features

**CLIDE Award Example:**
Trinity Uptown – Fort Worth

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7. **Quality Places** – Strengthen community identity through use of compatible, quality architectural and landscape designs and preservation of significant historic structures

**CLIDE Award Example:**
Old Stone Dam at Allen Station
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8. Transportation Efficiency – Develop land uses, building sites, and transportation infrastructure that enhance the efficient movement of people, goods, and services

CLIDE Award Example:
Spring Valley Station
District/Centennial Park

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9. Resource Efficiency – Provide functional, adaptable, and sustainable building and site designs that use water, energy, and material resources effectively and efficiently

CLIDE Award Example:
Texas Instruments Richardson Fabrication Facility
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10. Implementation – Adopt comprehensive plans and ordinances that support Development Excellence and involve citizens and stakeholders in all aspects of the planning process.

CLIDE Award Example:
Lancaster Mills Branch Initiative

Update for North Texas 2050

• Questions to consider are:
  - Are these principles still appropriate for North Texas?
  - Should any of them be revised or updated?
  - Are there other topics that should be addressed?
  - Are there additional principles that should be added?

• A draft of the *North Texas 2050* Guiding Principles will be presented in September.
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North Texas 2050 Creation: Initial Findings

Karen Walz FAICP
VNT Project Manager

Topics to Address

• Alternative futures for North Texas
  - How much growth is coming?
  - What happens with ‘business as usual’?
  - What alternatives are we evaluating?

• Research & initial findings
  - What’s the status of alternatives research?
  - What issues will we discuss today?
  - What are the initial results for those issues?
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Alternative Futures for North Texas

North Texas – a big region …

- As large as the state of Massachusetts
- Dominant U.S. metro
  - 4th largest population
  - 4th largest employment
  - 5th largest GDP
- 16 counties
- Many communities
  - Over 150 cities
  - 11 cities have over 100,000 population
... that’s going to get bigger.

- Population
  - 5.31 million people in 2000
  - 9.49 million people in 2030
  - 11.66 million people in 2050

- Employment
  - 3.22 million jobs in 2000
  - 5.58 million jobs in 2030
  - 7.17 million jobs in 2050

Characteristics of North Texans will change.

- From 2000 to 2030 in 16 county region:
  - Smaller share of people in labor force (ages 20 - 64)
    • 61% in 2006; 57% in 2030
  - More seniors (ages 65 through 84)
    • 7% in 2006; 13% in 2030
  - More diverse
    • Higher %s of Hispanic & Asian residents
  - Larger share of ‘transit-oriented’ households
    • Estimate of 46,429 in 2007; projected 270,676 in 2030
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The neighborhoods, jobs, services & amenities that North Texans want and need in 2030 (or 2050) will not be the same as in 2000.

Market demand will not be met by ‘business as usual’.

‘Business as usual’ in 2030
Investments & Infrastructure

- Natural assets – no regional plans exist
- Water – more water demand than the capacity currently expected to be available
  - By 2050, more than double the demand in 2000
- Energy – consumption increases at 5% per year
  - By 2050, demand is 20% over capacity
- Public facilities – plans for individual facilities or systems
  - *Mobility 2030* provides for $70.9B in improvements but congestion costs increase

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What are our other choices?

Can we do better than business as usual?
North Texas Alternative Futures

- Objective: present results of analysis for stakeholder discussion & feedback
- Not a recommendation of a preferred scenario
- To include:
  - Impacts & assessments of alternative futures
  - Examination of priority action tools & techniques
- Collaborative research by many organizations
- Initial findings today
- Final results discussed in September

Alternative Scenarios

- Scenarios are used to consider the effect of today’s decisions on factors shaping the future
- The set of alternatives should describe a reasonable range of options
- Consistent evaluation measures used to analyze the set
- Results & implications are basis for regional dialogue
- Five North Texas 2050 scenarios based on Vision North Texas stakeholder input
**Business as Usual**

Continuation of current trends and adopted plans

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**Connected Centers**

Give people more choice about how they connect to the places where they live, work and play
Return on Investment

Maximize the benefit received from the extensive investment taxpayers and property owners have made in the region’s existing infrastructure & development pattern.

Diverse, Distinct Communities

Create a region with different sorts of communities and centers, built on the traditional character of regional communities but designed to meet the needs of the region’s future markets.
Green Region

Emphasize green development or natural assets as the foundation for future regional growth

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Research & Initial Findings
DISCLAIMER: Each scenario represents a different development concept. Regional household and employment growth are assumed to be the same in each scenario; however, the location of the growth varies. Development intensity was manually redistributed to best represent each scenario’s regional development pattern. This data was created specifically for Vision North Texas and has not been evaluated for other uses. Responsibility for the use of this data lies solely with the user.

Nutrition, Physical Activity & Health

- Six indicators; focus on two today
  - Access to healthy affordable foods
  - Access to affordable physical activity opportunities
  - Improved air quality
  - Access to primary care
  - Social connectedness
  - Educational attainment

- Return on Investment and Diverse, Distinct Communities have the highest positive effect on the health of North Texans
Housing for the Region’s Future

• Three facets of the housing market
  - Availability
  - Sustainability
  - Value

• Six indicators to measure regional housing
  - Housing development intensity
  - Alignment of supply and demand
  - Housing & neighborhood condition
  - Housing affordability
  - Housing variety
  - Housing migration

• How well do these scenarios meet the needs of future North Texans?

Transportation

• Compared to Business as Usual (BAU), all alternative scenarios reduce the average trip length by over 10%.

• Green Region & Diverse, Distinct Communities reduced hours stuck in traffic by 19%.

• Diverse, Distinct Communities shows the maximum air quality benefit, with 11% reduction in VOC & CO emissions.

• Return on Investment showed $6.9 billion cost savings to meet infrastructure needs.
Natural Assets

- Support for ‘green’ infrastructure
- 8 goals for land conservation, open space
- Analysis compares location of urban development to important ‘green’ assets

Water Resource Management

- Scenarios affect water quality & supply
- Return on Investment has lowest % of new households in water supply watersheds
Policies Affecting Sustainable Development

• What policies support sustainable development? What policies inhibit it?
• Connected Centers
  - Creates live/work/play locations
  - Requires higher density, mixed use, walkable areas
• What incentives are needed?

Mixed Use Developments & Centers in North Texas

• 214 mixed use developments & centers in North Texas
• Which types of mixed use occur under each scenario?
• How do these mixed use areas affect regional issues?
Design Choices for Public Places

- Public places involve transportation, architecture, parks & open space, and surface water.
- Creating quadruple net value
  - Economic
  - Social/cultural
  - Environmental
  - Visual
- Return on Investment and Green Region achieve this.

Community Types
Design Choices for Traditional Centers & Edge Cities

- How do these choices relate to the scenarios?
- North Texas case studies suggest the connections
  - Discuss examples from Denton, McKinney, Midlothian, Pilot Point & Red Oak

Smart Design Choices for Inner Tier Communities & Neighborhoods

- Several scenarios emphasize reinvestment in inner tier areas
- Case studies disprove myths:
  - Can’t have affordable housing near CBD
  - Need a car to live in Dallas
- Discuss these issues with case studies
  - CitiWalk @ Akard
  - Buzz Lofts
Smart Design Choices for Outer Tier Communities & Neighborhoods

• What are the alternatives to ‘business as usual’ design in more suburban settings?
• Case studies give examples relevant to scenarios including Diverse, Distinct Communities
  - Vitruvian Park
  - Montgomery Farm

These are initial findings.

Your input today will shape the complete analysis of these scenarios.
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Introduction to Discussions

Karen Walz FAICP
VNT Project Manager

Discussion Sessions

- Format
  - Each topic has a discussion leader & recorder
  - Discussion leader will make a brief presentation to kick off dialogue
  - A set of questions will focus discussion
  - Recorder’s notes will share your input with the research team
- 25 minutes for the session
- Then repeat on a second topic
- Use comment forms for detailed suggestions
Discussion Sessions
Discussion of Results

Please refer to the “Results Report” (a separate pdf) for the results of these discussions.

Keypad Polling

Individual Feedback about Critical Issues & Priorities
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Background Issues

The county where I’m most involved is:

1. Collin
2. Dallas
3. Denton
4. Tarrant
5. Other Eastern (Ellis, Hunt, Kaufman, Navarro, Rockwall)
6. Other Western (Erath, Hood, Palo Pinto, Somervell, Wise)
My primary stakeholder interest is:

1. Arts & Culture
2. Business/Economic
3. Development
4. Education
5. Environmental
6. Health
7. Government
8. Neighborhood/Civic
9. Other

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Today’s Discussions
How well do the group’s concepts reflect my own views about directions the region should consider?

1. Very consistent with my ideas
2. Somewhat consistent with my ideas
3. Somewhat inconsistent with my ideas
4. Very inconsistent with my ideas

How well does the set of North Texas 2050 scenarios reflect our region’s choices?

1. They are a good reflection of our range of choices.
2. We need choices that represent an even wider range of possibilities.
3. They reflect a wider range of choices than we have.
4. I’m not sure.
How well do the Principles of Development Excellence reflect my idea of a desired future?

1. Very consistent
2. Somewhat consistent
3. Neutral
4. Somewhat inconsistent
5. Very inconsistent
6. I’m not sure

Should sustainability be a criterion when North Texas makes regional investments?

1. Yes, this is essential
2. Desirable if we have enough resources
3. Probably not worthwhile
4. I’m not sure
Should we set regional investment priorities based on a preferred growth scenario?

1. Yes, this is essential
2. Desirable if we have enough resources
3. Probably not worthwhile
4. I’m not sure

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Discussion Topics

Participants answered the questions on the following slides for the issues addressed by the discussion groups they joined.
How important are these issues to the region’s future?

1. Very Important
2. Important
3. Neutral
4. Not Important
5. Very Unimportant
6. I’m Not Sure

How well do the recommendations reflect my idea of a desired future?

1. Very consistent
2. Somewhat consistent
3. Neutral
4. Somewhat inconsistent
5. Very inconsistent
6. I’m not sure
How important to the region’s future?

- Responses of ‘very important’
  - Water 94%
  - Transportation 88%
  - Natural Assets 82%
  - Sustainable Development 75%
  - Health 74%
  - Housing 69%
  - Inner Tier Design 67%
  - Mixed Use, Public Places & Outer Tier Design 61%
  - Design in Centers 57%

How well do the group’s ideas reflect my own on future direction?

- Responses of ‘very consistent’ or ‘somewhat consistent’
  - Health 96%
  - Housing 96%
  - Sustainable Development 95%
  - Public Places 95%
  - Mixed Use 94%
  - Transportation 93%
  - Natural Assets 93%
  - Water 91%
  - Inner Tier Design 81%
  - Design in Centers 75%
  - Outer Tier Design 72%
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Next Steps

Am I willing to stay involved in creating North Texas 2050?

1. Definitely
2. Maybe
3. Probably not
4. I don’t think this is important for the region

85%
14%
0%
1%
Am I willing to help implement a *North Texas 2050* vision for the region?

1. Definitely
2. Maybe
3. Probably not
4. I don’t think this is important for the region

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- Advisors & Management Committee
- Research Team members
- Discussion Leaders
- Recorders
- Other volunteers
- NCTCOG Staff
- Project Manager

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We’re Adjourned

Thank you for coming.
Stay involved at
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