

# Vision North Texas, 2008 & 2009

## *Where is North Texas Headed?*

By the year 2030, the sixteen county North Texas region may be home to 9.46 million people. Where these people choose to live and work will have a major effect on the quality of life for all North Texans in the coming decades — from environmental impacts such as air and water quality to economic vitality, availability of parks, mobility options and desirable community character. Decisions made today about regional development patterns and the public and private investments that result from these choices will determine the region's ability to be successful and sustainable in the long term.

## *Vision North Texas*

Vision North Texas (VNT) is a partnership of private, public, and academic organizations working to increase awareness about the growth expected in North Texas. It involves people and organizations in initiatives that accommodate that growth successfully and sustainably.

The partnerships' three Charter Sponsors are the Urban Land Institute's North Texas District Council (ULI), the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA); many other organizations participate as partners and sponsors. Vision North Texas'

activities are directed by a small Management Committee representing the Charter Sponsors and other leaders in the private, public and academic sectors, and are guided by more than 70 Advisors representing key private and public sector entities. Information on VNT's activities and accomplishments since it began in late 2004 are found at [www.visionnorthtexas.org](http://www.visionnorthtexas.org).



Vision North Texas involves the people of North Texas in deciding what a desirable and sustainable future will look like for our region. It brings together people from diverse backgrounds and interests to discuss common interests, understand differences, and find solutions. It educates people about the change and growth our region is facing, and about the options we have to successfully accommodate this growth. It is the region's forum to debate and agree on a shared vision for our region and a practical action program to create that future. It provides North Texas decision-makers with the tools they need to make better choices that, together, will make this vision a reality.

## *North Texas 2050*

In September 2007, the Vision North Texas leadership began an ambitious effort to create *North Texas 2050*, a document that will be a 'gamebook' designed to help the region grow more successfully and sustainably. *North Texas 2050 (NT2050)* will include six chapters, described below.

### **1. Executive Summary**

### **2. Overview**

The overview tells the reader what is contained in *NT2050*, how it was created, how it will be used by private, public and non-profit decision-makers, and what performance measures will be used to monitor progress over time.

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## 3. The People of North Texas

The reason to create something like *NT2050* is to help our region accommodate the people who will live here in the future. *NT2050* should give decision-makers a better understanding of what these future residents will demand (that is, what the shape of the market will be) and better ways to invest so North Texas meets the needs of future residents (in other words, to create a region that is desired by the people who are expected to be here).

This chapter provides information about the people in North Texas today. It includes projections of the future regional population and assessments of the characteristics of these anticipated residents. It then explains what these characteristics mean for the shape of North Texas' future. It considers the sort of region these future residents will want as a place to live, work and play, and proposes possible alternative scenarios that could meet these demands.

## 4. A Vision for North Texas

This chapter describes the vision we have for the future of North Texas. It includes a vision statement, goals and/or guiding principles, one or more preferred scenarios for the region's development, and a regional investment framework that integrates the major infrastructure and other assets needed to support anticipated growth. The investment framework will be structured so it includes the major investment categories for our region's infrastructure and integrates them into a coordinated framework for the region. The possible categories for this framework are listed in the table on the right.

<b>Table 1: Regional Investment Framework</b>	
Primary investment categories could include:	
•	Natural assets
•	Water infrastructure
•	Energy infrastructure
•	Facility infrastructure (transportation, public buildings, etc.)
•	Community assets (housing, arts, neighborhoods, etc.)
•	Economic assets (major economic generators & industries)
•	Waste infrastructure
•	Other areas

## 5. A Playbook to Achieve the Vision

This chapter supports the decision-makers who want to make their own choices in a way that will achieve the vision described in *NT2050*. It includes decision analysis tools that private, public, academic and non-profit decision-makers can use to understand the implications of individual choices, create their own action programs with measures ranging from education to formal adoption of specific plans or policies, and decide how to modify their choices to respond to changing conditions or uncertainties.

## 6. Action Package

The action package contains the tools and techniques that many different decision-makers will use to achieve the regional vision. These tools include information on 'best practices', examples or models that can be used by individual decision-makers and sources for technical assistance. The action package should give decision-makers a way to align their own choices and investments so they help achieve the region's vision.

## Work Plan for 2008 and 2009

During these two years, Vision North Texas will focus on creating *North Texas 2050*. The steps in this process are organized around three major milestones. Each milestone represents a set of events for public involvement and discussion; each will focus on a specific report prepared and distributed in advance. The chart below shows the schedule, the milestones and the reports.

#	Steps	2008					2009											
		8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Mobilizing Resources	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█		
2	Examining Regional Choices	█	█	█	█	█												
3	Creating A Regional Vision Statement				█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█					

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#	Steps	2008					2009												
		8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
4	Detailing A Regional Action Package																		
5	Approving A Regional Policy																		
6	Implementing the Results																		
7	Managing The NT2050 Process																		
<b>Key Milestones for North Texas 2050</b>																			
<b>Regional Summit 2008</b> "Regional Choices for North Texas" Report						*													
<b>General Assemblies</b> "North Texas Alternative Futures" report												*							
<b>Regional Summit 2009</b> "North Texas 2050"																	*		

The section below notes the highlights of each key milestone: its objective, the report that will be the focus of discussion, the general timing and the result anticipated. All Vision North Texas work will be organized around these three key milestones, including efforts to secure resources, the schedule of meetings and the substantive tasks that will be completed.

### Milestone 1: Regional Summit 2008

- **Objective:** Agree on key areas for emphasis in *NT2050*.
- **Focus Report:** *"Regional Choices for North Texas"*
  - Compiles research and information about critical issues that will shape the future of North Texas.
  - Provides a complete picture of our region as it exists today.
  - Describes the future that is expected if North Texas continues "business as usual" and follows current trends and plans.
  - Proposes a set of alternatives to this future that are based on the results of the subregional workshops and the ideas of the region's stakeholders.
- **Timing:** Subregional discussions to be held in November 2008; Regional Summit 2008 to be held in December 2008; agreement on next steps to be reached in January 2009
- **Anticipated Results:** By the end of the Regional Summit 2008 and follow-up leadership consideration, Vision North Texas will have:
  - Built on the knowledge of what the region is thinking from previous VNT work.
  - Established a shared understanding about the region's current situation and 'business as usual' future
  - Formed a general understanding of the priorities that stakeholders want to be addressed by the Vision and Action Package for 2050 (such as the major concepts expressed in the vision statement, primary investment categories and topics to be addressed by the infrastructure framework, or tools for inclusion in the action package); and
  - Secured direction for staff and consultants on the details of tasks for the next six months.

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## Milestone 2: General Assemblies

- **Objective:** Begin public discussion of regional alternatives and recommendations for the *NT2050* document. This discussion will generate feedback that will enable VNT to focus on preferred alternatives in the final *NT2050* document.
- **Focus Report:** “*North Texas Alternative Futures*”
  - Presents the results from analysis of the possible regional futures.
  - Discusses implications of these choices.
  - Identifies the action tools and techniques that are most important to each alternative.
- **Timing:** General Assemblies to be held in June 2009
- **Anticipated Results:** By the end of these sessions, the alternatives that could be included in the final *NT2050* document will have been presented to VNT leaders and key stakeholders and the process for public review and comment will be underway.

## Milestone 3: Regional Summit 2009

- **Objective:** Consideration of, and approval/endorsement of “*North Texas 2050*” document
- **Focus Report:** “*North Texas 2050*” draft
- **Timing:** The Regional Summit 2009 will be held in November 2009. Key partners’ consideration of *NT2050* will occur in December 2009 or early 2010.
- **Anticipated Results:** After the Regional Summit 2009 and the meetings of key partners, a *NT2050* regional vision & action package will be in place. Consideration of *NT2050* by other stakeholders and *NT2050* implementation will follow in 2010.

## Action by Partners

*North Texas 2050* will be created through the work of many partner organizations. It will be implemented through their decisions, investments and other actions. Formal adoption (or approval, endorsement, etc.) by these will be an important sign of their commitment to create the shared vision *North Texas 2050* will present.

Key partners include:

- ULI North Texas Executive Committee
- NCTCOG Executive Board
- UTA
- Regional Transportation Council
- Regional Water Planning Groups

Other key partners might include:

- Organizations that have been major collaborators in the creation of *NT2050* (including the North Texas Housing Coalition and others)
- Energy interests
- Environmental coalitions
- Groups representing major employers
- Other organizations

We will also seek consideration by the other organizations that have been involved in creation of *NT2050*, such as:

- Each of the region’s counties
- Each of the region’s cities
- North Texas Commission
- The Chambers of Commerce
- Neighborhood coalitions
- Other interest coalitions
- Major employers
- State and federal organizations (or their North Texas leaders)
- Other universities, colleges, community colleges and ISD’s
- Other development community organizations
- Other private sector businesses
- Other civic and non-profit organizations