

# Overview

**B**y the year 2030, the sixteen county North Texas region may be home to 9.49 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.

## What is Vision North Texas?

Vision North Texas 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.

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.

## Vision North Texas Activities and Accomplishments

The Vision North Texas partnership began its work by hosting a regional visioning workshop, held in April 2005 at the University of Texas at Arlington. This workshop brought together a diverse group



of nearly 200 stakeholders from across the region to discuss alternatives to the pattern of urban growth currently projected for the area. During the visioning workshop, participants defined 15 alternative development scenarios that could provide increased quality of life, sustainability and economic vitality for the people who will live and work here in the

future. Evaluation of these scenarios showed they could provide North Texas with significant economic and environmental benefits—more than \$15 billion in transportation cost savings, in one case.

Following the 2005 workshop, leaders from across the region urged Vision North Texas to continue this important work. Vision North Texas has now completed more than 100 workshops and presentations and conducted research on issues such as creation of a regional greenprint and support for development best practices. A Leadership Summit in 2006 engaged the elected and appointed leaders of the regions' cities and counties. In 2007 and 2008, four subregional workshops involved diverse stakeholders throughout the region in a more detailed discussion of the best ways to accommodate anticipated growth.

Since 2005, Vision North Texas has involved and heard from hundreds of stakeholders who share a vision for a sustainable North Texas and who overwhelmingly urged our region to take action.

## Creating a Regional 'Gamebook'

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** will include a Regional Vision Statement describing the region of the future that current residents would like to achieve. It will also contain an Action Package of tools and techniques that can be used by many different private and public decision-makers to help achieve that regional vision.







## Examining Regional Choices

This report, ***Regional Choices for North Texas***, is the first product of this ambitious effort. It compiles research and information about critical issues that will shape the future of North Texas. It provides a complete picture of our region as it exists today. It describes the future that is expected if North Texas continues “business as usual” and follows current trends and plans. Then, it 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.

***Regional Choices for North Texas*** lays the groundwork for substantive policy discussion that will begin with subregional update sessions in November 2008 and a major Regional Summit on December 9, 2008. These discussions will shape a set of alternative scenarios for the region’s future that will be analyzed in 2009. A second report, ***Alternative Futures***



***for North Texas***, will present the results of this analysis and the implications of these alternatives on the region’s livability, economic vitality and sustainability. Major assemblies in June 2009 will begin regional debate about these alternatives. Feedback from stakeholders and interested individuals will set priorities and shape the recommendations in the ***North Texas 2050*** draft. This regional dialogue will conclude in late 2009 with the completion of ***North Texas 2050***. Vision North Texas Charter Sponsors, cities and counties, civic and development organizations and others will be asked to adopt or approve ***North Texas 2050*** and use it to help guide their own decisions and investments.

### Exhibit 3.1: Geographies of the North Central Texas Region

