

Vision North Texas Partnership

Vision North Texas is a private, public and academic partnership created to serve as a forum for dialogue and action about the challenges of accommodating a significant amount of future growth in a way that is both sustainable and successful. Beginning with a regional visioning workshop in 2005, the partnership has involved people from all parts of the region in a dialogue about the choices facing North Texas. Through this discussion, the North Texas 2050 vision and action package was created. It describes a future that North Texans believe is better than the future that results from 'business as usual' decision-making. In the time since North Texas 2050 was released, organizations throughout the region have been taking the first steps to achieve this preferred future. This progress report describes these activities and their results.

For more details: www.visionnorthtexas.org
vnt@planforaction.com | 214 320 1154

Vision North Texas Management Committee

Fernando Costa, FAICP
Chair

Lyle Drescher
Other Cities' Representative

Mike Eastland
North Central Texas Council of
Governments Representative

Lois Finkelman
Environmental Representative

Robert Folzenlogen
Major Employers
Representative

Don Gatzke
University of Texas at Arlington
Representative

Mabrie Jackson
North Texas Commission
Representative

Jungus Jordan
Regional Transportation
Council Representative

Ann Kovich, AICP
Design/Consulting
Representative

Danny Scarth
Fort Worth City Council
Representative

Vacant
Dallas City Council
Representative

John Walsh
Urban Land Institute
Representative

Stephen Waddell, Ph.D.
Educational Representative

Guiding Principles

Development Diversity – Meet the needs of changing markets by providing a mix of development options and land use types in communities throughout the region.

Efficient Growth – Promote reinvestment and redevelopment in areas with existing infrastructure, ensure that new infrastructure supports orderly and sustainable growth, and provide coordinated regional systems of natural and built infrastructure.

Pedestrian Design – Create and connect pedestrian-(and bicyclist) oriented neighborhoods, centers and places throughout the region.

Housing Choice – Sustain and facilitate a range of housing opportunities and choices that meet the needs of residents of all economic levels and at all stages of life.

Activity Centers – Create mixed use developments that are centers of neighborhoods and community activities and serve as hubs of non-automobile transportation systems.

Environmental Stewardship – Protect, retain or enhance the region’s important natural assets (including its air, water, land and forests) and integrate these natural features and systems into the character of the region’s communities and the experiences of its residents.

Quality Places – Strengthen the identities of the region’s diverse communities through preservation of significant historic structures and natural assets, creation of new landmarks and gathering spaces, use of compatible architectural and landscape design, and support for the activities and institutions that make each community unique.

Efficient Mobility Options – Invest in transportation systems, facilities and operations that provide multi-modal choices for the efficient and sustainable movement of people, goods and services.

Resource Efficiency – Design buildings, sites, communities and regional systems to use water, energy, and renewable resources responsibly, effectively and efficiently, and to retain non-renewable resources for the use of future generations.

Educational Opportunity – Provide opportunities for all North Texans to have access to the schools, people and technology they need for success in learning throughout their lives.

Healthy Communities – Identify and support functional, sustainable infrastructure and institutions that offer North Texans access to affordable, nutritious foods, opportunities for physical activity, and access to wellness and primary care services.

Implementation – Achieve the region’s vision by adoption of compatible comprehensive plans and ordinances for cities and consistent investment plans for regional systems; involve citizens and stakeholders in all aspects of these planning processes.

North Texas 2050 Implementation

Work Plan for 2010-2011: Action to Achieve 'Better than Business as Usual' During 2011

The Work Plan describes the activities through October 2011 that help implement *North Texas 2050 (NT2050)*, when Vision North Texas will hold its annual Summit. For each heading, you can click on it to expand and reveal a list of items:

ACTIVITY

STATUS

Online 'Best Practices'

1. Updated Online Case Studies

- a. The existing case studies will be updated in the following ways:
 - i. The chart related to VNT alternative futures will be replaced with a chart showing the case study's relevance to each of the Policy Areas and Centers in the *NT2050* document.
 - ii. Additional information will be added. Desirable items include more information on the project's economics, finances, profitability; additional images or videos; more detail on the project's characteristics; and similar items. Resource availability will impact the amount of new information that can be added by the time of the Summit.
- b. New case studies will be added so there are multiple case studies that relate to each of the *NT2050* Policy Areas and Centers.
- c. Case studies may be linked to the websites of ULI NT and/or UTA.
- d. The updated set of case studies will be released at the Summit.
- e. ULI North Texas' Sustainability Committee has leadership responsibility for this activity.



[Updated Online Case Studies](#)

2. Online Design Guidance

- a. The existing online case studies will be supplemented with additional information that provides design guidance for people seeking to follow these examples:
 - i. A standard package of design guidance will be developed. The package will establish the format and contents for the design guidance provided for each online case study. Target audiences include private developers, public agency staff, neighborhood leaders and others. The contents could include site plans; listings of key features in project zoning ordinances or development agreements; sketches; photos or videos of the projects after completion; cross-sections; design standards; plant or building material palettes; or other information. Resource availability will impact the amount of new information that can be added by the time of the Summit.
 - ii. Design guidance will be provided for the existing online case studies.
- b. Design guidance will be provided for new case studies.
- c. Case studies may be linked to the websites of UTA and/or ULI NT.
- d. The design guidance case studies will be released at the Summit.
- e. UTA's Center for Metropolitan Density has leadership responsibility for this activity.



[Updated Online Case Studies](#)

Communication and Outreach

3. Communications Materials

- a. Informational materials will be updated to share the **NT2050** recommendations with many people and diverse audiences. A short brochure will be created and produced to summarize the **NT2050** recommendations. A set of PowerPoint presentations will be created for use by speakers, with presentations targeted to particular audiences and for brief and extended presentations. The Vision North Texas website will be updated.
- b. The annual report presented at the Summit will summarize the audiences reached with these materials.
- c. The Vision North Texas partnership has leadership responsibility for this activity.

The Vision North Texas partnership has developed new communications materials for use in presentations and discussions around the region. A set of [PowerPoint presentations](#) has been developed that serves as the template for specific presentations tailored to the interests of particular audiences. The Vision North Texas website has been updated with information about **North Texas 2050** and the work that is implementing it. A [Progress Report](#) has been produced that combines key **North Texas 2050** recommendations with highlights of action to carry out these recommendations.

In addition to these print and digital resources, a new Vision North Texas Speakers' Bureau has been established. 41 individuals have volunteered to serve in the Speakers' Bureau. A training session was held in June 2011. A system is in place to seek speaking opportunities, match the speakers with the audiences, and to support the speaker in making the presentation.

4. Briefings and Presentations

- a. Briefings and presentations will be made to key organizations and decision-makers within the region. Primary audiences include:
 - i. Elected city, county and school district leaders, particularly newly elected officials
 - ii. Major employers, realtors, development interests, business and economic development organizations
 - iii. Banking and other financial interests
 - iv. Community, civic and stakeholder organizations
 - v. Appointed boards and commissions
 - vi. Leaders in the region's colleges and universities
 - vii. Professional staff in relevant departments of public sector agencies and in consulting firms
 - viii. Leadership classes
- b. The annual report presented at the Summit will summarize the presentations made and the audiences reached.
- c. The Vision North Texas partnership has leadership responsibility for this activity.

Since the release of the **North Texas 2050** vision and action package in March 2010, members of the Vision North Texas partnership have provided at least 50 briefings and presentations to organizations in North Texas and at state and national conferences.

Organizations within all of these audiences have been reached through this program. The [table here](#) lists the specific organizations and dates of briefings and presentations; additional VNT leaders may have made additional presentations during this time.

Regionwide Plans and Policies

5. Major Update to Regional Wastewater Plan

- a. During 2011, NCTCOG through its Water Resources Council is updating the regional wastewater plan for which it has had responsibility since the 1970's. Particular attention is being placed on programmed service areas for the outer tier as illustrated in **NT2050**. The updated plan will be completed and submitted to the state by late summer..
- b. This updated plan will be examined to determine its relationship to the preferred future depicted in **NT2050**.
- c. These results will be presented at the Summit.
- d. NCTCOG's Environment & Development Department has leadership responsibility for this activity.

Wastewater services in the "North Texas 2050" planning area are generally supportive of the Preferred Future growth pattern and recommendations. The Inner Tier, as well as most of the Outer Tier, is currently served by Regional Wastewater Service Providers. Current, planned and proposed expansion of facility capacity should be adequate to address projected Inner and Outer Tier development patterns. Because large infrastructure projects develop slowly, and Regional Providers consolidate the needs of multiple entities, facility expansions and service area extensions tend to reflect cost-effective 'phasing' and life-cycle considerations.

Many of the Separate Communities are served by Community Systems. Planning for these systems is not always as far-reaching as that of the Regional Systems, but Separate Communities in the planning area are anticipated to keep up with the needs of the preferred physical development pattern. In at least one example, a developer has proposed a wastewater treatment plant in a Rural Area in anticipation of growth, but generally infrastructure development for Separate Communities is following growth. As facilities age and require replacement, Separate Communities redirect their waste stream to Regional Providers or expand treatment capacity cooperatively.

The Water Quality Management Plan has been updated and sent to the state for their review.

6. Updated Trinity River COMMON VISION Policy Position

- a. With the guidance of the Trinity River Steering Committee and supporting staff, NCTCOG is revisiting and updating the adopted Policy Position. As a companion to the video prepared for the 20-year celebration held last year, NCTCOG is filming a second video capturing the participants' goals and visions for the next 20 years. **NT2050** anticipates significant investment and redevelopment for the inner tier areas that comprise much of the Trinity River watershed.
- b. The updated policy position will be presented at the Summit.
- c. NCTCOG's Environment & Development Department has leadership responsibility for this activity.

The Trinity River has helped shape the North Central Texas region since its beginning over a hundred and seventy years ago. The COMMON VISION program is centered on the opportunities and challenges of the Trinity, arguably the most significant natural resource in North Central Texas. Begun in the mid-1980s, the COMMON VISION has produced many concepts and ideas that have helped increase awareness and appreciation of the Trinity as a SAFE, CLEAN and GREEN resource for the region. The COMMON VISION remains a growing example of the benefit of local government cooperation and partnership among all levels of

government; local, State and federal. Examples of the products of our partnership included the innovative and locally-driven Trinity River Corridor Development Certificate process, the Trinity Trails System, and the ongoing Upper Trinity River Feasibility Study with the US Army Corps of Engineers.

The 1989 Regional Policy Position for the Trinity River has served as the foundation for all of our work and has done a great job. As the future unfolds, we know we need to continue our regional discussion and partnership by revisiting the policy position. We know that this update will remind the region's decision-makers of how far we have come in valuing the Trinity and how it will help our local governments recommit to the health and safety of the river for the next hundred years.

Potential Elements for our updated policy position discussion:

Since celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Trinity River COMMON VISION Program last year, we initiated preliminary discussions on what the updated regional policy position should look like. Among the many ideas that have come forward so far, some include...

- Local governments must remain as the primary stewards of the Trinity River Corridor.
- Cooperative management is key to achieving local goals for the Trinity River.
- Common permit criteria and procedures of the Corridor Development Certificate Process should continue; reaffirming the local role as floodplain manager.
- Education and outreach is a key to promoting the appreciation and value of the Trinity to the entire region.
- The Trinity Trails System should remain a top priority for communities along the river.
- Whenever possible, multiple objective management strategies should be investigated to provide the "biggest bang for the buck" possible and to serve the largest numbers of the region's residents
- Aging storm water management, water supply and other infrastructure needs to be recognized and addressed.
- Water conservation programs need to be encouraged.
- Updated engineering and management tools for the decision-makers along the river need to be explored.
- Newly released watershed delineations need to be incorporated into how we talk about and manage the Trinity River and its related drainage area.

[Trinity River COMMON VISION Webpage](#)

7. Watershed Protection Strategies for Water Supply Lakes

- a. As the regional water quality planning agency, NCTCOG is working with major water providers, affected local governments and other stakeholders to craft strategies for the long-range protection of our water supply lakes. NT2050 recognizes the potential impacts of future growth in the outer tier and rural areas on these reservoirs.
- b. These recommendations for long-range watershed protection will be available by early fall and will be presented at the Summit.
- c. NCTCOG's Environment & Development Department has leadership responsibility for this activity.

Work is well underway by NCTCOG and the major regional water providers to update the policy position on



protection of our region’s water supply reservoirs. A draft document has been written with proposed recommendations that have been put forth by providers and stakeholders from a series of meetings held in the spring of 2010. You can view the draft version of the proposed updates to the [policy position here](#).

8. Transportation-Related Activities

- a. For all the activities listed in this item, NCTCOG’s Transportation Department has leadership responsibility.
- b. Regional coordination of local governments and Independent School Districts to examine best practices and institutional processes to promote sustainable neighborhoods.
 - i. Deliverables: White paper on school site selection and pedestrian-friendly transportation connections.
- c. Public Infrastructure improvements to support transit and/or development and in-fill development in areas of environmental justice concern.
 - i. Deliverables: Construction of sustainable infrastructure improvements to create connections between DART transit stations and Fiji/Compton Mixed use Sustainable Development project in Dallas.
- d. Creation of infill and redevelopment tools and strategies.
 - i. Deliverable: On-line resources for funding and redevelopment tools.
- e. Rural County land use and growth scenario planning.
 - i. Deliverable: Hunt County Land Use Plan and Thoroughfare Plan.
- f. Coordination of community group and stakeholder involvement of context sensitive design and thoroughfare projects.
 - i. Deliverables: Land Use and transportation circulation vision of Garland Road corridor in Dallas to create strategies for neighborhood preservation, economic development, corridor beautification, and pedestrian-friendly amenities.
 - ii. Deliverables: Rosedale Street thoroughfare planning and citizen participation in Fort Worth to plan for sustainable land use transportation options in the corridor
- g. Creation of regional templates and guidelines for on-street bicycle facilities.
 - 1. Deliverable: Creation of a regional template for on-street bicycle facilities developed using the Dallas 2011 Bike Plan and other relevant plans and documents as a base.
- h. Housing and market analysis for redevelopment and mixed use development opportunities.
 - 0. Deliverables: Planning study for Burleson Transit Oriented Development and station area market analysis and strategies to encourage infill development.



[More Details on These Seven Activities](#)

9. Mobility 2035

- a. As the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth area, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is required to maintain a long-range transportation plan that defines a vision for the region’s multimodal transportation system. The new long-range transportation plan, Mobility 2035, was adopted by the Regional Transportation Council and the NCTCOG Executive Board in March 2011. It emphasizes the need to coordinate land use and transportation decisions to address fiscal constraints on transportation investment.
- b. Representatives of the region’s transportation leadership (the Regional Transportation



Council/staff) and Vision North Texas leadership (Management Committee/staff) will meet to discuss the relationship between Mobility 2035 and the NT2050 vision, guiding principles and preferred future.

- c. The conclusions from this discussion will be presented at the Summit.
- d. NCTCOG's Transportation Department has leadership responsibility for this activity.

Mobility 2035 was adopted by the NCTCOG Executive Board and the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) in March 2011. Leaders of the RTC and Vision North Texas partnership met in October to discuss shared objectives that implement **North Texas 2050** and increase sustainability in North Texas. The work of the RTC and its staff continues to support these objectives. Mobility 2035 can be accessed at the following web link: www.nctcog.org/trans/mtp/2035/index.asp

10. Access to Healthy Food and Lifestyles

- a. Multi-disciplinary planning and policy are needed to implement recommendations that:
 - i. discourage food deserts by supporting grocery store placement in low income, minority communities;
 - ii. provide incentives for healthy foods in convenience stores;
 - iii. support community gardens, farmers markets and other techniques to make more locally grown fruits and vegetables available; and
 - iv. Design communities that include Safe Routes to School, and routes for walking and biking to daily destinations, as a way to reduce obesity and support healthy lifestyles.
- b. A status report on these activities will be presented at the Summit.
- c. The Health Research Team has leadership responsibility for this activity.

Discussion of these issues is in its early stages. The Health Research Team will convene after the 2011 Regional Summit to set objectives for 2012 that are realistic given partner resources.

11. Coordination of Regional Housing Plans and Policies

- a. During 2011, the Institute for Urban Policy Research will conduct a survey of the housing policy environment in the cities of Dallas, Tarrant, Collin, and Denton counties.
- b. During 2011, the North Texas Housing Coalition will collect housing plans from those cities in Dallas, Tarrant, Collin, and Denton counties for which plans exist.
- c. A summary of the survey of housing policies and the housing policy environment will be presented at the summit.
- d. The North Texas Housing Coalition has leadership responsibility for this activity.

The Institute for Urban Policy Research at UTD is designing a survey for administration to city housing department directors in North Texas cities. The survey, slated to launch during 4th quarter 2011, will assess the housing policy environment. After the survey results are processed, the North Texas Housing Coalition will collect housing plans available from the 15 largest North Texas cities for subsequent analysis.

12. Climate Resilience Research

- a. Investigate the programs underway in selected North Texas municipalities that directly or

indirectly address climate change.

- b. The research team will identify programs that are explicitly or tacitly linked to climate change and will document the scope of the programs, the role of planners and the emphasis on mitigation and adaptation.
- c. Research results will be presented at the Regional Summit.
- d. UTA's School of Urban and Public Affairs has leadership responsibility for this activity.

UTA's School of Urban and Public Affairs offered a course during the Summer 2011 semester titled 'Climate Change and Urban Planning in the North Texas Metroplex'. The class sought to determine how climate change and energy efficiency are being addressed by local governments in this region. The class developed a 'rubric' to use in documenting programs that explicitly address climate change and those that are focused on other objectives (like energy cost savings) but that also address climate change. Then the class completed four focused research tasks:

1. A broad survey of the 100 largest municipalities in the DFW region was conducted using the web and phone contacts with municipalities. This high level review identified any programs in these municipalities related to climate change or energy efficiency.
2. Then a smaller set of 15 communities was selected for more detailed analysis. Research on these communities included internet-based investigation and review of planning documents. This analysis used a checklist of 75 discrete activities related to both municipal and community actions to evaluate current programs and activities.
3. In-depth interviews were conducted with staff members at the majority of these 15 municipalities to explore climate change issues in more detail. Among the discussion issues were the relative emphasis on actions that mitigate climate change and those that seek to adapt to its results; the role of the planning department and other municipal departments in these efforts; and citizen perceptions of climate change.
4. A checklist and set of interviews examined activities related to climate change and energy efficiency at the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

Preliminary results from this research are presented in the '[Climate Change and Urban Planning](#)' presentation. Continuing research will be based on these results.

13. Marketing of North Texas Region

- a. The region's economic sustainability will be strengthened by efforts that improve the communications to businesses nationally and internationally about the assets and strengths of North Texas. Through discussion among organizations focused on the region's economy and economic development, an updated regional marketing strategy will be developed and implemented.
- b. The strategy may be presented at the Regional Summit.
- c. The DFW Marketing has leadership responsibility for this activity.



The North Texas Commission is preparing a regional magazine aimed at marketing the North Texas region to 20,000 site selection leaders and executives across the world. The magazine will target key international economies, such as Australia and Turkey, that have strong potential to expand their presence into the North Texas region. The distribution and marketing efforts of the North Texas Commission will closely follow the international destinations of DFW Airport and its air cargo and commercial carriers.

Policy Areas and Centers

14. Greenprinting to Identify High-Priority Natural Areas for Preservation

- a. Retaining and managing natural areas represents one of the five major policy areas in **North Texas 2050**. With the assistance of the Trust for Public Land, NCTCOG with local governments and stakeholders is “greenprinting” the growing Lake Arlington and Lake Lewisville East watersheds. These greenprints are identifying high-priority natural areas for preservation, thus serving as prototypes for the emerging Regional Ecosystem Framework
- b. The final products will be ready this summer and will be presented at the Summit.
- c. NCTCOG’s Environment & Development Department has leadership responsibility for this activity.

NCTCOG, through a grant provided by the U.S. EPA through TCEQ, has contracted with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) to “Greenprint” two clusters of subwatersheds (HUC12’s - Hydrologic Unit Code) for North Texas. This work is part of a larger NCTCOG effort directed to the protection of the region’s water supply lakes.

TPL provided guidance to NCTCOG in the selection of subwatersheds for detailed water quality protection analysis. Nine clusters of subwatersheds to seven different lakes were evaluated by TPL based on factors such as water quality issues, data availability, and current rate of development. NCTCOG’s Water Resources Council selected the following subwatersheds for Greenprinting: Lewisville Lake East and Lake Arlington.

[Regional Greenprint Report](#)

15. ReMix – Refined Mixed Use Centers Database on the Internet

- a. **NT2050** recognizes four types of mixed use centers: Regional, Metropolitan, Community and Neighborhood (see pg 23 of report). They reflect areas with a variety of uses (including both employment & housing), at least a moderate intensity of development, and for some, their roles as distinct or traditional centers of communities.
- b. NCTCOG’s Environment & Development Department will lead an Action Team to refine and improve the initial (and incomplete) database of mixed use centers.
- c. The refined database will be released on the Internet by/at the Summit.

North Texas 2050 recommendations include development of Mixed-Use Centers. Mixed-Use Centers are places in the region where people can live, work, play, study and take care of their daily needs – and where they can enjoy all these activities within a short walk instead of a long drive in a car. Additional benefits of Mixed-Use Centers include pedestrian-oriented design, decreased road congestion, and a sense of community.

[Refined Mixed Use Centers](#)

16. Vibrant North Texas Towns – Helping Separate Communities

- a. **NT2050** envisions a preferred future where the towns identified as separate community areas are a collection of diverse, sustainable communities, each with its own center and distinct character. Growth would occur from the inside out, not because the outer tier expands to encompass them. They are generally separated from the inner/outer tiers by rural or natural areas. This approach also supports

the economic vitality of these communities by encouraging employment centers to be located in these communities yet connected electronically to businesses in the central parts of the region.

- b. A Vibrant North Texas Towns coalition of towns and historic & downtown associations will be formed to assure that separate communities have a collective voice in the ongoing regional planning process. An Action Team from the VNT researchers will be formed. Separate communities will assess their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT analysis) in the fabric of North Texas.
- c. These results will be presented at the Summit.
- d. NCTCOG's Environment & Development Department will establish and support the Vibrant North Texas Towns coalition and this Action Team.

The NCTCOG Environment & Development Department has begun identifying the towns and historic & downtown associations that will form the Vibrant North Texas Towns Coalition. Communications to convene the potential Coalition members will begin soon with the goal of gathering input on how best to perform the SWOT analysis with the assistance of the VNT Action.

Local Plans and Development Projects

17. Local Plans and North Texas 2050

- a. Coordinate with cities to encourage their consideration of **NT2050** recommendations as they develop and implement local comprehensive plans and similar documents.
- b. Expand NCTCOG's existing repository of sustainable planning documents, including comprehensive plans, and create an online search engine so local governments can access this information more easily.
- c. Seek input from cities on refinements to improve **NT2050**.
- d. Report on the relationships between local plans and **NT2050** at the Summit.
- e. NCTCOG's Environment & Development Department has leadership responsibility for this activity.

The North Central Texas Council of Governments' Center of Development Excellence created the Library of Technical Tools in mid-2000. This Library contains numerous sustainable planning documents, such as ordinances, codes, design guidelines, incentives, and other innovative local government practices from the North Central Texas region that might serve as practical examples of tools to advance its mission.



This year the Center of Development Excellence has been working on creating a new Library of Technical Tools that currently contains hundreds of sustainable planning documents from the North Central Texas region as well as around the country. The new Library allows the user to search the documents contained within by either setting filters, such as by type of document, municipality, Principles of Development Excellence, or by typing in a specific word or phrase in the search window. This search feature not only searches the titles of all the documents but the entire content of the documents as well. The new Library of Technical Tools will be released for public use on the Center of Development Excellence website by the end of 2011.

[DevelopmentExcellence.com Technical Tools Website](http://DevelopmentExcellence.com/TechnicalToolsWebsite)

18. Sustainability Recognition Program

- a. The desirability of a regional sustainability recognition program will be studied. This program would be modeled on the successful smart growth recognition programs underway in other regions.



- b. Investigation of this idea will include the involvement of city managers and planning directors, as well as developer representatives.
- c. If such a program is recommended, a work plan, budget and schedule for its initiation will be presented at the Summit.
- d. ULI North Texas' Sustainability Committee has leadership responsibility for this activity.

The ULI North Texas Sustainability Committee has started its investigation of this concept. The committee began by interviewing leaders in other US regions that have successful similar programs – the Washington DC, Philadelphia and Seattle areas. The committee determined that the concept would potentially benefit the North Texas region. Since this committee has also been responsible for work on the update of online case studies, the committee chose to focus its volunteer resources on that activity this year. Research into the sustainability recognition program will continue during 2012 and will be a major focus for the committee.

Research and Monitoring

19. Housing and Demographic Analyses

- a. NCTCOG's Department of Research & Information Services has responsibility for performing demographic research on such topics as population, housing and employment. They will review the new 2010 Census data as well as NCTCOG's latest forecasts in light of the preferred future in **North Texas 2050**.
- b. They will develop or apply a methodology to determine regional housing supply and demand. This will include an estimate of the number and types of housing available in 2010, as well as units needed by 2040 based on the demographic forecasts.
- c. Results will be presented at the Summit.
- d. NCTCOG's Research & Information Services Department has leadership responsibility for this activity.

What would happen if we looked at our region's citizens and their homes through the 'eyes' of one of our most important natural resources, our watersheds? The study area for Vision North Texas covers seventeen subbasins within North Texas. From 2000 to 2010, the population of the study area increased by nearly 1.3 million people. But where do these people live and how could the local environment be affected by the growth?

Using data from the 2000 Census, 2010 Census and the 2005-2009 Census American Community Survey (ACS) NCTCOG-RIS staff analyzed the datasets using the region's watersheds and subbasins. Summary Profiles by sub-basin and VNT policy areas were generated along with an analysis of housing inventory and demand for the region. Below is a 10-page summary of the findings.

[Demographic Research Summary](#)

20. Housing and Development Indicators

- a. During 2011, the North Texas Housing Coalition will work with the Institute for Urban Policy Research to identify and access existing data that speaks to the development of the five critical housing indicators developed in **North Texas 2050**: housing intensity, variety, transportation affordability, supply and demand, and neighborhood conditions.
- b. During 2011, the North Texas Housing Coalition and the Institute for Urban Policy Research will develop one pilot analysis project with the available data.

- c. The status of available data and results of the pilot analysis will be presented at the summit.
- d. The North Texas Housing Coalition has leadership for this activity.

With the release of the 2010 American Community Survey and 2010 Decennial Census sub-county data, the Institute for Urban Policy Research at UTD and the North Texas Housing Coalition are in the process of developing quantitative definitions for each of the indicators identified in **North Texas 2050**. Data sources for region-wide development include the Census, American Community Survey, and Local Employer Household Dynamics. Other measures are being piloted at the county level using real estate sales data and central appraisal district data.

21. Health Indicators

- a. Identify at least one geographical area in Tarrant County to serve as a demonstration site for the development of the health indicator template.
- b. A progress report on the health indicator template will be presented at the Summit.
- c. The Health Research Team has leadership responsibility for this activity.

Tarrant County Public Health and the City of Mesquite Planning Department are collaborating on a Healthy Community Toolkit. The toolkit will include a health indicator matrix for planners and health professionals to use when designing neighborhoods that support healthy living. The matrix will include measurable indicators such as the following:

- Ratio of miles of bike lanes and paths to miles of road
- Proportion of schools with joint use playgrounds
- Proportion of population within ½ mile of a full service grocery store
- Proportion of population that consumes 5 or more fresh fruits and vegetables a day
- Proportion of population that achieves thirty or more minutes of moderate physical activity per day for five or more days per week

Each indicator will have background information, resource linkages, current status in the municipality, and ordinances which support the indicator.

22. Regional Benchmarks & Indicators

- a. The indicators used to evaluate alternative futures for North Texas will be reviewed. These and other indicators will be examined. A proposed set of regional indicators to track success in achieving a future that is 'better than business as usual' will be completed for review and discussion at the Summit. Indicators that are predictive – that show the best locations for successful development consistent with **NT2050** principles, for example – will also be developed.
- b. An Action Team of professional and civic participants will be convened to assist in creation of the indicator list. Some organizations that participate in the Action Team will take responsibility for monitoring particular indicators over time. This list of monitoring partners will be released at the Summit.
- c. The benchmark values for these indicators will be determined. As much as possible, the benchmarks will be the 2010 statistics for each regional indicator. These benchmarks will be released at the Summit.

- d. UTA’s Center for Metropolitan Density has leadership responsibility for this activity.

The Center for Metropolitan Density at UTA has begun discussions about the most appropriate indicators to both track and predict progress in North Texas. An initial set of possible indicators has been prepared based on some of the earlier indicator analysis work from sub-team studies for **North Texas 2050** in 2009 (VNT, 2011). This initial list of indicators will be considered as part of a working session at the Regional Summit. Continuing efforts to create North Texas indicators will be based on the outcomes of that session.

23. Annual Review and Summit

- a. Assemble information on progress toward the preferred future described in **NT2050** and recognize those organizations and individuals that have contributed to this progress.
- b. Prepare a brief summary report on this review for distribution at the Summit and online.
- c. Hold a regionwide Summit session to present these results and serve as a forum for discussion about these results and next steps for the region.
- d. The Vision North Texas partnership has leadership responsibility for this activity.



A Progress Report highlighting major accomplishments since the release of **North Texas 2050** has been completed for release at the Regional Summit. The Regional Summit itself completes the effort identified in this work plan item. Recommendations for focus during 2012 will result from the Summit. The VNT Management Committee will consider these recommendations as they set priorities for action in 2012 by the Vision North Texas partnership.

Reference: [Progress Report](#) and [Regional Summit](#)

 Not Started  Early Stages of Work  In Progress  Well Underway  Nearly Complete  Finished