

# Without Change, Region's Urban Ills Will Grow

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Vision North Texas is a Dallas-Fort Worth regional effort intended to address how to deal with a future that may see 9 million residents of the region in 2030. This demographic projection from the North Central Texas Council of Governments was shown at the group's April conference, which included area elected officials, business owners, and policymakers. Continuing on its current course would doom the region to even worse congested highways, smog, and other urban problems, Vision North Texas argues, and it believes the solution lies in the set of principles variously known by such terms as smart growth, sustainable development, or transit-oriented development "We were not saying there was a right or wrong way to develop," said the council of government's senior transportation planner, Alicia Hopkins; "We were saying, 'Let's open our eyes.'" Area municipalities, entities, and authorities showed enthusiasm for acting as a unified region, says Vision North Texas's Karen Walz. The organization does not propose altering city sovereignty, and there were no federal highway funds allotted. Vision North Texas was scheduled to release a report on the conference in July.