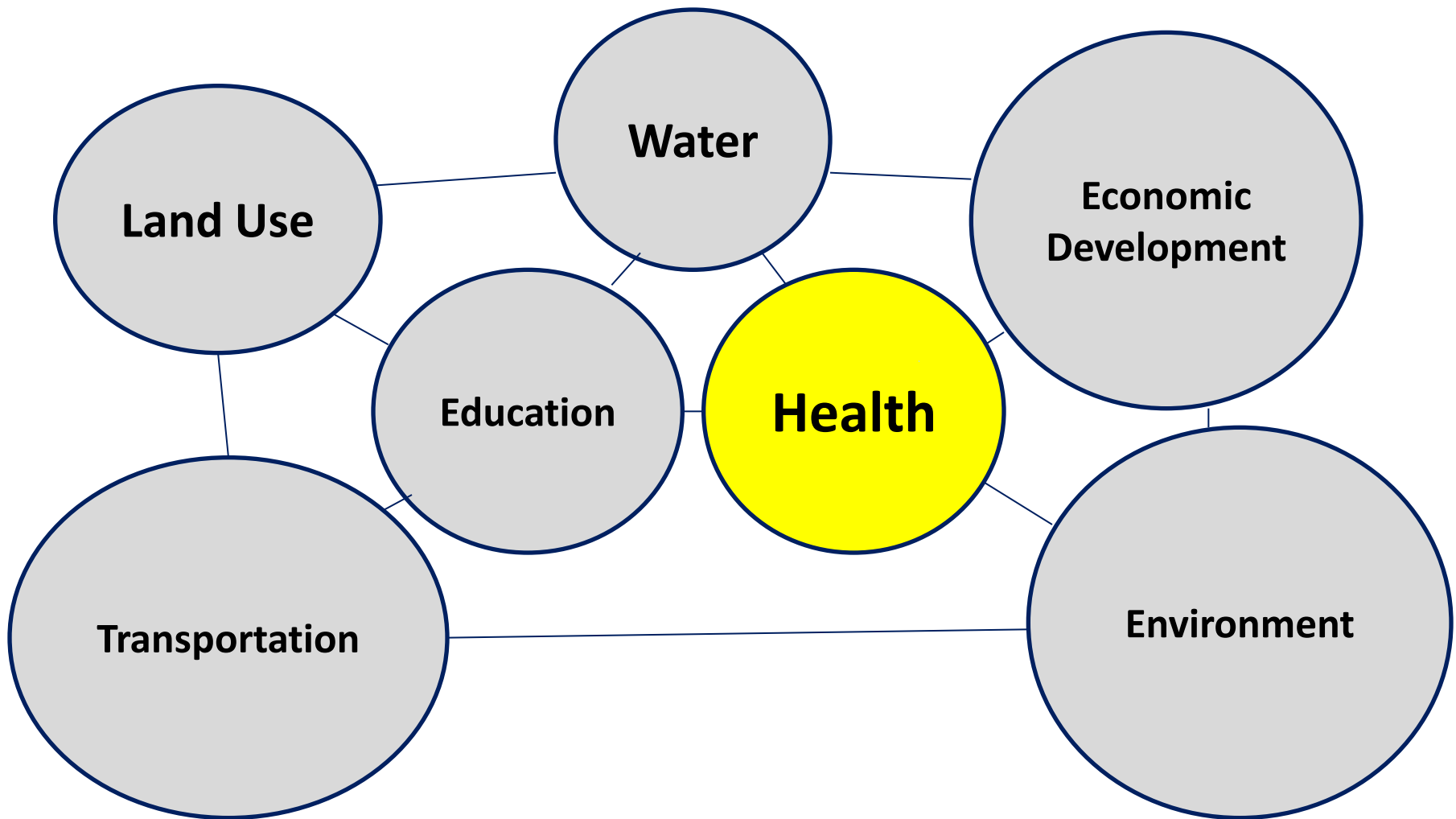


# North Texas 2050: How the Region's Growth and Development Are Affecting our Public Health

Presented to Tarrant County Voices for Health  
By Fernando Costa, Assistant City Manager, City of Fort Worth  
September 11, 2012





# Factors Influencing Health

- 50%** Lifestyle
- 20%** Environment
- 20% Genetics
- 10% Medical delivery system



Note: Medical delivery system = **95%** of health expenditures!

Source: *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*, March 1997.

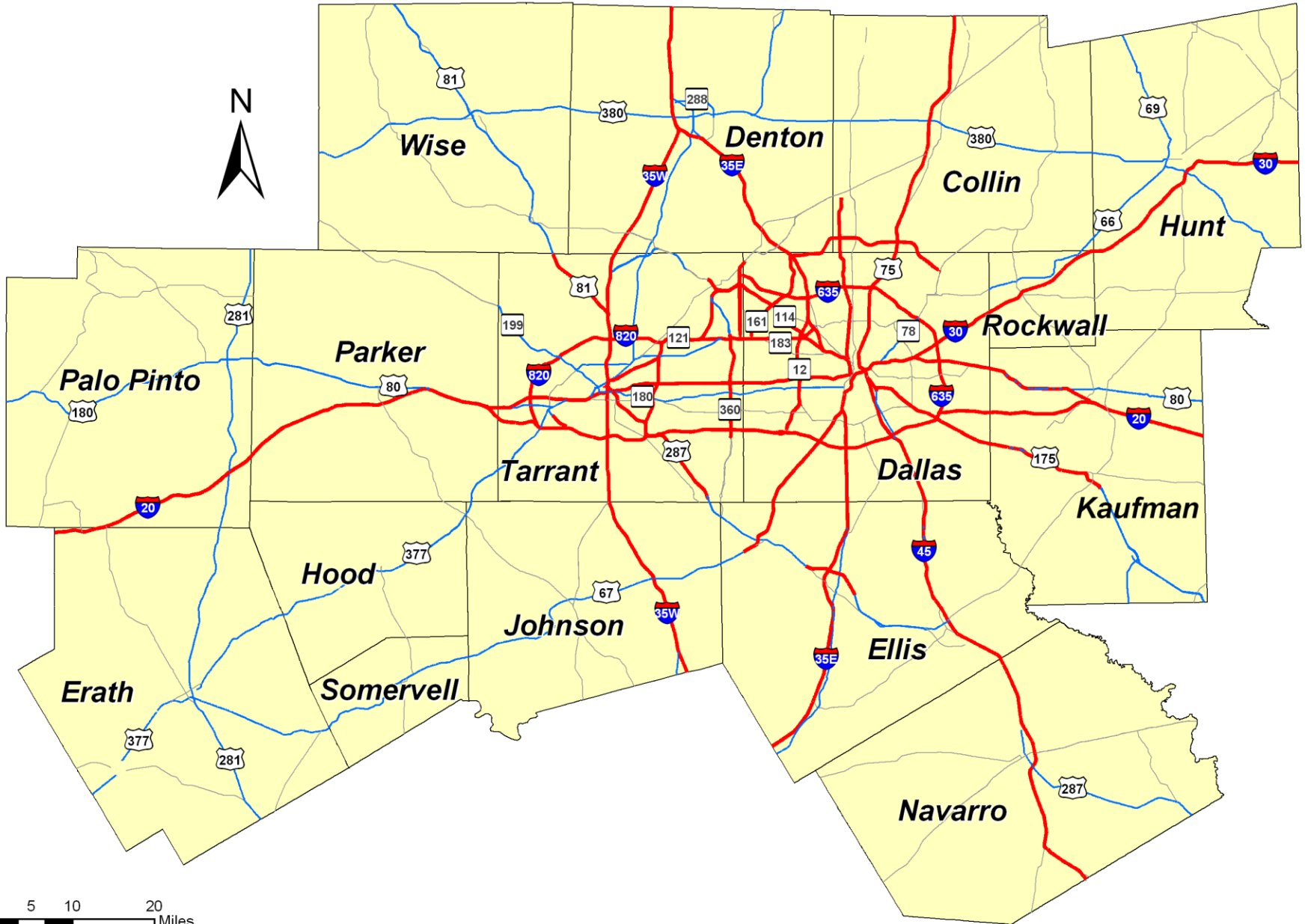
# Health Effects of Sprawl

- Higher levels of **ozone pollution**
- Greater risk of **traffic fatalities**
- Increased risk of **obesity** and high blood pressure
- Higher rates of arthritis, asthma, headaches, and other **chronic illnesses**
- **Social isolation**

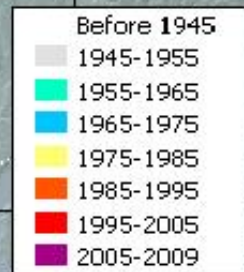


Source: *American Journal of Health Promotion*, 2003.

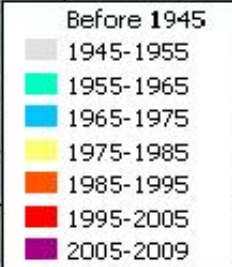
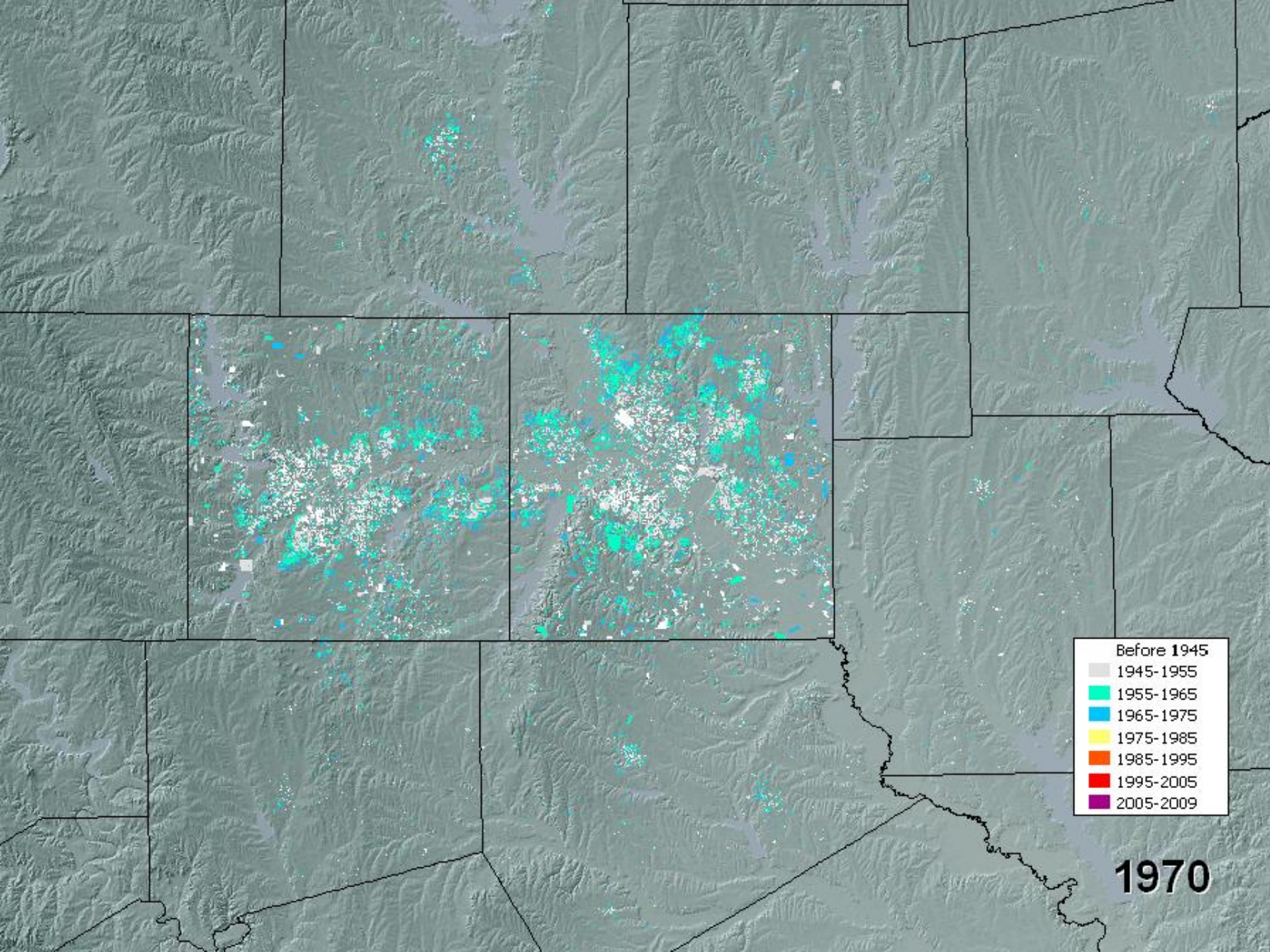
# 16 County Region for Vision North Texas



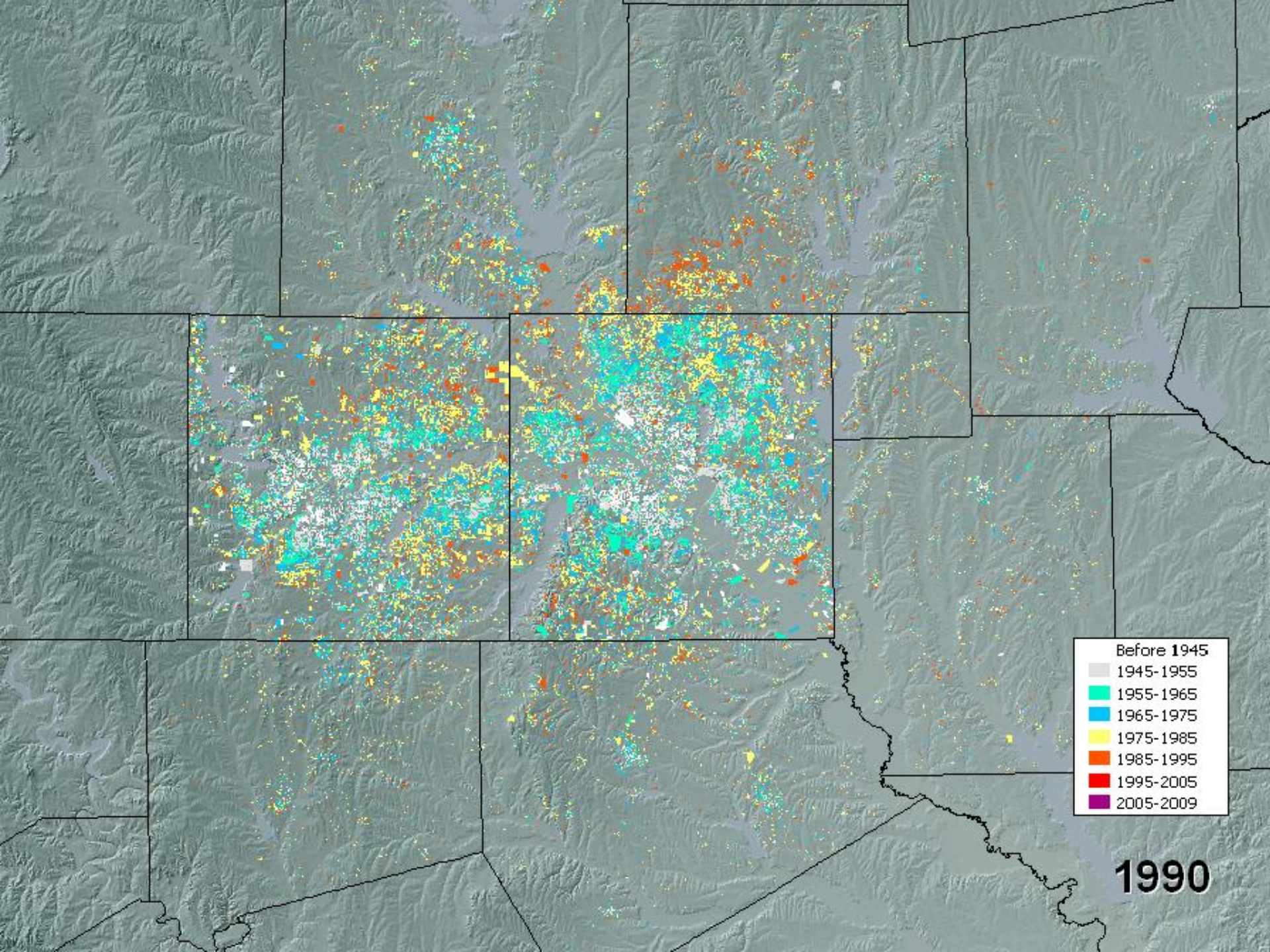
# How did we get here?



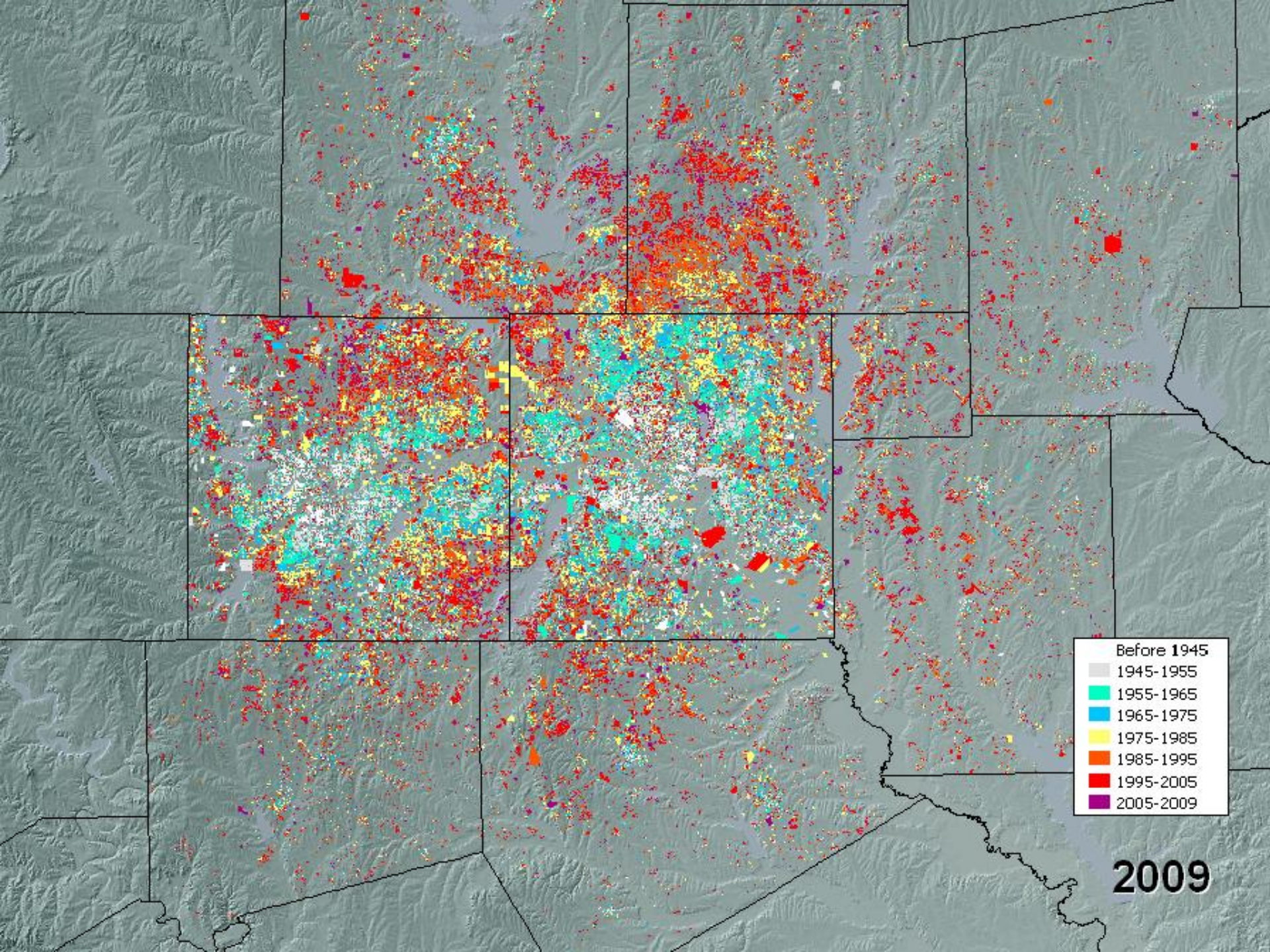
1950



1970



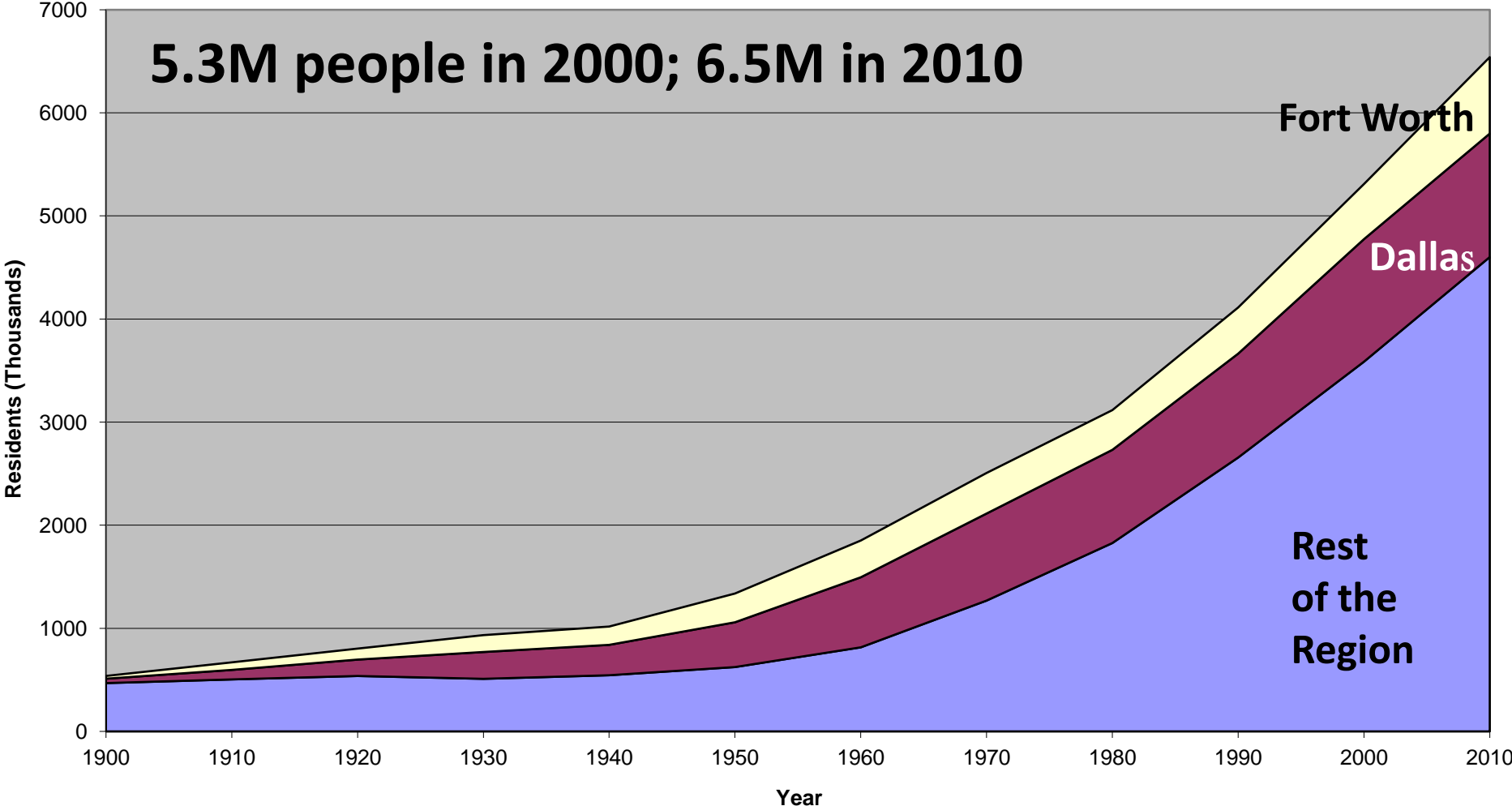




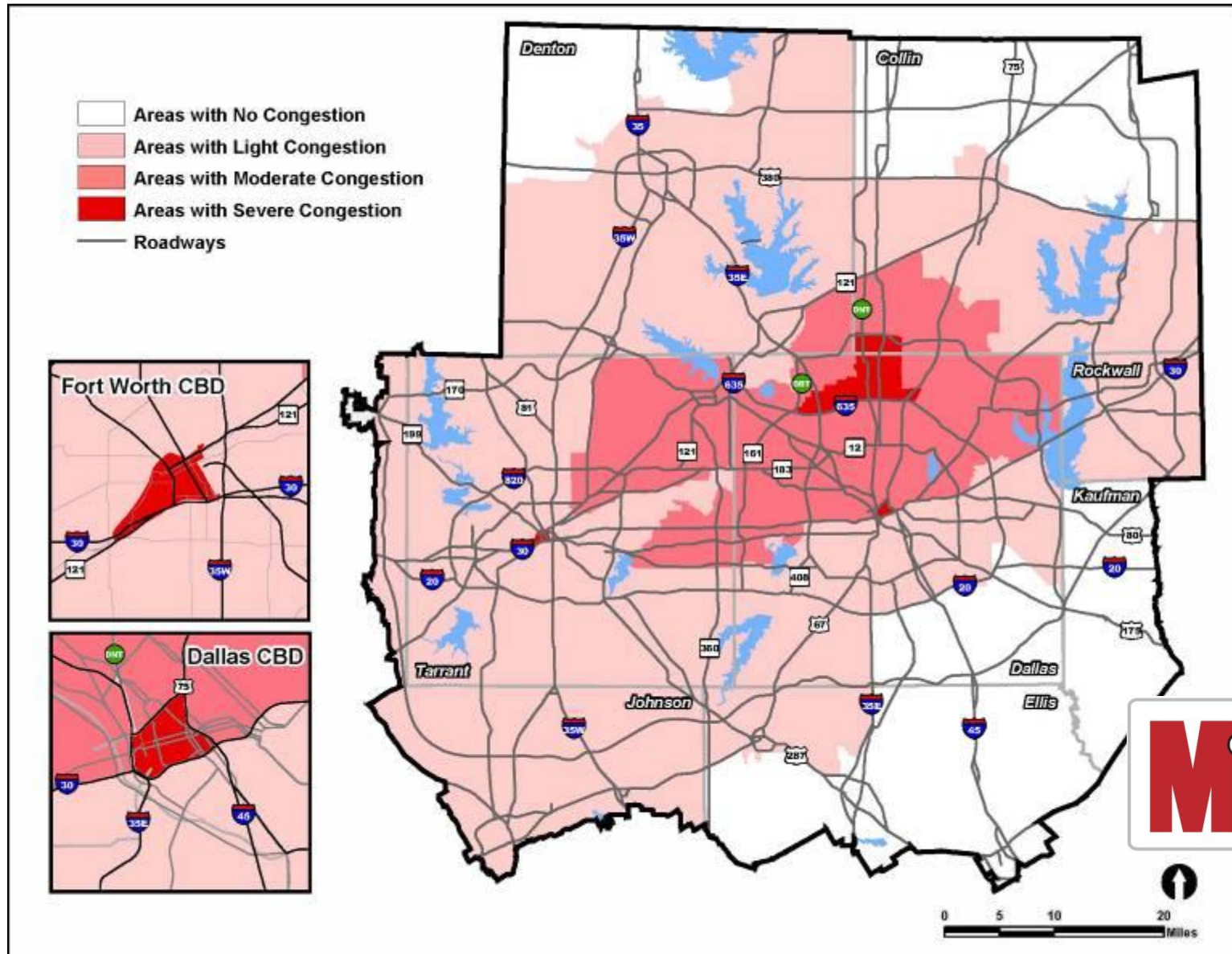
# North Texas Population



**5.3M people in 2000; 6.5M in 2010**



# 2007 Congestion Costs = \$4.2B.



**M**obility  
**2030**

**Where are we headed under  
'business as usual'?**

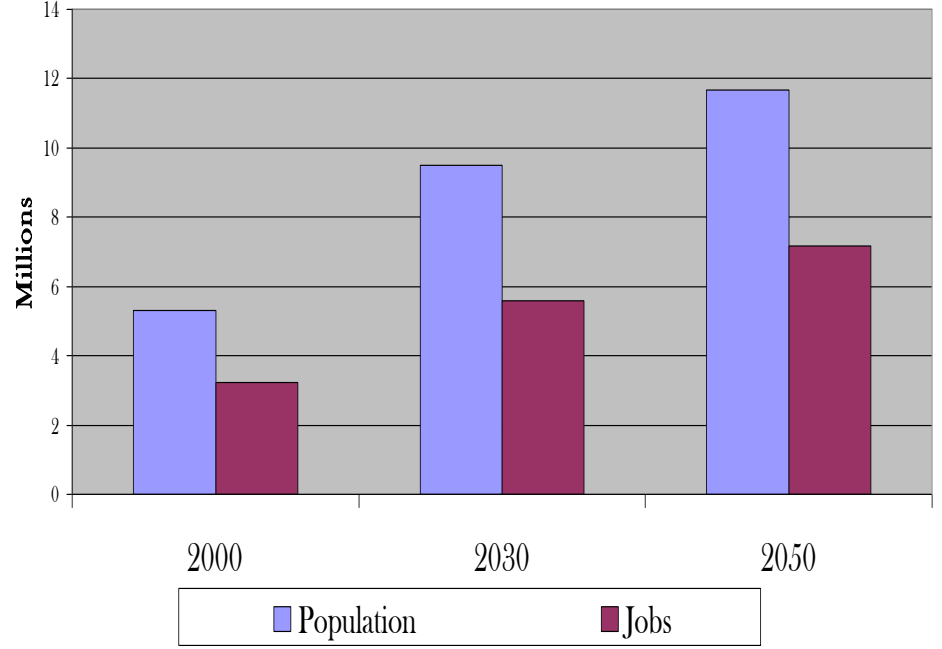


# Regional growth is expected to continue.

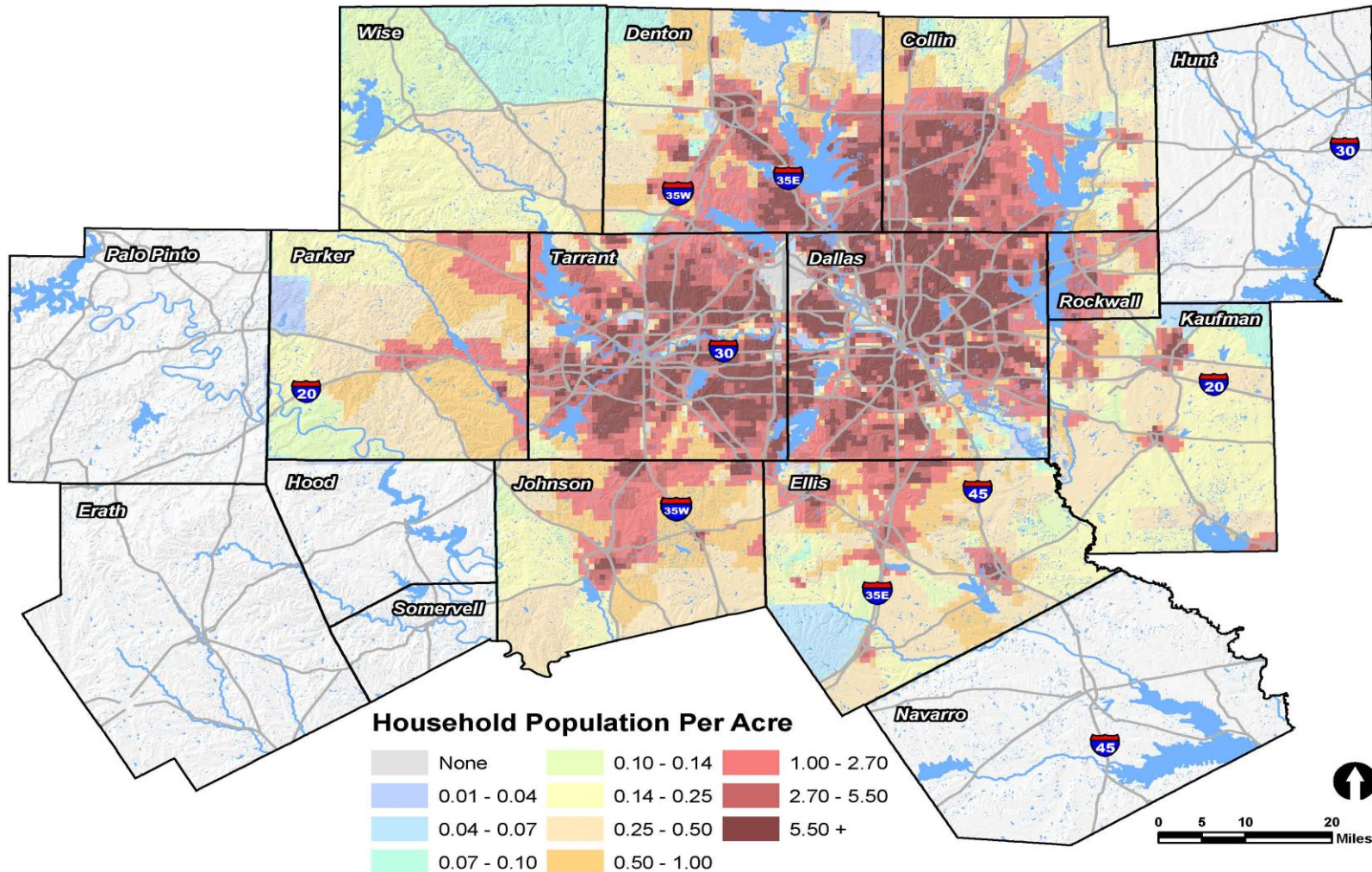


- Population
  - 5.3 million people in 2000
  - 9.5 million people in 2030
  - 11.7 million people in 2050

- Employment
  - 3.2 million jobs in 2000
  - 5.6 million jobs in 2030
  - 7.2 million jobs in 2050



# 2030 'Business as Usual' Households/Acre



# Business as Usual



By 2030 ....

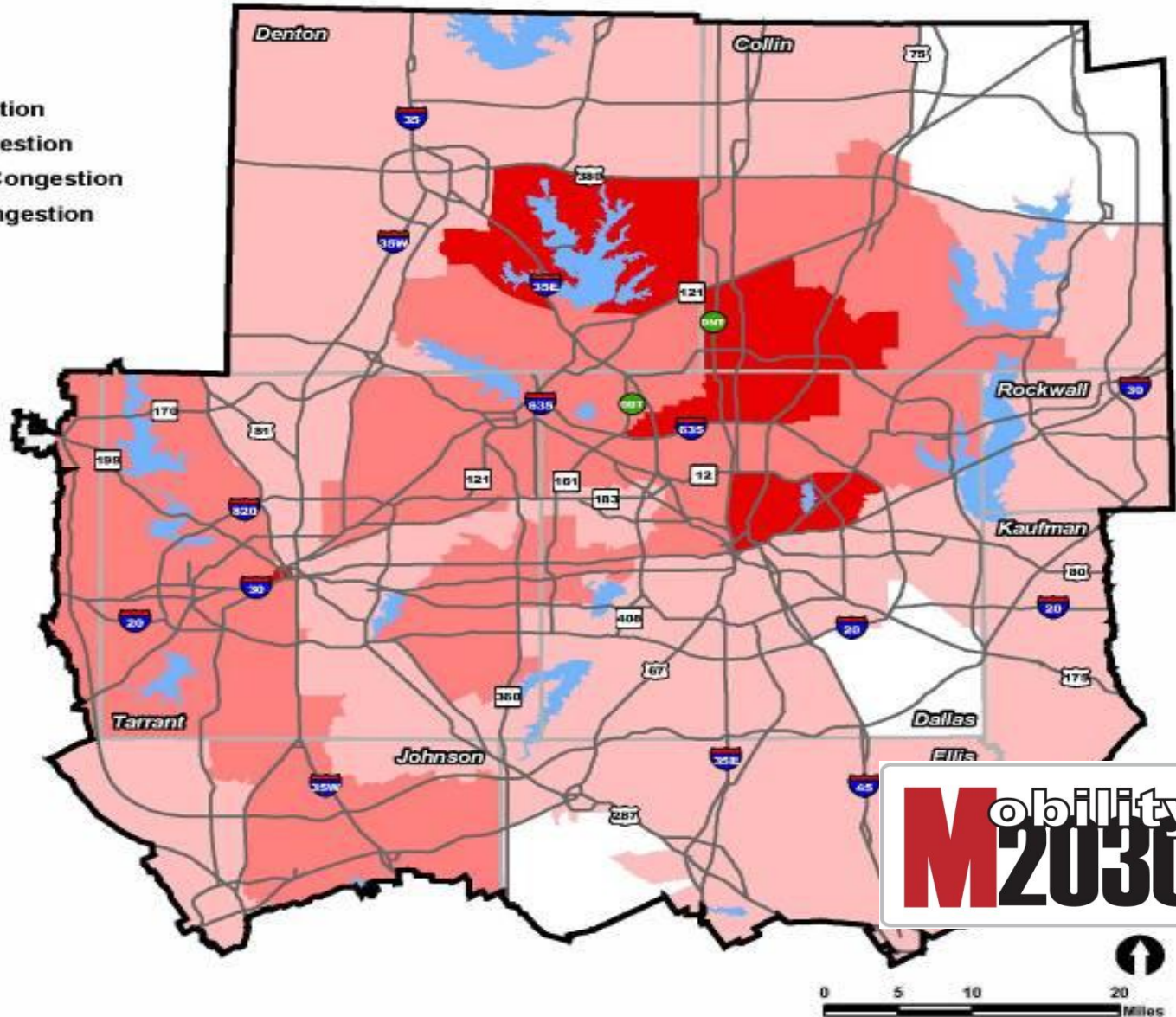
- One third of the region's households will live **outside** current urban areas in lower-density communities.
- 900,000 acres of **agricultural** land will have been converted to other uses.
- The amount of **impervious surface** will double.
- We will have spent \$71 billion on transportation improvements, but **traffic congestion** will still increase.
- Over half the new households will live in water supply lake **watersheds**.

By 2050 ....

- Existing **water** supplies and **electricity** production capacities can't meet demands.

# 2030 Congestion Costs = \$6.6B.

- Areas with No Congestion
- Areas with Light Congestion
- Areas with Moderate Congestion
- Areas with Severe Congestion
- Roadways



Mobility  
**M2030**



# Future North Texans



From 2000 to 2030 in 16 county region:

- **School aged children** are a slightly smaller share of the population
- 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

# Conclusions

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The neighborhoods, jobs, services, and amenities that North Texans want and need in 2030 will not be the same as in 2000.

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

**“Business as Usual isn’t  
just unsustainable.  
Business as Usual is dead!”**

Don Gatzke

Dean of Architecture

University of Texas at Arlington



# How can we do better?

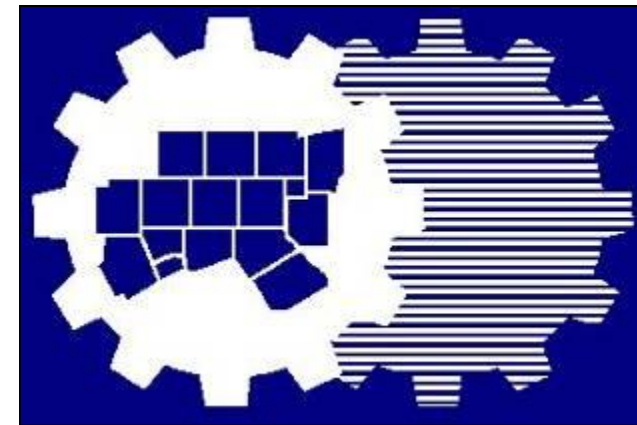


# Vision North Texas



VNT is a private-public-academic **partnership** with three objectives:

- Increase **awareness** about expected growth,
- Serve as a forum for **discussion** among all stakeholders about critical issues, and
- Build support for **initiatives** that might create a successful and sustainable future for North Texas.



UNIVERSITY OF  
**TEXAS**  
ARLINGTON

# 2005 Regional Vision Workshop

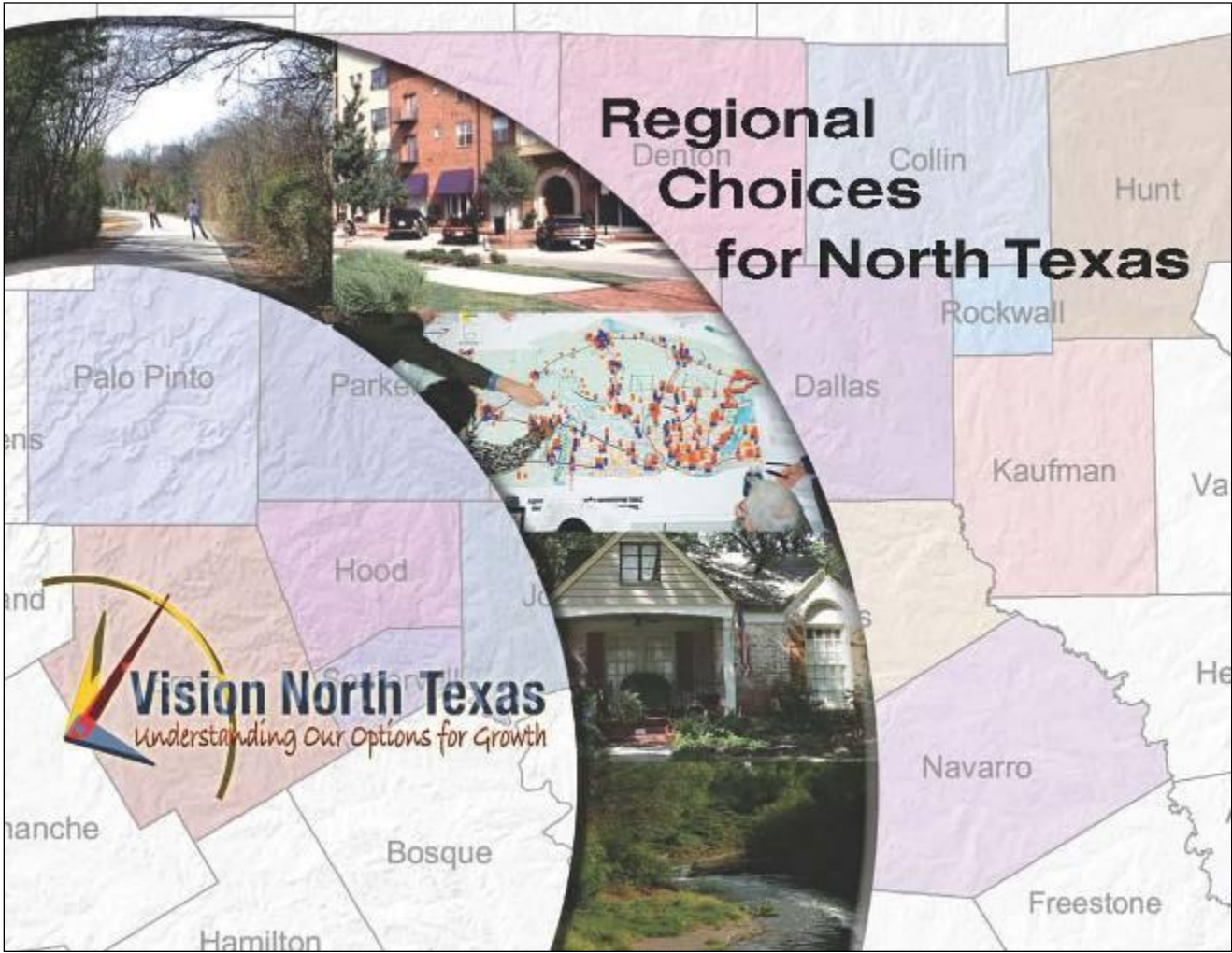


- 83% supported a 'preferred growth scenario'.
- Strong interest in continuing the project.

# Awareness & Dialogue



# Milestone 1



Download or purchase at [www.visionnorthtexas.org](http://www.visionnorthtexas.org).



# Milestone 2



**Vision North Texas**  
*Understanding Our Options for Growth*

## North Texas Alternative Futures Executive Summary

*... building a future that is better than  
business as usual*

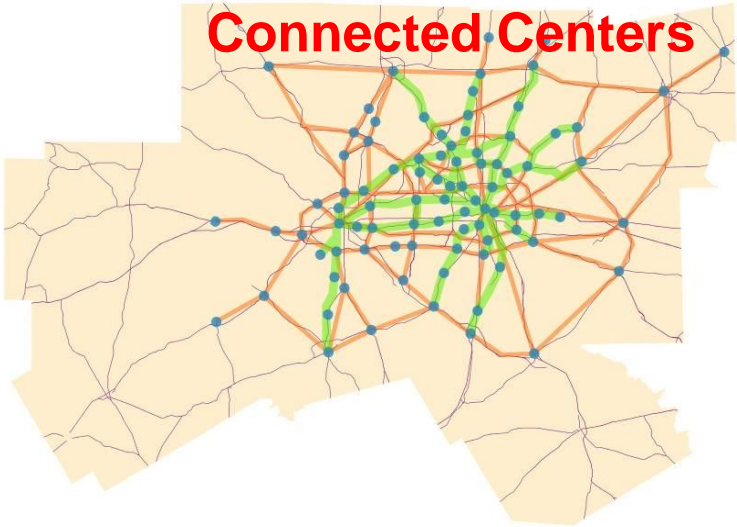
September 18, 2009  
Sheraton Grand Hotel  
Irving, Texas

The cover features several images: a river flowing through a green landscape, a woman working with colorful blocks on a table, a modern multi-story building at night, and a group of people in a meeting room.



# Alternatives to 'Business as Usual'

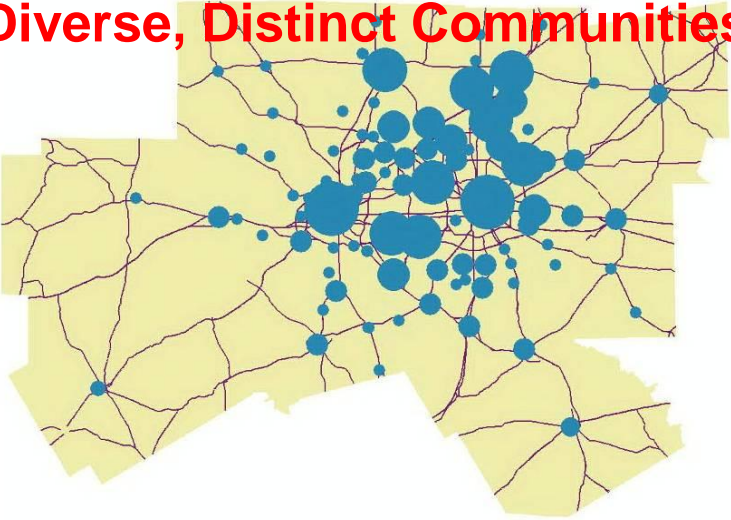
**Connected Centers**



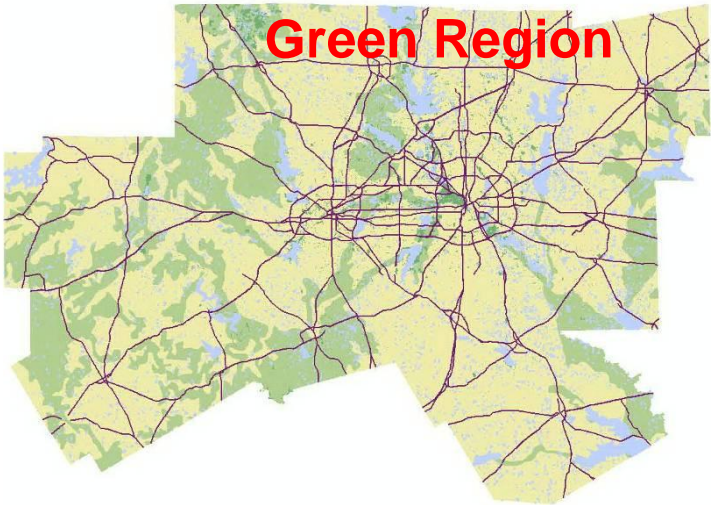
**Return on Investment**



**Diverse, Distinct Communities**



**Green Region**



# North Texas 2050 – Regional Gamebook



Wise  
Denton  
Collin  
Hunt  
Palo Pinto  
Parker  
Tarrant  
Dallas  
Rockwall  
Kaufman  
Navarro  
Ellis  
Johnson  
Hood  
Somervell  
Erath

Vision North Texas  
*Understanding Our Options for Growth*

## North Texas 2050

Download or purchase at [www.visionnorthtexas.org](http://www.visionnorthtexas.org)

# A Vision for North Texas

North Texas is recognized worldwide as a region that sustains its economic success and vitality because it contains many distinctive and highly desirable communities, supports innovative people and businesses and nurtures its varied natural assets.

- It contains diverse neighborhoods, mixed use centers and communities that appeal to people of all income levels and at all stages of their lives.
- It is a preferred location for the employees and businesses that comprise the broad-based and innovative local economy.
- It offers residents and businesses access to resources and opportunities that lead to their long-term success.
- It protects, manages and enhances critical natural areas and uses energy and natural resources responsibly.
- It supports resilient and effective responses to change through collaboration and cooperation within the region.



# Guiding Principles

1. Development Diversity
2. Efficient Growth
3. Pedestrian Design
4. Housing Choice
5. Activity Centers
6. Environmental Stewardship
7. Quality Places
8. Efficient Mobility Options
9. Resource Efficiency
10. Educational Opportunity
- 11. Healthy Communities**
12. Implementation

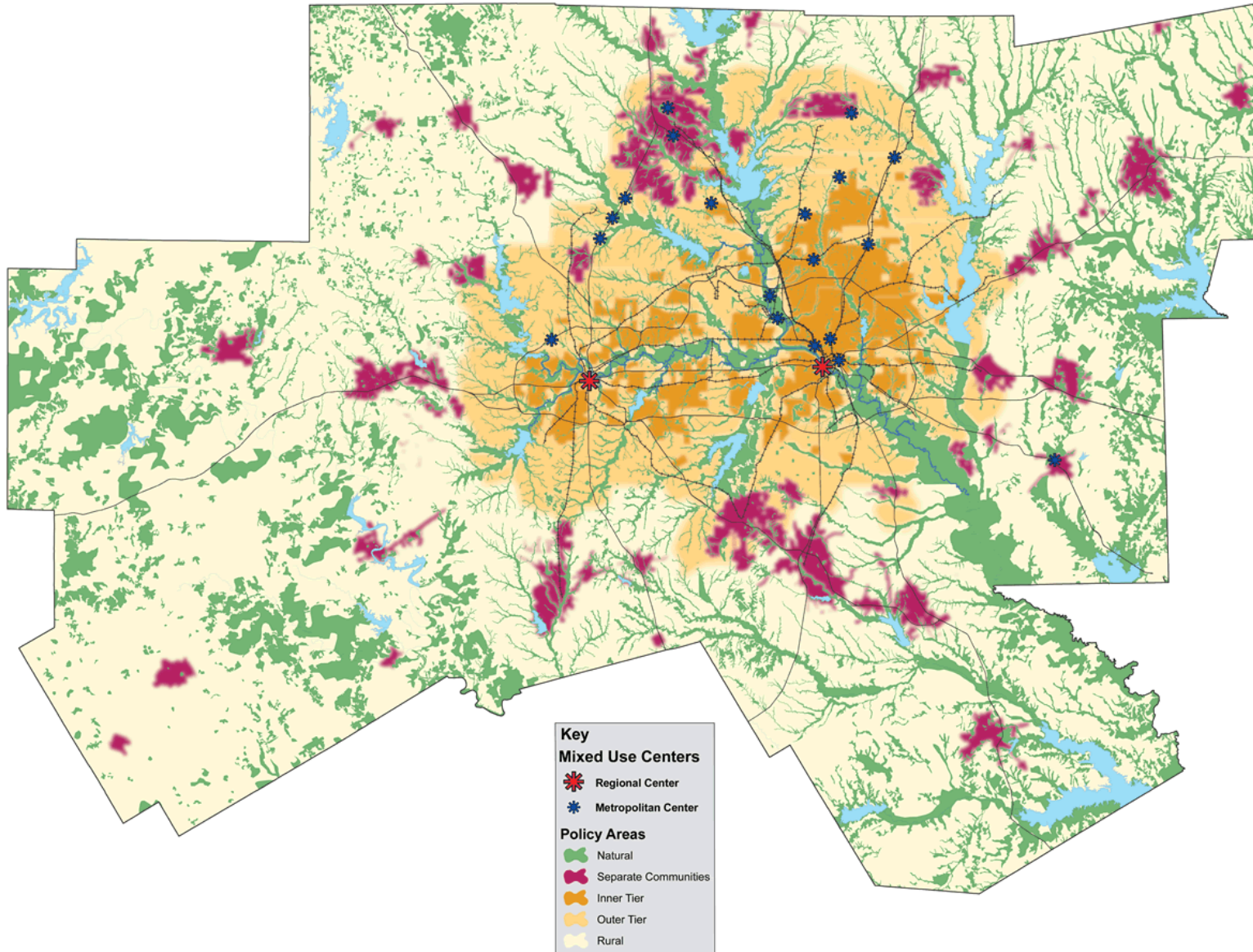


# Policy Areas and Centers

- Natural Areas
- Rural Areas
- Separate Community Areas
- Outer Tier Areas
- Inner Tier Areas
- Employment Centers
- Mixed Use Centers



# Preferred Future Diagram



# Investment Areas

- Regional Ecosystem
- Community Character
- Economy
- Housing
- Mobility
- Climate Resilience
- Education
- **Health**





# Action Package

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- Incentives
- Best Practices
- Model Ordinances and Templates
- Technical Assistance
- Benchmarks and Indicators
- New Institutions or Entities
- Regional Coordination and Collaboration
- Communication

# Work Plan Priorities

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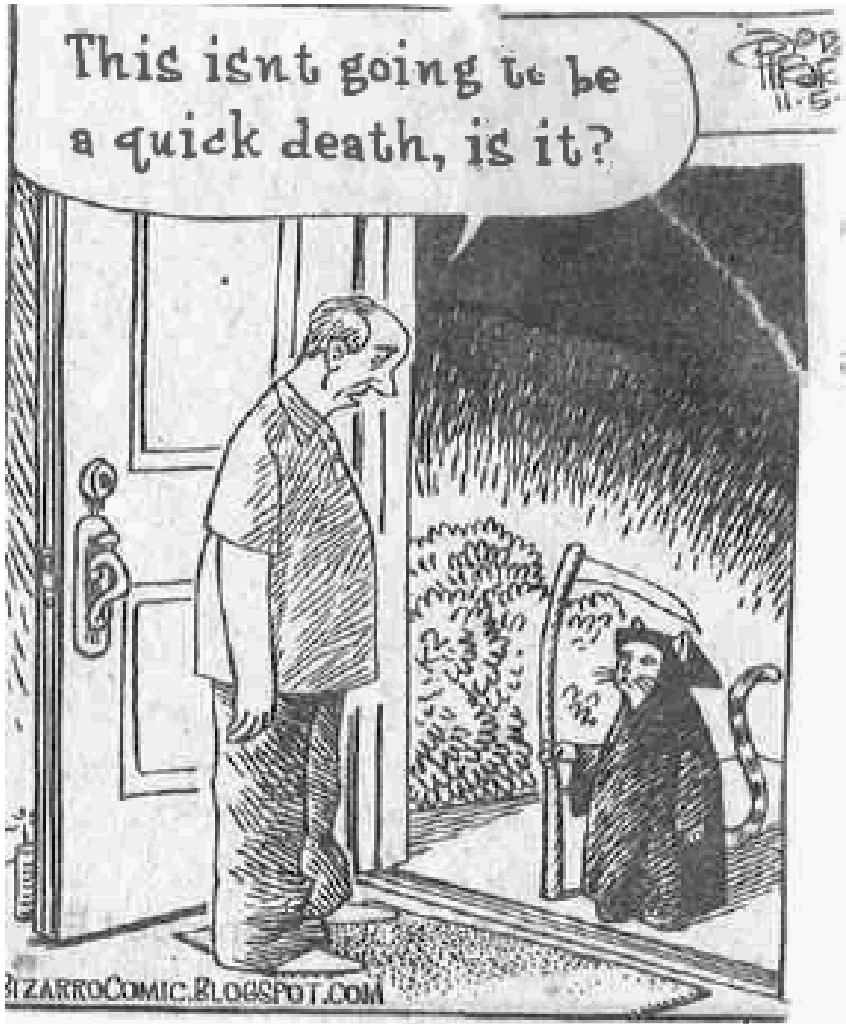


- Online 'Best Practice' Case Studies
- Communications and Outreach
- Regionwide Plans and Policies
- Policy Areas and Centers
- Local Plans and Development Projects
- Research and Monitoring

# National Recognition



# “Business as usual” is dead, but...



# Impediments to Success

- Institutional resistance to change
- Political and bureaucratic turf protection
- Reluctance to cooperate regionally
- Silo syndrome
- NIMBY syndrome
- Lack of funding



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# Vision North Texas Conference: The Built Environment and Public Health

First Quarter 2013

*(Date and Location TBA)*



**Keynote Speaker: Richard Jackson, M.D.**

Professor and Chair, Environmental Health Science Department  
UCLA School of Public Health

# Together, we can create a future that's better than 'business as usual'!

