

Vision North Texas Regional Summit
October 28, 2011
Recommendations from Work Session
Leaders

1. From Rob Seeds – overview taken from session flipcharts

2011 VNT Regional Summit Breakout Sessions Recommendations/Notes

1. Learning from Local Success (D. Williamson to provide summary of recommendations)
2. Tracking – and Predicting – Progress
 - Regional & Local Level Measurable Indicators
 - o Public Health
 - Access to community gardens w/in ¼ mile
 - Governmental policies to promote
 - Funding partners (foundations, corporations, gov't)
 - Education on making healthy food affordable & fresh foods 1st choice
 - Access to health care
 - Access to safe recreational options across race/ethnic/age
 - How to measure - # of providers who take Medicaid/Medicare (beyond ER)
 - o Public Safety
 - o Healthy Communities & Quality Places
 - # of walking trails
 - # of students biking or waling to schools
 - o Stable Housing (rental turnover)
 - Multiple economic levels of housing
 - o Incentives to motivate people to change habits
 - Make physical activity top priority
 - o Education
 - % of college educated
 - % of young college educated (attract & retain)
 - Tier 1 University
 - Measure Racial/Ethnic/Economic/Diversity-What and How/Who
 - o Housing Choice (who has how much?) – Nielson, American Community Survey)
 - o Education – Metrotex, Dept. of Education
 - o Economy (who starts new businesses – SBA, Banks)
 - Water & Environmental Resources
 - o Monitor water usage (residential, commercial, public)
 - o Municipal water ordinances (miles of grey water pipe, landscaping)
 - o Water loss measurement
 - o Protection of watershed areas
 - o Budget for water
 - Spending/cost trends (muni, residential, comm.)
 - Municipal infrastructure (age)
3. Sustainable Economic Growth (Buckley to provide summary recommendations)
4. Places People Love
 - Where are NTx M/U centers, at what scales, typologies?

- Existing downtown cores & neighborhoods where mix of uses is or could be present
- Redevelopment to promote community, walkability, etc.
- North Richland Hills
- McKinney
- College Park-UTA
- Park & walk (pedestrian friendly)
- Bishop Arts
- Can be anywhere but transit will drive success
- Integration of uses (work, play, live...)
- Checklist for M/U Centers
 - Appropriate density
 - Diversity of housing options
 - Economic diversity = long-term viability
 - Developer to understand neighborhood needs & incorporate into M/U center
 - Environment & open spaces
 - Ground-up charrette going to residents first
 - Mix of residential types
 - Pedestrian facilities/streetscaping/appropriate design
 - 24 hour business/vitality (daytime lunch)
- What makes M/U centers successful over time?
 - Adaptable construction/design to allow for change of uses
 - Proper zoning/development regulations (Form based Codes)
 - Great design
 - Viable location
 - Sustainable through change/adaptable to shifts in economy
 - Established mixed income area
 - Critical mass of “Demand Generators”
- How can NTx support M/U centers?
 - Accountability/transparency of public officials/transit providers and use of public funds
 - Education on m/u and appropriate scale
 - Regional support for funding of m/u centers
 - Correct zoning tools in place
 - Political will
 - Provide more “Market Feedback”-chambers, econ. dev. corps, etc.
- 5. Resilience for a Changing Region
 - Growth Management
 - Resource Management
 - New energy resources
 - Engagement & outreach
 - Aging population
 - Cooperation vs. competition
 - Addressing climate changes

- Water management
- Storm water
- Forecasting population
- Transportation (roads, rail, bike)
- Water (reuse)
- Tolerance
- Building identity, branding, image
- Involving younger generation
- Education

6. Environment & Infrastructure

- Environment - What other items should be created next to be of greatest use to regional decision-makers?
 - Expand Greenprinting regionally
 - Datasets of sewer systems, impervious cover, stormwater outfalls
 - Greenprint major stems of Trinity: urban areas, tool for cities
 - Wildlife and critical habitat data
 - Clearinghouse of existing tools
 - Water quality and pop growth
 - Integrate LID in to development
 - BMPs & checklists
- Infrastructure
 - Increase tree canopy on street frontages
 - Add bike lanes
 - Coordinate transportation planning & greenprinting
 - Infrastructure costs from oil (gas?) well industry
 - Need for improved landscaping
 - Streets too wide
 - Larger medians provide multiple benefits
 - Street should match density (width?, modes?)
 - Balance between pervious/impervious surfaces
 - Storm water mgmt
 - Too much pavement compared to use
 - Improve access to health food
 - Improve access to public space
 - Bury utilities
 - Checklist of best practices for developers and local govts
 - Need better metrics-full benefits
 - Financing req's don't meet sustainability principles
 - Govt req's don't always represent community values
 - TIF = best financing tool
 - Development incentives
 - Form based Codes

- Construct more integrated streets (Public Works, P&R, Water, ect.)
- Thoroughfare plan to connect trails to destination places
- Set aside ROW for trails
- School siting (connect to trails?)
- Trails provide health benefits in addition to alternate mode of travel
- Add GIS & environmental checklist to Infrastructure guidelines
- Funding matrix for funds/developments w/ Sustainable Development goals

2. From Michael Buckley on behalf of his session



UTA Center for Metropolitan Density

University of Texas Arlington, 601 W. Nedderman Dr, Arlington TX 76019-0108

Michael Buckley FAIA, Director 917 562 5081 buckley@uta.edu

VMT Summit ---Economic Sustainability

Breakout Session Notes by Michael Buckley

With UTA Grad Students Chance Louis and Janelle Braithwaite

The VMT Economic sustainability group met in two breakout sessions. The first addressed issues and opportunities for economic development and the second attempted to formulate solution approaches. This edited version of VMT Session participant's comments features these observations:

Issues and Opportunities --- First Breakout:

Endless Land

Many groups recognized the vast amount of suburban land surrounding the twin cores of the DFW region. The phrase "endless land" was used on purpose to contrast discussions of fiscal and infrastructure limitations. Many felt the essential issue is a contest between private home builders and public policy to contain sprawl.

Transportation

Many groups felt that the transportation infrastructure for the region was beginning to take a defined footprint, particularly public transit. Many believed building on the existing capacity and framework is the single best approach over the next two decades. However, others were worried about fragmented decision making which would reallocate transportation funding.

University as Hub

Perhaps influenced by the meeting at UTA, many discussions identified the potential power of higher education to act as an energizing hub for higher density development. Yet many observed the great disconnect which exists between university and city / business / community interests. Most interestingly, one table proposed that community service become a requirement for university tenure.

The Workforce

Many were concerned with the broadening skills gap and the challenges of literacy and poor reasoning abilities so obvious in the majority of the workforce. Discussions swirled around need

for retraining and the imbalance between jobs and preferences. For example, the region has a strong concentration of logistics facilities, yet also has a scarcity of truck drivers. Some tables identified the need for more emphasis on attainable housing, not necessarily federal supported low income housing, but rather housing for mid-level para-professional employees.

One table proposed a re-emphasis on internet enabled “home occupation business”, which is a clever idea without a sponsor.

Quality Of Life Measures

There was widespread recognition that many communities use different methods to benchmark their methods of QOL, and many do not include cultural / arts as important generators of jobs and QOL.

Education

The eroding education system was a singular concern to most discussion groups, including concerns over the highschool dropout rate and the quality of pre-school and K-12 public schools, with particular emphasis on urban schools

Many were concerned about the current State of Texas focus on testing as opposed to learning, as many students are left behind.

Several groups pointed out the existence of “pockets of excellence” even within urban public school systems, and what was lacking was a method to partner between school districts which could maximize the influence of these “pockets of excellence”

Churches and Non-Profits

Several groups discussed the need for more involvement on community issues by churches and non-profits.

Solution Approaches --- Second Breakout

Intra-city Cooperation

Many recognized the need to improve intra-city cooperation at the educational and economic development levels. References were made to the difficulty with “silo thinking” which is driven by each cities own economic factors lacking a regional method for re-distribution of benefits.

An extraordinary suggestion claimed that a merger between the major UT System Universities would create a powerhouse institution

Cluster Analysis

Many discussed the need to identify industry clusters by stable and transitional as well as strategic and footloose.

One table proposed an interesting internship program with local corporations as a way to provide career guidance at the high school and college level.

5-Year Regional Business Plan

A major discussion developed around the need to create a regional identity to map a 5-year strategy to reduce individual city silos and promote regional cooperation.

Emphasis on business retention and recruiting, particularly from outside corporations which might result in fewer in-region lateral moves.

Branding

A vigorous discussion recognized a lack of “swagger” and attitude towards the region as opposed to promoting individual communities.

A branding strategy could produce a unified vision and be linked with the 5-year regional business plan.

Education

More emphasis on private and non-profit participation with particular mention of charter schools who concentrate on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

New ideas of partnerships between high schools and community colleges need to be pursued as a way to foil dropout rates and to promote career training options at the high school level.

Development Incentives

Some groups favored prioritizing incentives strictly to new development, include infill projects which share character of walkability and mixed-use to accommodate retail and cultural offerings.

Health Care Training

Perhaps influenced by the UTA academic presence, several tables called for rethinking healthcare training, new ways to capitalize in this region on the presence on UT Southwestern Medical School, and the growing reputations of Presbyterian and Baylor in special procedures.

One table noted that the state of Texas limits interns per hospital such that with the current number of graduates from the regions medical schools, they must seek internships elsewhere generating an automatic brain drain as interns typically stay in the communities in which they originally served.

A very good idea emerged to create a push for new school of pharmacology, which the region does not currently have.

Breakout Session Handouts

Each table had the following Handouts prepared by UTA CfMD available as a resource:

Strategic Location Factors are important to Business Location Decisions, to the Region’s Economic growth, and are determined by a balance of the following:

QUALITY OF LIFE	BUSINESS DRIVERS	STRATEGIC FACTORS
Host Community/Region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools – K-8; High School +Magnet+ CC + Univ choices • Medical / Healthcare Services • Cultural / Adult Learning • Security Perceptions • Housing Choices • Cost of Living • Retail and Foodservice • Landscape/Open Space • Architectural Character • Climate / Temperance • Accessibility + Transportation • Recreational Offerings 	Human Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skill Sets +Availability • Educational Base • Political Stability • Recruiting/Retention Operating Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market Size/Share • Utility, Energy Costs • Vendor Support • Labor Reliability Business Costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labor Cost + Reliability • Corporate Taxation • Real Estate Costs 	Business Factors +QOL Measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University R&D Linkages • Labor Skill Sets + Training regimes • IT Infrastructure • Enterprise Financing • Exploitable Market Niche • Targeted Legislation + Incentives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Incentives • R & D Credits • Labor Training Proximity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation Network • Distribution Costs

Given the above list of Factors used in Business Location, are Critical Success Factors for Sustaining Economic Growth correctly listed as the following?

Strategy	Focus on Strategic Industries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs Assessment • Training + Educ Links 	Compile Incentives Packages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TIFs +Sales Tax +BIDs • Appetite for Joint Venture
Research	Analyze Market Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demographic Shifts • Niche Plays 	Exploit Comparables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparable Projects • Pub/Private Successes
Visioning	Inventory Targeted Sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visibly Underutilized • Upgrade Potential 	MXD Visioning Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased Densities • Workforce Residential
Partnering	Industry Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Institutions • Employment Training 	Community Workplan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goals/Solicitation Targets • Contact Database
Execution	Demonstration Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short Term + Visible • Financeable 	PR + Stakeholders Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location Consultants • Citizen / Issue Education

Establishing Metrics to gauge Economic Development involves quantifying and measuring many Indicators. Is the following an adequate list of Sustainable Economic Development Indicators?

Indicators	Metrics
<p>Social Contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Venues • Recreational Facilities • Parks/ Open Space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased Venues/Events • Square Footage Increased • Acres added
<p>Employment Growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing Jobs Retained • New Permanent Jobs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retained • New Permanent
<p>Fiscal Enhancement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax Ratables • Sales Taxes • Financing Districts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property Taxes Added • Sales Tax increments • New Districts Economic Value
<p>Density of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sf added • Urban Floor Area Ratios 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratio SF added to Land Area • FAR increase over prior period
<p>Environmental Improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEED Cert New + Existing • Public Facility Ops Efficiency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in LEED Certifications • Reduction in Operations Costs/sf

3. From Individual Session Leaders

Karen Walz

From: Christine Robbins [Christine@5gstudio.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2011 6:36 PM
To: karen@planforaction.com
Cc: Williamson, David; David Rodriguez
Subject: RE: Thanks for your contributions to the Regional Summit!

Hi Karen, sorry for the delay in getting these to you...

-Since there are many possibilities for potential case studies in addition to the case studies that are on the spreadsheet and were not created, here are a couple of ideas for gathering suggestions (and hopefully volunteers to author, compile information for, and edit the case studies):

- An open e-mail to those involved with Vision North Texas asking for case study suggestions along with brief descriptions of how each case study showcases sustainable best practices (and who might be available to author the case study)

- An open e-mail and web page, similar to that used for the North Texas Sustainable Showcase project display, calling for case study application submissions. Then the case study applications can be reviewed by the VNT Advisory Committee (or another group), and if selected, the developer/architect/contractor/engineer who submitted the case study will be given the InDesign template and instructions/suggestions for the completion of the case study.

-One participant at our session had suggested a possible rating system of how well each of the case studies incorporated each of the North Texas 2050 Guiding Principles relevant to that project. While I think this would be tough (and probably inappropriate) given that a numeric rating system would be subjective and the projects cannot be compared in an 'apples-to-apples' fashion, perhaps the Guiding Principles section of the template could be expanded to include specific strategies that would apply to each Guiding Principle? A couple of the Word files already included this information, and in order to keep the template format mostly consistent, I incorporated the listed strategies into the narratives on the latter page(s) of the case study.

-In order to collect additional information for each of the existing case studies, perhaps an e-mail could be sent to those known to be involved with each case study with a list of template sections not covered for that particular project in the last round of information collection.

-I think that the idea of expanding the map tool to include a function that would allow users to search by project type, project size, sustainable strategies implemented, etc. could be really useful and interesting, particularly as the number of case studies grows.



5G STUDIO COLLABORATIVE

Christine Robbins AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C/ND/Homes, GA-C
Studio Director

800 Jackson Street | Suite 500 | Dallas, Texas 75202
(t) 214.670.0050 x314 (f) 214.670.0052 (m) 214.773.2129

www.5Gstudio.com

From: Karen Walz [mailto:karen@planforaction.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 02, 2011 2:12 PM
To: Christine Robbins
Subject: Thanks for your contributions to the Regional Summit!

Hi Christine,

Karen Walz

From: Gerlach, Jeanne M [gerlach@exchange.uta.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, November 02, 2011 2:24 PM
To: karen@planforaction.com
Subject: RE: Thanks for your contributions to the Regional Summit!

Karen,

Again the thanks are to you. Our session lasted until 12:15pm. I think most folks thought it was a great opportunity to focus on *Sustainability* through sharing and conversations. Michael really moderated/chaired the session and did a wonderful job. He took detailed notes which I assume he has already shared with you. I tried to involve different people as scribes, reporter, etc, so that I was not carrying the conversations or messages. We had many "leader types" in our group.

I think the morning was productive and meaningful. If I were doing it next year, I would want to coordinate more before with the other group leaders. I wish we would have had more of a panel at the beginning to set the stage. We each gave a bit of a welcome but not a substantive 5minute presentation. After our comments, we could move to the table conversations as we did. I also think that reporting out to the entire group is good, but some folks go on entirely too long. I guess I would have had a time keeper. Now you know me well enough to know that I am flexible and go with the flow most of the time, but with limited time it is often necessary to be more aware of time constraints.

I also heard many ask about coffee or water.

Just some thoughts. Again, thanks for the opportunity to work with you and the group.

Jeanne

Jeanne Marcum Gerlach, Associate VP for K-16 Initiatives and Dean and Professor College of Education and Health Professions
University of Texas Arlington

From: Karen Walz [karen@planforaction.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 02, 2011 2:11 PM
To: Gerlach, Jeanne M
Subject: Thanks for your contributions to the Regional Summit!

Hi Jeanne,

Thank you so much for your assistance at last Friday's Regional Summit! We've gotten great response from people about the sessions and compliments on your leadership and the information you shared. Vision North Texas is successful because people like you make this partnership work. Thank you!

I believe that the break-out sessions each had somewhat different ideas about how to follow up from the 'next steps' with which you finished your discussion. In some cases, one of you took the flip charts and is photographing or transcribing them; in other cases, those charts were collected by COG staff and they are photographing them. Either way, I would like your recommendations about what can or should be done in 2012 to further the region's action on the issues you considered at the Summit. I assume that those of you involved in a particular session will coordinate with one another on this. Then you can email those to me in any format you'd like.

The Vision North Texas Management Committee will be meeting on Thursday, November 17th. So I will be sending them some information in advance of that session, probably on Nov. 11th. If you would like me to include your recommendations in the advance packet, please email them to me by next Tuesday, Nov. 8th, so I can review them and discuss them with you if I have questions. Otherwise, please email your recommendations to me no later than Tuesday, Nov. 15th. If you have recommendations on topics other than the ones covered in your break-out session, please feel free to send those as well.

Thanks again for your help!

Karen Walz

VNT Project Manager

Mailing Address:
Strategic Community Solutions
381 Casa Linda Plaza
#147

Karen Walz

From: Lou K. Brewer [LK Brewer@TarrantCounty.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 08, 2011 1:10 PM
To: 'karen@planforaction.com'; 'Gatzke, Donald F'; Albert Martin; Imoya@nthcinc.org; 'Buckley, Michael'; 'Ozdil, Taner'
Cc: 'Sallye West'
Subject: RE: Preparations for VNT Regional Summit break-out sessions

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Re: Summit Follow Up

Don did a nice job of providing numerous indicators for the group and I thought his idea to go in to smaller groups really helped us take the early conversation about what issues were important and group them into four categories (which the flip charts indicate). Since the participants were at different levels of awareness and some having a very strong personal agenda, it was challenging to keep the group focused on the indicators discussion. The process did remind us of the importance of various perspectives, the need to include equity/social justice indicators, and the importance of emphasizing choice – not all measurements are of interest to everyone but that should not mean they should be excluded. Thanks for the opportunity!

Lou

Lou K. Brewer, RN, MPH
Director
Tarrant County Public Health
1101 S. Main, Ste. 2412
Fort Worth, TX 76104

"Safeguarding the Community's Health"
lkbrewer@tarrantcounty.com

817-321-5300 Office
817-321-5302 Fax

The information contained in this message and any attachments is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed, and may contain information that is PRIVILEGED, CONFIDENTIAL, and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient, you are prohibited from copying, distributing, or using the information. Please contact the sender immediately by return e-mail and delete the original message from your system.

From: Karen Walz [mailto:karen@planforaction.com]
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2011 4:18 PM
To: 'Gatzke, Donald F'; Albert Martin; Imoya@nthcinc.org; Lou K. Brewer; 'Buckley, Michael'; 'Ozdil, Taner'
Cc: 'Sallye West'
Subject: Preparations for VNT Regional Summit break-out sessions

Hi all,

Thanks for all your work on the Regional Summit session on 'Tracking – and Predicting – Progress'! I am attaching: