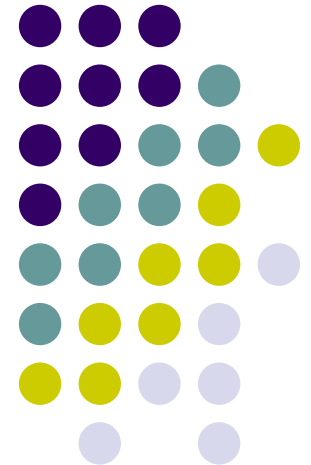


# Big Regions, Grand Visions

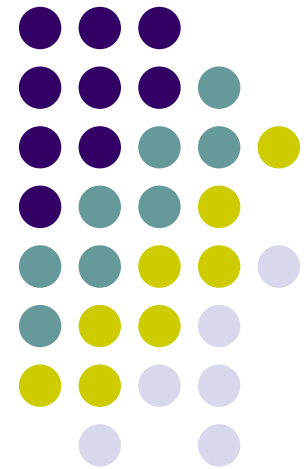
Regional Planning in Texas

American Planning Association  
San Antonio Conference



# Introduction to Session

Fernando Costa AICP  
Director of Planning, Fort Worth TX  
Chair, Vision North Texas  
Advisory Committee



# Session Agenda



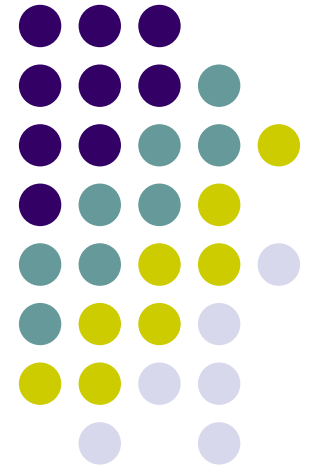
- Overview
- Envision Central Texas
- Vision North Texas
- Envision Houston Region
- Questions and Answers

# Presenters

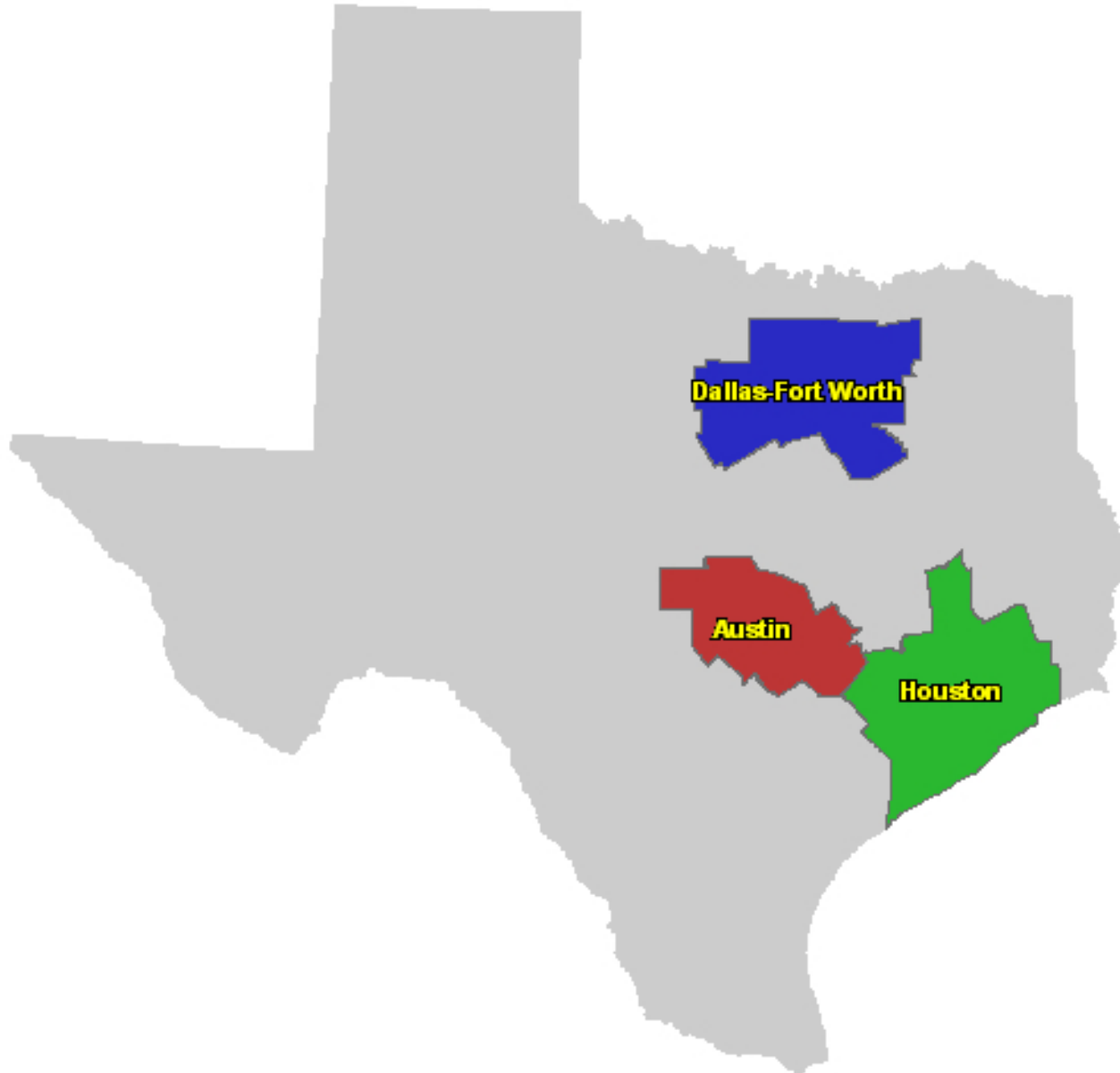


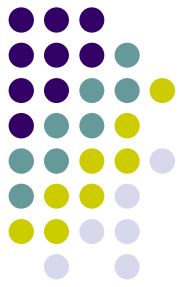
- Sally Campbell
  - Executive Director, Envision Central Texas
- Karen Walz FAICP
  - Project Manager, Vision North Texas
- Jeff Taebel AICP
  - Director of Community & Environmental Planning, Houston-Galveston Area Council

# Overview of Texas Regions



# Some Orientation to Texas Regions ...





# Texas Regions are Big!

- Austin (Central Texas)
  - Geographic size comparable to Connecticut
  - Larger 2000 population than Hawaii
- Dallas – Fort Worth (North Texas)
  - Geographic size comparable to Vermont
  - Larger 2000 population than Arizona or Minnesota
- Houston
  - Geographic size comparable to Massachusetts
  - Larger 2000 population than Oregon or Colorado

# Growth Presents Challenges



- By 2030, these three regions will have added almost 7.2 million new residents – more than the 2000 population of Virginia
- Population is increasingly diverse
- Infrastructure is not keeping pace
- Air quality conformance, water supply and open space are critical environmental concerns
- Affordable housing is a growing issue

# Governance Shapes Choices



- State statutes generally silent on regional planning issues
- Legislature favors limited government, property rights
- Counties and COG's have limited authority to influence land use

# Governance Shapes Choices



- Each of these regions has different internal governance issues
  - Austin: 1 major city, 5 counties in study region
  - DFW: 2 major cities, 7 other cities with over 100K population, 10 counties
  - Houston: 1 major city, 1 other city over 100K population, 8 counties

# Learning From Our Regional Planning Initiatives



- Value of regional initiatives, even when there is no statewide requirement or mandate
- Different approaches are possible and can be successful
- Our projects can help you tailor initiatives that are appropriate to your region
- Our results and lessons we've learned can help you be successful as well