



Beyond the Suburbs: Infrastructure Consequences of Exurb Growth

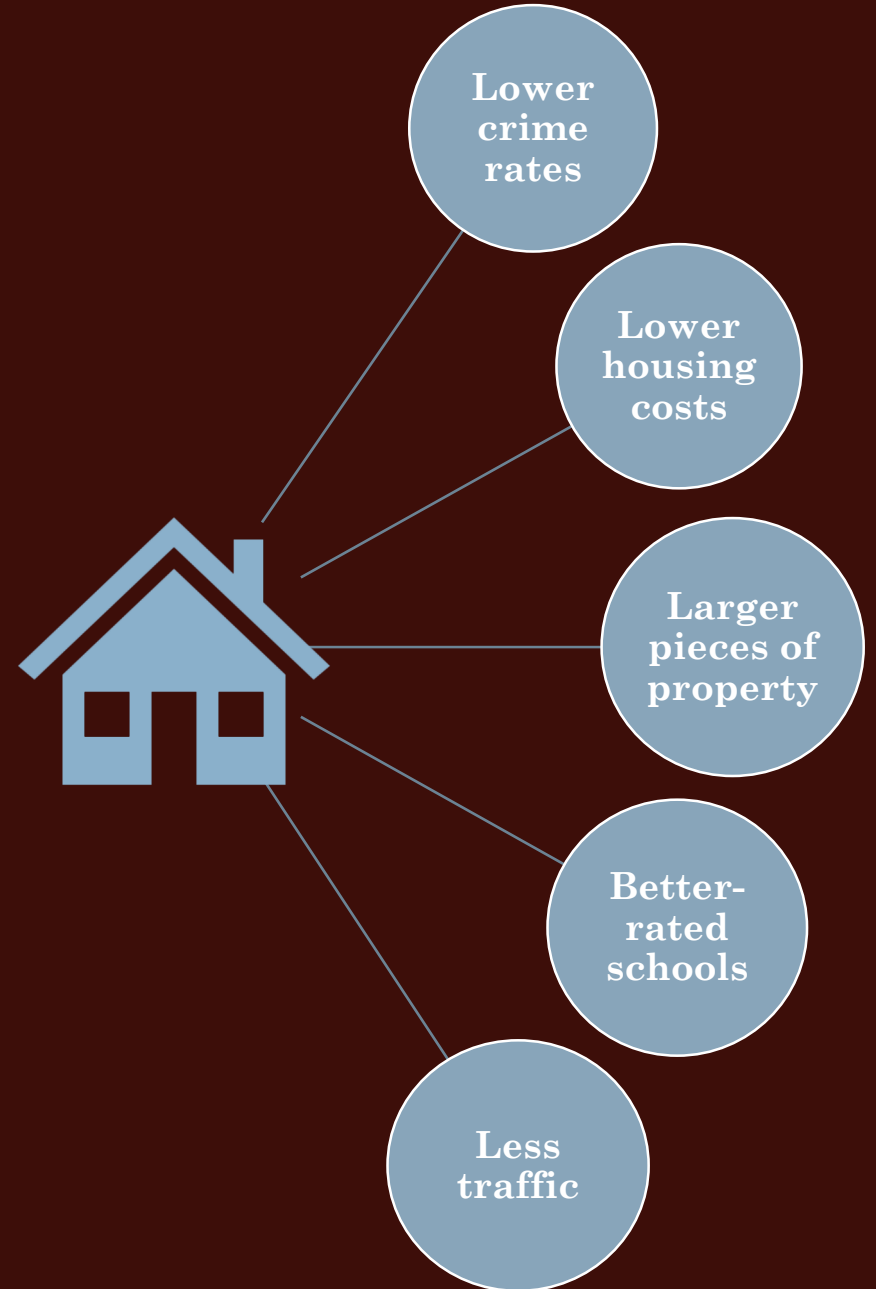
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Exurbs: Texas-Sized Growth

- Outside of large metropolitan areas like Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, Austin, and San Antonio
- White collar, middle-income, home-owning families who commute into metro city center for work
- Texas has largest exurbanite population in the United States relative to its size



Findings

Exurb growth is having a substantial impact on Texas's state and local infrastructure, including the following three policy areas:

Social Infrastructure

- Education

Physical Infrastructure

- Transportation

Environmental Infrastructure

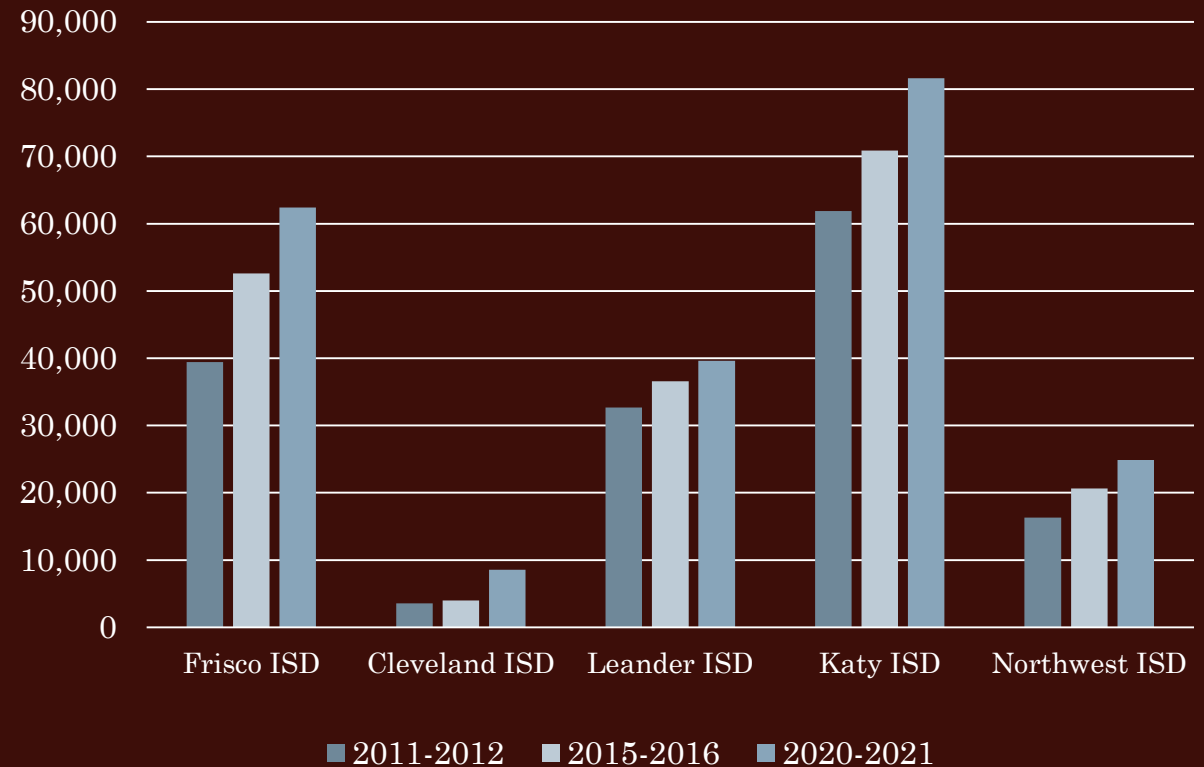
- Flood Management

Education:

Facilities Cannot Keep Up With Exurb Growth

- Rapid, above-average increase in K-12 enrollment across exurb districts
- Building of new facilities takes ~1 year, cannot match growth rate
- Additional funding from the state for fast-growth districts is insufficient and often inflexible

K-12 Student Enrollment in Exurb Districts



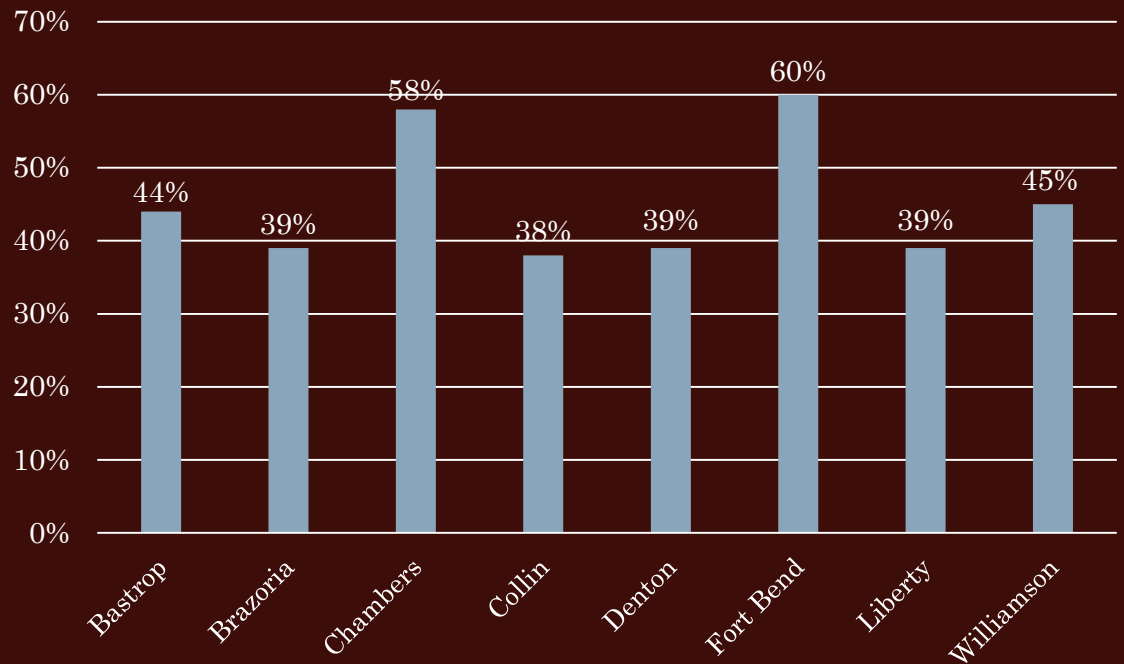
Source: Texas Education Agency, 2021

Transportation:

Exurb Growth Raises Fatal Car Accident Risk

- Large percentage of exurbanites commuting into nearby metro center for work
- Rural roads more dangerous for drivers, fatal car crashes on the rise in Texas

Percent of Total Exurb County Workforce Commuting into City Center



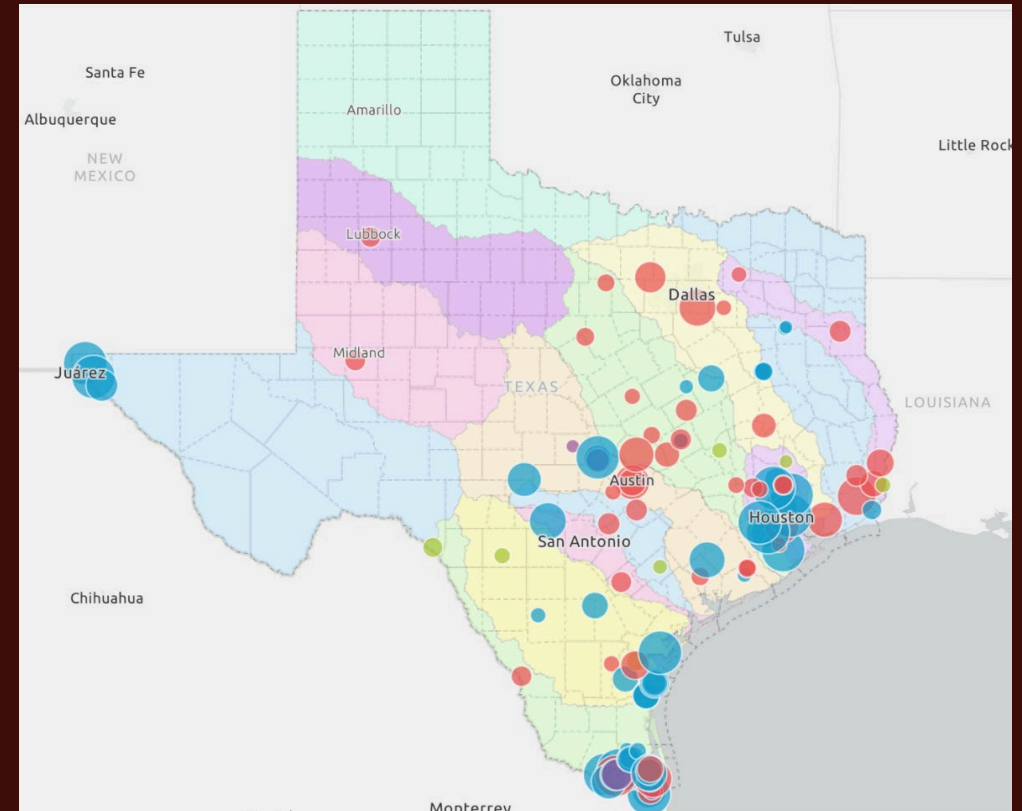
Source: American Consumer Survey, U.S. Census Bureau, 2015

Flood Management:

Irresponsible Development Increases Risk of Flooding

- Significant wetland loss due to development
- Funding & personnel issues hinder pre-assessments of development impacts & informed permits
- Many local flood infrastructure projects on hold due to lack of supplemental funds

Approved Flood Mitigation Projects



Source: Texas Water Development Board, 2022

A Texas Problem...

Texas Values

- Economic growth
- Upward mobility
- Freedom to pursue the life that you want



Building Bridges

- Workforce to metro & urban areas
- Amenities & new infrastructure to rural areas

...With Texas Solutions

Education

Grant additional, flexible funding to fast-growth exurb districts

Transportation

- **Urgently target rural roads with public safety expenditures and TX-created Safety By Design tool**

Flood Management

Monitor implementation of the Flood Infrastructure Fund



Texas has an opportunity to pave the way as we navigate and improve the way exurb communities function in our state.

For more details, see full report:

<https://bush.tamu.edu/mosbacher/white-papers/>