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# Dallas, Fort Worth mayors discuss regionalism

Dallas Business Journal by Matt Joyce, Staff Writer

Date: Friday, January 27, 2012, 2:57pm CST

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The cities that make up North Texas should celebrate their diversity while working together to solve its greatest challenges like water supply, transportation and education, the mayors of Dallas and Fort Worth said Friday.

Dallas Mayor [Mike Rawlings](#) and Fort Worth Mayor [Betsy Price](#) discussed regionalism at a **North Texas Commission** lunch event.

The mayors agreed that the region needs to work on branding itself for the world.

Rawlings noted that the Dallas-Fort Worth area is fourth-largest region in the United States, while Dallas is the ninth-largest city.

"Because of history and how all these governments were put together, we're in an odd situation that we all have vested interests that are together. We are pretty much like-minded individuals, but we're artificially divided," Rawlings said. "I think the biggest challenge we have is defining ourselves, because once I think we define ourselves well, we can make it happen."

Price gave Rawlings a T-shirt reading "Life is Too Short to Live in Dallas," but she also dismissed the notion as old thinking.

"We can brand this region so that worldwide everybody knows who we are and what we

do," Price said. "What's good for Fort Worth is good for Dallas, and what's good for Dallas is good for Fort Worth."

When discussion veered to the possible arrival of high-speed rail in the region, Rawlings said that's the type of issue that can challenge regional cooperation.

"That's when the elbows get sharp, and that's when constituents say, 'I've got a piece of property; I've got a city council person,' and the politics get started," he said.

But Rawlings said all parties win when the cities cooperate.

"We can walk and chew gum at the same time," he said.

Matt covers transportation, energy, government and economic development.