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## ***Monday Morning Report – January 25, 1010***

### **Internal**

A one-day conference and training session for Corridor ‘emergency responders’ is being held *today*, Monday, January 25, 9:00 am-1:00 pm at the **San Marcos Activity Center** located at 501 E. Hopkins. Regional first responders and administrators will review and discuss improving traffic incident management on Interstate 35 between **San Antonio** and **Austin**. TxDOT will also be explaining the capabilities of their new IH-35 ITS system.

Corridor Council Executive Committee Members: Don’t forget our long term strategy retreat *tomorrow* (1/26) beginning at 7:00 am at the Embassy Suites in **San Marcos**. Email [council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org) with any questions.

### **Infrastructure**

The Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) unanimously approved adding **Caldwell** and **Bastrop Counties** to its membership and named **Travis County** Judge Sam Biscoe its new chairman last week. **Williamson County** Commissioner Cynthia Long continues as vice chair. Senator Kirk Watson gave up the chairmanship after an amazingly productive three-year reign. *Story.*

The LoneStar Rail District Executive Committee meeting scheduled for February 5 has been cancelled. The full Board is scheduled to meet on Friday March 5, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the **San Marcos Activity Center**.

More than a decade of planning may go to waste on the Krueger Dam project in **Comal County** after recent news that engineers involved in the project failed to recognize that sub-standard foundation soil at the site selected for the flood control structure would not support the structure. County commissioners, after investing about \$5 million in the project since the 1998 flood that inundated **New Braunfels**, are considering pulling the plug on the project - and legal action against the engineering firm involved. *Details.*

City of **Cedar Park** received a \$160,000 grant from \$6 million in Federal stimulus funds allocated by the Texas Comptroller's office to improve signal timing at 27 local intersections. (*Texas Government Insider*)

TxDOT has begun a series of meetings for four Interstate 35 Corridor Segment Committees along I-35 that will meet monthly to discuss needed improvements. Known as "MY 35," the goal is a comprehensive, long-range mobility plan for the Interstate. Details at the [Keep Texas Moving](#) Web site.

### **Economic Development (and ‘Other News’)**

Flags are at half-staff in **San Marcos** this week, honoring local Army Captain Paul Peña, killed earlier this month in Afghanistan.

The 13 aerospace companies that lease commercial space at the Port of **San Antonio** have created more than 8,000 direct and indirect local jobs and contribute nearly \$1.5 billion to the **San Antonio**’s economy each year, according a study released last week (1/19) by St. Mary’s University and the **San Antonio** Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. *Details.*

In a move designed to add to its revenue base, the *New York Times* announced a new metered model for its online news. Readers would be allowed a certain number of articles per month and then charged for any articles accessed above that number. Details are still being designed on the new system to be implemented by 2011. Does this mean the era of free news over the internet is numbered? *Details.*

A large demonstration was held on (1/20) outside the **San Antonio** Convention Center by members of the construction equipment industry and other supporters. Their focus and ire was aimed at the US Congress and its inability to pass a long-term highway construction bill. Over one hundred people listened to speakers, including State Senator Jeff Wentworth, and watched a parade of idled construction machinery. The rally was held prior to the Associated Equipment Distributors' Annual Conference taking place in **San Antonio** with attendance expected to exceed 1,700. *Details.*

The Texas Workforce Commission awarded a \$380,000 grant for a 12-month research and analysis project evaluating businesses recruitment and training needs in the health and biotechnology fields. The grant was awarded to a group called the I-35 Corridor Consortium which includes public and private organizations in a 5- county region from **Dallas** to **San Antonio** and includes **Austin** Community College. *Details.*

At the recent (1/19) Greater **San Antonio** Chamber of Commerce's Economic Outlook Conference, local business leaders and economic analysts were trying to position the city for the recovery and focused on areas of potential growth. Speakers from Rudy Giuliani to Henry Cisneros to UTSA athletic director Lynn Hickey all focused on a (hopefully) brighter future and the economic indicators that show the Central Texas market turning around with possible growth by fall. *Details.*

Verizon and AT&T have started a price war over cell phone service fees. Consumers will benefit according to *PC World Magazine*. *Story.*

The US Department of Commerce issued a \$1.75 million grant to the Avenida Guadalupe Association to assist in the further redevelopment of **San Antonio**'s West Side, in particular the organization's Promesa Project - the centerpiece of revitalization on the Guadalupe Street Corridor in West **San Antonio**. *Details.*

### *Thought for the week:*

*"Always and never are two words you should always remember never to use."*

~ Wendell Johnson