



**Austin-San Antonio  
Corridor Council**

P.O. Box 1618  
San Marcos, Texas 78667

Phone: 512-558-7360  
Fax: 512-558-7365  
[council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org)

[www.thecorridor.org](http://www.thecorridor.org)

***Monday Morning Report – February 8, 2010***

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An editorial in yesterday's **Houston Chronicle** unloaded on Texas state officials for not being better prepared to compete for Federal high speed rail funding and says it's time to ask *why*? Harris County Judge Ed Emmett also makes an excellent point that the so-called Texas T-Bone rail plan is not taken seriously by the Federal leadership because it does not directly connect the two largest cities in the state. Story ***here***.

Texas began slapping surcharges on drivers ticketed for everything from drunken driving to lack of insurance in 2003, but the fees have become so onerous that out of 1.9 million surcharges levied, 1.2 million have not been paid. The **Dallas Morning News** says it is 'bad public policy' and needs to be changed. ***Details***

In the three years the **Houston** Airport Authority has accepted EZ Toll Tags to pay for airport parking, they've lost more than \$3 million, prompting the **Harris County** Commissioners Court to shut down the program due to lack of use. Reasons given include too many options for travelers, bank fees, infrastructure costs. ***Story***

## Economic Development (and ‘Other News’)

**San Antonio’s** AT&T Center is on track to set a new attendance record during the fiscal year for non-franchise events. As of January 29, the Center has hosted over 256,000 guests and there are still 5-months left in the fiscal year. This is only for non-franchise events and does not include attendance at traditional events like Spurs’ games. [Story](#).

The Cactus Café, part of the University of Texas at **Austin** campus for thirty-one years, will be closed in August as a way to help reduce the UT budget 5% for the next fiscal year. While there are discussions about moving the music icon to the TexasExes Alumni Center, the future of the music venue is an open question. [Story](#) and [more](#).

The trade publication *MovieMaker* listed **Austin** as the fifth best location to make a movie. While this marks the tenth year **Austin** has ranked in the top ten, the 2010 list moved **Austin** to the No. 5 slot from its 10th place ranking last year. [Local story](#) and [Article](#).

**San Marcos** Chamber of Commerce will host its first “*Green Living Showcase*” on Saturday March 20, an event designed for homeowners/business people interaction and to provide tools and resources focused on a cleaner, greener future. [Details](#)

**San Antonio** Water System earned a strong ‘AA’ rating for its upcoming \$64.1 million bond sale, attributed in part to the fact that **San Antonio’s** overall economic activity remains relatively stable (softness in the residential building market offset partially by steady commercial and military construction). [Story](#)

**Austin’s** City Council passed the restructured solar rebate program in an effort to stretch the initiative’s budget and increase solar energy production. [Story](#) and the [Plan](#)

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A reminder of the Old West is coming to **Seguin** and the **Guadalupe County** fairgrounds on Feb. 11-13: wild mustangs will be offered up for adoption by the Bureau of Land Management - an effort to thin western herds protected under Federal law. [Details](#)

### Thought for the week:

*“Satisfaction lies in the effort, not in the attainment, full effort is full victory.”*

~ Mahatma Gandhi



**Austin-San Antonio  
Corridor Council**

P.O. Box 1618  
San Marcos, Texas 78667

Phone: 512-558-7360  
Fax: 512-558-7365  
[council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org)

[www.thecorridor.org](http://www.thecorridor.org)

***Monday Morning Report – February 8, 2010***

## **Internal**

The Executive Committee next meets on Wednesday, Feb. 17 at the Corridor Council offices in **San Marcos** at 2:00 pm. RSVP to [council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org).

The Texas Greenbelt Coalition – our clean and alternative energy coalition – meets this Thursday, February 11, 1:30 at the **New Braunfels** Chamber of Commerce. RSVP to [TJ@thecorridor.org](mailto:TJ@thecorridor.org).

## **Infrastructure**

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