



**Austin-San Antonio
Corridor Council**

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Monday Morning Report – March 1, 2010

Internal

Save the Date: On March 17th the Executive Committee AND the Economic Development Committee will meet at 1:30 p.m. at the **San Marcos Activity Center**. This joint meeting will include a presentation from **Bexar County** Economic Development officials on the Texas-Mexico Automotive SuperCluster. For information contact TJ@thecorridor.org

Save the Date: The Economic Development Committee will hold its first 2010 Economic Development Field Trip, “*Behind the Scenes at the River Walk,*” in **San Antonio** on April 16th. If you or your organizations are interested in being a sponsor for this or other Corridor Council events, contact TJ@thecorridor.org

Infrastructure

The Board of the **Lone Star Rail District** meets *this* Friday, March 5, 10:00 am at the **San Marcos Activity Center** on 501 East Hopkins.

Senator John Carona - Chair of the Texas Senate’s Transportation and Homeland Security Committee - will address a luncheon hosted by the **Austin Chamber** on March 24, introduced by Senator Kirk Watson. For more information or to register click [here](#).

Starting in May 2010, **San Antonio** Airport will add a non-stop flight to **Orlando** and **Baltimore-Washington**. [Details](#). **Austin-Bergstrom** will add a non-stop flight to **Branson-Springfield**, Missouri. [Details](#).

According to the *Dallas Morning News*, an independent traffic study shows that five spots along IH-35 in the **Dallas-Fort Worth** area have the worst traffic congestion in the region. But - while overall **Dallas** traffic may be bad - the article also points out that the city has no main artery as congested as IH-35 through **Austin**. [Details](#).

The **Austin Chamber** will hold its next Transportation Committee meeting on March 4, from 4:00 – 5:30 pm, with **Hays County** Commissioner Will Conley speaking about local transportation issues. In addition, Task Forces will present the Downtown Circulation Study Issue Brief and the Federal Transportation Agenda for comment. For more information contact bray@austinchamber.com.

Representative Eddie Rodriguez (**Austin**) has been appointed Vice Chair of the House Select Committee on Transportation Funding by House Speaker Joe Strauss (**San Antonio**). [Details](#).

Travis County Parks and Recreation will hold public meetings on the Onion Creek Greenway Plan during the first week in March to gather public comments on the project. For more information, contact wendy.scaperotta@co.travis.tx.us.

Economic Development (and ‘Other News’)

For all the gloom-and-doom we're hearing about Toyota and its accelerator problems, the company's plant in **San Antonio** is going gangbusters with 900 recent hires and, starting today, will be turning out a new pickup truck every 65 seconds in two eight-hour shifts. Read *more* from the *Express-News*.

Economists expect the recovery to remain "firmly on track" over the next two years though job growth is likely to remain slow. The latest outlook from The National Association for Business Economics sees regular job gains resuming this quarter with businesses playing a bigger role in the expansion as corporate earnings rise over the next two years. *Details*.

According to the *Austin Business Journal*, Texas State University is moving ahead with planning a 612-bed, \$50 million student housing project. The **San Marcos** location currently has about \$633 million worth of construction slated to take place. Groundbreaking is expected this fall. *Details*.

The **San Antonio** Airport has embraced social media as a means of enhancing customer service, offering flight information and updating the public on construction and other projects. *Details*.

Widespread fall and winter rains should make for an excellent wildflower season in much of Texas, according to the *Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center* at University of Texas at **Austin**. Large clusters of Texas bluebonnet rosettes have already been spotted ready to flower alongside Highway 290 near **Brenham**.

In a recent edition of *Texas Real Estate Business*, the most significant ways a company can reduce its environmental impact is often lost: re-using an existing building is an underutilized means of sustainability. According to one expert, "There is no better story of recycling than recycling the actual building." *Story*.

San Antonio's City Council has approved a \$500,000 contract with the **San Antonio** Education Partnership to develop a new center that will help more high school students get college advising services. A virtual site will be online near the end of the current school year and a physical location should be open by September 2010. *Details*.

Facebook may create 200 jobs in **Austin** over the next four years, thanks to a \$1.4 million incentive from Texas. The move would be the first major US expansion outside of its **Palo Alto**, California headquarters. Facebook is investing about \$3.1 million to set up operations in Texas, according to Gov. Rick Perry's office. *Details*.

Travis County and **Austin** Energy have posted two RFP's, one for home energy audit companies or home auditors to conduct energy audits and develop a comprehensive scope of work for home weatherization improvements, and another for home energy audit companies or home auditors to conduct energy audit assessments and Final Inspection. *Details*.

The Alamo, arguably **San Antonio's** greatest landmark, is getting its first-ever marketing campaign. The new campaign, complete with a fresh new logo is designed to help attract more visitors as well as donations to the non-profit museum and landmark. *Details*.

Thought for the week:

"You can have it all. You just can't have it all at one time."

~ Oprah Winfrey