



Austin-San Antonio
Corridor Council

Monday Morning Report

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March 8, 2010

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[Note Meeting Time Change](#): On Wednesday, 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.

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 organization is interested in being a sponsor for this or other Corridor Council events, contact TJ@thecorridor.org

By The Way: Check out this week's quotation-of-the-week (below)

[Infrastructure](#)

[The Week That Was In Clean Energy](#): Tuesday, President Obama unveiled a program of \$3,000 rebates for making homes more efficient (\$6 billion total); Wednesday, Department of Energy announces \$100 million to develop green technologies such as thermo-devices & grid storage; Friday, DOE gives \$117 million to a Hawaii wind energy project and \$72 million to Minnesota energy-saving glass project. Also this month: \$8.3 billion in loan guarantees for nuclear power plants (Georgia) and \$1.4 billion to a solar complex (California).

San Antonio Express-News editor Bob Rivard used yesterday's column to complain that city planners seem to be ignoring city leaders in building the city's downtown infrastructure, an interesting observation in itself, but even more interesting are his observations on a presentation by Rebecca Ryan (author of "Live First, Work Second") on what it takes to make a city attractive to young workers. Read it [here](#).

That **Caldwell County** race for the county judge's job (now held by H.W. Wright) is really heating up, with a Democratic primary run-off scheduled for April 13 between **Lockhart** mayor James Bertram and former county commissioner Morris Alexander; winner will face Republican Tom Bonn in November. [Details](#).

The Board of the **Lone Star Rail District** met last Friday (3/5) and got a very positive report on negotiations with the Union Pacific Railroad, progress on the required Environmental Impact Statement on the passenger rail project, word on Federal High Speed Rail Grants (didn't get one), and an update on the executive search for a rail operations manager.

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

[ASACC Projects](#)

[SH130](#)

[Lone Star Rail District](#)

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Events

[ASACC Executive](#)

register click [here](#).

The groundbreaking ceremony for the US 281 Super Street project in **San Antonio** is scheduled for March 11. [RSVP](#) or call 210-495-5256 for more information.

In all, **Texas** expects to receive a total \$2.25 billion in federal stimulus funding for highway projects from last year's stimulus bill. This includes a number of smaller projects in the **Austin** metro area [here](#); and as well as the high-profile US Highway 281/Loop 1604 interchange project in **San Antonio**. [Details](#).

Economic Development (and 'Other News')

Endeavor Real Estate Group of **Austin** has signed a contract to develop a retail project at Fort Sam Houston in **San Antonio**. [Details](#).

Delta Airlines announced it will begin non-stop service from **Austin**-Bergstrom Airport to **Cincinnati**, Ohio starting this spring. [Details](#).

Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative – with 66,000 customers in **Central/South Texas** - received favorable ratings on its soon-to-be issued debt instruments by Fitch Ratings. Fitch cited GVEC's strong financial performance as well as its manageable leverage and solid equity levels. [Details](#).

As reported here earlier, Google plans to test ultra-high speed broadband networks in trial locations across the country. They plan to deliver Internet speeds more than 100 times faster than what is common today. Locally, **San Antonio** is expected to apply and **Round Rock** is conducting a short survey to gauge residential interest there. [Survey](#)

InnoTech **San Antonio** was recently held at the Norris Conference Center at Wonderland of the Americas Mall. This annual business-to business conference for area high tech firms also gave opportunity to seven local start-up firms to pitch their companies and products to venture capitalists and angel investors. A similar InnoTech Conference is held annually in **Austin**. [Details](#).

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service will open its first environmentally friendly base exchange in the country at Randolph Air Force Base in **San Antonio**. The new store is being considered for LEED Certification. It has been built with a reflective roof, drought-resistant plants, LED lighting and low-flow toilets to conserve H2O. [Details](#).

The *New York Times* ran a story on an innovative approach to incorporating renewable energy (solar) with traditional fossil fuel generation. In this article the focus is on a new hybrid electrical generation plant in Florida designed specifically to incorporate renewable energy, lower its cost, and mitigate the effects of its variability. [Story](#).

[Free Trade Alliance San Antonio](#)

[Envision Central Texas](#)

[Hill Country Alliance](#)

[Lower Colorado River Authority \(LCRA\)](#)

[Rail Relo Now!](#)

[San Antonio-Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization's \(SA-BC MPO\)](#)

[San Antonio Mobility Coalition](#)

[Temple Economic Development Corp.](#)

[Texas Transportation Institute](#)

[US 281](#)

[VIA Metropolitan Transit](#)

In-Depth/News-Reports

[Lone Star Rail Feasibility Study](#)

[Lone Star Rail EIAs & Executive Summary](#)

Interesting

[News Clip... This day in history](#)

[Newseum – Newspaper Front Pages](#)

Real-Time Traffic Accident Information

***Committee Meeting
March 17th @ 1:30pm
San Marcos Activity Ctr.***

***ASACC Economic Dev.
Committee Meeting
March 17th @ 1:30pm
San Marcos Activity Ctr.
“Tex-Mex Auto
SuperCluster” Presentation***

***Envision Central Texas
Regional Forum Series
Four Seasons Hotel,
Austin - March 31st @
9am***

***ED Committee Field
Tour - “Behind the
Scenes @ the Riverwalk”
April 16th***

***Register for the
Chamber’s State of
Transportation featuring
Texas State Senator,
John Carona!***

San Antonio Mayor Julián Castro was placed by the World Economic Forum on the Young Global Leaders list for 2010. He is the only Texan on the list and is one of only 31 individuals selected from the US. ***Details.***

San Marcos was honored by Texas First Lady Anita Perry, as she recognized communities that recognize and preserve their authentic Texas sense of place. Explore ‘Texas Treasure’ videos online, featuring the cultural and historic assets of **San Marcos** at the Texas Historical Commission’s (THC) ***Website.***

Thought for the week:

Said **Hays County** Commissioner Will Conley (**San Marcos**), in a presentation to the mother of Paul Peña, who was killed last month in Afghanistan:

“Our community can not say enough about your son, and the sacrifices that he made for our country. He’s a patriot and a hero. This is just a small token of our appreciation for that, and it will go down in our local archives in history. Tomorrow, two hundred years from now, two thousand years from now, people will know there are those that served from our area, this city, this county, that served and fought in this war.”

This newsletter was sent to you on behalf of council@thecorridor.org. It is available to our members. If you have a newsletter that you’d like us to link to, please forward to MMR@thecorridor.org If you wish to unsubscribe from this or other e-mail newsletters, please [click here](#), send an e-mail request to council@thecorridor.org, or send your request referencing the specific newsletter to: Opt-out Request, Monday Morning Report, PO Box 1618, **San Marcos**, TX. 78667.

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