



**Austin-San Antonio
Corridor Council**

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Monday Morning Report – March 22, 2010

Internal

Members of the Corridor Council's Executive Committee and the Economic Development Committee met jointly last week (3/17) for a briefing on the Corridor-wide Texas-Mexico Automotive SuperCluster initiative by David Marquez, Director of Economic Development for **Bexar County**. For more information see: www.TXMXAutomotive.com

The Executive Committee also welcomed two new committee members last week (3/17), Michelle Dippel, HNTB's Director of Environmental Services in **Austin** and **San Antonio's** former TxDOT District Engineer John Kelly, now AECOM's Vice President of Major Projects in Texas.

The Corridor Council will be helping to sponsor Envision Central Texas's March 31 major infrastructure forum ("*More People. Less Money. What Next?*") in **Austin**. [Details](#).

Infrastructure

That new \$2.2 million control tower at the **San Marcos** Airport is nearly complete, and big changes are in store for the "little airport that could." After construction is complete, the Federal Aviation Administration will pay for four to six air traffic controller salaries, depending upon traffic volumes. [Details](#).

Don't forget Senate Transportation Committee Chairman John Carona's lunchtime speech to an **Austin** audience this Wednesday (3/25), introduced by Senator Kirk Watson. Details [here](#).

San Antonio's annual Chamber of Commerce-backed SA-To-DC trip is this week (3/21-25), with over 125 members pitching defense-related and infrastructure-related projects ranging from \$5 million for a downtown circulator-system to \$53 million for the Fredricksburg Road Bus Rapid Transit Project. Click [here](#) for a list of projects.

Austin's CAMPO holds a series of Open House events to get public feedback on the new 2035 Transportation Plan for **Hays, Travis and Williamson Counties** from March 22 – April 12. Schedule and plan [here](#).

San Antonio's VIA has opened a new transit center near North Star Mall with an air-conditioned waiting area, real-time bus arrival displays, restrooms, pay phones, water fountains and vending machines. Eleven bus routes make scheduled stops at the new North Star Transit Center. [Details](#).

Economic Development (and ‘Other News’)

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 event or attending, contact TJ@thecorridor.org (*flyer*)

All Aboard: Today (3/22) marks the start of Capital Metro's Red Line commuter rail service from **Leander** to **Austin**. Congratulations to all involved. Some of the issues and challenges ahead for rail are detailed in this morning's *Statesman*. Read it [here](#).

The *Cincinnati Business Courier* ranks the **Austin/Round Rock** area fourth and **San Antonio** 19th among the greenest cities in the US by taking into account 20 different indicators including adoption of green technologies and other environmentally sound practices. [Details](#).

In airline news: American Airlines will start a non-stop flight from **Austin** to **New York**'s JFK (*story*) and Continental Airlines announced it will start charging for food on most domestic flights. [Details](#).

According to the *Texas Government Insider*, **San Marcos** Assistant City Manager Collette Jamison has been named interim city manager while the City Council searches for a replacement for outgoing City Manager Dan O'Leary.

Thought for the week:

”I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

Maya Angelou