



**Austin-San Antonio
Corridor Council**

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Monday Morning Report – March 29, 2010

Internal

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**. Hope to see you all there. [*Details*](#).

A statewide coalition of transportation-supportive groups will be meeting in **Austin** April 1 to define a legislative strategy for increased mobility funding in the 2011 Legislature. Details from vic@ntc-dfw.org.

"*Behind the Scenes at the Riverwalk*," the Corridor Council's Spring Economic Development Tour, sets sail Friday April 16 at 9:30 am. Seats for this **San Antonio** event are limited so reserve now for a behind-the-scenes look at one of **Texas**' biggest tourist attractions. [*Details*](#).

Infrastructure

TxDOT has launched a new web-based tool for tracking agency goals, budgets, construction projects, and a host of other TxDOT activities. Here's a [*story*](#) detailing the new tool, and here's the [*web-site*](#).

If you have any lingering doubts about whether Mexico's violent drug war can cross over into Texas, take a look at this [*Houston Chronicle story*](#) from this morning (3/29) detailing what's happening in **Fort Hancock**, 50 miles from **El Paso**. Gangsters have followed Mexican nationals fleeing the violence into West Texas.

Austin's city council approved a study last week (3/25) of building a second convention center hotel to augment the existing 800-room Hilton. Backers say the move would attract bigger conventions, and draw more dollars to the city. Story [*here*](#).

The Bureau of Transportation Statistics says that while there has been an overall increase in overland trade value between NAFTA partners over the last five to ten years, there was a significant drop off in 2009 as compared to 2008. In 2009, 86.6 % of US merchandise trade by value with Canada and Mexico moved by land.

"*The Wall that Heals*," a traveling replica of the Vietnam Memorial in **Washington**, will make its only Texas stop in **Taylor** this week. [*Details*](#).

Lisa Krantz of the **San Antonio Express-News** was named Star Photographer of the Year at the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors convention last weekend. **Austin's American-Statesman** won big city newspaper of the year; **New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung** won top award for smaller cities. [*Details*](#).

Economic Development (and ‘Other News’)

As a follow-up to a briefing received (3/17) on the Texas-Mexico Automotive SuperCluster, the Corridor Council will be represented at the upcoming SAE World Congress Trade Show in **Detroit** on behalf of its members as part of the TexasOne delegation. If you are interested in receiving an update or results from this trip please e-mail tj@thecorridor.org

The Pecan Street Project held a conference (3/23) to discuss their newly released Phase I report, progress, and future direction for the clean energy effort. Pecan Street Project details [here](#) and [story](#).

Burnt Green? University of Texas graduates this spring will wear recycled green gowns made from 100%, postconsumer recycled plastic bottles. More than 6,000 grads will be the first in the state to wear these caps and gowns. The class of 2010 will keep 200,000 plastic bottles from ending up in a landfill, reducing emissions and energy usage. [Story](#)

Texas Renewable Energy Industries Association launched a new green jobs site board for careers in renewable energy. Job seekers can post resumes, view jobs and create alerts for when [the board](#) is updated and business can post available positions on the site. [Details](#).

The Census Bureau says that only 6% of **Austin** have mailed their 2010 forms back, compared to a national average of 16%. For 2010 census mail-back rates go to www.census.gov.

Texas received more than \$23 million in federal stimulus funds from the US Department of Energy to establish and administer an Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program. For a rebate, replace an older, functional appliance with a new Energy Star or CEE qualified model. [Details](#).

According to the *Austin Business Journal*, St. David's Foundation awarded a \$850,000 grant to a federally-qualified health clinic to fund a new dental care facility in **Kyle**. [Details](#).

Williamson County seeks the services of a qualified Geotechnical firm to perform field investigations and laboratory testing for the County's Emergency Operations Center building site. [Details](#). **Round Rock** requests proposals from qualified firms capable of providing a Land Management Software solution for the City. [Details](#).

The Sysco Corporation, a global leader in selling, marketing and distributing food products, announced it would consolidate its **Central Texas** warehouse facilities into a new 640,000 facility just outside of **Schertz** near I-35. This new facility should be up and running by 2012 and eventually employ upwards of 600. [Details](#).

Thought for the week:

” When the only tool you own is a hammer, every problem begins to resemble a nail.”

Abraham Maslow