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## ***Monday Morning Report – April 5, 2010***

### **Internal**

The Envision Central Texas conference last week (*'More People, Less Money, What Now?'*) in **Austin** (3/31) posed a lot of the infrastructure and governance questions facing Corridor Communities, but also a lingering question: what are we going to do about it? One opportunity for answers may come next September in **New Braunfels** at an event sponsored by the **Austin** and **San Antonio Business Journals** tentatively scheduled to ask *'Are We Pulling Together?'* as a Corridor? We'll keep you posted on that.

Corridor Council staff addressed **San Antonio's** *'Women In Transportation'* chapter last week (3/30) on the Lone Star Rail District and thanks Executive Committee member Cynthia Whitehead of HDR Engineering for the opportunity, which also resulted in a contribution to **Bexar County's** Center For the Prevention of Family Violence.

### **Infrastructure**

Mayor Lee Leffingwell said last week (3/30) that **Austin's** roads need upwards of \$500 million worth of repairs and that an upcoming bond election could be a good start in tackling the problem: "We've been the most congested mid-size city in America for almost a decade now. We're not any longer, but only because we're not a mid-size city anymore. We're now in the large city category," he said. *News Story*

The **San Antonio** International Airport recently opened its new two-tiered roadway entrance and exit system, and also learned last week they would receive \$9.3 million in Federal grants for maintenance, safety and noise improvements. *Details.*

Improvement to the **Austin** interchange at IH-35 and Ben White Boulevard is coming up soon and TxDOT will hold an open house April 22, 6–8 pm, at the Omni Hotel Southpark, 4140 Governor's Row in **Austin** to discuss new ramps being added for better safety and mobility. *Details.*

The Texas State University System chose former North Texas state representative Brian McCall as the sole finalist in its search for a new chancellor. McCall has resigned from his seat in the Legislature to take the position.

**Travis and Williamson County's** Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority Board has named Charles Heimsath, a real estate consultant, as their newest member. He replaces Corridor Council Executive Committee-member Lowell Lebermann, who passed away last year. Heimsath is a member of the Capital Metro Citizens Advisory Council, The Waller Creek Redevelopment Task Force and the **Austin** Plan Transportation Committee.

## Economic Development (and ‘Other News’)

As mentioned in last week’s MMR, trade between the US and its North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) partners Canada and Mexico continues to rise. Trade between NAFTA partners using surface transportation was 19.5 percent higher in January 2010 than in January 2009, reaching \$56.7 billion, with over 86% of NAFTA trade using land transportation (roads, rail, and pipelines). [Article](#)

Gov. Rick Perry announced that the Texas Film Commission, AMD, **Austin** Chamber of Commerce and **Austin** will host the inaugural ‘*Game On! Texas Gaming Symposium*’ on Wednesday, April 7, 9 am - 5 pm, at the AMD Lone Star Campus. [Details](#).

**Austin**’s city council is considering naming the Mexican free-tailed bat as the official animal of the Capital City. [Story](#)

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development announced it would back a proposed eight-story, 103-bed hospital planned for the **Lakeway** area. [Details](#).

UT **Austin** has broken ground on the Belo Center for New Media, which will house the College of Communication and the KUT Public Broadcast Center. The \$50.6 million, five-story, 120,000-square-foot building will be built on the northwest corner of Dean Keeton and Guadalupe streets, across from the college’s current home and is scheduled to open in 2012. [Details](#).

The US Fish and Wildlife Service is holding a series meetings to gather input on water management of the Edwards Aquifer to protect endangered species in the **San Marcos** and **Comal** Springs. In the Corridor Council area, meetings will be held 4/12 (**New Braunfels**); 4/19 (**San Marcos**); 4/26 (**San Antonio**). [Details](#).

**San Antonio** is seeking nominations for its second annual Green Building Awards at [www.sanantonio.gov/oep](http://www.sanantonio.gov/oep), or contact [liza.meyer@sanantonio.gov](mailto:liza.meyer@sanantonio.gov).

Concordia University-**Texas** has named John Garrett, Publisher of *Community Impact* Newspaper, recipient of its 2010 “*Excellence in Leadership*” award. Concordia, with a main campus in **Austin** and an off-site facility in **San Antonio**, will formally present the award in August.

**San Marcos** officials start a series of public meetings this week to develop a downtown redevelopment code that will combine zoning, subdivision rules, and architectural standards into one redevelopment document. [Details](#).

### Thought for the week:

*”There is only one boss. The customer. And he can fire everybody in the company from the chairman on down, simply by spending his money somewhere else.”*

~Sam Walton