



Austin-San Antonio
Corridor Council

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Monday Morning Report – April 12, 2010

Internal

Mark Your Calendar: Next Executive Committee meeting is next Wednesday, April 21, at the Corridor Council offices in San Marcos. RSVP to council@thecorridor.org.

The Texas Greenbelt Coalition (TGC) Steering Committee met to discuss structural organizational issues and plan upcoming meetings. (3/29) The 2010 TGC General Meetings are scheduled for June 17; Sept. 16; and Dec 2 in **New Braunfels**. For more information, e-mail TxGBCinfo@thecorridor.org.

Judge H.T. Wright of **Caldwell** County passed away last week. He had served as **Caldwell** County judge for 12 years and served on the Executive Committee of Envision Central Texas. Wright served in World War II for two years and was also employed for 38 years with Exxon in **Houston**. Our condolences to his family.

Infrastructure

"Energy efficiency is the cheapest, most reliable form of new energy," says one state official on the heels of new report showing Texas could avoid building 17 new power plants by 2020, save \$13.7 billion on utility bills, and create 96,300 jobs in the next decade by using energy-saving appliances and tactics. *[Details](#)*.

Governor Rick Perry has reappointed former **San Antonio** mayor Bill Thornton as chairman of the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority. *[Details](#)*.

After a contentious few months with the new elected leadership in **Kyle**, city manager Tom Mattis resigned last week after eight years at the town's helm. *[Story](#)*.

A ground-breaking ceremony is scheduled tomorrow at 10:30 am (4/13) for the IH-35/Ben White Interchange hosted by Sen. Kirk Watson in the parking lot of the Southfield building northwest of the intersection. Texas Transportation Committee Chair Deirdre Delisi and Representative Eddie Rodriguez will be guest speakers. *[Aerial](#)*.

Officials said last week that construction of two new bridges on US 281 over Lake **Marble Falls** is expected to begin in early 2011. A contract will be signed by August after the bidding period begins in May. Shaft work drilling on the new eastern bridge will start in February and be finished 18-24 months later. Four lanes of traffic will be diverted onto the new bridge while the existing bridge is demolished and replaced. By 2015, both projects should be completed. *[Story](#)*.

Williamson County and TxDOT will jointly host an open house to review proposed changes to RM 620 in **Round Rock** near the SH 45 toll road. The changes proposed include widening the road, a number of safety measures, and road efficiencies. The open house will be held on 5/6 at the Brushy Creek MUD Community Center. *[Details](#)*.

Economic Development (and ‘Other News’)

CPS Energy’s continues developing solar energy sources with the recent ground-breaking for its Blue Wing Solar Project on **San Antonio**’s south side. This new power station will contain 214,500 thin solar panels producing 14 megawatts of electricity. CPS hopes to eventually draw 20% of its electricity come from renewable sources. *[Details](#)*.

The New York Times reports that an “improved outlook [by American consumers] has been showing up at store cash registers for several months, and the trend seems to be accelerating.” The article does point out that there will continue to be a degree of caution in consumer spending, but cites growing optimism by many retailers and experts. *[Story](#)*.

In another sign that **Central Texas** has established itself as a leader in the new social media boom, the Social Media Business Council – a trade industry group - is moving its offices from **Chicago** to **Austin**, thus becoming the latest in a series of social media ventures based in the Capital City. *[Details](#)*.

TXU Energy has launched the TXU Energy Choice Plan, which will allow customers to sign up for 100% Texas wind power and potentially receive 3% cash back on their yearly electricity purchases. *[Details](#)*.

The Air Force Cryptologic Systems Group at Lackland Air Force Base awarded a contract to Jacobs Engineering Group to provide technical, maintenance, repair and logistics support services to Lackland and other locations throughout the **San Antonio** area. *[Details](#)*.

Austin Community College District Board of Trustees certified petitions containing 1,750 signatures collected in **Bastrop** County. This will allow the community college to move forward with putting a proposal to annex **Bastrop** County ISD into its taxing district in front of voters in November. Additionally, earlier in the week, the **San Marcos** CISD steering committee officially declared its intent to seek annexation by the community college district. *[Details](#)*.

Travis County has posted an RFQ for “Needs Analysis and Financial Feasibility Study for **Travis County** Medical Examiner’s Office.” *[Details](#)*.

The **Buda** Lions Club will host the 13th annual **Buda** Country Fair and Weiner Dog Races on 4/24 and 4/25. According to the **Buda** Economic Development Corporation, upwards of 20,000 people are expected to attend. *[Details](#)*.



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