



**Austin-San Antonio
Corridor Council**

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Monday Morning Report – April 19, 2010

Internal

The Corridor Council Executive Committee will meet *this* Wednesday, April 21, at the Corridor Council offices in San Marcos. RSVP to council@thecorridor.org.

The Corridor Council joins the Texas Greenbelt Coalition in celebrating the launch of the Greenbelt Coalition's new website www.thetexasgreenbelt.org. This new website will serve as a resource for quick access to green technology organizations in **Central Texas** as well as a welcoming banner for outside organizations looking for access to a green successes and solutions organization.

The Corridor Council joined TexasOne at the recent SAE World Congress in Detroit. Texas was the only US economic development organization invited to attend. Many leads were offered and valuable information obtained. For more information or to receive information on leads contact TJ@thecorridor.org. ***Details.***

Infrastructure

US Secretary of Transportation, Ray LaHood and Mexico Secretary of Communications and Transportation, Juan Molinar Horcasitas met (4/12) and committed to establishing processes to increase bilateral transportation cooperation in efforts to stimulate economic growth and improve the quality of life for their citizens. ***Details.***

Austin's city council has appointed the 2010 Transportation Bond Citizen Task Force (Sandra Baldrige, Boone Blocker, Andy Brown, Karen Frise, Moses Garcia, Sheila Holbrook-White, Perry Lorenz, Darwin McKee and Moses Saldana, Sr.), which will make recommendations for a proposed \$100 million bond package on the November ballot.

In remarks last week to a committee of the National Conference of State Legislators, transportation guru Robert Puentes argues that American high speed rail represents the kind of potentially game changing, market-shaping investments in the next economy that the country has long deferred. Read more ***here.***

TxDOT is currently updating their Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan which will provide a framework for developing and implementing a multi-modal transportation system through 2035, including highways, rail, water ports, airports, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, pipelines and Intelligent Transportation Systems. For more information on the plan or to get involved click ***here.***

Economic Development (and 'Other News')

The Corridor Council's Economic Development Committee hosted a trip to "Behind the Scenes at the Riverwalk" in **San Antonio** on 4/16. Over 35 people attended including representatives from the City of Pueblo, Colorado. Speakers included Suzanne Scott, **San Antonio** River Authority; Former **San Antonio** Mayor Phil Hardberger, Cox Smith Attorneys; Paula Stallcup, City of **San Antonio** – Downtown Operations; and Commissioner Kevin Wolf, **Bexar County**. Special thanks to **Bexar County** Economic Development and Cox Smith for co-sponsoring the event.

The Railroad Commission recently launched its Clean Propane Vehicles blog to help Texans stay informed about the Railroad Commission's \$12.6 million stimulus grant from the US Department of Energy. To learn more about the grant and upcoming events click [here](#).

Kyle assistant city manager James Earp has been named as interim city manager while the city council there seeks a permanent replacement for Tom Mattis, who resigned last week.

Round Rock Mayor Alan McGraw presented an optimistic view of his city and the area during his recent State of the City address. Mayor McGraw pointed to **Round Rock's** commitment to the healthcare industry as well as its new initiatives for entrepreneurs. He also discussed the city's planned Downtown Intramodel Transit Facility as well as other accomplishments in supporting the arts and higher education. [Story](#).

The *Austin Business Journal* reports that small and medium sized firms are planning to spend more on technology in 2010. [Details](#).

Austin based Sweet Leaf Tea Co. announced it has reached 75% of its planned \$19 million financing. Sweet Leaf, founded in 1998, bottles about 10,000 gallons of tea a day and is distributed in every state in the US and employs about 36 workers. [Details](#).

Smart car program, Car2go, and **Austin** city officials announced a six-month extension to their barter agreement, which trades city parking spots for city employees' free use of the cars for official business. Additionally, Car2go will open its service to the general public at the end of May. The public service will allow a user to drive anywhere in **Central Texas** for a 35 cent / minute fee. [Details](#).

The *Austin Business Journal* bestowed the highly sought after "Best Real Estate Awards" to Seton Medical Center **Hays** in the Medical Facility Project category. Seton Medical Center **Hays** offers a state-of-the-art campus, designed to offer a comforting environment to promote healing and health.

The Greater **Pflugerville** Chamber of Commerce has changed its name to **Pflugerville** Chamber of Commerce. The name was changed to better reflect the city's population growth and urban status. [Press Release](#).

Elgin City Council members began advertising for city manager. For more information and job description access Elgin's city [Web site](#).

Refinery Associates of Texas, a **New Braunfels**-based company, has been awarded a contract worth nearly \$253.8 million to provide distillate diesel fuel to the US Navy. [Story](#).

US Rep. Lloyd Doggett will be the keynote speaker at Texas State University's fourth annual Aquarena Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 24, from noon to 6 pm at the Aquarena Center on the Texas State campus. Several activities are planned that are designed to help citizens become better stewards of the Earth. [Event Details](#).

[Thought for the week:](#)

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtfully committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

~Margaret Mead