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## ***Monday Morning Report – May 10, 2010***

### **Internal**

**Reminder:** **San Antonio** Mobility Coalition Board meets today, 1:30 at Transguide. Also: SAMCO is seeking sponsors for a Transportation Leadership Luncheon – “*Managing Texas Transportation During Unpredictable Times*” – Tuesday, May 25th at the Witte Museum from 11:30-1:30 pm. Fred Underwood, TxDOT Commissioner, is guest speaker. For more information email [lharlan@samcoinc.org](mailto:lharlan@samcoinc.org); and to register click [here](#).

Welcome to our newest member, **Civil Engineering Consultants** (CEC) which provides civil engineering, surveying, and construction quality management services to public and private sector clients in **San Antonio**, Laredo, and throughout Texas.

### **Infrastructure**

**Austin's** Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's 2035 plan - a 25-year funding scenario for transportation in **Travis, Williamson** and **Hays Counties** - gets a public airing this evening at 6:00 pm at the Convention Center. The plan includes \$467 million for the northern section of the **Georgetown-to-San Antonio** Lone Star Rail line and assumes that **Williamson County** will approve \$425 million in new road bonds every other year from 2011 to 2027 (!). Details from the *American-Statesman* [here](#).

The **San Antonio** Airport Master Plan Ad Hoc Regional Committee (SAT Vision 2050) met (5/4) to review proposed recommendations for the future of the **San Antonio** airport: a large open terminal area, consolidated rental car area, changes in general aviation, and the expansion of runways. [Details](#). A public meeting is planned for Thursday (5/27) from 5:00 - 8:00 pm at the TriPoint YMCA.

The **Austin** City Council will decide this month (5/27) whether to rename part of Second St. ‘Willie Nelson Boulevard.’ Last week (5/6) a bronze likeness of the Red Headed Stranger was unveiled on Second St. What next? The Hundred Dollar bill? [Details](#).

VIA Metropolitan Transit in **San Antonio** is showing off one of four new alternative-power buses purchased with funds from the 2009 Recovery Act. The fleet runs on compressed natural gas, which pollutes less than traditional diesel. VIA plans to add 30 new diesel-electric hybrids and three completely electric buses powered by on-board batteries later this year. [Press Release](#).

This past Saturday (5/8) was the third annual National Train Day. Cities throughout the country celebrated the history of rail with events and tours. Locally, many cities including **Temple, Cedar Park**, and **San Marcos** all had special programs. [Details](#).

Port **San Antonio** recently broke ground on a 1.7 mile extension of 36<sup>th</sup> Street, opening up 150 acres within the industrial park for future development. This \$40 million development was partially funded with Federal stimulus funds. [Details](#).

## Economic Development (and ‘Other News’)

UTSA’s first season of football is just 16 months away and the Road Runners have been busy adding teams to its schedule. UTSA will play its home games at the Alamodome in **San Antonio**. Schools planning to visit the Alamodome for football over the next decade include Houston, Kansas State, Baylor, Arizona and Arizona State and Sam Houston State. *[Details](#)*.

The Texas Economic Development Council (TEDC) will be hosting the ‘Texas Rural Challenge’ May 24 through May 25 in **San Marcos**. This program is billed as a statewide ‘rural-focused’ event offering tools for seeking funding, jobs creation and improving rural quality of life. *[Details](#)*.

The **San Antonio** Hispanic Chamber will be hosting a Small Business Symposium on Friday 5/21 at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center. *[Details](#)*.

**Austin** Career Expo, one of **Central Texas**' largest job fairs, will take place May 12 at the Goodwill Community Center. This event will include employer booths, on-site interviews and job search and resume workshops. It begins at 9 am and is open to the public. *[Details](#)*.

Gov. Perry has appointed **San Antonio**'s Elaine Mendoza to the Texas Higher Ed Coordinating Board. Ms. Mendoza is the President and Founder of **San Antonio** based Conceptual MindWorks Inc. *[Details](#)*.

In an annual survey of 650 CEO's from businesses throughout the country, *Chief Executive Magazine* has once again named Texas as “the best state for business.” *[Article](#)*. Similarly, the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council ranked Texas the second-best state in the US for small-business development for 2010. *[Article](#)* and the *[Report](#)*.

According to Gallup's Job Creation Index, current job market conditions nationwide are the best since November 2008 with the southern states (including Texas) still offering the best job market overall. *[Details](#)*.

The **Georgetown** Chamber of Commerce is planning a ‘Business Showcase’ at the **Georgetown** Community Center on 5/20. *[Details](#)*.

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory ranked **Austin** Energy first in the nation in voluntary renewable energy sales by a utility-sponsored green power program, for the eighth consecutive year. **Austin** Energy outperformed more than 850 competitors, selling 764.8 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of renewable energy in all. *[Story](#)*.

A new report by the Texas Public Interest Research Group entitled ‘Road Work Ahead’ indicates that the average Texas car owner faces \$336 in unnecessary repairs each year due specifically to poorly maintained roads. According to the report, 52% of the roads in Texas are in less than good condition. However, despite the grim tone of the report, Texas ranked in the middle among states -- 24th -- in terms of the cost of car repairs. *[Article](#)*. *[Full Report](#)*

### Thought for the week:

“If you cannot catch a bird of paradise, better take a wet hen.”

~Nikita Khrushchev  
(1894-1971)