



**Austin-San Antonio
Corridor Council**

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Monday Morning Report – May 17, 2010

Internal

The Corridor Council Executive Committee meets this Wednesday, May 19, 2:00 pm, at the Council offices in **San Marcos**. RSVP to council@thecorridor.org.

Mark your calendars: The **Texas** Greenbelt Coalition will hold its quarterly General Meeting on Thursday June 17 in **New Braunfels** from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. For more information email TxGBCinfo@thecorridor.org.

Save the Date: The Corridor Council's Economic Development Committee will hold its next meeting on Wednesday June 23 at **Kyle** City Hall from 9:30-11:30 am. For more information, contact TJ@thecorridor.org

Infrastructure

TxDOT holds a stakeholder session for the long range statewide Texas Rail Plan in **Austin** *this* Friday, May 21, 2010, 1:00-4:00 pm at the TxDOT District Office Training Center 7901 North IH 35. No word yet on whether there will be a **San Antonio** session or not. Earlier meetings were held in **Lubbock, Longview, El Paso, Corpus Christi, Mesquite, and Houston** (today).

The **Texas** Sunset Commission's presentation and public comment on Cap Metro will take place May 25 - 26 in the Senate Finance Committee Room (Rm E1.036, Capitol Extension) at the **Texas** State Capitol starting at 9:00 am. *Details.*

With a formal Record of Decision, the Federal Railroad Administration has given Florida approval to begin designing, obtaining land and building the nation's first major high-speed rail line. *Details.*

Folks in **Austin** get a chance tonight to meet Deborah Wathen Finn and Linda S. Watson, both vying for the top slot at Capital Metro. Watson ran the Regional Transportation Authority in **Orlando**; Wathen Finn heads a **New York** consulting firm for transit and transportation-related companies. *Details.*

Three rental car operations at the **San Antonio** Airport have combined airport shuttle fleets to reduce costs and congestion. This combined service allows the companies to reduce the number of busses it operates as well as reduce the average number of bus trips in and out of the airport. *Details.*

San Antonio's VIA is hosting public meetings on the proposed bus rapid transit line on the Fredericksburg Road corridor 5/24 and 5/27. Locations and details *here*. Draft documents and a summary of the project can be viewed on VIA's *website*.

Economic Development (and ‘Other News’)

A recent report published by the Brookings Institution placed **Austin** in a category it calls ‘*The Next Frontier*,’ citing the city’s young, diverse, and highly educated population. **Article.** ***Brookings Institution’s Report.***

Austin Energy plans to install solar learning centers at 21 **Austin** ISD schools. The learning centers are designed to educate and inform students about the solar industry as well as help supply energy to the host school. The \$900,000 project is funded in part through a grant from the US Department of Energy. **Details.**

Delta Airlines announced a new non-stop from **San Antonio** to **New York’s** JFK Airport starting in September. **Details.**

Seguin continues to expand its industrial base as Texas Power Systems (TPS) LLC added employees to assemble engines and components for the new Caterpillar facility currently under construction. **Details.**

A recent article posted on *Citiwire.net* discusses the juggling act cities must go through to attract and retain companies. The article uses **Austin’s** “*Keep Austin Weird*” slogan to demonstrate that attracting businesses sometimes takes more than incentives, education and labor force. **Article.**

A UT Board of Regents panel has determined that combining UT **San Antonio** with the UT Health Science Center won’t work for either institution. Rather, they suggest joint faculty appointments, joint degree programs and research collaborations. **Details.**

San Antonio honored Lance Corporal Christopher Rangel over the weekend with lowered flags. Corporal Rangel, a graduate of South San ISD – West Campus High School, died 5/6 in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

Thought for the week:

“An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile, hoping it will eat him last.”

~Winston Churchill
(1874-1965)