



**Austin-San Antonio
Corridor Council**

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Monday Morning Report – July 6, 2010

Internal

The Executive Committee meets on July 21, 2:00 pm, Corridor Council offices in **San Marcos**. Forward any suggested agenda items to council@thecorridor.org.

The Corridor Council will participate in organizing a Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Workshop on July 22 – 23 at the TxDOT offices in **New Braunfels**. First responders are encouraged to participate. (See below under Infrastructure for more details.) If you are interested, give us a call at (512) 558-7360 or email council@thecorridor.org.

Infrastructure

TxDOT Commissioners have appointed two veteran state insiders linked to Gov. Rick Perry and Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst to implement recommendations of the recently-released Grant-Thornton audit of the agency. Longtime Dewhurst ally Howard Wolf, a former Fulbright-Jaworski law firm partner, and Gov. Perry's state agency turnaround artist Jay Kimbrough were named last week (7/2). **Story**.

TxDOT is preparing a record \$1.5 billion bond issue for market pricing this month under the voter-approved Proposition 14 program, which dedicates fuel taxes and fees toward highway construction, according to today's public finance journal *The Bond Buyer* (7/6). In all, the Legislature has approved \$6 billion in highway and Buy America bonds, which House Transportation Committee Chairman Joe Pickett told a June **San Antonio** transportation forum (6/7) would eventually cost taxpayers \$21 billion including interests and fees.

Trade Trending Up: Surface transportation trade between the US and its NAFTA was 32.4% higher in April 2010 than in April 2009, reaching \$65.8 billion. US–Mexico surface trade totaled \$25.9 billion in April, up 32.8% over 2009. Surface transportation consists of freight movements by truck, rail and pipeline. In April, 86.6% of U.S. trade by value with Canada and Mexico moved on land. **Details**

Speaking of Mexico, yesterday's election results in 14 Mexican states showed the old PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party) winning most governors' offices in play but losing key former strongholds in Oaxaca and Puebla. Although turnout was strong, the elections were marred by irregularities, intimidation by drug cartels, and violence including four bodies hung from a bridge in **Chihuahua**. **Story**.

The Federal Highway Administration will lead workshops in major US cities focused on Traffic Incident Management (TIM) this summer. The events gather state, regional, and local agencies involved with TIM to discuss their current programs, work through practices to improve relationships and processes, and identify ideas to improve TIM performance. The Corridor Council is sponsoring the TIM event in **New Braunfels** on July 22-23). **Details**.

The South Texas Institute of Transportation Engineers and the **San Antonio** Region Women in Transportation are co-sponsoring a "Context Sensitive Solution & Designing Walkable Urban Thoroughfares" workshop Tuesday, July 27 at Trinity University in **San Antonio**. For more information click [here](#).

Hays County and **San Marcos** have been recognized by the Texas Municipal League for their cooperation in developing five jointly funded parks. "**San Marcos** and **Hays County** [have saved] \$3 million or more that would have been spent if they had not worked together," TML officials told the *Newstreams* website. **Story**.

Economic Development (and ‘Other News’)

Production starts TODAY (7/6) in **San Antonio** for Toyota's mid-size Tacoma trucks, an expanded manufacturing line for the Alamo City plant. About 200 trucks will be built today, ramping up to about 800 a day by the end of the month, according to the *Express-News*. A big event in local business news. [Story](#).

Austin Community College District (ACC) has agreed to purchase 96 acres in **Kyle** for \$9.84 million. The land is located in the Plum Creek area, near the intersection of Kohlers Crossing and **Kyle** Parkway. ACC also has plans to acquire land in **San Marcos** contingent upon a successful annexation effort there this Fall. [Details](#).

In the aftermath of the June 9 flood in **Seguin** (and elsewhere in The Corridor), local companies who pitched in to help with the clean-up are being recognized by the *Seguin Gazette-Enterprise* today. Thanks goes to CMC Recycling-Seguin, Waste Management Inc., Eagle Rentals and Maldonado Nursery, whose businesses saved **Guadalupe County** and its citizens thousands of dollars. [Details](#).

Irvine, Calif.-based FieldStone Homes said last week (7/2) that it would begin building new homes in the Caprock subdivision in **New Braunfels**. Caprock is located near I-35 and State Highway 46, positioned to give residents access to downtown New Braunfels, the Prime Outlet Mall and Tanger Outlet Center in **San Marcos** and **Canyon Lake**. The company builds entry- to mid-level homes (\$120,000) in **San Antonio**, **Cibolo** and **New Braunfels**. More [here](#).

Last week, **San Antonio** launched a Video Court pilot program designed to give accused traffic violators a chance to have cases heard by a Municipal Court judge via a two-way camera without having to physically go down to court. [Details](#).

Alamo Colleges in **San Antonio** received a \$2.5 million Federal jobs training grant to support their Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training program, which provides job training for military veterans, dropouts, Limited English Proficiency workers, and others for careers in emerging green industries. [Details](#).

Leander hosts a grand opening of its new fire station July 10, 10 am-2 pm, at Sonny Drive and US Highway 183. The station includes administrative offices, a training center, and was paid for through a 2006 bond election. [Details](#).

Pflugerville signed an agreement with RRE **Austin** Solar to bring the state's largest solar field to a 550-acre site on the west side of Manda-Carlson Road at Felder Lane; should be up and running by no later than August 1, 2014. [Details](#).

San Antonio's Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) will sponsor a one-day workshop for local elected officials on their duties and responsibilities July 29 in the Al J. Notzon III Board Room, 8700 Tesoro Drive, Suite 700. For more information, click [here](#).

Thought for the week:

"We live in a moment of history where change is so speeded up that we begin to see the present only when it is already disappearing."

~R.D. Laing