



**Austin-San Antonio  
Corridor Council**

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## ***Monday Morning Report – October 5, 2009***

### **Internal**

Corridor Council Executive Committee-member Sam Dawson, CEO of Pape-Dawson Engineers Inc., is the new 2010 chairman-elect of the Greater **San Antonio** Chamber of Commerce. Dawson was founding chairman of the **San Antonio** Mobility Coalition, past chairman of the Witte Museum board of trustees, and was president of the Rotary Club last year. Congratulations, Sam!

#### **NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ):**

The **Austin-San Antonio** Rail District (Rail District) seeks statements of qualifications from consulting attorneys to provide the Rail District with **freight rail negotiation services** to assist with negotiations and agreements with freight railroads regarding operations, use, real estate matters, and right-of-way acquisition. The RFQ is available through this link: **RFQ**. Responses to the RFQ must be received by the Rail District no later than **2:00 p.m. CDT, October 22, 2009** to be considered.

### **Infrastructure**

The Federal Highway Administration approved the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority's plans to go ahead with the development of the US 281 Super Street project, designed to provide interim relief to the congestion along the US 281 corridor in **San Antonio** north of Loop 1604. They will build a series of dedicated lanes to help drivers turn onto and off 281 easier without having to disrupt traffic flows on the main lanes. *Story*

About 400 people gathered in **San Marcos** Friday (10/2) for the **Austin-San Antonio** Growth Summit, sponsored by the two cities' Business Journals. Former Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters, brought to town by Raba-Kistner Engineering, said the US was moving toward a mileage tax. More *here*.

Unless Congress acts quickly, TxDOT will be required to return more than \$742 million to the Federal government as part of a \$8.708 billion nationwide rescission of highway project programming authority. Federal legislation that could have avoided the rescissions expired at the end of the fiscal year (9/30) and TxDOT officials are trying to figure out what the ultimate impacts might be: the cuts have to be made in specific programs. (*Texas Government Insider*)

The **Houston Chronicle** ran an interesting story Sunday about political jockeying there to become the main agency for bringing commuter rail to the area. Three agencies are actively promoting commuter rail programs: **Galveston**, the Metropolitan Transit Authority, and the Gulf Coast Freight Rail District, a partnership of **Houston, Harris County** and **Fort Bend County**; **Waller** and **Galveston Counties** may join soon. Locals say there is danger in sending 'mixed messages' to Federal officials. There may be some lessons here for **Austin-San Antonio**. Read *more*.

Corridor Council Executive Committee-member Fred Gilliam – President of **Austin's** Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority - announced his resignation effective Oct. 16. Gilliam took over as chief of the transportation agency in 2002. The board has not yet made a decision on an interim replacement or the search for a permanent one.

## Economic Development (and ‘Other News’)

According to the *Austin Business Journal*, Onair Development plans to build a 38,000-square-foot building near the new Seton Medical Center Hays, on a 3.5-acre site off the southeast corner of I-35 and **Kyle Crossing**. [Details](#).

**Austin** received a \$500,000 Justice Assistance Grant to help the police department fight crime. The grant will be used to pay for new equipment, training and technology and for prevention and education programs.

The Roscoe Wind Complex, which began construction in 2007 and sprawls across four counties near **Roscoe**, west of **Abilene**, is generating its full capacity of 781.5 megawatts, enough to power 230,000 homes. The world's largest wind farm is now running with all 627 towering wind turbines churning out electricity across 100,000 acres of West Texas farmland.

According to a study by the **Selig Center** for Economic Growth at the **University of Georgia**, Hispanic households contributed more than \$171 billion to the Texas economy last year with the potential to increase to \$252 billion by 2013.

The Comptroller's Office is will hold 19 seminars throughout October, outlining beneficial information for taxpayers, including sales tax forms, filing and paying taxes electronically, taxable goods and services and e-services to help taxpayers manage their accounts online, among other items. For a complete list of dates and times of the seminars, click [here](#).

**Bexar County** Commissioners Court is close to receiving \$1 million in Federal funds that will be used on development of a 200-kilowatt solar photovoltaic system to be known as the Bexar County Solar Collection Farm and Distribution Center. [Details](#)

Kelly Kordzik and Ross Garsson have joined the **Austin** law firm Matheson/Keys, which is now known as Matheson Keys Garsson & Kordzik PLLC. Kordzik and Garsson were previously with Fish & Richardson, which announced in late August that it would shut down its **Austin** office by the end of the year. They are the first of Fish's 28 local attorneys to announce their future plans.

### Thought for the week:

*“Any child can tell you that the sole purpose of a middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble”.*

~ Dennis Frakes