



**Austin-San Antonio  
Corridor Council**

P.O. Box 1618  
San Marcos, Texas 78667

Phone: 512-558-7360  
Fax: 512-558-7365  
[council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org)

[www.thecorridor.org](http://www.thecorridor.org)

***Monday Morning Report – October 12, 2009***

## **Internal**

The Corridor Council will hold a Brown Bag Luncheon at our offices in **San Marcos** on Wednesday, November 4 starting at 11:30 am, with Director of Economic Development, T.J. Costello offering a session on “*Knowing Your Market – Basic Market Research.*” The session is free for members with a small charge for non-members. For more information or to RSVP call 512-558-7360. [Details.](#)

## **Infrastructure**

Last week's announcement from TxDOT that the Trans-Texas Corridor Project is dead (again) sparked a lot of heat but not much light. Individual capacity improvements will continue toward completion, but just not grouped together in one corridor under the umbrella of the TTC. *Texas Monthly's* Paul Burka blog nails it: "...Interstate 35 is the biggest obstacle to mobility in Texas, which means that the relief route should be the top priority for road builders. It has to be built." Read it [here](#).

**\$2.2 billion:** That's the cost of about 50 projects needed to improve Interstate 35 from **San Antonio** to **Hillsboro**, and the figure does not include congestion improvements to sluggish downtown **Austin** traffic. And there is no identified source for most of that funding, TxDOT Commissioner Ted Houghton told the *American-Statesman* over the weekend. Details [here](#).

North Carolina is studying potential ridership and revenue for a 140-mile commuter-rail corridor between **Greensboro** and **Goldsboro**. The studies will create ridership models and compile revenue forecasts for four potential commuter train routes in 2012, 2017 and 2022 along a corridor that includes 18 state and private universities within two miles of the corridor. Sound familiar? [Link.](#)

Tom Downs, former president of Amtrak, estimates the costs of US highways - including state and local expenditures, plus accidents and related property losses, and the costs of defending our oil supply - at about \$750 billion a year. We can't vouch for the numbers but he sure makes a persuasive case that we should be doing some things differently. Read more [here](#).

**Guadalupe County** has kicked off an \$800,000 water quality study of Geronimo and Alligator creeks, conducted by **Guadalupe-Blanco** River Authority, the Texas AgriLife Extension service and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board. The goal is to protect the watershed that runs from northeast of **New Braunfels** through **Guadalupe County** into the **Guadalupe** River southeast of **Seguin**. Details [here](#).

## Economic Development (and ‘Other News’)

Texas ranked fourth on the Harris Interactive poll, according to the *San Antonio Business Journal*, as one of the most attractive states in the nation for people to live in. California ranked No. 1, Florida second, Hawaii, third and Colorado fifth. The poll was conducted in August of about 2,498 US adults. [Poll Results](#).

BRAC (Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission) has been paying huge dividends to **San Antonio**. Over \$2 billion in construction projects have been awarded thus far. An additional \$300 million in contracts are expected to be awarded next year. Most of the contacts have been for projects at Fort Sam Houston. [Details](#).

Around The Corridor: **Kyle** has posted an RFP for website redesign and implementation. [Details](#). **Georgetown** has posted an RFP for a “Quality of Life Survey,” as well as one for “Sidewalk Replacement.” [Details](#). **Marble Falls** has issued an RFP for water services improvements for their hospital district. [Details](#)

Residents of the ten-county **Austin** region are now able to receive notification on their cellular telephones of emergencies affecting their homes and businesses. These notifications are made possible through a new addition to the Capital Area Council of Governments regional Emergency Notification System (ENS). [Details](#)

On-time performance of arriving flights in **San Antonio** was 80.7%, better than the national average of 78.4% for the 12 months ending in June. **San Antonio** is the 28th largest metro area in the study with a smaller amount of air service activity than its size would suggest. Its year-end passenger count as of March — 3.9 million — ranked 38th nationally, behind smaller cities such as Indianapolis and **Austin**. [Study](#).

According to *The Daily Beast* - an online magazine edited by publishing maven Tina Brown - **Austin** ranks as the 12-th Smartest City In America (based on god-knows-what, because they faulted the city's lack of political engagement (!). **San Antonio** ranked 53 out of 55, which is surprising: at least we're smart enough not to live in **New York City** (13). More nonsense [here](#).

### Thought for the week:

*“Experience is a good school...but the fees are high!”*

~ Heinrich Heine