



**Austin-San Antonio  
Corridor Council**

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***Monday Morning Report – October 19, 2009***

## **Internal**

The **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee is scheduled to meet *this* Wednesday, October 21, 2:00 pm, at the Corridor Council's offices in **San Marcos**. To RSVP or for more information please call 512-558-7360 or *email* us. *[Draft Agenda](#)*

Corridor Council president Ross Milloy will be a panelist at the Leadership **Austin** / LBJ School's "*Fastforward Issues Forum*" this week on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at the LBJ Presidential Library. The panel will focus on the transportation options for Central Texas. *[Details](#)*.

The Corridor Council will hold a Brown Bag Luncheon at our offices in **San Marcos** on Wednesday, November 4 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**

Former **San Antonio Express-News** transportation writer Pat Driscoll has created a new transportation blog, *On the Move*, with TexasHighwayMan.com-creator Brian Purcell and Hugh Hemphill, director of the Texas Transportation Museum. Email them or send news stories to [news@OnTheMoveBlog.com](mailto:news@OnTheMoveBlog.com). *[Details](#)*.

The Federal Railroad Administration has just published their "Preliminary National Rail Plan," which features a lot of useful graphs and information but is really more of a plan about how they intend to make a plan. Read it *[here](#)*.

Doug Allen, executive vice president and chief development officer of Capital Metro, has been named interim general manager while the agency conducts a national search for a permanent manager to replace Fred Gilliam, who has retired. Allen has worked with Cap Metro since April 2008, coming to **Austin** after 24 years with **Dallas** Area Rapid Transit (DART). While at DART, he assisted in developing plans for the DART light rail system and high occupancy vehicle network.

TxDOT, the **Killeen-Temple** Urban Transportation Study and the **Waco** Metropolitan Planning Organization will host a town hall meeting on transportation issues at 6:30 pm, Monday, November 2 at the Frank W. Mayborn Civic & Convention Center, 3303 North Third Street in **Temple**. Visit [www.TxDOT.gov](http://www.TxDOT.gov) for a link to the live webcast.

## **Economic Development (and 'Other News')**

Texas State University-**San Marcos** is sponsoring "*Discover Texas State*," an open house that will feature tours, lectures, demonstrations, exhibits and other activities on Saturday, October 31. On campus transportation, meals and game tickets will be provided at no charge. Visit this *[link](#)* to register on-line or call (512) 245-2396 for more information.

The Valero Alamo Bowl in **San Antonio** has renewed its affiliation with the Big 12 Football Conference. Starting in January 2011, the 3<sup>rd</sup> choice team from the Big 12 (which includes Univ. of Texas, Texas A&M and Baylor) will play the 3<sup>rd</sup> choice team from the PAC 10 (which includes USC, Arizona, and Oregon). Since its inception in 1993, the Valero Alamo Bowl has hosted nearly 1 million spectators at 16 bowl games.

According to sales data released by the Ford Motor Co., buyers in hot cities, like **Phoenix** and **Dallas**, like their Fords white. Ford also found that **Boston** was the top market for its four-cylinder engines, while oil-rich **Houston**, the top market for pickup trucks, gets its vroom from V8s. The tree-hugging cities of **San Francisco** and **Seattle** are the top markets for hybrids. Ford states that “these statistics may seem trivial, but the information is critical to the company and its dealers.”

The *New York Times* reports that Samsung and ZTE are pushing ahead with solar-powered phones and Sharp is releasing its own model in Japan this year. Solar-powered cell phones are the next big advance in the cell phone market, specifically targeting emerging markets or areas where electrical recharging is problematic. [Story](#).

The **South Texas** Regional Center of Innovation and Commercialization seeks applications from new technology companies looking for start-up funding. Applications are processed quarterly. The next application deadline for life science ventures is Oct. 22. The next application deadline for information technology, engineering and other technologies is Dec. 5. [Details](#).

The UT System Board of Regents have approved an agreement between Seton Hospitals and the UT Southwestern Medical Center at **Dallas**, considered one of the top medical schools in the nation. UT **Austin** - with strong programs in genetics, pharmacology and bioengineering - will be an unofficial partner. Seton will finance the estimated \$100 million cost of the partnership over the first four years. [Story](#).

According to economist Ray Perryman, passage of Texas Proposition 4 (on this November’s ballot), has the potential to create over a million new jobs and pump billions into the **San Antonio** economy. Details [here](#) and the *San Antonio Express-News* story [here](#).

## *Thought for the week:*

*“The nation that makes a great distinction between its scholars and its warriors will have its thinking done by cowards, and its fighting done by fools.”*

*~ Thucydides, 5th century BC*