



**Austin-San Antonio  
Corridor Council**

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## ***Monday Morning Report – November 9, 2009***

### **Internal**

Mark your calendars: The Corridor Council Executive Committee will meet for a special called meeting on Thursday, November 19, 4-6 pm, at the Council offices in **San Marcos** to discuss long term strategy and goals for the organization. Please note that this is a different time and date from our regularly scheduled monthly meetings. Please contact [council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org) or call 512 470-4900 for more information.

The Corridor Council's Transportation Task Force will hold a full committee meeting *this* Tuesday November 10 at 1:30 pm at the **San Marcos Activity Center** at 501 E. Hopkins. We'll have updates on the IH-35 ITS/Emergency Responders program, US 281 project, and more. Please **RSVP** or call 512-558-7360 if you have questions.

The Corridor Council held its first Brown Bag Luncheon on '*Knowing Your Market*' Wednesday 11/4 in **San Marcos**. If you have interest in attending future Brown Bag Luncheons please let us know at [council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org) so we can keep you informed. Suggested topics are also welcome.

The Economic Development Committee is scheduled to meet on Friday, December 11 at 10:00 am at the Corridor Council offices in **San Marcos**. All agenda suggestions should be submitted by November 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Texas Greenbelt Coalition will meet on Wednesday, November 18 at 1:30 pm at the Greater **New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce Honors Hall** located at 390 S. Seguin Avenue. Please RSVP to [rusty@nbcham.org](mailto:rusty@nbcham.org) or call 830-625-2385 for more information.

### **Infrastructure**

The **Austin-San Antonio** Inter-municipal Rail District will launch their new name, "*Lone Star Rail District*" in public forums on Monday, November 9 at 10:00 am in **Austin** at the intersection of Third and Bowie streets downtown and again at 2:00 pm in **San Antonio** at the University of Texas, Downtown Campus located at 501 W. Durango Blvd., Frio Street Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor balcony. Key speakers include Mayors Lee Leffingwell and Julian Castro, Senators Kirk Watson and Jeff Wentworth, Hays County Commissioner Jeff Barton, State Representative Ruth Jones McClendon and Dr. Denise Trauth of Texas State University. For more information contact us at [info@lonestarrail.com](mailto:info@lonestarrail.com).

Funding of the US 281 Bridge over the Colorado River in Marble Falls was approved by TxDOT's bridge program last week, something the Corridor Council has been supporting for the last year. Construction is expected to start in April 2011 and take up to 2 ½ years to complete. **Details.**

**Bexar County** adopted a plan last week in which TxDOT will reimburse the county \$55.6 million to improve more than 12 miles of roads to alleviate traffic congestion in western **Bexar County**. The planning and environmental studies for the first 7.6 miles of roadway on Texas 211 from Calebra to Potranco will take about two years to complete. The county also plans to widen a 4.7 mile stretch of Potranco, from Loop 1604 to Texas 211.

## Economic Development (and ‘Other News’)

There was an interesting **San Marcos** connection to that tragedy in **Killeen** last week: Kimberly Munley the officer who shot the gunman suspected of killing at least 11 servicemen at Ft. Hood, had received specialized training to deal with just such an event in a joint program financed by Texas State University and the city of **San Marcos**. Read more [here](#).

**Austin** invites members of the community to participate in the **Austin** Comprehensive Plan development at several community forums around the city. A downtown session will be held on Tuesday, November 10 from 7:30 am until 10:00 am at St. David's Episcopal Church at 304 E. 7th Street. RSVP to the forum [here](#).

According to the US Commerce Department, factory orders rose 0.9 percent in September with orders for durable goods rising 1.4 percent. It was unclear if this rise will be sustainable or just a need to stabilize inventory.

**Travis County** has issued an RFP for the replacement of seating at the Exposition Center. [Details](#). **Williamson County** has listed RFP's for US 183 at FM 3405 Intersection Improvements as well as Business 79 Drainage Improvements, mostly in **Taylor**. [Details](#).

The State Comptroller office's Every Chance Fund will make \$2.5 million available in competitive grants to help Texas community colleges and technical institutes purchase cutting-edge equipment for career and technical education programs. Schools receiving the grants must provide matching funds that may be in-kind contributions. [Details](#)

Despite opposition at hearings in the county, the LCRA has filed a request with the Public Utility Commission to build high voltage transmission power lines through **Llano County** on their "preferred route" from **West Texas** to the **Newton** sub-station in **Lampasas County**. [Story](#)

The Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) has recommended that community activist Frank Fernández, transportation and land use consultant John H. Langmore, and **Austin** Mayor Pro Tem Mike Martinez fill the organization's three slots on the Capital Metro board of directors. [Story](#).

### Thought for the week:

*“When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.”*

~ Sir Arthur Conan Doyle