



## Monday Morning Report

March 28, 2016

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### INTERNAL

On April 18th at 11:30 am, the Corridor Council will host a discussion and luncheon on the *State of Central Texas* with **Williamson County** Judge Dan A. Gattis, **Austin** mayor Steve Adler, and **San Marcos** mayor Daniel Guerrero. The moderator of the discussion will be the Editor in Chief of the *Texas Tribune*, Evan Smith. Details [here](#). Special thanks to our event sponsors: HDR, Cobb Fendley, HNTB, Jones Carter, CH2M, Corsair Consulting, LLC., Capital Metro, Four Rivers Association of Realtors, Kleinfelder and Martin Marietta.

**Save the Date** for a luncheon & discussion with Congressman Henry Cuellar on June 1st on "*The Future of South Texas Transportation: San Antonio to Monterrey High Speed Rail*". Congressman Henry Cuellar began serving the 28<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Texas in 2005. The 28<sup>th</sup> District extends from **San Antonio** south to Laredo, and east to **McAllen**. The congressman serves on the powerful House Committee on Appropriations as well as the Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development. More details to come.

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### INFRASTRUCTURE

Prompted by the death of a 13-year old girl struck by a freight train near **Buda** over the weekend, the **San Antonio Express-News** has an eye-opening photo feature this morning that chronicles freight train accidents in the region in recent years. [Story](#).

**Austin** and **San Antonio** - among the fastest growing populations in the US - added another 110,000 people in the last year, raising the regional population to 4.4 million. IH-35 traffic between the two metro areas continues to swell and, according to the **Austin American-Statesman**, the Lone Star Rail alternative is faltering. [Story](#).

The Texas Senate State Affairs Committee meets tomorrow (3/29) at 9:00 am in **Austin** to discuss eminent domain authority granted to railroads with a probable focus on the Texas Central high speed project between **Houston** and **Dallas**. Compensation levels for private property owners will be examined. [Details](#).

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### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

Gov. Greg Abbott, in an op-ed circulated last week, says that 'the entire state of Texas is transforming into the new tech mecca.' He cites **Austin** as the nation's top city for technology job growth, creative job growth and startups. [More](#).

**Forbes Magazine** has published its annual list of the best employers to work for in Texas and a **San Antonio** firm, USAA, topped the rankings. The city of **Austin** ranked third. [Details](#).

That \$3 billion Vista Ridge project to deliver water from **Burleson County** to **San Antonio** is getting a change in management due to the bankruptcy of the original partner, Abengoa. Officials announced to project would be completed by **Kansas City**-based Garney Construction. [Details](#).

New figures from the Census Bureau from July 2014 thru July 2015 show that **Hays County** is the fastest-growing county in the state, with **Williamson, Kendall, and Comal Counties** ranked 4th, 5th, and 6th, respectively. [Story](#).

## Thought of the Week

*"April prepares her green traffic light and the world thinks Go."*

*~Christopher Morley*

