



Monday Morning Report

July 18, 2016

INTERNAL

The Executive Committee of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council will meet *this Wednesday, July 20* at the **San Marcos** Activity Center. Please RSVP your attendance to council@thecorridor.org. **DRAFT Agenda.**

Join us August 22nd at 11:30 am for a Corridor Council luncheon discussion on the *State of Central Texas* with **Williamson County** Judge Dan A. Gattis, **Austin** mayor Steve Adler, and **San Marcos** mayor Daniel Guerrero at the Austin Club. The moderator will be Evan Smith, editor of the **Texas Tribune**. Topics include transportation, population growth, housing and economic development. Details [here](#).

You're invited to our "2017-18 Transportation & Infrastructure Priorities for Bexar County Luncheon and Discussion" with **Bexar County** Judge Nelson W. Wolff and **Bexar County** Commissioner Kevin Wolff on September 8th at the **San Antonio** Plaza Club. The moderator will be Robert Rivard with the *Rivard Report*. RSVP today for this informative luncheon and discussion on how **Bexar County's** nearly \$933 million from the FAST Act will impact the county's future priorities. [Details.](#)

Join us as we host our 2017 Texas Legislative Session Preview Luncheon discussion on "*Transportation Priorities for the State of Texas & the Austin-San Antonio Corridor*" November 16 at the Courtyard Marriott **New Braunfels** River Village. More information is forthcoming.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The **San Antonio Express-News** joined papers in **Austin, San Marcos, and New Braunfels** in running commentary by mayoral candidate John Thomaides and two other **San Marcos** city council members on why they continue to support Lone Star Rail. [Op-Ed Here.](#)

TxDOT has released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on a potential Texas-Oklahoma High Speed Rail corridor, encompassing route and service alternatives for passenger rail between **Oklahoma City** to **Fort Worth** and **Dallas** (northern section), and south to **San Antonio** via **Austin** (central section), and south to **Laredo, Corpus Christi** and **Brownsville** (southern section). [Download.](#)

Laura Ryan, a vice president for Gulf States Toyota, Inc., was appointed by Gov. Greg Abbott to the Texas Transportation Commission. Ryan will resign from her current post as chair of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles. She'll serve out the unexpired term of **Houston's** Jeff Mosley. [Details.](#)

The long-running saga of State Highway 45 Southwest in **Austin** reaches a climax over the next couple of months: federal court action, conclusion of a bidding process, and a proposed construction start in October. [Details.](#)

McKinsey & Company, one of the nation's largest business consulting groups, has a new report out on urban mobility issues that lists seven key indicators driving transportation decisions in global cities. Report [here](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

In an interesting case almost certain to garner national media attention, **San Antonio** attorney Mikal Watts will be both defendant AND defense counsel in a **Gulfport**, Miss. fraud trial involving the British Petroleum oil spill of 2010 that cost BP \$62 billion in losses. [Story](#).

Before you feel too sorry for British Petroleum (see above), note that federal regulators fined the company \$20 million last week for allegedly manipulating natural gas energy markets in the **Houston** area after Hurricane Ike struck in 2008. [Story](#).

In fast-growing cities across the country, affordability - how to fight the rising costs of living in urbanized areas - is a watchword for activists, researchers, and local officials. In **Austin**, a group called Liveable City has re-emerged to engage elected city officials on the issue. [Story](#). This morning, **San Antonio's** newspaper posted a survey of cost-of-living figures from key cities in the US [here](#).

With law enforcement under fire in places like **Dallas** and **Baton Rouge, Guadalupe County** residents are reaching out to first responders with a 'thank you' luncheon sponsored by a support group for the local sheriff's department. [Details](#).

Thought of the Week

"We are never prepared for what we expect."

~ James A. Michener