

Corridor Council Highlights For 2015

- 1) Secured \$1.4 million from TxDOT for Lone Star Rail staffing expenses;
- 2) Signed inter-local funding agreement with Austin Community College, adding them to Lone Star board and raising an additional \$49,500 per year in administrative funding;
- 3) Managed negotiations for and signed 36-year inter-local tax-increment financing agreements with Austin, San Marcos, Austin Community College District, New Braunfels, and Schertz;

Kyle, Buda, and Georgetown are pending and expected by the end of the year. When implemented, these agreements should generate a multi-million dollar revenue stream for Lone Star over the next 36 years;
- 4) Negotiated pending quadrilateral agreement among San Antonio, Bexar County and VIA a series of one-year funding agreements and two 36-year agreements for tax-increment financing and direct contributions to Lone Star Rail; these agreements have not yet been approved by the governing boards. The combined agreements, if approved, will provide \$1.5 million to Lone Star in 2016 and approximately \$2-4 million per year thereafter in direct contributions; according to city staff, TIF agreements would generate approximately \$200 million over term of agreement;
- 5) Successfully worked with Bill Bingham and House/Senate committees to postpone state Sunset Review for Lone Star Rail from 2016 to 2021, thus saving an estimated \$350,000 in costs for the District (and Corridor Council);
- 6) Planned, conducted, and participated in six public meetings in six cities (Austin, San Marcos, Seguin, San Antonio, and Georgetown) as part of the environmental review process for Lone Star Rail. Conducted and participated in public meeting in New Braunfels to generate local political support;
- 7) Convinced TxDOT to contract with the Texas Transportation Institute to develop Texas Emissions Reductions Program methodology for the Austin-San Antonio Corridor on rail relocation projects; \$150,000 study results published in April, 2015;
- 8) Served on intergovernmental federal legislative transportation team with city of San Antonio, Bexar County, SAT Chamber, SAT MPO to prioritize and

support SAT-area federal legislative requests; generated published materials for annual SA-to-DC trip with San Antonio Chamber of Commerce and participated as part of Federal Transportation Legislative Team;

9) Conducted stakeholder outreach meetings in Bastrop, Luling, Lockhart and Caldwell Counties with mayors and economic development officials regarding Union Pacific rail relocation activities;

10) Developed resolution of support, presented and testified at TxDOT public meeting on behalf of IH-35 San Antonio Northwest project improvements;

11) Successfully recruited new senior support staff for Lone Star Rail. Hired new financial controller for Corridor Council. Identified, selected and recruited new federal legislative assistance for Lone Star Rail and Corridor Council;

12) Worked with Rep. Guillen/Jerry Keys on state legislative proposal to allow autonomous freight vehicles along State Highway 130; bill died in committee, however;

13) Conducted stakeholder meetings in San Marcos and Hays County, with TxDOT, MPO representatives, private consultants, and Hays County commissioners on San Marcos Bypass for rail relocation;

14) Participated in legislative efforts with San Antonio Mobility Coalition and Transportation Advocates of Texas on legislative committee that have helped to generate an additional \$2.5 billion for Texas highway construction and maintenance. Appeared multiple times before legislators and legislative committees in support of various legislative proposals beneficial to the Austin-San Antonio Corridor;

15) Launched Studio Study of Lone Star Rail & potential Hill Country development with Robert Yaro and University of Texas Graduate School of Architecture for data-driven assessment of LSR impacts on regional economic development. Study results due Dec. 10, 2015;

16) Developed series of letters and opinion pieces related to economic development and transportation impacts of Lone Star for 17 of the region's higher-education leaders and 21 San Antonio suburban mayors;

17) Made approximately 20 public presentations on regional economic development, international trade, and transportation issues before such

groups as the North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, San Antonio Mobility Coalition, Women in Transportation, Luling Chamber of Commerce, Austin Area Research Organization Transportation Committee, Austin Chamber of Commerce, San Antonio Chamber Transportation Committee and Leadership San Antonio, San Antonio Marketing Professionals Organization, etc.

18) Co-Sponsored Regional Events such as New Braunfels Texas Legislative Conference, Southwest Rail Conference, San Antonio Mobility Coalition 'New Horizons' Conference, Maximum Sustainability Building Conference, etc

19) Hosted four large public events on Transportation and Economic Development, primarily focused on potential private sector opportunities offered by regional transportation projects:

1. **"San Antonio Mayoral Candidates Forum"** with Mayor Ivy Taylor, State Rep. Mike Villarreal, State Senator Leticia Van de Putte, and Commissioner Tommy Adkisson, February 25th
Raised: \$15,750, Attendees: 115-120
2. **"Reception for TXDOT Commissioner Bruce Bugg"** in **Austin**, April 30th
Raised: \$7,200, Attendees: 65
3. **"Williamson County: Long Range Transportation Plan"** in **Round Rock** with Judge Dan Gattis, Commissioner Cynthia Long, TXDOT Engineer Greg Malatek, and CAMPO Director Ashby Johnson, June 18th
Raised: \$15,500, Attendees: 135-140
4. **"2016 Transportation & Economic Development Priorities"** with Travis County Judge Sarah Eckhardt, **Austin**, October 30th
Raised: \$11,100, Registered Attendees: 110-115, Only 65 could attend due to weather;

20) Arranged and hosted seven visits by international infrastructure and finance entities interested in participating in Austin-San Antonio Corridor infrastructure and real estate projects;

21) Launched contracting process with TxDOT for an approximately \$1 million investment grade ridership study of Lone Star Rail project to be completed in 2016.