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## **EXPANSION OF 36<sup>th</sup> STREET AT PORT SAN ANTONIO BREAKS GROUND**

*City-led effort will support job creation and connectivity for San Antonio*

**Editor – Please see attached aerial map of the 36<sup>th</sup> Street project and proposed Trade Corridor**

**SAN ANTONIO**—Port San Antonio officials were joined today by San Antonio Mayor Julián Castro, other leaders and the Port's stakeholders in the official groundbreaking of the 36<sup>th</sup> Street project at the 2,000-acre complex.

The effort will be instrumental in advancing the Port's work as an important part of the region's economic growth by opening new land for development of aerospace and logistics assets.

The phases inaugurated on Tuesday are scheduled for completion in 2012, extending 36<sup>th</sup> Street as a four-lane divided thoroughfare for approximately 1.7 miles from Highway 90 to Billy Mitchell Boulevard in the heart of Port San Antonio. (Note: upcoming phases are II and III A in the attached map; phase I was previously completed by TxDOT.)

In 2009 the Port and the City of San Antonio sought and secured approximately \$15 million in ARRA federal stimulus funds awarded by the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Transportation Policy Board, completing the \$40 million necessary to begin the upcoming work. Other organizations supporting the effort include the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), the City of San Antonio, San Antonio Water System (SAWS) and CPS Energy.

The work will be led by the City of San Antonio and will enable the Port to open approximately 150 acres adjacent to the runway to develop new facilities with direct ramp access for aerospace and logistics customers, in turn creating new jobs for the region.

The section of 36<sup>th</sup> Street through the Port will also become part of an emerging trade corridor for San Antonio. Subsequent phases within and south of the Port will connect the rapidly growing northwest side of the city with the southeastern part of Bexar County, where important economic generators, including Toyota, Texas A&M University San Antonio and City South are established.

"Building a world-class city requires world-class infrastructure," said San Antonio Mayor Julián Castro. "Extending 36<sup>th</sup> Street into Port San Antonio will increase the efficient flow of commerce around our city and directly help businesses at the Port expand and bring more jobs to the region."

“When the MPO’s Transportation Policy Board voted last year to award \$15 million in federal stimulus funds to undertake this project, it did so knowing that it was a solid investment in our community’s future,” said County Commissioner Tommy Adkisson, who is MPO Chairman. “The City of San Antonio and the Port are to be commended for putting this money to work on a project that will improve the efficiency of our roadways and support regional economic growth.”

“Creating efficient transportation requires cooperation at all levels,” said Mario Medina, San Antonio District Engineer for the Texas Department of Transportation. “The Department is proud to do its part to support San Antonio’s growth and the city’s emerging trade corridor through Port San Antonio.”

“Today is an important reminder of how it takes all of us to make our city succeed,” said Bruce Miller, President and CEO of Port San Antonio. “Multiple organizations, the city, the MPO, our leaders and our neighbors have all played key roles to make today possible, and our community will enjoy the benefits of the work we are starting today for years to come. Port San Antonio continues to be a prime example of a carefully planned, transit-oriented part of our city that is easily accessible to the surrounding communities and an important generator of good paying jobs.”

The new acreage along Kelly Field will allow aerospace and logistics companies to add between 3,500 to 4,500 new jobs at the complex once the site with new ramp access is fully developed.

Combined, the aerospace and non-aerospace customers of Port San Antonio currently employ 14,000 people and generate \$3.3 billion in economic activity for the region each year.