

Your Connection to the East Williamson County Growth Corridor

Projects • People • Business • Connections • Opportunity

Issue No. 2

August 2026

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Opening Note

Welcome to Issue No. 2

Every two weeks, *The Connector* brings together the projects, people, partnerships, and opportunities shaping the East WilCo Growth Corridor and the surrounding Central Texas region.

Our goal isn't to report every headline. It's to help you see how the pieces connect—how new development affects workforce needs, how infrastructure creates business opportunities, and how partnerships can help more businesses and communities participate in the region's growth.

Growth is happening quickly. *The Connector* is here to help make sense of it—and help connect you to what comes next.

Corridor Snapshot

Growth Is Building the Next Layer of Central Texas

Growth across the eastern Central Texas corridor continues to show up in more than new rooftops and business announcements. Recent developments in Taylor, Georgetown, and Bastrop point to the infrastructure, investment, and community services being built to support what comes next.

In **Taylor**, the city's technology footprint could expand again with **Project Mustang**, a proposed 665-acre data center campus just east of the current city limits. The project would include large-scale computing facilities as well as on-site power generation, adding another significant technology-related development to a community already being transformed by Samsung's semiconductor investment.

Farther west, **Georgetown** has completed a major investment in the infrastructure required to sustain its rapid growth. The city's new **South Lake Water Treatment Plant**, which opened August 4, doubles Georgetown's water-treatment capacity and provides additional capacity for continued residential and commercial development.

Meanwhile, **Bastrop** is taking another

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THE CORRIDOR PULSE

What do you need to know?

We're listening to the corridor.

One question. A few seconds. No name. No follow-up.

This issue: What information is hardest for you to find?

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step toward addressing the services required by its growing population. The city has moved into the next phase of a feasibility study for a potential full-service hospital within the approximately 400-acre **Bastrop West** development. The next phase will examine potential ownership structures and partnerships that could eventually bring expanded healthcare services to the area.

Taken individually, these are three very different developments. Taken together, they tell a larger story.

Central Texas growth is entering another stage. The conversation is no longer simply about attracting companies, building homes, or adding jobs. Communities are increasingly confronting the infrastructure and services required to support that growth—from power and water to healthcare and other essential systems.

The growth continues. Now the region is building what it takes to sustain it.

Calendar

Where to Show Up

Opportunity Watch this issue focuses on the value of simply showing up. Here are a few opportunities over the coming weeks to listen, learn, build relationships, and stay connected to what's happening across the region.

Before you go: Meeting dates, times, locations, and agendas can change. Check the sponsoring organization's website for the latest information before attending.

Each issue, *The Connector* highlights a selection of public meetings and business events across the corridor. This issue we're focusing on **Hutto, Taylor, and Georgetown**.

Opportunity Watch this issue explores the value of simply showing up. Here are several opportunities over the coming weeks to listen, learn, build relationships, and stay connected to what's happening across the region.

Hutto

August 20 | 6:00 PM

Hutto City Council Work Session

Hutto City Hall

An opportunity to hear Council discussion and gain a better understanding of issues currently facing the city.

August 20 | 7:00 PM

Hutto City Council Meeting

Hutto City Hall

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Project Watch

East WilCo's Next Growth Wave Takes Shape

Growth across East Williamson County continues to take new forms as Taylor and Hutto move forward with projects that could further reshape the region's economic landscape.

In **Taylor**, the technology story is expanding beyond semiconductor manufacturing. The city is currently tracking multiple proposed data-center developments, including Blueprint Projects and other large-scale proposals. The activity comes as Taylor continues adjusting to the investment, infrastructure demands, and development pressures created by rapid industrial growth.

Data centers bring significant capital investment, but they also raise important questions about power, water, land use, infrastructure, and compatibility with surrounding communities. Taylor officials have begun publicly addressing many of those concerns as proposed projects move through the development process.

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Just west of Taylor, **Hutto** continues experiencing its own mix of technology, industrial, and commercial growth. A proposed data-center campus along CR 3349 has moved through the city's public planning process, while other major developments continue progressing throughout the community.

One of the more visible projects is **Cottonwood Marketplace**, the Fidelis development near US 79 and CR 132. Hutto Economic Development Corporation reported in July that the project's site plan had been received, representing another step toward a development expected to bring additional retail and commercial activity to one of the region's fastest-growing communities.

Taken together, the developments in Taylor and Hutto illustrate an important transition occurring across East WilCo.

The question is increasingly not simply whether growth will come. It is **what kind of growth communities want, where that growth should occur, and what infrastructure will be required to support it.**

For businesses, contractors, workforce organizations, and community leaders, those decisions will create both opportunities and challenges.

Growth creates opportunity.

Growth also creates choices.

Contractor Corner

Opportunity Is Only Valuable If You Can Access It

Across Central Texas, billions of dollars are being invested in new manufacturing facilities, data centers, infrastructure, commercial developments, schools, public facilities, and other major projects.

For local contractors, suppliers, and small businesses, that growth should create opportunity.

But there is often a gap between **opportunity existing and local businesses being able to participate in it.**

Large companies, public agencies, general contractors, economic development organizations, chambers, and workforce organizations may all have resources available. The challenge for many small and mid-sized businesses is simply knowing where to look, who to contact, what is required, and how to become eligible before an opportunity appears.

A business may be perfectly capable of performing the work and still miss the opportunity because it isn't registered in the right vendor portal, doesn't know which general contractor is managing the project, learns about a bid too late, or hasn't assembled the documentation required to qualify.

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Workforce Update

The Jobs Are Coming. Are the Pathways Clear?

Across Central Texas, billions of dollars in new investment are creating demand for workers in semiconductor manufacturing, construction, skilled trades, advanced manufacturing, technology, logistics, healthcare, and supporting industries.

The numbers are impressive. But the more important question for communities across the region may be much simpler:

Can local residents see a clear path to those jobs?

For someone already working inside these industries, the pathway may be relatively easy to understand. For others—a recent high school graduate, someone changing careers, a displaced worker, an immigrant or refugee, or someone without a four-year degree—the path can be much harder to navigate.

The challenge is not necessarily a lack of resources.

Central Texas has community colleges, workforce organizations, school districts, apprenticeship programs,

trade schools, nonprofit organizations, employer-sponsored training, and other programs designed to help people prepare for employment.

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Joel's Perspective

I have 4 above ground planters in my back yard that I use to plant herbs and vegetables in every spring. Last year I had just finished cultivating the beds when I broke my arm on April 30, 2025. So I wasn't able to work the beds last year and the weeds and grass took over. This year I am a little behind but I finally got all of the beds cleared of weeds and grass, got the soil turned and planted seeds in all 4 beds. This morning made me realize that those planters are like the work that I am doing. I put in a lot of work tilling the soil, weeding the beds, cultivating the environment and planting the seeds, and then I wait for something to grow. To see the results of my efforts. To reap the benefits of the harvest. There is never any guarantee that my efforts will result in a plentiful harvest in either venture, and yet I persist.

That's faith.

Preparing the Soil

This past week I found myself back in the backyard, working in four raised garden beds that have become an annual spring tradition.

Last year was different.

I had just finished preparing the soil when, on April 30, 2025, I broke my arm. The beds sat untouched the rest of the

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Opportunity Watch

Sometimes the Opportunity Is Simply

Growth creates opportunities to win contracts, find employees, develop partnerships, and build new business relationships.

But some opportunities begin much earlier—before there is a bid announcement, ribbon cutting, job posting, or networking event.

They begin with understanding what is happening in your community.

Across the region, City Councils, Planning & Zoning Commissions, Economic Development Corporations, school boards, county commissioners courts, chambers of commerce, and other organizations regularly hold meetings where infrastructure, development, workforce, business investment, and community growth are discussed.

Many of these meetings are open to the public.

And sometimes very few people attend.

Why Attend?

You don't have to speak.

You don't have to advocate for or against a project.

Sometimes there is tremendous value in simply listening.

For a contractor, small-business owner, workforce professional, developer, real estate professional, or community leader, attending public meetings can provide an opportunity to:

- Learn about proposed developments before construction begins.
- Better understand how projects move through planning, zoning, infrastructure, and approval processes.

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The challenge is often connecting the pieces.

From Opportunity to Employment

A person hearing about thousands of new jobs being created may still have some very basic questions:

What jobs are actually available?

What skills do I need?

Do I need a degree, certification, apprenticeship, or previous experience?

Where can I get the training?

How long will it take?

How much will it cost?

Is financial assistance available?

And when I'm ready, how do I actually get in front of the employer?

Those questions illustrate why workforce development is increasingly an ecosystem rather than a single program.

Employers need workers. Training organizations develop skills. Schools introduce career pathways. Workforce organizations provide services and funding. Community organizations reach populations that traditional systems may not always reach.

The opportunity is in connecting them.

Building Visible Pathways

As major investments continue across the region, one
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Need Local Help?

Entering or expanding in the East Williamson County Growth Corridor?

EWIN Local Execution connects businesses with trusted local resources, introductions, vendors, workforce contacts, and on-the-ground support to help projects move forward.

Learn more at EastWilCo.net

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Start Before the Bid Appears

Contractors and suppliers looking to participate in the region's growth can begin by making sure the basics are in place:

- Develop a clear, one-page capabilities statement explaining what you do, where you work, and what differentiates your company.
- Identify the cities, counties, school districts, general contractors, developers, and major employers you want to work with and register in their vendor systems.
- Keep insurance, licensing, certifications, safety records, bonding information, and other qualification documents current and readily available.
- Attend procurement events, pre-bid meetings, chamber events, contractor meetings, and industry networking opportunities.
- Build relationships before you need them. The first conversation with a general contractor or procurement officer shouldn't necessarily happen when you're asking for work.
- Track projects early. By the time construction begins, many important contractor and supplier relationships may already have been established.

Closing the Information Gap

There are resources throughout the region designed to help businesses navigate procurement, workforce, financing, certification, and business development. The problem is that those resources are often spread across dozens of organizations and systems.

One of the opportunities before our region is not necessarily creating more resources.

It is making the resources and opportunities we already have easier to find, understand, and use.

For contractors and suppliers, preparation creates access. And access is what turns regional growth into local opportunity.

Business Growing Faster Than Your Systems?

AnchorPoint Concierge helps growing businesses improve responsiveness, organization, and operational execution.

[AnchorPointConcierge](#)

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of Central Texas' greatest workforce opportunities may be making existing pathways easier to see and navigate.

That means helping residents understand not only **where the jobs are**, but also the steps required to become qualified for them.

It also means recognizing that there will not be one pathway for everyone. Some workers will enter through universities. Others through community colleges, apprenticeships, certifications, skilled-trades programs, employer training, or community-based organizations.

The measure of regional growth should not simply be how many jobs are announced.

It should also be how many people who already live here can find a pathway to participate in the opportunity those jobs create.

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THE CORRIDOR PULSE

Help us understand what the corridor needs.

Every day, businesses, workforce organizations, economic development groups, contractors, educators, community organizations and residents are trying to navigate one of the fastest-changing economic regions in Texas.

There is plenty of information.

The question is whether people can find the information they actually need.

THIS ISSUE'S QUESTION

What information is hardest for you to find in the Central Texas growth corridor?

Select all that apply:

- ☐ Upcoming projects and developments
- ☐ Contractor and vendor opportunities
- ☐ Workforce and hiring resources
- ☐ Training and education resources
- ☐ Economic development programs and incentives
- ☐ Available local businesses, suppliers and service providers
- ☐ Community resources and assistance
- ☐ Organizations — who does what and who to contact
- ☐ Reliable, verified information about things I've heard
- ☐ Other

[CAST YOUR VOTE]

That's it.

No registration.

No identifying information is collected by EWIN.

No one will contact you.

Your anonymous response simply helps us better understand what information people across the corridor need.

One question. A few seconds. A better-informed corridor. Your response helps EWIN understand what the corridor needs. We'll share what we learn. **Thank you!**

- Hear the issues and challenges communities are confronting as they grow.
- Learn which organizations and companies are active in the region.
- Become familiar with the people involved in shaping local economic development.

Start Local

You don't need to attend every meeting.

Pick the community where you live or do business and begin there.

Check the city's website for upcoming City Council, Planning & Zoning, and Economic Development Corporation meetings. Review the agenda beforehand. If something relates to your business or interests, consider attending.

Chamber events, workforce meetings, industry gatherings, and regional forums provide additional opportunities to understand what's happening and meet the people involved.

Relationships rarely begin with a contract.

They usually begin with a conversation.

And sometimes that conversation begins simply because **you showed up**.

Looking Ahead

Know about an upcoming project, business expansion, hiring event, networking opportunity, public meeting, or community initiative?

We'd love to hear about it.

info@eastwilco.net

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Public meeting covering city business, development, infrastructure, and other community matters.

August 24 | Small Business Breakfast Series

Hutto Area Chamber of Commerce

An opportunity for small-business owners and professionals to connect and continue developing their businesses.

August 25 | 5:30–7:30 PM

Hutto Chamber After Hours Networking

Jack Allen's Kitchen

Informal networking with local business owners, professionals, entrepreneurs, and community leaders.

Taylor

August 18 | 4:00–6:00 PM

Elected Officials Meet & Greet

The Venue Taylor

A chance to meet local elected officials, business leaders, and community members in an informal setting.

August 22 | 10:00 AM–2:00 PM

East WilCo Business Expo & Job Fair

WilCo Expo Center

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Nearly 70 businesses are expected, bringing employers, job seekers, businesses, and potential customers together under one roof.

August 25 | 4:00–7:00 PM

Building Taylor: Materials, Markets & Margins

A summit-style discussion bringing together construction, manufacturing, and legislative leaders to examine tariffs, material costs, supply chains, and their impact on local businesses.

August 26 | 4:30–7:30 PM

Central Texas-Korea Summit

WilCo Expo Center

Regional business and community leaders will gather to discuss the growing Texas-Korea economic relationship, including Samsung's next phase and the developing support ecosystem.

Georgetown

August 25

SCHEELS Ribbon Cutting

Georgetown Chamber of Commerce

An opportunity to connect with the Georgetown business community while welcoming a major new regional retailer.

August 27

Lunch, Learn & Lead

Georgetown Chamber of Commerce

A business-development program designed to help owners and leaders strengthen their organizations and prepare for future opportunities.

Before you go: Meeting dates, times, locations, and agendas can change. Check the sponsoring organization's website for the latest information and registration requirements before attending.

Where EWIN Is Building Relationships

Over the next two weeks, members of the East WilCo Industrial Network will be attending meetings, networking events, and community gatherings throughout the East Williamson County Growth Corridor to build relationships, gather insights, and stay connected with the people and organizations shaping our region.

Upcoming Events

- Hutto Chamber Luncheon
- Taylor City Council
- Round Rock 1 Million Cups
- Workforce Solutions Event
- Georgetown Chamber Networking

See us at an event?

Please introduce yourself.

We'd love to meet you.

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season. Weeds took over. Grass spread where vegetables should have been growing. What had once been carefully cultivated slowly returned to disorder.

This year I was determined to reclaim them.

It took time to pull the weeds, remove the grass, loosen the soil, and prepare the beds once again. Only after the work was finished could I plant the seeds.

As I stood there looking across the four planters, it struck me that they are a lot like the work we are doing throughout the East Williamson County Growth Corridor.

Every meaningful project begins long before anyone sees results.

Relationships have to be cultivated.

Trust has to be earned.

Information has to be gathered.

Connections have to be made.

Opportunities have to be planted.

Most of that work happens quietly, without immediate evidence that anything is growing.

When I attend a chamber luncheon, visit a construction project, meet with an economic development organization, or introduce two people who ought to know each other, I rarely see an immediate return. Like planting a seed, the value often appears weeks or months later.

The gardener cannot force the harvest.

He can only prepare the soil, plant faithfully, provide what is needed, and trust the process.

Business is much the same.

There is no guarantee that every conversation becomes a partnership, every introduction becomes an opportunity, or every project reaches fruition. Yet we continue showing up, doing the work, and investing in people because that is how healthy ecosystems are built.

That realization reminded me that faith is not simply believing something will happen.

Faith is continuing to prepare the soil even when you cannot yet see the harvest.

Whether we're growing tomatoes in a backyard garden or building stronger connections across one of the fastest-growing regions in Texas, the principle remains the same.

Prepare well.

Plant intentionally.

Cultivate consistently.

And trust that, in time, the harvest will come.

After all, every great harvest begins with someone willing to prepare the soil.

— *Joel M. Winston*