

# San Antonio south side growth and development: The south's going to rise again, Part 1

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The growing South Side is home to San Antonio's famous missions. Generations of families live here.

Saturday, January 16, 2010 at 11:30 a.m. is a day many south side San Antonians should remember.

The community is invited to bring shovels to join in the largest groundbreaking event in the history of San Antonio.

Construction of a new facility on the campus of Brooks City-Base to replace Southeast Baptist Hospital begins in January, with opening expected in June 2011.

The event, along with a health fair, is more than just a construction ceremony. Symbolic to many "Southsiders" who feel their neighborhoods are finally getting some of the attention they deserve, it will be a celebration of better health, services, spirit and pride.

"The south is going to rise again," smiles Julie Martinez, a proud South Side resident. "We have new hotels, restaurants and stores and we are becoming a place other parts of San Antonio are coming to visit more, rather than put us down."

Thanks to three major South Side economic generators, Toyota, Kelly Port of San Antonio and Brooks City-Base, the area is at last developing into progress residents believe is long overdue.

H-E-B Food-Drugs invested heavily in the Southside during the decade by bringing the first San Antonio H-E-B Plus, a new McCreless Shopping Center, and improvements to their stores on Military Drive at Pleasanton Road and Goliad.

On May 23, 2009, Gov. Rick Perry signed a bill that created Texas A&M-San Antonio as a stand-alone university on the South Side at 1450 Gillette Blvd. A 700-acre campus site located at Loop 410 and Zarzamora, is projected to open in 2010.

Other improvements and services in progress or beginning soon include:

Stinson Municipal Airport will get a \$1.2 million overhaul for paving and runway marking which was announced this month by U.S. representative Ciro Rodriguez. Stinson recently underwent modernization and expansion to hangers, lobby and administration areas. Extension of a runway is in progress.

Flanked to the west of this area, just south of Highway 90 and Loop 1604, groundbreaking took place December 2009 on over 500 acres for a major motion picture and sound studio that could seed more opportunities for south side jobs in the entertainment industry.

A capital improvement project for sidewalks on Commercial Avenue from Gillette to S.W. Military Drive worth over \$1 million dollars was announced by District 4 City Councilman Philip Cortez and District 3 Councilwoman Jennifer Ramos in December 2009.

A ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly expanded Innova Hospital, at 4243 E. Southcross will occur February 3, 2010 at 5 p.m. The expansion includes five private hospital rooms, nurse's station, physician's room and waiting area.

City South continues to be an ambition and visionary effort for over 60 square miles just south of I-410 and extending beyond an area south of the Medina River. The official website promotes it as "the next generation of long lasting, world class communities... new urbanism alongside strong economic development, have

enticed cutting edge developers, residents, businesses and industries who value lasting and smart investments.”

Residential subdivisions such as Ashley Heights, Hunters Pond, Mission Creek, Mission del Lago, Patton Heights and Savannah Heights are developed near parks and recreational areas, soccer fields, golf courses, baseball diamonds, walking trails and school.

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