



HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS
APPLICATION FOR OFFICIAL TRAVEL

DATE OF REQUEST: 12/14/12
TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES TRAVELING: 1
DEPARTMENT NAME: Hidalgo County Extension Service
NAME & TITLE OF EMPLOYEE(S) TRAVELING: Brad Cowan, CEA-Agriculture

EVENT INFORMATION

TITLE OF EVENT: Beltwide Cotton Conference
EVENT DATE(S) FROM: 01/07/13 TO: 01/10/13
DEPARTURE DATE: 01/07/13 RETURN DATE: 01/09/13
LOCATION OF EVENT: CITY: San Antonio STATE: Texas

PURPOSE OF TRAVEL

- Place an "X" by the applicable purpose of the trip.
To obtain statutorily required continuing professional education.
[X] To obtain continuing education related to an employee's work or maintenance of a license or certification.
To testify before legislative bodies, regulatory agencies and commissions, and other forums that may make decisions affecting the County and its affiliated organizations and operations.
To participate in professional organizations related to the employee or official's job assignment.
To conduct essential research & information-gathering for improvement of County operations or compliance with law.
To monitor the development of state or federal legislation or implementation of legislation that might affect the County
To participate in forums, coalitions, & discussions relating to the policy, legislative & regulatory interests of the County
To pursue the County's interests in litigation or criminal justice.
[X] To promote the economic development interests of the County.
To carry out other purposes determined by Commissioners' Court to be in the interest of the County (Commissioners' Court approval is attached).

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE NEED TO TRAVEL OUT-OF-STATE

Explain the benefits that this trip it will bring to Hidalgo County. Attach an itinerary, agenda, or schedule for the conference and/ or event. If applicable, justify the need for multiple persons traveling to the same event.

Table with 4 columns: SUMMARY OF ESTIMATED TRAVEL EXPENSES, ESTIMATED EXPENSES, (DBM USE ONLY) FUNDS AVAILABLE BALANCE, and MODE OF TRAVEL. Rows include Registration Fee (\$175.00), Mileage Reimbursement (\$260.75), Meals (\$96.00), and Total Estimated Travel Expenses (\$531.75).

NOTE: If trip duration is extended to take advantage of lower airfare, a comparison of the savings to the additional estimated cost must be provided with supporting airfare rate documentation.

ELECTED OFFICIAL/DEPARTMENT HEAD CERTIFICATION (Place an "X" by each of the certifications)

- I certify that:
[X] Trip expenses are necessary and will be incurred for official county business.
[X] Reasonable efforts to minimize the use of county funds have been explored.
[X] Sufficient funds are available within in my department's budget to pay for the related travel expenses without the need of a budget amendment.

If this trip is for out-of-state training, the training is not available in some other form that does not require out-of-state travel.

APPROVED BY ELECTED OFFICIAL/DEPARTMENT HEAD: Barbara Stern DATE: 12/17/12 DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSON: Nora Linda Cruz PHONE NO.: 383-1024

FOR DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET & MANAGEMENT (DBM) USE ONLY:

TRAVEL IS APPROVED for the individuals listed below:
TRAVEL IS NOT APPROVED for the individuals listed below:

REVIEWED BY (PRINT NAME): Veronica Ortiz DATE: 12/19/12 REVIEWER'S SIGNATURE: [Signature] PHONE NO.: 292-7025

DBM'S DEPARTMENT HEAD APPROVAL (PRINT NAME): DATE: SIGNATURE OF DBM DEPARTMENT HEAD:

APPROVED BY COMMISSIONERS' COURT ON:

3-1100-461-00-380-001-0-583+584

cc 12/28/12

Beltwide Cotton Conferences

January 7-10, 2013 · Marriott Rivercenter and Riverwalk Hotels · San Antonio, Texas



National
Cotton
Council
OF AMERICA

Registration Information

<http://beltwide.cotton.org> Click on Registration Link

Deadline for Discounted Registration Fees is December 17.

You must register online at <http://beltwide.cotton.org>. Registration opens September 14 and will continue on-site through the last day of the conference. Discounted pre-registration fees will be in effect through December 17.

Spouse registration is complimentary, but required and is not intended for business partners or associates.

Cancellation/Refund Policy:

Reservation may be cancelled without penalty prior to December 17, 2012. Your first nights deposit will be forfeited if you do not cancel by December 17, 2012. Cancellation received within three days (72 hours) prior to your arrival will result in forfeiture of your deposit and charges for all room nights plus tax for entire stay.

Registration Fees Through December 17th

NCC or Cotton Foundation Members	\$175.00
Non-Members.....	\$300.00
Students.....	\$ 80.00
Research, Extension, Associations, Consultants.....	\$175.00
International Research, Extension, Associations, Consultants	\$300.00

Registration fee includes:

- All meetings of the Beltwide Cotton Conferences
- Entry to Cotton Foundation Exhibits
- Entry to Poster Board Display
- Access to more than 600 technical papers
- Upon request, one copy of proceedings on CD-ROM mailed mid-May, 2013. An electronic version of the proceedings may be accessed through the Beltwide web site for Beltwide attendees and all NCC and Cotton Foundation members.

Registration Fees Beginning December 18th

NCC or Cotton Foundation Members	\$200.00
Non-Members.....	\$350.00
Students.....	\$100.00
Research, Extension, Associations, Consultants.....	\$200.00
International Research, Extension, Associations, Consultants	\$350.00

Travel

Airline Tickets & Rental Car Reservations

Visit the Beltwide web site www.beltwide.cotton.org to get price quotes and make air and car reservations online using Trip Manager, the NCC's online travel service, or by calling Mary Saemenes, travel consultant at Travelennium at 888-232-1738 or by email at msaemenes@travelennium.com. Fare discounts with Delta and American will be reflected when you book through Travelennium.

Special discounted car rental rates are also available by calling either Mary Saemenes, travel consultant at Travelennium at 888-232-1738 or by email at msaemenes@travelennium.com. You may also call Hertz at 800-654-3131 or online at www.hertz.com. Refer to Hertz Discount number 1715002.

Airport Ground Transportation

San Antonio International Airport (SAT) is located approximately 8 miles from the Marriott Rivercenter and Riverwalk Hotels. These hotels do not provide shuttle service.

Alternate transportation:

Airport Express (reservation required):
(210) 281-9900

Fee: \$18.00 USD (one way)

Estimated taxi fare: \$20.00 USD (one way)



Beltwide Cotton Conferences

The Beltwide Cotton Conferences (BWCC) speed the transfer of new technology to U.S. cotton producers and other industry members with the goal of strengthening U.S. cotton's *competitive* position in the world marketplace and enhancing industry members' profitability.

Coordinated by the National Cotton Council (NCC) and its cooperating partners, this annual forum is recognized as the global champion for cotton technology transfer. Four days of individual reports, panel discussions, hands-on workshops and seminars are designed to enlighten industry members about the latest research developments and their practical applications in cotton production and processing. The 600-plus reports are subsequently made available on CD-ROM and on the Beltwide web site at <http://beltwide.cotton.org>.

While cotton industry members recognize the wealth and range of information made available through these reports, they also gain valuable information from fellow attendees - cotton producers, processors, scientists, Extension personnel, consultants, agribusiness representatives and others. This dialogue among all who have a vested stake in a healthy U.S. cotton sector helps industry members tailor new products and production/processing systems to their operations for maximum efficiency.

The Conferences' success can be attributed to the alliance of the NCC and its many partners. Federal and State Agricultural Experiment Stations, the Cooperative Extension Service, Universities, USDA, Cotton Foundation members, news media and other regional and national cotton organizations all contribute and support the Beltwide Cotton Conferences. This partnership leads to increased U.S. cotton industry productivity and profitability.

Table of Contents

General Information	2
Beltwide Contacts	2
Scheduling Tools	3
Schedule At A Glance	4
Meeting Room Floor Plans	5
Housing Information	6
Housing Questions and Answers	7
Dining and Entertainment	7
San Antonio Area Map	8
Registration Information	9
Travel	9
2014 Beltwide Cotton Conferences	10



Schedule At A Glance

Monday, January 7

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Registration - Rivercenter Hotel

Noon – 6:00 p.m.
Cotton Consultants Conference - Riverwalk Hotel
(Open to all registered attendees)

Tuesday, January 8

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Registration - Rivercenter Hotel

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Production Conference General Session - Lila Cockrell Theater

10:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Production Conference Workshops, Seminars, New Developments from Industry, and Special Sessions - Rivercenter Hotel

Wednesday, January 9

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Registration - Rivercenter Hotel

8:00 a.m. – Noon
Production Conference Workshops, Seminars, New Developments from Industry, and Special Sessions - Rivercenter Hotel

1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Technical Conferences - Rivercenter and Riverwalk Hotels
(Hours for each conference may vary)
Cotton Agronomy and Physiology
Cotton Disease Council
Cotton Economics and Marketing
Cotton Engineering-Systems
Cotton Ginning
Cotton Improvement
Cotton Insect Research and Control
Cotton Quality Measurement
Cotton Soil Management & Plant Nutrition
Cotton Utilization
Cotton Weed Science Research

Thursday, January 10

7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Registration - Rivercenter Hotel

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Technical Conferences continued - Rivercenter and Riverwalk Hotels
(Hours for each conference may vary)

Cotton Foundation Exhibits

Rivercenter Hotel

Tuesday, January 8

Noon – 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 9

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

News Room

Rivercenter Hotel

Monday, January 7

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday – Wednesday, January 8-9

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 10

8:00 a.m. – Noon

Poster Board Session

Rivercenter Hotel

Tuesday, January 8

Noon – 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 9

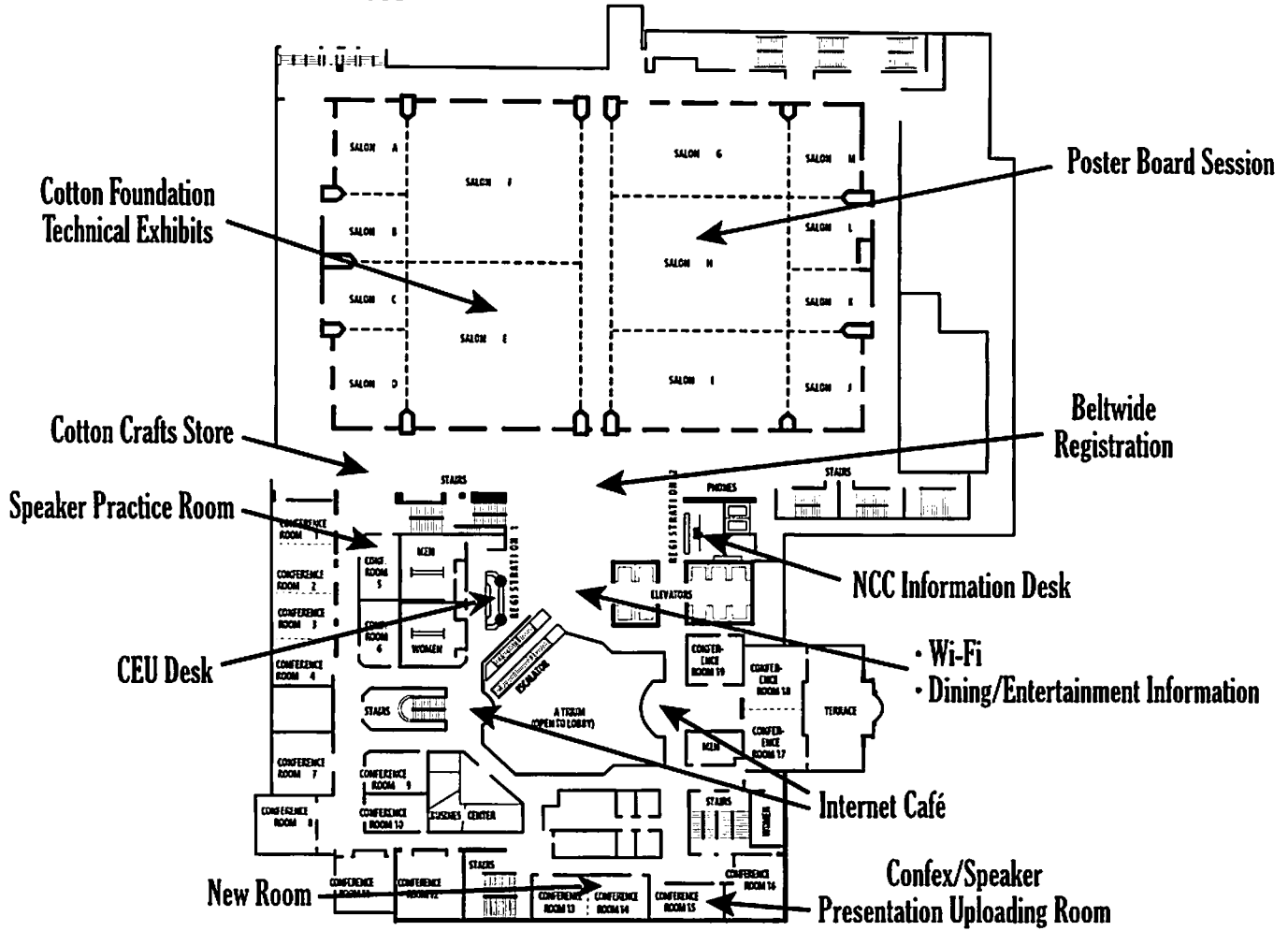
10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 10

8:00 a.m. – Noon

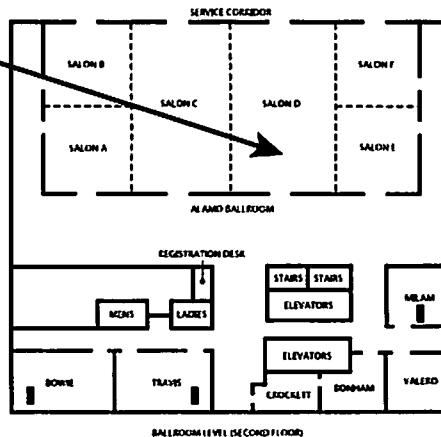
Meeting Room Floor Plans

Marriott Rivercenter



Consultants Conference
Monday, 1-6 PM

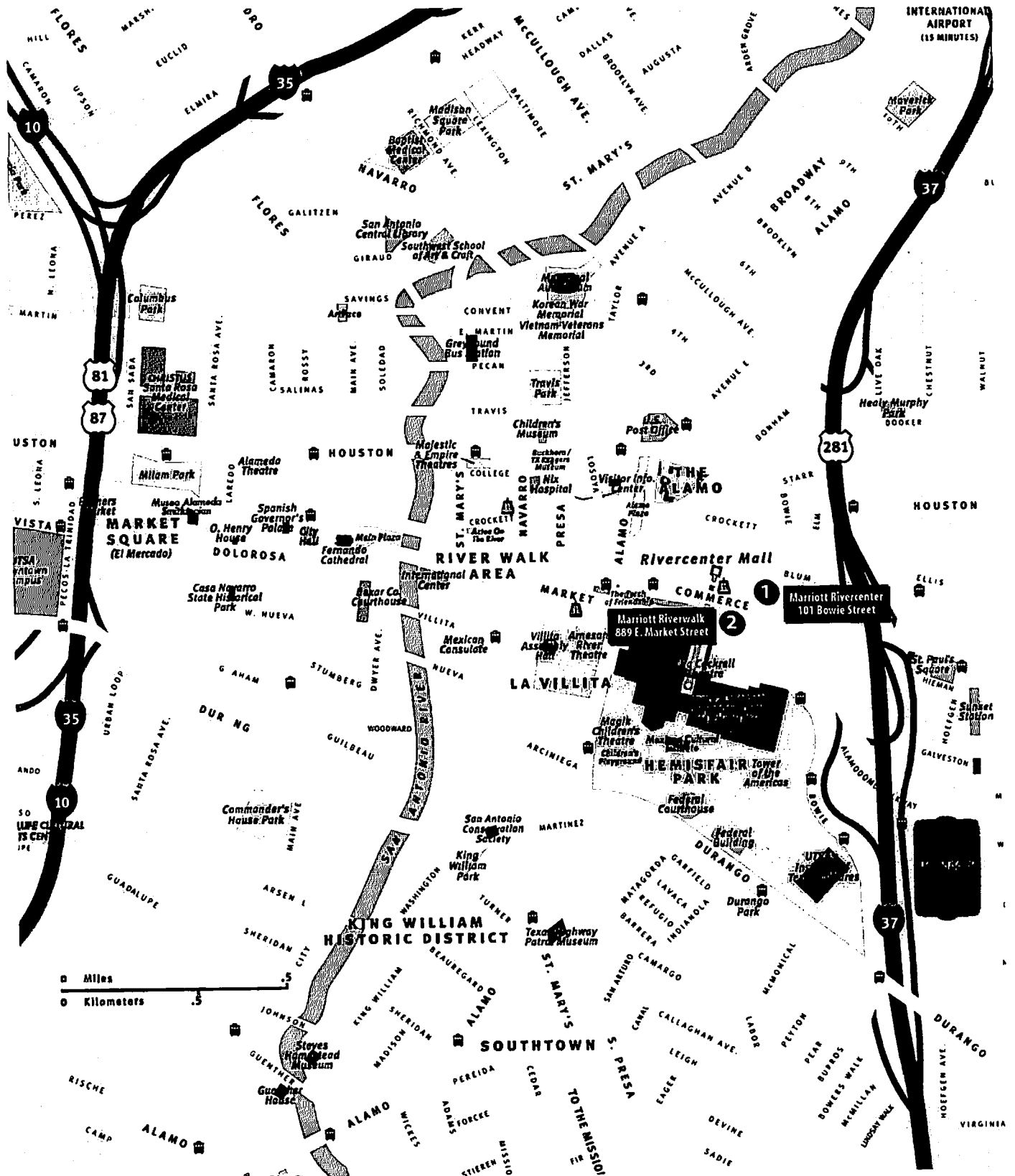
Marriott Riverwalk



H.B. Gonzales Convention Center

Cotton Production Conference
(General Session)
Lila Cockrell Theatre
Tuesday, 8-10 AM

San Antonio Area Map





General Information

The information below, along with conference updates, online meeting registration, housing and travel reservations, can be found on the Beltwide web site. Visit <http://beltwide.cotton.org> for the latest information about the Conferences.

Meeting/Banquet Rooms

A function room request form is required to reserve a meeting/ banquet room. The request form (live link) may be completed online from the Conference web site. The deadline to reserve a meeting room is Monday, December 3, 2012. Rooms are assigned on a first-come, first- served basis.

Spouse Hospitality Room

A continental breakfast will be provided for all registered spouses in the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel, Sazo's Restaurant, Tuesday – Thursday, January 8-10, 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Cotton Foundation Exhibits

The latest cotton technology awaits attendees at these exhibits –a place where Cotton Foundation members are eager to update conferees on the unique products and services they supply to help improve cotton industry members' profitability. Many exhibitors will have investigators and coordinators in their booths to answer questions about the special research and educational projects their firm sponsors through the Foundation. The exhibit hall also provides an excellent opportunity for exhibitors and visitors alike to talk with producers, consultants, researchers and other professionals involved in U.S. cotton.

Exhibit Hours:

Tuesday, January 8 **Noon – 6:00 p.m.**
 Wednesday, January 9 **10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Cotton Crafts Store

A variety of cotton gifts from T-shirts and caps to watercolor paintings and more will be sold in the Cotton Crafts Store.

Open:

Monday, January 7 **10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
 Tuesday, January 8 **8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
 Wednesday, January 9 **8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
 Thursday, January 10 **8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Continuing Education and Certification Credits

Applications will be filed for continuing education credit approval of the 2013 Beltwide Cotton Conferences for pest control advisors and certified applicators for Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

A request also will be made to the American Society of Agronomy for approval of continuing education credit for Certified Crop Advisors attending the conferences. Additional information will be available at the conferences' CEU help desk located on Level 3 at the Marriott Rivercenter.

Beltwide Contacts

Topic	Contact	Phone	Fax	Email
Coordinator	Bill Robertson	(901) 274-9030	(901) 725-0510	brobertson@cotton.org
Meeting Arrangements	Ellen Ferrell	(901) 274-9030	(901) 725-0510	eferrell@cotton.org
	Debbie Richter	(901) 274-9030	(901) 725-0510	drichter@cotton.org
Registration	Buzz Shellabarger	(901) 274-9030	(901) 725-0510	bshellabarger@cotton.org
Cotton Crafts Store	Debbie Richter	(901) 274-9030	(901) 725-0510	drichter@cotton.org
Cotton Foundation Exhibits	Don Parker	(901) 274-9030	(901) 725-0510	dparker@cotton.org
	Debbie Richter	(901) 274-9030	(901) 725-0510	drichter@cotton.org
Media	Marjory Walker	(901) 274-9030	(901) 725-0510	mwalker@cotton.org
Air Travel/ Rental Car	Mary Saemenes	(888) 232-1738 (901) 762-7018	(901) 766-0126	msaemenes@travelelennium.com



Trip to:
410 N 13th Ave
 Edinburg, TX 78541-3582
 461.47 miles / 7 hours 55 minutes
 Estimated Mileage Reimbursement: \$256.11
 Notes

Are you comfortable in your retirement?


If you have a \$500,000 portfolio, download the guide for retirees written by *Forbes* columnist and money manager Ken Fisher's firm. It's called "**The 15-Minute Retirement Plan.**" Even if you have something else in place right now, it *still* makes sense to request your guide!


[Click Here to Download Your Guide!](#)



FISHER INVESTMENTS'






410 N 13th Ave, Edinburg, TX 78541-3582



- 


1. Start out going south on N 13th Ave toward E Loeb St. [Map](#) 0.01 Mi
0.01 Mi Total
- 



2. Take the 1st right onto E Loeb St. [Map](#) 0.1 Mi
If you reach E Kuhn St you've gone a little too far 0.2 Mi Total
- 



3. Take the 2nd right onto N Closner Blvd / US-281-BR N. Continue to follow US-281-BR N. [Map](#) 3.2 Mi
US-281-BR N is just past N 12th Ave
Willie B's BBQ is on the corner
If you are on W Loeb St and reach N 10th Ave you've gone a little too far 3.4 Mi Total
- 


4. US-281-BR N becomes N US-281. [Map](#) 0.6 Mi
4.0 Mi Total
- 


5. Merge onto US-281 N via the ramp on the left. [Map](#) 138.8 Mi
142.8 Mi Total
- 


6. Turn right onto US-59 N. [Map](#) 5.6 Mi
US-59 N is just past Lamar St
If you are on Nueces St and reach Leona St you've gone a little too far 148.4 Mi Total
- 

7. Turn left onto I-37 N. [Map](#) 0.1 Mi
I-37 N is 0.1 miles past I-37 S
If you are on US-59 N and reach US-59 S you've gone about 0.2 miles too far 148.5 Mi Total
- 


8. Merge onto I-37 N via the ramp on the left. [Map](#) 85.2 Mi
233.7 Mi Total
- 

9. Take the Commerce St exit, EXIT 141, toward Downtown the Alamo. [Map](#) 0.3 Mi
234.0 Mi Total
- 

10. Keep straight to take the I-37 N / US-281 N ramp toward I-35. [Map](#) 0.05 Mi
234.0 Mi Total

- 

11. Turn **slight left** onto **E Commerce St.** [Map](#)
BEST WESTERN PLUS Sunset Suites-Riverwalk is on the corner **0.2 Mi**
234.2 Mi Total
- 

12. Turn **right** onto **Elm St.** [Map](#)
Denny's is on the corner
If you reach S Bowie St you've gone a little too far **0.07 Mi**
234.2 Mi Total
- 


13. Take the 1st **left** onto **Blum St.** [Map](#) **0.04 Mi**
234.3 Mi Total
- 


14. Turn **left** onto **Bowie St.** [Map](#) **0.07 Mi**
234.4 Mi Total
- 



15. **101 BOWIE ST** is on the **right.** [Map](#)
If you reach E Commerce St you've gone a little too far




A to B Travel Estimate: 234.35 mi - about 3 hours 59 minutes



B **101 Bowie St, San Antonio, TX 78205-3901**


- 


1. Start out going **south** on **Bowie St** toward **E Commerce St.** [Map](#) **0.06 Mi**
234.4 Mi Total
- 


2. Turn **left** onto **E Market St.** [Map](#)
Grand Hyatt San Antonio is on the corner **0.1 Mi**
234.5 Mi Total
- 


3. Merge onto **I-37 S** toward **I-10.** [Map](#) **68.8 Mi**
303.4 Mi Total
- 



4. Merge onto **US-281 S** via **EXIT 72** toward **Three Rivers / Alice.** [Map](#) **154.3 Mi**
457.6 Mi Total
- 


5. Merge onto **US-281-BR S** toward **US-281 BUSINESS S / Edinburg.** [Map](#) **3.6 Mi**
461.3 Mi Total
- 

6. Turn **left** onto **E Peter St.** [Map](#)
E Peter St is just past E Lovett St
If you reach W Loeb St you've gone a little too far **0.1 Mi**
461.4 Mi Total
- 

7. Take the 2nd **right** onto **N 13th Ave.** [Map](#)
N 13th Ave is just past N 12th Ave
If you reach N 14th Ave you've gone a little too far **0.06 Mi**
461.5 Mi Total
- 

8. **410 N 13TH AVE** is on the **left.** [Map](#)
If you reach E Loeb St you've gone a little too far

B to C Travel Estimate: 227.11 mi - about 3 hours 56 minutes

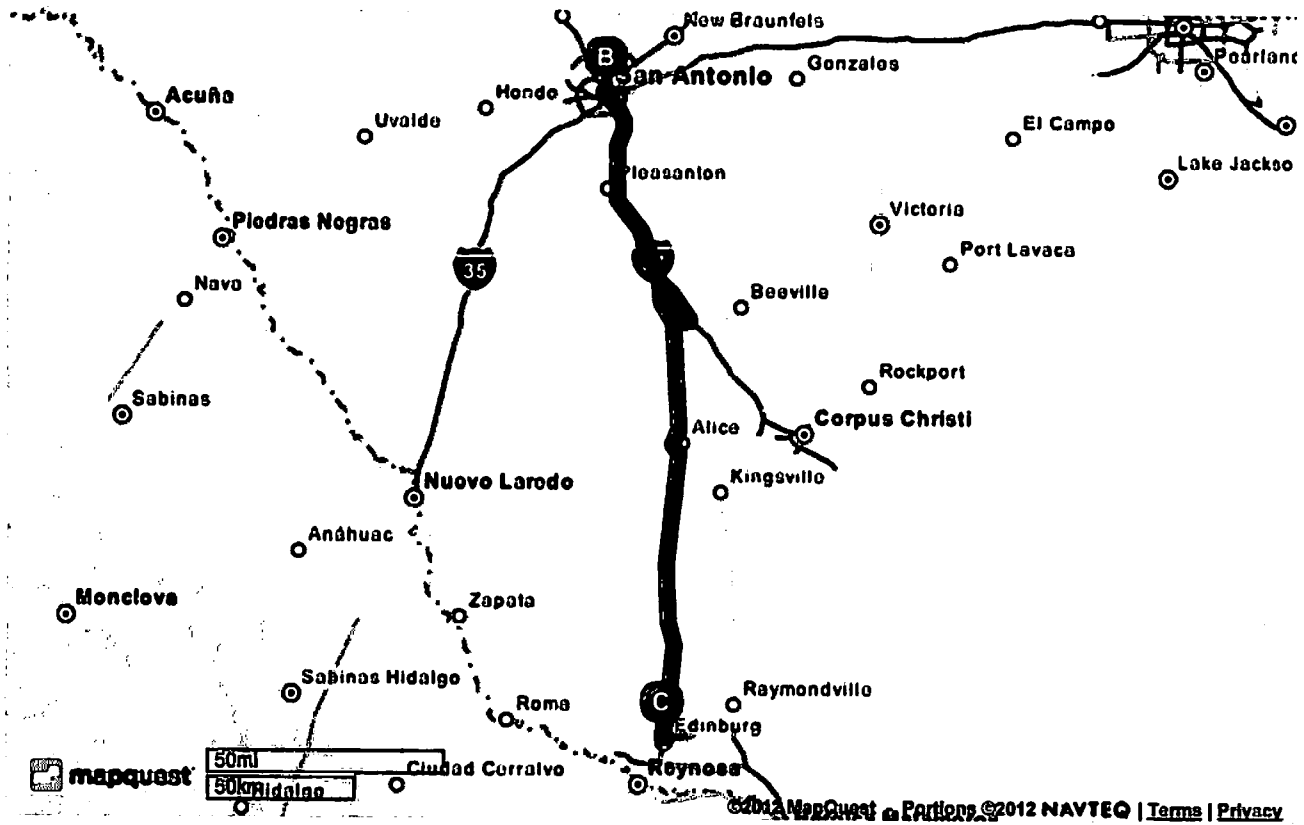
C **410 N 13th Ave, Edinburg, TX 78541-3582**

x 1565
↓

\$260.75

Total Travel Estimate: 461.47 miles - about 7 hours 55 minutes

Estimated Mileage Reimbursement: \$256.11



©2012 MapQuest, Inc. Use of directions and maps is subject to the MapQuest Terms of Use. We make no guarantee of the accuracy of their content, road conditions or route usability. You assume all risk of use. [View Terms of Use](#)

Get the **FREE MapQuest toolbar.** features.mapquest.com/toolbar/

