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PRESS RELEASE

County Judge KP George's Fort Bend Forward Conversation Series Effectively Engages, Informs, and Connects with Residents

(FORT BEND, TX) – Fort Bend County Judge KP George hosted the first in a series of quarterly Community Conversations on Thursday, March 16, at the Fort Bend University Branch Library.

Judge George was joined by a panelist of speakers that included Carlos Guzman, Fort Bend County Economic Opportunity & Development Director, Kevin Matocha, President of Stonehenge Holdings LLC, Taral Patel, Deputy Liaison for the White House, and Rick Staigle, Fort Bend County's First Assistant County Engineer.

At the beginning of the program, Judge George announced that his top priority is to build dialogue with residents about the County's economic growth, infrastructure, and mobility needs due in part to future population growth projections.

"My top priority is transparency and to always keep our residents updated on the various current and future projects and goals we have for the County," stated KP George. "I want to make it easy for our residents to join the conversation and for us to listen to their concerns as well."

Founder and CEO of Stonehenge Companies, LLC Kevin Matocha's presentation of the multi-purpose EpiCenter drew buzz from the crowd as he announced that the 10,000-seat venue, set to open this summer, just secured a contract with the Entertainment and Sports Programming Network (ESPN) for wrestling. Additionally, the EpiCenter can serve as an operations center and evacuation emergency shelter during hurricanes, floods, and extreme winter weather events.

Carlos Guzman, Fort Bend County's Economic Opportunity & Development Director announced that his department is conducting its first-ever comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Plan. Guzman stated that the Study will be completed in six months and help maximize resources while aligning with the needs of the public and private sectors.

Fort Bend County's First Assistant Engineer Rick Staigle gave a presentation that gave an overview of completed and ongoing mobility projects in the County. Taral Patel closed out the panel discussion by giving an ambient presentation on working effectively to create sustainable communities.

Judge George anticipates hosting his next Fort Bend Forward Community Conversation Series in June.

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