



Monday Morning Report

January 14, 2019

INTERNAL

Our next regularly scheduled Executive Committee meeting is set for March 20, 2019 at 2:00 pm, in **San Marcos**. For details, contact council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

ConnectSA in **San Antonio** released its draft framework to develop a regional mobility plan late last month. The plan lists eight Recommended Goals and identifies a three-pronged approach to achieving them that rely heavily on advanced transportation technologies. Near Term, Long Term, and Vision sections address proposed investments, including '25 By 25,' twenty-five projects the plan envisions completing by 2025. [Draft Plan](#).

Austin is releasing its own '*Strategic Mobility Plan*' today, heavily focused on advanced transportation technologies and emphasizing themes of safety, transit, increased infrastructure supply, and environmental concerns. The plan proposes over 100 individual policies, most directed at reducing the number of single-occupant commuter trips within the city. [Story](#).

Americans used public transportation for 2.5 billion trips in the third quarter of 2018, down by 1.75% from the same period in 2017, according to the American Public Transit Association. Buses and both heavy and light rail systems suffered downturns but commuter rail systems saw a slight increase in ridership, year over year. Nationwide, 18 of 31 commuter systems reported increased ridership including **Orlando**, **San Rafael** and **Stockton**, Calif. [Details](#).

More evidence emerged last week that ride-share companies like Lyft and Uber are possibly increasing traffic congestion in urban areas, rather than decreasing it: the **San Francisco** County Transportation Authority found that traffic delays since 2009 have increased by 40,000 hours on a typical workday while vehicle miles traveled went up by 630,000 miles a day. The study says ride-hailing apps provided 1 million rides per week locally. [Details](#).

TEXRail passenger rail service finally began last week between **Fort Worth** and DFW International Airport - after some initial regulatory hurdles slowed by the US government shut down were overcome. **Richland Hills** and **Grapevine** are two other stops along the route. [Story](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

San Antonio has scored its first Opportunity Zone investment, a \$16 million climate-controlled storage facility on 9-acres at the Brooks Master-Planned community on the city's south side. Opportunity Zones, authorized by the 2017 tax bill, are designed to spur investment in economically disadvantaged areas. [Details](#).

The CEO of International Bank of Commerce in **Laredo**, Dennis E. Nixon, has some common sense solutions for US officials on how to deal with border security and immigration issues while protecting

thriving international trade: more and better technology and increased immigration staff and courts. 'The real problem with border security is not apprehension [but] rather processing cases through the US legal system.' [Op-Ed here](#).

Former **San Antonio** mayor (and former Obama administration Cabinet official) Julian Castro announced his candidacy for the US presidency over the weekend in front of several thousand cheering fans. **Business Insider** is already out with an assessment of his biography, potential policies, and chances in the 'horse race' [here](#).

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Lawrence Wright, a long time **Austin** resident, is interviewed about the city's emergence as a tech hub, entrepreneurial spirit, and traffic - along with asides on housing affordability and gentrification - in an interesting and insightful **Slate Magazine** podcast [here](#).

Austin also attracted the attention of the **Los Angeles Times** over the weekend, which published a travel piece extolling the charms of South Congress Avenue and highlighting the legendary Continental Club and its history. A stroll down memory lane for anyone who remembers the venue as a supper club, [here](#).

Thought of the Week

"Things turn out best for the people who make the best of the way things turn out."

- John R. Wooden

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