



Monday Morning Report

April 1, 2019

INTERNAL

TODAY'S 'TO-DO' LIST:

Help us out by taking the quick, painless survey we're conducting on regional issues in the **Austin-San Antonio Corridor** at this link:

<https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/4901908/Corridor-Council-Strategic-Plan-Survey>

The survey only takes a few minutes and is a part of our upcoming Strategic Planning Workshop on April 17th in **San Marcos**. Thanks!

Special Thanks to **Raba-Kistner Engineering Consultants** for sponsoring the April 17th Strategic Planning Workshop for the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council. Their mission statement says it all: *"To provide professional consulting services with passion and integrity, to help build a better world for our employees, their families, our clients, and the communities we serve."* Visit their website [here](#).

INFRASTRUCTURE

This week in **Austin** there is an important Senate Finance Committee hearing on Senate Bill 962 (Nichols) Wednesday, April 3, 9:00 am in Room E1.036. The measure repeals the expiration date (in 2024) of Proposition 1 set-asides for transportation and establishes a formula - rather than a committee - to determine if there is a sufficient balance in the Economic Stabilization Fund (Rainy Day fund) to fund Prop 1. See the bill text [here](#). Bill analysis [here](#).

Phase Two of a half-billion-dollar upgrade to US 281 in **San Antonio** got a ceremonial kickoff last week, about mid-way through a project that will result in four miles of 10-lane freeway stretching from **Bexar County** to the **Comal County** line. By 2022 there will be four new lanes (two northbound, two southbound) plus two additional lanes for High Occupancy Vehicles from Stone Oak Parkway to just south of **Comal County**. Details [here](#).

Following the examples of **London**, **Singapore**, and **Copenhagen**, a congestion-pricing fee to enter the city of **New York** will begin next year - if a state budget deal cut Sunday (3/31) stays in place. In a first for US cities, motorists will pay about \$11.50 and truckers about \$25 in fees to drive into certain geographical zones within the city. Funds raised would go largely to rebuild the city's crumbling metro transit system. [Details](#). Background [here](#).

More than 47,000 of the US's 616,087 bridges are 'structurally deficient,' according to the folks who build them, the American Road & Transportation Builders Association in **Washington**. Their latest study provides a new twist on an old story, however: rebuilding crumbling bridges has fallen to its slowest pace in five years. They say it could take 80 years to reach a state of good repair nationwide. [Story](#).

The **Austin Strategic Mobility Plan** was approved by the city council last week but - after following the rounds of its roll out before various boards and commissions - the local website **Austin Monitor** concludes that 'the vision outlined in the mobility plan has no chance of being realized in the next two decades

without a significant overhaul of the development code.' In a city that just spent millions of dollars and years developing a land use code before rejecting it, those could be fighting words. [Opinion](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

The Trump administration says it may seal the US-Mexican border soon in response to undocumented immigration, but the **Washington Post** reports this morning - quoting trade and business specialists - that such a move would disrupt supply chains for major American manufacturers and trigger swift price increases for grocery shoppers. "First, you'd see prices rise incredibly fast. Then...we would see layoffs within a day or two," said a spokesman for the Trade Association of the Americas. [Story](#).

Austin's international trade profile is growing as the city grows, the **Statesman** noted last week. The chamber of commerce reports there are now 300 companies in the city with their corporate headquarters in a foreign country. One company profiled in this report notes that a South African emergency dispatch brand, while visiting a policy conference in **San Antonio**, found the right mix of tech, politics, and culture in the region and relocated last January. [Story](#).

San Antonio continues moving forward as a major US hub for cyber-security technologies. The University of Texas at San Antonio, already housing 32 private sector and federal partners - including National Security Agency Texas -at its North Paseo Building, has announced plans for a \$33 million, 80,000 square-foot facility due to open by 2022. [Details](#).

Thought of the Week

"The greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short, but in setting our aim too low, and achieving our mark."

- Michelangelo

This newsletter was sent to you on behalf of council@thecorridor.org. It is available to our members. If you wish to unsubscribe from this newsletter, please [click here](#) to send an email request to council@thecorridor.org, or send your request to: Optout Request, Monday Morning Report, PO Box 1618, San Marcos, TX. 78667.

©2019 Austin-San Antonio Corridor Council
