



## Monday Morning Report

April 1, 2019

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### 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](#).

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### 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](#).

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## 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

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