



Monday Morning Report

May 6, 2019

INTERNAL

Our Executive Committee for the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council will hold a special called meeting *next* Wednesday, May 15, at 2:00 pm in **San Marcos**, to discuss the results of the April 17, 2019 Five-Year Strategy Workshop. Please RSVP [here](#).

INFRASTRUCTURE

26% of US cities say they defend against cyber-attacks every hour, according to a **CBS 60 Minutes** segment that aired last night (5/5). Citing a recent Federal Bureau of Investigation report, the segment emphasizes that hospitals, airports, businesses, and governments at all levels are at risk of ransomware demands. The responses of **Leeds**, Alabama (\$8000 negotiated payment) and **Atlanta** are documented. **Atlanta** refused to pay and spent \$20 million to recover some lost files. [Story](#) and links.

The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority in **Austin** is pushing a series of congestion-mitigation ideas to the business community through a public outreach program that encourages flexible work hours, public transit and carpooling incentives, and alternate commute solutions. [Details](#).

An analyst for the conservative-leaning **New York**-based Manhattan Institute posted an op-ed in the **Dallas Morning News** today that argues North Texas must stop building the 'disposable' suburbs ringing **Dallas** - he names **Arlington, Plano, Frisco, Prosper, and Flower Mound** - because they are destined for long term financial and social failure. Considering the source, it's an amazing read, which proposes that long term infrastructure costs be calculated before the first new brick is laid. [Essay](#).

Compared to the last West Texas oil boom in 2014, there is almost four times more oil flowing out of the Permian Basin today. In **Pecos**, roads are jammed with trucks, electricity and fuel can be in short supply, men work 100 hours a week, and 'anyone with a pulse can make \$100,000 a year.' Oil and gas companies have turned the dusty desert six hours west of Dallas into a heavy industrial zone, but can the infrastructure keep up? WFAA reports [here](#).

Drivers for Uber and Lyft have called for a rolling strike this week on May 8 - two days before Uber stock is scheduled to go public - to protest stagnant wages. Originally scheduled for rush hour in **New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco** but may spread to other cities and times, according to organizers. [Story](#).

It's been a long time coming but the G Line commuter rail has finally arrived in **Denver**. The 11-mile route opened last weekend, connecting downtown to the northwest suburbs of **Arvada, Adams County, and Wheat Ridge**. Planning for the project began in 2004 and the line is projected to carry 13,000 passengers daily at \$3 per ride, joining two other local regional rail connections. [Details](#).

Though dwarfed by other modes of public transportation, e-scooters and bikes provided a respectable 84 million rides in the US during 2018 according to the National Association of City Transportation Officials. Today, more than 85,000 app-based scooters are available for rent in 100 American cities. Statistics for **Austin** are cited. [Story](#).

As **New York** prepares to launch the nation's first city-wide congestion-pricing regime, a lot of questions about how it will work remain. A six-member Traffic Mobility Review Board will recommend toll pricing and geographical issues, but many other questions to be resolved are raised in this local newspaper's analysis of the program. [Story](#).

The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority hopes you will join them next Saturday, May 18, from 1-3:00 pm, to celebrate the opening of State Highway 45 Southwest connecting **Austin** to northern **Hays County**. The 'Jubilee' takes place on the Bear Creek Bridge between FM 1626 and Mopac/Loop 1. Bring the family. [Details](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

Current **San Antonio** mayor Ron Nirenberg will face a runoff June 8 with challenger Greg Brockhouse following Saturday's elections (5/4). Seven local city council races were also decided. [Details](#).

A website called **Culture Cheat Sheet** has named **San Antonio** as third best city in the nation as a tourist destination for history buffs, outranking such predictable stalwarts as **Washington DC, Boston**, and even **Williamsburg**, Virginia. **Philadelphia** took first place. The site touted the Alamo's role in the Texas revolution of 1836 as a central reason to visit. [Details](#).

Austin short-term rental brand HomeAway, with a large real estate footprint at The Domain and 1700 local employees, will be re-branded as Vrbo - pronounced 'verbo' - as the **Bellevue**, Washington-based parent company Expedia consolidates. [Story](#).

In a sweeping report based upon hundreds of scientists and thousands of individual studies, the United Nations has concluded in a 1500-page report that modern civilization is putting more than one million species of plants and animals at risk of extinction with potentially devastating impacts on the eco-systems that sustain human life. The stark conclusions were revealed today in **Paris**. Full story and links [here](#).

Thought of the Week

"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant."

- Robert Louis Stevenson

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