



Monday Morning Report

June 6, 2016

INTERNAL

About 150 people attended last week's Corridor Council luncheon discussion on "**San Antonio to Monterrey** High Speed Rail." US Congressman Henry Cuellar and TxDOT Commissioner Jeff Austin headlined with a state official and economist from Nuevo Leon.

On August 22nd at 11:30 am, the Corridor Council will host a discussion and luncheon on the *State of Central Texas* at the **Austin** Club with **Williamson County** Judge Dan A. Gattis, **Austin** mayor Steve Adler, and **San Marcos** mayor Daniel Guerrero. The moderator of the discussion will be the Editor in Chief of the **Texas Tribune**, Evan Smith. The topics of the discussion will be: transportation, population growth, and housing and economic development. Details [here](#).

SAVE THE DATE: 2017 Bexar County Transportation & Infrastructure Priorities Luncheon & Discussion on September 8th. More information is forthcoming.

REMINDER: The Corridor Council Executive Committee voted to combine their June and July meetings. Next meeting of the Committee is July 20.

INFRASTRUCTURE

With **Austin** city officials still weighing whether to put a transportation bond before voters this fall, some transportation advocates want a light rail system on the ballot this November. A proposal was sent to City Hall calling for the bond to include a \$397.5 million, 5.3-mile starter rail line running from downtown to North **Austin**. [Story](#).

Eleven Union Pacific oil train rail cars caught fire and exploded in the Columbia River Gorge near **Mosier**, Oregon over the weekend. **Portland's** mayor says his city made the right decision when it blocked the expansion of fossil-fuel pipelines, tanks and terminals within the city's limits. [Story](#).

New Braunfels has completed a \$2.3 million Railroad Quiet Zone project for railroad crossings within the city, according to officials. Railroad engineers no longer have to sound their horns transiting the city. [Details](#).

The US will need an estimated \$2 trillion to update existing highways, ports, schools, utilities, public buildings, railways, waterways and mass transit, according to the Bipartisan Policy Center in **Washington**. Governments can only come up with about half that amount. [Story](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

Watch seven mayors share their vision for the US Department of Transportation Smart City Challenge June 9 at 2:00 PM via livestream! [Register here](#) as soon as possible!

Austin entrepreneurs grow their startups faster than all but **Washington DC's** entrepreneurs, according to a report that provides new evidence on why the region creates so many new firms but has a harder time sustaining them. [Story](#).

Stay tuned on Thursday, June 16 for a big announcement from Tech Bloc, **San Antonio's** 1000-member strong technology group for civic advocacy, about a new project they say will have a 'seismic impact' on the city's tech community. [Story](#).

Tesla CEO (and noted big thinker) Elon Musk believes Apple will produce a self-driving electric vehicle within the next four years and that Google will concentrate on licensing their self-driving technology to others. [Story](#).

Thought of the Week

How many legs does a dog have if you call the tail a leg? Four. Calling a tail a leg doesn't make it a leg."

~ Abraham Lincoln