



## Monday Morning Report

June 10, 2019

---

### INTERNAL

Wednesday, June 19th, at 2:00 pm, is the next scheduled meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee in **San Marcos** at the Council offices. An agenda will be posted next week. To RSVP, contact [council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org).

---

### INFRASTRUCTURE

*Tonight's* meeting (6/10) of the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization features an interesting item (3B) suggesting a strategy planning session to re-assess the agency's purpose, direction, structure, and methods. Recently elected chairman Steve Adler, mayor of **Austin**, may be signaling some fundamental changes in the way CAMPO prioritizes its allocation of federal dollars between highways and transit. The agenda is [here](#). You can watch the meeting online starting at 6 pm [here](#).

Downtown **Austin** tech companies are deploying an array of tactics to help their employees avoid traffic congestion, according to a **Statesman** report published last week. Companies like Google, Facebook and Cirrus Logic are operating shuttle services, organizing carpools, and offering staggered work hours in addition to encouraging employees to walk or bike to work. They're part of an association called Movability organized by the city, Capital Metro, and the Downtown Austin Alliance. [Story](#).

**Austin** is getting a new TxDOT District Engineer following the retirement of the current incumbent, Terry McCoy. Tucker Ferguson, late of TxDOT's **Beaumont** District, will take over effective June 10. [Details](#).

Walmart has partnered with a Volkswagen subsidiary to build more than 120 electric vehicle charging stations at stores in 34 states, with plans to add 180 more charging stations this year. The retail chain is also moving into business-to-business autonomous vehicle technology, possibly with an eye to greater control over their supply chain. [Details](#).

According to the National League of Cities 2019 annual report, 57% of 153 'State of the City' addresses during the first quarter of this year featured significant coverage of infrastructure issues, primarily roads, streets, sewers and water systems. Economic development and traffic congestion also featured prominently. [Story](#).

---

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

Mayor Ron Nirenberg of **San Antonio** was re-elected to a two-year term last Saturday (6/8) after a contentious runoff race from challenger and former city councilman Greg Brockhouse. The victory margin was a little under 2%. Local news coverage [here](#) and [here](#).

For the first time in a decade, and only the second time in history, **San Antonio's** city council will have a majority of women following city elections over the weekend. Three open seats on the 10-member council were won by women, resulting in a 6-4 split among women and men on the council. [Details](#).

"All told we're pleased that it's over." That's how Jeff Coyle, director of Government and Public Relations for **San Antonio**, described the latest session of the Texas Legislature. He told the city council last week that of 1600 bills tracked by the staff, 83% were considered successfully blocked or modified in the city's favor. Nonetheless, **San Antonio** will take substantial financial hits from utility right-of-way and revenue cap measures, he said. [Details](#).

That plan for a \$1.2 billion expansion of the **Austin** Convention Center has hit a snag: a new political action committee called Unconventional Austin - organized by some of the same activists who led the campaign to kill the Code Next re-write of local development codes - has begun to collect petition signatures to force a public vote on the project. Opponents of the expansion say local hotel tax dollars - 70% of which they say go toward maintaining and promoting the existing convention center - could be better spent on other things. [Story](#).

With the 2020 Census fast-approaching - and a citizenship question looming large before the courts - the Urban Institute has taken into account demographic changes and new census-taking technologies to calculate which states have the highest probability of an undercount. They've also studied winners and losers in various scenarios and Texas has a lot at stake. Cities with large Hispanic populations such as **San Marcos** and **San Antonio** could be especially affected. [Study link and coverage](#).

Earlier this month the city of **Churu**, India, saw temperatures rise above 120 degrees Fahrenheit, and in New Delhi more than 21 million people are experiencing dangerously high temperatures expected to persist into next week. **CityLab** published a survey of studies over the weekend purporting to calculate how many heat-related deaths could be avoided by various limitations of the average mean global temperature. The United Nations warned last year that temperatures are on track to rise at least 3 degrees above pre-industrial levels. [Report](#).

## Thought of the Week

*"Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm."*

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

This newsletter was sent to you on behalf of [council@thecorridor.org](mailto: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](mailto: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