



Monday Morning Report

June 25, 2018

INTERNAL

The next meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee is scheduled for **Wednesday, July 18**, 2:00 pm, at the Corridor Council offices 304 C.M. Allen Parkway in **San Marcos**. For questions or for more information, email council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

In a review of an Urban Land Institute policy discussion of driver-less automobiles, **Austin** transportation columnist Ben Wear this morning brings a decidedly skeptical view towards their eventual development, maintaining that the public may not even want them. He also joins others who suggest that rather than ending congestion, autonomous vehicles may just add to it. [Opinion](#).

An administrative court hearing held today in **London** may have far-reaching implications for ride-hailing giant Uber, which is facing a ban in one of the company's largest (8.8 million people) and most lucrative primary European markets. As in **Austin** a few years ago, Uber is accused of poor safety standards, insufficient background checks on its drivers, and - this is new - using proprietary software to avoid government oversight. [Story](#).

New startup Cityflag expects to launch its **San Antonio** application next month in partnership with the city. The mobile technology allows users to more easily and directly interact with city services and flag such items as a missing stop sign, broken streetlights, potholes, or vandalism. [Details](#).

Austin light rail proponents are re-circulating a study done last year by the group Farm And City that tries to calculate the costs of automobile accidents in Texas. "Every day, 10 people die on the roads of Texas, 50 people suffer incapacitating injuries - loss of limb, brain damage, or other life-changing trauma, and 4000 other people are involved in traffic crashes not resulting in a death or serious injury," according to the study. The group estimates total Texas crash costs of over \$160 billion annually. [Details](#).

A recent study, done as part of a strategic planning effort, suggests that **Guadalupe County** will grow to nearly 300,000 people over the next two decades, adding 30,000 new jobs by 2040 and more than doubling retail sales, the **Seguin Gazette** reports. [Story](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

Professional football is coming back to **San Antonio**. Officials announced last week that the Alliance of American Football would field an Alamo City squad during a season stretching from just after the National Football League's Super Bowl until just prior to the NFL's draft. A general manager and coach have been named, one of who had been involved with the **San Antonio** Riders in an earlier pro ball league back in the 1990's. [Details](#).

As expected, plans for redeveloping the Alamo and surrounding environs kicked up a firestorm during public meetings on the project, generating possibly more heat than light. Robert Rivard's commentary

touches on the good, the bad, and the ugly of the public processes involved in re-thinking the state's most celebrated **San Antonio** historical site. [Opinion](#).

The Trump administration's trade tariff policy on aluminum and steel products has claimed a first US manufacturing victim: iconic **Milwaukee** motorcycle maker Harley-Davidson announced that it will be shifting production of some models overseas to respond to retaliatory tariffs just imposed on their exports by the European Union. [Story](#).

A respectful **New Braunfels** sendoff: despite the fact that he died with no living relatives, former Air Force staff sergeant William Sizemore was laid to rest next to his wife at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery last week with a large crowd in attendance composed of other veterans, an honor guard, a motorcycle veterans group and a Texas state senator. A **New Braunfels** funeral company donated their services. Small city, big hearts. Details [here](#).

Thought of the Week

"Work expands to fill the time available for its completion."

-Cyril Northcote Parkinson

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