



## Monday Morning Report

July 10, 2017

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### INTERNAL

The next meeting of the Executive Committee of the **Austin-San Antonio Corridor Council**, tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, July 19 in **San Marcos**, is being re-scheduled to a later date. Council staff will be working with TxDOT, **Austin**, and **San Antonio** on remaining rail issues and drafting scoping documents for the development of a comprehensive regional plan. For information, contact [council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org).

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### INFRASTRUCTURE

The US Department of Transportation has launched a new funding program that will make approximately \$1.5 billion available to projects that are in line with the Trump Administration's public-private partnership approach to rebuilding the country's crumbling infrastructure. [Story](#).

Thirteen states are imposing new fees on electric vehicles as officials scrounge for ways to pay for infrastructure projects. At least five states, including California, passed bills targeting the cars this year. The charges range from \$100 to \$200 a year. [Story](#).

A congested, mile-long freeway built in the 1960's in **New York** is being highlighted as an example of just how badly the nation's basic infrastructure is crumbling, and also some surprising suggestions about how to deal with it. [Story](#).

Failing water infrastructure is a nation-wide problem requiring up to \$1 trillion in investment over the next 20 years, even as federal funding for such infrastructure has fallen nearly 75% over the last 20 years. Some hard-pressed cities are eyeing selling their water systems to get out from under utility debt and free up cash, but the **Washington Post** reports the usual results are higher rates for consumers. [Story](#).

**New York** commuters are coping this morning with massive disruption as emergency repairs begin on the Northeast Corridor's rail network, but **CityJournal** argues that recent accidents are a symptom of **Washington's** political manipulation of US passenger rail systems. [Story](#).

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

**Hays County** may lose about \$1.1 million in federal disaster relief funding after an audit found the county's procurement policies for debris removal overly restrictive following massive flooding during 2015. A county spokesman believes the issue will eventually be worked out. [Details](#).

**Houston**-based oil field service company Halliburton - also with a large presence in **San Antonio** - is hiring 100 new employees per month as it races to build capacity for its fracking operations in the Permian Basin near **Midland**. In recent months their fracking workforce has grown by 30% to 2700 people. [Story](#).

The *Rivard Report* is partnering with the **San Antonio** Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to host 'A Conversation with new Mayor Ron Nirenberg' on Tuesday, Aug. 8, at the Pearl Stable. Registration [here](#). More information [here](#).

The **New York Times** last week highlighted a growing trend across the US: politically 'red' states trying to control the activities and policies of politically 'blue' cities. **Austin** and Texas are at the fire's center. [Story](#).

TxDOT is encouraging safe driving habits through the launch of the My35.org Sweepstakes. Participants can enter by completing a driver safety quiz on My35.org for a chance to win a trip to the 2017 *iheartRADIO Music Festival* in **Las Vegas**. [Details](#).

## Thought of the Week

*"Most people have to get to a point where they don't have a choice before they'll change something"*

*~Alex Marwood, writer*

