



Monday Morning Report

July 30, 2018

INTERNAL

The **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee approved a new set of meeting dates for the next year. Please note the dates on your calendars:

Sep 19, 2018 at 2pm

Dec 19, 2018 at 2pm

Mar 20, 2019 at 2pm

Jun 19, 2019 at 2pm

Unless otherwise notified, all meetings will be held at the Council offices, 304 C.M. Allen Parkway, **San Marcos**.

INFRASTRUCTURE

A new study released last week of nine major urban areas in the US indicates that services such as Uber and Lyft are adding to traffic congestion, not reducing it. Moreover, the study indicates that particular forms of ride-sharing, such as Uber Express Pool, are directly competing with transit systems and drawing riders from buses and trains but can't match their capacity or efficiency. UberX adds 2.8 vehicle miles for each mile of personal driving they reduce. Lyft and Uber question the results of the study, but one US official called the results 'Sobering.' [Story](#).

The American Public Transportation Association is touting a new study of their own that pegs the cost of rebuilding US public transit infrastructure to a state of 'good repair' at about \$90 billion. They say failing to address what they call 'under-investment' will cost the US economy \$340 billion over the next six years. [Report](#).

When the massive Hoover Dam was erected in the 1930's people compared the project to the construction of the Pyramids. Now, the **Los Angeles** Department of Water and Power wants to invest \$3 billion to convert the dam into a giant storage facility - like a battery - for solar and wind power. The **New York Times** produced a package last week on what may be the 'mother of all infrastructure projects.' [Story](#).

More details are emerging on that proposal from **Bexar County** Commissioner Kevin Wolff to add four new lanes to Interstate 35 between **Georgetown** and **San Antonio**. Two of the lanes would be '100% autonomous,' he said, estimating the project cost at around \$8 billion. WOAI reports [here](#).

Drive.ai's self-driving ride sharing vehicles deployed in **Frisco**, Texas are unlike anything we've seen here before. And they feature messaging signs for pedestrians. [Details](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

The boom in downtown urban revitalization in **San Antonio** continues: eight new projects are under construction or in advanced development stages that will add more than two million square-feet of new office space, the biggest building spree downtown in nearly three decades. [Story](#).

Building 'industry clusters' has long been the Holy Grail of economic developers, groups of firms that gain a competitive advantage through local proximity and interdependence. The Brookings Institute is out with a new study designed to help regional leaders judge cluster initiatives - where they make sense, where they don't, and how to tell the difference. **St. Louis** and **Milwaukee** case studies are among those highlighted. Get started [here](#).

Austin's new city manager Spencer Cronk is wasting no time in re-shaping his executive team. He announced on Friday that he would be conducting open recruiting for four assistant city managers to replace the five assistant city managers currently serving. Current assistant managers can re-apply, but their new jobs may not look much like their old ones. [Details](#).

Thought of the Week

"One can't predict the weather more than a few days in advance."

- Stephen Hawking

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