



Monday Morning Report

July 31, 2017

INTERNAL

The next meeting of the Executive Committee of the **Austin-San Antonio Corridor Council** is tentatively scheduled for 2:00 pm, Wednesday, August 26 at our offices located at 304 N CM Allen Parkway, **San Marcos**. For information, contact council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Fortune Magazine estimates that the driverless-car market will top \$7 trillion eventually, but predicts that 'societal friction' - that is, the inability of technologists, public officials, and the public to accept overwhelming change in the transit marketplace - will delay driverless deployment by at least ten years. [Story](#).

The trend toward electric vehicles advanced again last week with the announcement in Great Britain last week that the country would join France in eliminating gas and diesel cars in central cities by 2040. At least a dozen other countries are considering a similar move, driven largely by air quality and global warming concerns. [Story](#).

TxDOT is asking **Austin's** Capital Metro to contribute to the cost of a \$4.5 billion rebuild of Interstate 35 through downtown, the \$125 million contribution earmarked for buses operating in new toll lanes created as part of the makeover. TxDOT wants \$18 million up front now, creating financial challenges for the transportation agency. [Story](#).

A California Supreme Court decision last week may cause still more environmental lawsuits attempting to stop construction of an (eventual) \$64 billion **San Francisco-Anaheim** high speed rail project. The ruling says federal regulations do not trump the need to comply with tougher California environmental rules. [Story](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

San Antonio, the only major US city with a population of more than one million people with an AAA-bond rating, has had that stellar financial position reaffirmed by the country's three largest bond ratings agencies for the eighth straight year. More [here](#) from the **Rivard Report**.

The **American-Statesman** ran a package of stories over the weekend highlighting the role that IBM has played in developing **Austin** into a national and international technology hub 50 years after the company first arrived in town. Starts [here](#).

San Marcos has selected Bert Lumbreras as the finalist for city manager. Currently an assistant city manager in **Austin**, Lumbreras also was an assistant city manager in **Waco** and served as the city manager in **Alamo, Dilley, Floresville** and **Uvalde**. [Story](#).

The '32nd Annual **San Marcos** Chamber of Commerce Business Expo' will take place August 8, 10 am-6 pm, at the Embassy Suites Conference Center on IH-35. More info [here](#).

Officials across the country have been outspoken about the cyber-safety of the nation's voting machines lately, but a meeting of hackers this week in **Las Vegas** raised a lot of doubts about that claim, according to **Politico** magazine. [Details](#).

Today is the last day to register for 'Air Quality Issues and Impacts on Transportation in Texas and the **San Antonio** Region,' happening Friday, August 4, at the **San Antonio** Callaghan Service Center. [Registration](#).

If you thought it was unusually hot in **San Antonio** this weekend, you were right: it's been 50 years since Alamo City recorded temperatures of 104 and 105 in the last days of July. How long ago was that? Northstar Mall was advertising its 'new' air conditioning... [Story](#).

Thought of the Week

"Perseverance is the hard work you do after you get tired of doing the hard work you already did."

~Newt Gingrich

