



Monday Morning Report

August 14, 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 30th at our offices located at 304 N CM Allen Parkway, **San Marcos**. For information, contact council@thecorridor.org.

Executive Director of the Alamo Area Council of Governments (and **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee member) Diane Rath is profiled [here](#) in this week's edition of the **Texas Government Insider**.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Rising urban rents that force poorer people into widely dispersed suburbs are causing a nationwide slump in city bus use all across the nation, according to the **Wall Street Journal**, and causing longer commutes. The paper says ridership in 2017 has dropped 13% over levels from a decade ago. [Story](#).

Austin's Capital Metro board members are already calling for plenty of public input on the hiring of a new president to replace Linda Watson, who announced last month that she will retire at the end of the year. A **Washington** search firm will guide the process. [Story](#).

Austin's Transportation Department is close to releasing a plan that would convert the two outside lanes of iconic Guadalupe Street between Martin Luther King Boulevard and 29th St. (the 'Drag') into dedicated bus lanes, according to director Rob Spillar. [Story](#).

The ITS World Congress (Oct. 29 to Nov. 2) has announced five cities that will be featured in "*The Smart Cities Pavilion*," an exhibition of the best examples of infrastructure solutions from around the world. In addition to the host city of **Montreal**, the confirmed cities to date include **Columbus; Singapore; Copenhagen**; and Christchurch. [Details](#).

The US records lowest infrastructure spending level ever in the second quarter of 2017, and experts say that has huge economic and safety implications. The US spent only 1.4% of GDP on infrastructure projects, and many states have been forced to cut back as well. [Story](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

Alamo Reality, a **San Antonio** company, has come up with a cool idea for an augmented and virtual reality cell phone application that will treat users to a tour of the Alamo guided by none other than Davy Crockett himself. [Details](#).

The city of **Seguin** celebrated its 179th birthday last week with, what else, ice cream, golf, and three generations of celebrants. [Details](#).

Austin City Council is moving forward with a plan to research using city facilities as short-term shelters for homeless people. A list of facilities that could potentially be used as temporary homeless shelters will be brought back to the council on Aug. 24. [Story](#).

Tesla, the electric car innovator, is eyeing the self-driving battery-powered truck market and has opened discussions with Nevada and California about testing operations on their roadways. [Story](#).

Mexico has released a list of goals it hopes to achieve as it enters negotiations with the Trump administration on a revamp of the North American Free Trade Agreement. They want discussions to include energy, telecommunications, and financial services but the first priority is 'do no harm.' More [here](#) from the **Los Angeles Times**.

Homeowners in **Comal County** and **New Braunfels** are expressing concerns about a new Vulcan Construction Materials stone quarry seeking permits for operations at FM 3009 and State Highway 46. [Details](#).

Thought of the Week

"You can get all A's and still flunk life."

~Walker Percy

