



Monday Morning Report

August 20, 2018

INTERNAL

Wednesday, September 19, is the next scheduled meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee. The meeting will be at 2:00 pm in the Council offices at 304 C.M. Allen Parkway in **San Marcos**. To suggest an agenda item or RSVP, respond to council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The **Dallas** Area Rapid Transit (DART) board votes on Aug. 28 whether to approve the \$1.1 billion Cotton Belt commuter rail line after at least 35 years of planning effort. The 26-mile east-west line stretches from **Plano** to the **Dallas-Ft. Worth** International Airport and will start with a \$908 million federal loan. Passenger services are expected to begin in 2022. [Details.](#)

The **Fort Worth Star-Telegram** reported yesterday on 'curbside chaos' - too many travelers being picked up or dropped off in too little space - at the **Dallas-Ft. Worth** International Airport due to the increased usage by travelers of ride-hailing services such as Uber and Lyft. Those companies, outlawed before 2015, now deliver nearly a quarter of all passengers to the airport. [Details.](#)

More details emerged last week on Elon Musk's The Boring Company's plans to build a 3.6 mile tunnel in **Los Angeles** under Sunset Boulevard and use passenger pods called 'skates' to move people (8-to-16 at a time) from three LA Metro stations to the Dodger Stadium. Environmental clearance is expected to take at least a year and construction will take about 14 months, according to **Wired**. Musk claims his new technologies will make tunneling 15-to-20 times cheaper than current methods. [Story.](#)

The bar is clearly higher for public acceptance of autonomous vehicles over conventional ones, but even that doesn't explain the dropping poll numbers for self-driving cars following two widely-publicized accidents by Tesla and Uber cars recently. **San Francisco's Chronicle** reports that nearly half (49%) of those surveyed now say they don't want autonomous vehicles, up from 30% in 2016. Out of 40,000 fatal auto accidents last year, two seems relatively minor - but not when self-driving cars are involved, apparently. [Story.](#)

The World Congress of Autonomous Vehicle Safety Regulation will be held in **Novi**, MI, October 23-25, with over 35 global experts discussing challenges, opportunities, and uncertainties in public safety and regulatory environments for self-driving vehicles. More details [here](#).

The reasons behind that catastrophic bridge collapse last week in **Genoa**, Italy, are unknown. But the event has refocused attention around the world on the state of critical infrastructure built over a generation ago during the post WWII building boom, according to **The Atlantic**. The magazine notes similarities to the 2007 **Minneapolis** IH-35 bridge collapse and points out why more such failures may be in our future. [Story.](#)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

San Antonio said farewell last week to the legendary banker Tom Frost, a true visionary and long time friend of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council. In his 90 years as a fourth generation banker, Frost marked **San Antonio** and South Texas in a thousand different ways - from the passage of NAFTA to the creation of the Free Trade Alliance - and more than a thousand people gathered to honor him at last week's funeral. [Details.](#)

The **Lockhart** city council, reversing an earlier decision, has voted to approve a zoning change that will allow the construction of 259 new single-family homes on a 66.7-acre plot on Mockingbird Lane in the western part of the city. D.R. Horton will construct the mix of one and two story homes. [Details.](#)

Booming **New Braunfels** has added another 100 jobs by 2019, due to the launch of a first Texas location for the Florida-based insurance company e-Telequote Insurance. [Story.](#)

A Sick-Leave Fight Brewing In The Legislature: **San Antonio** passed a paid sick leave measure last week following an earlier similar approval from **Austin**, but both cities face court and legislative opposition. A state appeals court blocked the Austin plan also last week, and dozens of Republican lawmakers say they'll fight the programs in the next Legislative session. Stories [here](#) and [here](#).

Thought of the Week

"Whether you think you can or whether you think you can't, you're right."

- Henry Ford

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