



## Monday Morning Report

September 10, 2018

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### INTERNAL

We're a little more than a week away from the next meeting of the Executive Committee of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council, which meets NEXT Wednesday, September 19, at 2:00 pm at the Council offices, 304 C. M. Allen Parkway in **San Marcos**. **NOTE:** There may be some parking and access issues due to construction on C.M. Allen Parkway. Alternative parking is available at San Marcos Parks and Recreation (401 E. Hopkins St). RSVP or agenda items to [council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org). Mark your calendars.

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### INFRASTRUCTURE

The **Austin** Chamber of Commerce is hosting a summit on regional transportation issues, *'The Future of Mobility,'* on October 1 at the AT&T Conference Center. Described as a 'deep dive on the future of our transit, the future of ABIA, and a fresh look at mobility and technology innovation,' the event is being co-sponsored by Capital Metro. [Details.](#)

The **New York**-based National Association For Cities recently released a *"Blueprint For Autonomous Urbanism"* for local planners and policymakers with suggestions about how to prepare for the automated cars and buses of the future. The Blueprint sets forth fundamental principles (Safety As Top Priority, Mobility For The Whole City, Re-balance The Right-of-Way). Modules include designing for safety, curbside management, and the future of city design. [Report.](#)

A Columbia University researcher argues that streetcar, bus, and metro transit systems have been ignoring a key lesson for the last 100 years: service levels drive demand. Citing examples from **Phoenix** and **Seattle**, the writer proposes increasing service to attract new riders, creating a 'virtuous cycle' where more riders justify still more service - and a larger political constituency. 'When it comes to transit, if cities don't build it, riders definitely won't come,' he concludes. [Story.](#)

Most roadway expansion projects are sold as a means to reduce congestion, but research in **Houston** indicates that the exact opposite is usually the result, according to a CityLab report published today on 'induced demand.' The report focuses on the **Katy** Freeway project's \$2.8 billion, four-year expansion to 26 lanes (widest freeway in the US); commute times increased 30% once the expansion was completed. [Story.](#)

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

In expanding international trade and economic development, **San Antonio** should focus on key industries like cyber security, advanced manufacturing, and information technology. That's the conclusion of a six-year study of six cities by the Brookings Institution. Those results were published in *Six Steps For Metro Areas To Prioritize Global Markets*, released last week. [News Coverage.](#) [Report.](#)

**San Antonio**-based grocery chain H-E-B will put all digital operations under one roof in **Austin** and hire hundreds of new employees to service its 400 stores in Texas and Mexico. The new 'world-class tech

facility and innovation lab' consolidates operations of Austin-based Favor, the mobile delivery company H-E-B bought last year. [Story](#).

Facebook will lease an entire 17-story building under construction at **Austin's** The Domain mixed-use development, according to local real estate brokers. The company already has 700 employees in downtown **Austin**, and currently occupies three floors of another building in The Domain. [Details](#).

Tech giants such as Twitter, Facebook, and Google are under increasing scrutiny and regulation by state attorneys general - including Texas - according to reporting by the *Wall Street Journal*. There's a meeting in Washington later this month to coordinate among the states to push for more financial and content regulation, which Texas attorney general Ken Paxton has already said he will attend. [Story](#).

Both **Austin** and **San Antonio** made a ranked list of 15 US cities where new residents are flocking because 'jobs are plentiful, salaries are rising and business is booming.' The *MagnifyMoney* personal finance website compiled the list, based upon housing units, unemployment rates, and other employment data. **Dallas**, **Houston**, and **McAllen** also made the list. [Story](#).

**San Antonio's** mayor Ron Nirenberg says the city is facing 'an election like no other,' in fending off three charter change proposals put forth by the local firemen's union on the November ballot. One expands the use of petitions, another caps the tenure and caps the salary of future city managers, the third forces the city into arbitration on certain union negotiations. [Story](#).

**Buda's** city manager, Kenneth Williams, is profiled in last week's *Texas Government Insider* and he touts the city's new 72,000 municipal/Public Safety/Library complex. Among the things people would be surprised to hear is that his son married Chubby Checker's ('*Do the Twist*') daughter. Who knew? [Story](#).

## Thought of the Week

"Into each life, some rain must fall."

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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