



## Monday Morning Report

September 24, 2018

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### INTERNAL

The **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee met last Wednesday, Sept. 19, in **San Marcos** for updates on various projects, a discussion of air quality issues in **San Antonio**, status reports on IH-35 funding and the statewide tolling suspension, and progress being achieved on various high speed rail projects. Click [here](#) for the agenda.

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### INFRASTRUCTURE

**San Antonio**-based Blue Duck Scooters thought they could deploy a fleet of their e-scooters on the Texas State University campus in **San Marcos** last week. Texas State had other ideas and began collecting and impounding scooters found on campus: they want a more formal policy established before the scooters return to the streets. [Details](#).

The city of **Bryan** has signed an interlocal agreement with Texas A&M University to operate two self-driving electric trolleys in the downtown area. The shuttles seat four passengers and two safety drivers - at least for now - and travel at 7 miles per hour. [Details](#).

Contrary to popular belief and to much of the literature in the field of autonomous vehicles, the influential *International Transport Forum* issued a report last week during the ITS World Congress in **Copenhagen** that argues connected- and self-driving vehicles (CAV) may not significantly improve either safety or traffic flows. They also made a series of recommendations regarding regulatory frameworks for mass deployment of CAV. [Story](#).

More Americans are working from home according to an American Community Survey. Last year, an estimated 5.2 percent of employees reported that they telecommute, while employees taking public transportation declined slightly to 5 percent. A 2016 *Gallup* survey found that 43 percent of employees worked remotely some of the time. [Details](#).

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

The newly-opened Army Futures Command office in **Austin** is already shaking things up locally by hosting a three-day seminar and competition of sorts for public safety solutions to the potential threat of drones - or "small unmanned aerial systems," as they're known in the cyber security and counter-terrorism trades. The Command is looking for developers, designers and hackers from the academic, military, and commercial start-up worlds to counter attacks such as the recent assassination attempt on Venezuela's president, Nicholas Maduro. [Details](#).

Charles Marohn, the outspoken leader of the neighborhood-oriented Strong Towns organization, has written a lengthy (five part) analysis of **Austin's** CodeNEXT land development code origins, process, and ultimate rejection by the city council. He plans to speak on the topic next month at a regional gathering in **Plano**. See Part One [here](#).

People statewide may be talking about the debate last week between Beto O'Rourke and Ted Cruz, but in **San Antonio** people are talking about a debate that did not take place after all: Mayor Ron Nirenberg was scheduled to debate Firefighters Association president Chris Steele about three ballot initiatives the union is backing that the mayor has called 'terrible.' Steele canceled at the last minute, causing a predictable kerfuffle. [Story](#).

Facing federal government dysfunction in **Washington**, many US cities are working hard to tackle issues like climate change, housing affordability, and criminal justice - using the tools that have become hallmarks of successful city administrations globally: innovation, diversity, and progress, **City Lab** reports. But they can only go so far on their own. [Story](#).

## Thought of the Week

"Anywhere is walking distance, if you've got the time."

- Steven Wright

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