



Monday Morning Report

December 2, 2019

INTERNAL

The Executive Committee is scheduled to meet Wednesday, December 18, 2:00 pm at the Council offices in **San Marcos** (304 North C.M. Allen Parkway). For questions or to add items to the agenda, email council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

This Wednesday (12/4) the US Department of Transportation in **Washington** is hosting a webinar from 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm entitled *'Impacts of Automation: What States, Cities, and MPO's Need to Know.'* The event will explore likely impacts of automation, performance measures for AV testing, and what planners should consider in long-range planning. You must register [here](#).

A new **Austin** startup company is offering inter-city travel across the Texas Triangle via a ride-sharing service that uses battery-powered Tesla vehicles for up to five passengers. **Austin-San Antonio** door-to-door service by the new company, Electrip, starts as low as \$150. Other cities offered include **Dallas** and **Houston** for \$350. [Details](#).

San Antonio business and civic leader (and former **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council chairman) Mike Novak is overseeing the new \$895 million, four-building State of Texas Capitol Complex construction project in **Austin**. As Executive Director of the Texas Facilities Commission - which builds and manages over 28 million square feet of state-owned or managed facilities for various agencies - the former **Bexar County** commissioner is transforming large parts of the downtown Central Business District. [Details](#).

That **Dallas-Houston** high speed rail project has added another subcontractor to the effort, a subsidiary of large-scale contractor firm Kiewit. The Texas Central Railway's Japanese technology is still looking for safety waivers from the federal government for its proposed equipment and is now being billed as a \$20 billion project (up \$6 billion from last year's estimates). [Details](#).

Speaking of trains, a new elevated, magnetic technology that would operate on the same principle as a rail gun propelling its cars through a series of magnetic pylons at up to 500 miles-per-hour, is being touted as an environmentally-friendly alternative to air travel and the hyper loop. Designers say it could take passengers from **Moscow** to **Shanghai** in 12 hours, all while 65-feet in the air. At those speeds, **Austin** to **San Antonio** would take about 15 minutes. [Story](#).

As the **Dallas-Ft. Worth** region approaches 8 million residents transportation leaders there continue to seriously consider technologies that would have seemed straight out of science fiction just a few years ago. Flying cars, a hyper-loop system, personal helicopters, driver-less cars and even old-fashioned high-speed rail are part of the region's effort to become a transportation technology production hub. [Story](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

The National League of Cities is highlighting **San Antonio's** efforts to build a startup culture through partnerships between the city and tech entrepreneurs. Their report focuses on CivTechSA - a city-led program that engages participants across three areas (residency, entrepreneurship, and education) to find tech solutions for city challenges. [Story](#).

CBRE, the real estate giant, has opened their treasure trove of data and reports to the general public. Users no longer have to log in to access reports on housing, affordable housing, retail, media & technology, and much more. The **Austin** office of CBRE is a Corridor Council member. To begin accessing their data, start [here](#).

A university in **Campiegne**, France has demonstrated the first Galileo GPS-guided autonomous electric vehicle operating on test tracks and public roads. The guidance system allows for real-time precision positioning data to be interconnected with other vehicles and infrastructure. [Details](#).

Speaking out just before the start of a two-week summit that begins today in **Madrid**, the secretary-general of the United Nations says global efforts to impact climate change have failed. "The point of no return is no longer over the horizon," he said yesterday. "It is in sight and hurtling towards us." [Story](#).

The design of parking garages is going through something of a Renaissance, according to the spokesman for a national association based in **Washington**, and nowhere is it more apparent than in **San Antonio**. "They are mostly open space, so they've become a playground for designers, who are getting more creative," he says. Next generation parking garages are safer, greener, and more user friendly, and the [Express-News](#) surveys the latest in Alamo City downtown lots. [Story](#).

If you like mariachi music this is a great week to be in **San Antonio**: the 25th Annual Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza, 'the toughest competition in the world for mariachis,' runs this week from Dec. 1-7 and features 51 different mariachi groups from all over the US. There are also scholarships to be won, up to \$20,000. [Story](#).

Thought of the Week

"A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops."

- Henry Adams

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