



Monday Morning Report

February 11, 2019

INTERNAL

The **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee is scheduled to meet March 20, 2019 at 2:00 pm, in **San Marcos**. For questions or comments, contact council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

A bill filed by state representative Erin Zwiener (D-**Driftwood**) would prohibit new billboards along three **Hays County** highways that serve as gateways to the Texas Hill Country. The targeted roads are RM 1826, RM 150 between **Kyle** and RM 12, and RM 967 between **Buda** and RM 1826. Supporters argue aesthetic issues; opponents say its restraint of trade. [Story](#).

Texans Against High Speed Rail hold a press conference *today* in **Centerville** in **Leon County** to tout a state district court ruling that the Texas Central Railroad - organizers of the **Dallas-Houston** bullet train project - does not have the eminent domain authority probably necessary to begin construction. Earlier this year, federal authorities ruled that the Japanese technology envisioned for the effort may not meet US safety standards and will require a specific waiver. [Details](#).

San Antonio city officials are working with CPS Energy, **San Antonio** Water System, and VIA Metropolitan Transit to form a security operations center to centralize some data functions for the purpose of identifying and defending against cyber-security threats. Good idea for a city that is becoming a primary US hub for cyber-security technology businesses and government security operations. [Details](#).

Citing primarily data from **Los Angeles** analyzed by the Journal of American Medicine Network, the **Washington Post** reports that electric scooters are sending more people to hospital emergency rooms than bicycles or walking, nearly 250 people within the one-year period under study. Primary problem: 94% of scooter riders were not wearing helmets when injured. [Story](#).

A Trend to Watch: European fossil fuel companies are buying into electric automobile charging start-ups as more auto manufacturers begin conversion of their plants to satisfy increasing demand - and increasing limitations on carbon-based engines in major European capitals - for electric vehicles. Based on announcements at a recent **San Francisco** auto conference, this report looks at investments by French Total and British-Dutch Royal Dutch Shell's as they diversify in the face of change. [Story](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

City councilman Greg Brockhouse will challenge incumbent **San Antonio** mayor Ron Nirenberg's bid for a second term, he announced over the weekend. Brockhouse, first elected in 2017, is only the second city council member to face a sitting mayor in the last 20 years - Nirenberg himself was the last successful one. [Story](#).

A **Washington DC** think tank says one in four **San Antonio** workers are at risk of losing their jobs to automation in the near future, but the good news is that Alamo City is only in the mid-range of cities

exposed to automation impacts. Overall, the city ranked 41st among the top 100 US metros for automation potential. [Story](#).

The highway to a new NAFTA trade pact is paved with uncertainty, writes former US Ambassador to Mexico Antonio Garza in a **San Antonio** op-ed piece. 'USMCA,' the Trump administration's version of NAFTA known as the US Mexico Canada trade agreement, may get ratified by Mexico and Canada in 2019 or 2020, the trade specialist says, but uncertainty about its fate will continue to unsettle markets and businesses. [Opinion](#).

Efforts to ensure that that people don't end up in jail because they can't afford bail in **Bexar County** are being frustrated by judges who - they say - don't have the authority under state law to enact reforms already in place for **Harris County**. "It's very, very hard to change an existing system that's been in place for decades," said **Bexar County** judge Nelson Wolff, who's been pushing the reforms. [Story](#).

Happy Birthday and congratulations to **The Rivard Report**, the highly-local and gutsy **San Antonio** newsletter celebrating its seventh anniversary this month. Just last week the publication received a \$100,000 grant from a Facebook-related foundation to help nourish membership growth. [Details](#).

Thought of the Week

"Acting childish seems to come naturally, but acting like an adult, no matter how old we are, just doesn't come easy to us."

- Lily Tomlin

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