



Monday Morning Report *Presidents' Day Holiday Edition*

February 19, 2019

INTERNAL

The **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council's Executive Committee will meet on Wednesday March 20, 2019 at 2:00 pm, in **San Marcos**. For details, contact council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Financial consulting group Deloitte has created a new information management tool for gauging a city's real-time transportation efficiency, the 2019 Deloitte City Mobility Index, which measures urban mobility in terms of performance and resiliency, vision and leadership, and service levels and inclusiveness. The interactive index will be updated on an annual basis and, although it does not yet include **Austin** or **San Antonio**, it does provide a useful lens for examining how ready a city is for 'smart mobility.' Take a look [here](#).

The **New York Times** published a status report this morning on various companies developing hyperloop technologies, including one company with a completed test track outside of **Las Vegas**. Using magnetic levitation and vacuum tubes, the technology aims to move people and goods at over 600 miles-per-hour both above- and underground. Backers claim commercial deployment could begin by 2025. [Story](#).

San Antonio city council members on the Transportation & Capital Improvements Committee have directed their staff to focus more on alternative modes of transportation and traffic mitigation measures when making Federal grant applications for funds earmarked to address roadway congestion and air quality. City staff said they expect about \$60 million to be made available to **San Antonio** and **Bexar County** through application to the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. [Details](#).

Not surprisingly, Texas Central Railroad announced that it would appeal a ruling by a **Leon County** state court that the company - trying to build a high-speed rail link from **Dallas** to **Houston** - does not have the eminent domain authority probably required to complete their project. A statement from the company says they 'irrefutably' have the required powers and hoped to prove that in another court. [Story](#).

Corpus Christi intends to launch an autonomous vehicle pilot program later this year, possibly on the campus of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and eventually into the city's downtown. Current plans call for having a human 'safety attendant' aboard at all times. [Details](#).

Senate Bill 305 - filed by **Amarillo** state senator Kell Seliger - would potentially provide \$4 billion to state higher education facilities, including the University of Texas, Texas A&M, and Texas State University. Seliger says he came up with the number by adding to the bill every capital funding request generated by the higher education institutions' legislative teams. [Story](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

Of the 8762 census tracts in the US that have been officially designated as Opportunity Zones, 2905 (33%) either contain or are within 1/2 mile of a hospital. Three economic development experts analyze the role hospitals and healthcare systems can play as 'anchor institutions' in fully developing the potential of an Opportunity Zone as an economic driver for urban revitalization. [Opinion](#).

The new head of the **San Antonio** Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Diane Sanchez, says she'll be focusing on building diversity and data management - not surprising given her background in telecommunications and telecom-infrastructure administrative roles. She's replacing Ramiro Cavazos, who's moved on to lead the national Hispanic chambers organization. [Story](#).

The **Austin**-based Texas Economic Development Corporation leads a delegation to **San Francisco** this week, hoping to lure away companies disenchanted with the Golden State's high cost of living and high taxes. Participants include representatives from **Dallas, San Antonio, Houston**, and the Texas governor's office. This **Dallas Morning-News** article has a useful summary of recent corporate relocations from California to Texas. [Story](#).

Troubling: A record seven million Americans are more than 90 days behind on their auto loan payments, according to a report issued last week by the **New York** Federal Reserve Bank. Texas debtors owed - on average - about \$1000 more on car loans than any other state's residents. [Story](#).

The nation's premier 'smart mobility' advocacy organization - ITS America - hosts its 27th Annual Conference this year in **Washington DC**, June 4-7, organized around the theme of '*Intelligent Mobility: Safer. Greener. Smarter.*' Sign up [here](#).

Thought of the Week

"Believe you can and you're halfway there."

- Theodore Roosevelt

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