



Monday Morning Report

March 4, 2019

INTERNAL

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

INFRASTRUCTURE

Today at 12:00 noon there will be a Special Called Joint Meeting of the **Austin** city council and the board of directors of the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority, better known as Cap Metro, to discuss the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan and progress on Project Connect. Agenda and details [here](#).

Transportation officials in **Los Angeles County** are considering a tax on ride-sharing companies such as Lyft and Uber, saying the companies add to congestion yet contribute little to the cost of building and maintaining roadway infrastructure. **New York** and **Chicago** already collect a similar fee. A \$2.75 per ride surcharge would generate \$5.5 billion over the next decade, local officials said. [Story](#).

Imagine that you used a mobile application to order up a ride in an Uber or a taxi and the app told you, 'Sorry, you should take the bus.' That's something the city of **Los Angeles** is considering as it grapples with increasing congestion and shrinking physical space for more roads - a problem shared by nearly all US urban areas. Chris Tomlinson reports from the **Rivard Report's** 'Cities of the Future' conference in **San Antonio** last week. [Opinion](#).

At least one ride-sharing company, Lyft, believes that car ownership is trending toward a permanent decline. "We believe that the world is at the beginning of a shift away from car ownership to Transportation-as-a-Service," they told investors in an Initial Public Offering document last week. "Lyft is at the forefront of this massive societal change." They estimate that over 300,000 riders have given up their cars because of Lyft. [Story](#).

News reports over the weekend indicate that the National Traffic Safety Administration is looking in to two fatal accidents involving Tesla vehicles in **Del Ray Beach** and **Davie**, Florida, in February and March. Officials suspect the vehicles may have been using the company's Autopilot semi-autonomous mode. Critics say Tesla's advertising is misleading drivers into thinking the cars can fully drive themselves when they actually cannot. [Story](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

San Antonio's new city manager, Erik Walsh, has named his executive staff: Maria Villagomez becomes deputy city manager; Peter Zanoni remains a top deputy; Colleen Bridger will oversee Health, Parks and Recreation, Human Services and Equity; Brian Dillard is chief innovation officer; Alex Lopez was named deputy director of the Economic Development Office. [Details](#).

With the lifting of a ban on US oil exports, the Port of **Corpus Christi** has emerged as a major exporter of American petroleum products. Now the port authority there wants to widen and deepen the Corpus Christi

Ship Channel and build an offloading facility for Very Large Cargo Container ships on Harbor Island in nearby **Port Aransas** - a move fought by local residents, one of whom calls the city '**San Antonio's** beach' in this [video](#) on the project. *The Texas Tribune* wrote extensively on the project last year [here](#).

Accenture Federal Services, part of the global technology consulting firm, plans to add 500 new jobs and invest \$5 million in **San Antonio** over the next four years. The company already employs 1300 people at its Advanced Technology Center there. [Details](#).

Round Rock resident and **Williamson County** commissioner Russ Boles may be publishing the most interesting - and quirky - public official's column we've ever encountered in the ***Round Rock Leader***. This month's offering touts barbecue (which he calls 'the third rail of politics') in **Taylor**, a pie 'happy hour' in **Hutto**, and the magical fountain Dr. Pepper at his local Wag-A-Bag store. Check it out [here](#).

Thought of the Week

"The reality about transportation is that it's future-oriented. If we're planning for what we have, we're behind the curve."

- Anthony Foxx

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