



## Monday Morning Report

March 11, 2019

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### INTERNAL

The Executive Committee of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council meets Wednesday, March 20, at 2 pm in the Council offices at 304 North C.M. Allen Parkway in **San Marcos**. Jonathan Bean from the **San Antonio** TxDOT office will be updating the Committee on recent expansions to the \$1 billion IH-35 'NEX' improvement project. RSVP to [council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org).

Mark Your Calendars: Prepare to join us for an **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council planning retreat on Wednesday, April 17, from 10-2 pm in **San Marcos**. We've asked former **San Antonio** mayor - and Corridor Council co-founder - Henry Cisneros to join us for a strategic planning workshop to shape a five-year plan for the Council. RSVP [here](#).

We would also like to welcome new members, American Bank and Generations Federal Credit Union.

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### INFRASTRUCTURE

The *South By Southwest Conference* in **Austin** kicked off over the weekend and this year's lineup includes ten different panels on the Future of Transportation, including sessions on flying cars, the scooter revolution, and 'self-driving everything.' For a listing of sessions on tech and the transportation future, click [here](#). (Note: leave your car at home - vacant parking spots downtown are rarer than hen's teeth.)

Auto manufacturers and technology experts across the globe are wrestling with cyber security issues surrounding the deployment of self-driving vehicles, the **New York Times** reports. "It's an ongoing issue, not a fix-it-and-forget-it thing," says one intelligence analyst. An incident in **Austin** involving hacked data is highlighted in last week's report. [Story](#).

Lawmakers and transportation officials in **New York** are debating how the money generated from congestion pricing on city roads should be divided up between transit and highways. After several years of discussions between the state and **Manhattan**, Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Mayor Bill DeBlazio last month agreed upon a 10-point plan to address failing subways and stressed highway infrastructure. [Story](#).

The new **Austin** 'Strategic Mobility Plan' being rolled out for public comment across the city calls for shifting the transportation modal split towards modes (transit, bikes, pedestrian) other than single-occupant vehicles and cutting to zero the number of annual pedestrian fatalities by 2025. But there may be some conflict inherent in increasing traffic speeds while increasing safety. [Story](#).

That proposed private-sector high speed rail project between **Dallas-Houston** has been selected as the top infrastructure project in the US by the CG/LA advocacy group and named as the *numero uno* project of the 2019 Top 100 US infrastructure undertakings - not surprising, with an estimated price tag north of \$15 billion. [Details](#).

Our northern neighbor **Dallas** formed a special Transportation Department last year to guide the city's future into connected infrastructure, connected vehicles, and self-driving cars. As usual, there are continuing conflicts between increasing highway lanes or increasing transit and alternative modes, but

**Next City** reports that even Big D is expanding transit and considering limitations on new roadway expansions. [Story](#).

In her 'State of Travis County' address last week, Judge Sarah Eckhardt touted more than 60 transportation projects underway or completed from a 2017 bond package, highlighted some successes in the county court system, and renewed a call made earlier for the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority to put toll revenues toward regional transit projects. [Story](#).

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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

On the heels of last week's dismal jobs creation numbers, the Hamilton Project in **Washington** has published a piece examining where US jobs growth has occurred over the last 18 years. Using a 'Vitality Index' that measures various demographic and economic factors at the county level, the Index reveals that the rich urban areas get richer while the poorer, rural areas continue to struggle. [Report](#).

Boeing aerospace company is spending millions to expand its presence and workforce at Port **San Antonio**, one of 80 companies there contributing an estimated \$3.4 billion to the city's economy. Since 1988, Boeing has invested over \$100 million in its 168-acre campus at the Port, the **Rivard Report** says. [Details](#).

In an extremely in-depth analysis of growth and the economy in **Austin**, the local alternative newspaper looks this week at the prospects of an economic bust and the impacts that might have on land development in the wider region. The article pointedly notes that if the local economy sours, younger, mobile workers might flee. In typical **Chronicle** fashion the piece then asks, 'Will it be bad? Can we be ready? Or should we not care?' [Story](#).

## Thought of the Week

*"People don't live in Austin to work. They work to live there."*

- Robert Rodriguez

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