



## Monday Morning Report

April 8, 2019

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### INTERNAL

Many thanks again to **San Antonio's** Raba-Kistner Engineering Consultants for being the lead sponsor for the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council's *Strategy Planning Workshop*, upcoming next week in **San Marcos** on Wednesday, April 17. For details, email [council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org).

Please take a moment today to fill out the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council's regional attitudes survey. We've extended the deadline to April 12 but we'd like to have your responses as soon as possible. The survey takes about five minutes and can be found at:

<https://www.surveymoz.com/s3/4901908/Corridor-Council-Strategic-Plan-Survey>

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### INFRASTRUCTURE

According to the Congress for New Urbanism, one of the US 'highways to hell' that "deserve to die" is Interstate 35 through **Austin**. Don't panic yet though, as **San Francisco**, **New Orleans**, and **Denver** also had projects on their list. And the story is really about re-designing urban highways to create more valuable real estate. [Opinion](#).

**San Antonio's** ConnectSA project, a somewhat similar mobility planning exercise to **Austin's** Project Connect, is being shared with local civic and transportation groups in a broadened public outreach effort. The plan aspires to achieve eight central goals including sustainability, congestion management, leveraging technologies, and offering more transportation choices to users. It also emphasizes a heavy reliance on Advanced Rapid Transit - rubber-tired vehicles in dedicated lanes - in certain identified corridors. To get an outline of the plan, visit [here](#).

An important milestone in the Project Connect process will occur *today* at the Central **Austin** Library, from 3-6 pm, where Federal Transit Administration officials will be on hand for a public presentation on the Orange Line - a north-south corridor through the central city - with an as-yet undefined mode choice expected to eventually be light rail or Advanced Rapid Transit. [Details](#).

The Texas House Ways and Means Committee will hold a hearing tomorrow (4/9) on a measure important to **San Antonio's** Advanced Transportation District, House Bill 3258, which would increase funding available to the District by one half-cent with voter approval. The hearing is at 8:00 am in the John H. Reagan Building (Room 140) next to the Capitol. Bill text [here](#).

Virgin Trains USA (formerly Brightline) unveiled their **Miami** station last week with Sir Richard Branson on hand to show off a proposed "hub for transportation, business, dining, and entertainment" in the city's downtown area. Virgin has plans to connect **Las Vegas** and Southern California next. [Details](#).

Get ready for the ribbon-cutting ceremony on State Highway 45 Southwest in **Austin**. The event will be held Saturday, May 18, from 1-3 pm, on the tollway's Bear Creek Bridge. [Details](#).

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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

The city manager in **Seguin**, Doug Faseler, will be retiring next year, after serving in that position since 2006. He began working for the city initially in 1996. [Details](#). (half-way down page, right side column)

Auto parts supplier Continental predicts that vehicle software revenue will increase from about \$250 billion annually today to over \$1.2 trillion by 2030. The company's CEO said in **Stuttgart** last week that the quadrupling of revenues would result from software needs associated with driver-less vehicles. [Story](#).

**Business Insider** says three trends among millennials are wiping out the market for traditional 'starter homes:' they are renting longer and buying homes later in life; when they do eventually buy, they are looking at luxury homes geared to higher-incomes; and many are preferring to continue to rent in urban areas while buying a vacation home instead of a starter unit. [Story](#).

The city's oldest cab franchise, **Austin Cab Company**, is closing shop after 75 years in business, a victim of new alternate transportation options such as ride-sharing companies like Uber and Lyft, and yes, even scooters. [Story](#).

After years of fighting a truck driver shortage, the US freight movement industry appears to be retrenching in the face of slowing demand. Last week's Labor Department jobs report showed that national carriers cut 1100 jobs, despite overall jobs growth of more than 196,000. **The Wall Street Journal** reports that North American truck orders also plummeted last month compared to 2018. [Story](#).

## Thought of the Week

*"Formula for success: underpromise and overdeliver."*

- Thomas Peters

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