



Monday Morning Report

April 24, 2017

INTERNAL

The Corridor Council's Executive Committee is scheduled to meet Wednesday, May 17, 2:00 pm at our offices on 304 N. CM Allen Parkway, in **San Marcos**. James Kuhr, of the Center for Transportation Research, will give a presentation on the current status of CAV technology and the likely impacts on transportation in urbanized areas. All members are invited. Please RSVP your attendance to council@thecorridor.org.

Join us for an evening conversation and reception with TxDOT Deputy Executive Director, Marc Williams. Wednesday, May 10th at the **Austin** Club. We are honored to have Mr. Williams provide an update on transportation issues in the 85th Texas Legislative Session as well as talk about upcoming priorities for TxDOT in the **Austin-San Antonio Corridor** and the state of Texas. Cocktails and appetizers provided. Sponsorships are available. [Details](#).

Please join the Greater **Austin-San Antonio Corridor** Council, May 30, 11:30am – 1:00pm at the **San Antonio** Plaza Club for a Congressional Conversation & Luncheon with Congressman Joaquin Castro (TX-20) and Homeland Security Chairman Michael McCaul (TX-10). Sponsorships are available. [Details](#).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Leading transportation industry advocates in **Washington**, including the influential American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), are calling on Congress to protect infrastructure 2018 spending and note that transportation funding will have a shortfall of \$20 billion in 2018 over 2017 without action. [Details](#).

Apple has won permission to test self-driving vehicles on California roads - a big deal given their ongoing court battle with Waymo, Google's competitor outfit that has them tied up in court over technology-theft allegations. [Story](#).

Ben Wear today raises the issue of the TxDOT purchase of a toll road near **Laredo** to question whether toll road economics work, including the \$2.6 billion in debt that **Austin**-area toll roads are carrying. [Column](#).

Silicon Valley technologist Benedict Evans has made some interesting observations about the second and third order consequences of electric vehicles and the shift to self-driving vehicles in his recent newsletter. Bad news for the auto repair industry but good news for public safety [here](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

At least one of the dozens of people running for the city council in **San Antonio** in May, District 10 candidate Ezra Johnson, wants to revive the Lone Star project to connect **Austin** and **San Antonio** with passenger rail, as well as dedicated bus lanes. [Opinion](#).

The **Travis County** Central Health District has a new chief executive: Mike Geeslin, former executive director of the Texas Dental Association, will lead efforts for redeveloping University Medical Center Brackenridge in downtown **Austin**. [Details](#).

Join SAMCo Tuesday, June 13 at "Planes & Trains", a conversation about the future vision, economic trends, and impact of new technology in freight rail and air travel for the Alamo region with invited guest speakers Scott Moore, Union Pacific Sr. VP Corporate Relations and Russ Handy, **San Antonio** Airport Aviation Director. For more information, contact Leslie Harlan at 210-688-4407. [Registration](#).

A 25-mile stretch of highway US 190 from **Copperas Cove** to Interstate 35 has been designated Interstate Highway 14 and will eventually stretch from **El Paso** to **Savannah**, Ga., linking several military bases with Fort Hood near **Killeen**. More details [here](#).

The Texas Transportation Commission approved an update of the TxDOT's \$70 billion Unified Transportation Program that also includes more than \$38 billion in additional funding, which Gov. Abbott and the Legislature presented to the public in 2015 for approval as Proposition 7 and the ending of diversions of highway funds for other purposes. [Story](#).

Thought of the Week

"Perseverance is the hard work you do after you get tired of doing the hard work you already did."

~Newt Gingrich
