



Monday Morning Report

June 3, 2019

INTERNAL

Due to a technical glitch, you may have received two Monday Morning Reports today.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council is set for Wednesday, June 19, 2:00 pm, at the Council offices in **San Marcos**.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Business Insider reports that there is a growing belief among some financial analysts that we've arrived at 'global peak car,' that is, the highest number of vehicles that will ever be in service, and that global demand will only slant downward in coming years. They cite rising inventories, shrinking work forces (38,000 jobs lost in just the last six months), the rise of ride sharing, and collapsing commercial vehicle exports from the United Kingdom. [Story](#).

With the state's population expected to double by 2050 to 50 million people, the search for new sources of water has become more urgent. Moreover, Texas water law allows water policy to be sometimes fragmented and disjointed, broken up among many smaller utilities to service local priorities rather than state or regional efforts. That's the conclusion of a report datelined **Dallas** that favorably references **San Antonio's** efforts to provide water for 2.5 million people from a dozen different sources (including a desalination plant and a new well field 140 miles away). [Story](#).

Shenzhen, China became the first city in the world to convert nearly all of its buses and taxis to electric power and the story of that transition is full of economic and political subplots. But it is also a case study of how China used an array of policies to gain advantages in a strategic technology while the US lagged behind. Now, **Washington DC** itself is buying Chinese buses. [Story](#).

San Antonio is moving to regulate more closely the myriad e-scooter operators in the city and banning the ubiquitous vehicles from city streets. They've opened a bidding process from three local e-scooter franchises. [Details](#).

According to a survey of 120 American cities, only a tiny fraction have a 'clear plan' for the introduction of self-driving vehicles, 36% have general plans that mention autonomous vehicles (AV's), and just 24% have strategies for maximizing the safety and congestion-relief benefits expected from AV's. **Los Angeles** leads the pack in planning, the authors say. [Story](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

We've told readers before about an attempt by the Port of Corpus Christi to build facilities for Very Large Crude Carriers that required dredging the **Corpus Christi** Ship Channel to a depth of 77-80 feet near **Port Aransas** (the town some call '**San Antonio's** beach'). The Army Corps of Engineers withdrew

the permit application, ruling the project required full environmental review. An RFP for the environmental work has been issued by the Port. [Story](#).

San Antonio-based HEB grocery chain will demolish its largest and oldest store in **Austin** and replace it with a new multistory facility in the same location at the corner of Oltorf Street and Congress Avenue. A spokesperson said the new store would feature a beer garden, a food hall, and a stage for live music.

[Details](#).

Some say it's a bluff, others say it's not, but either way the Trump administration's announced imposition of tariffs on Mexico's exports to the US (set to begin a week from *today*) would impact border states disproportionately - particularly Texas - and profoundly affect states with distributed, continent-wide supply chains (see state-by-state impacts maps [here](#).) **Laredo**, which recently surpassed **Los Angeles** as the largest US trade hub, is bracing for the worst ([here](#)). But some economists believe the new tariffs reflect broader, brewing global trade conflicts last witnessed during the Great Depression of the 1930's.

[Story](#).

Conventional wisdom was that the Gen-Xers and millennials flooding urban areas for the last two decades would age, marry, and move out to the suburbs like their parents and grandparents. That's not happening, according to an upcoming study to be published in the ***Journal of Regional Science***. The younger population cohorts are remaining longer and later, says research from **New York, San Francisco** and other cities. [Story](#).

Oh, brother: New research has emerged from a **San Antonio** historian arguing that Texas was not so-called because of the Caddo Indian word for 'friendly,' but from the Spanish word for the 'yew trees' that early explorers saw in East Texas (bald cypress). And there's worse news: Davy Crockett didn't die at the Alamo but surrendered with six others. This is not going to end well. [Story](#).

Thought of the Week

"Happiness consists of living each day as if it were the first day of your honeymoon and the last day of your vacation."

- Leo Tolstoy

This newsletter was sent to you on behalf of council@thecorridor.org. It is available to our members. If you wish to unsubscribe from this newsletter, please [click here](#) to send an email request to council@thecorridor.org, or send your request to: Optout Request, Monday Morning Report, PO Box 1618, San Marcos, TX. 78667.

©2019 Austin-San Antonio Corridor Council