



Monday Morning Report

June 18, 2018

INTERNAL

There's no Executive Committee meeting this month for the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council, but the next Committee meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, July 18, 2 pm, at the Council offices in **San Marcos**. Details to follow. Further information from council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The **North Texas** region including **Dallas-Fort Worth** passed their Mobility 2045 plan last week - a nine-chapter, \$135 billion transportation spending plan - for a 13-county area expected to grow by 4 million residents, to more than 11 million people, over the next 25 years. About a third of that budget will go toward transit, and the plan relies heavily on toll roads. Coverage worth reading for local transportation policy makers [here](#).

Ford Motor Company is renovating an abandoned train station in downtown **Detroit** to develop a technology innovation center dedicated to the development of the next generation of autonomous, connected, and electric vehicles. Though the company forecasts a longer gestation period for self-driving cars than most of the other major manufacturers, officials see the new 18-story center as a magnet for the highly-skilled intellectual talent required for the revitalization of both the company and the city.

[Story](#).

Economists Joseph Kane and Adie Tomer have a proposal for how cities can create jobs, increase productivity, and raise wage levels: concentrate on revitalizing local water infrastructure. They say there are 1.7 million people employed in water infrastructure; workers in the sector earn competitive wages with lower educational barriers to entry; and they develop widely transferable skills across multiple disciplines. Their interactive report benchmarks the nation's 100 largest metro areas. [Report](#).

Polly Trottenberg, the current transportation commissioner of **New York**, told a US Senate committee in **Washington** last week that the Federal government is ignoring the suggestions of cities in the development of policies for self-driving cars and trucks. "I urge you to enlist the cities as partners," she said, specifically referring to the US Department of Transportation and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. [Story](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

Austin has been selected as a finalist in the competition to serve as the new Futures Command Headquarters for the US Army, charged with applying technology and innovation to the future of American military forces. Other cities being considered are **Minneapolis**, **Philadelphia**, **Raleigh**, and **Boston**. Current plans call for a staff of about 500 people to be up and running by summer of next year. [Details](#).

The **San Antonio** Mobility Coalition is hosting what should be an interesting event on August 15th from 11:30 am to 1:00pm: a budget forecast for Texas transportation funding in 2019 from State Comptroller

Glenn Hegar. The state's top revenue estimator and tax collector will gaze into his crystal ball about the Texas budget over the next two years. Details [here](#).

Home-sharing short-term rental company Airbnb collected over \$15.3 million in hotel-occupancy taxes in Texas last year, the **Dallas Morning News** reported, nearly double the amount (\$8 million) that had been projected. "Statewide data indicates that the short-term rental community is complementing - rather than competing with - the Texas hotel industry," the company said. [Details](#).

As many as 311,000 homes, many along the Texas Gulf Coast, could be facing floods every two weeks within the next 30 years due to climate change, according to a report from a specialist with the Union of Concerned Scientists. The report combined data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with the real estate company Zillow, and estimated the cost of such flooding at \$120 billion by 2045. [Story](#).

Thought of the Week

"Some people feel the rain. Others just get wet."

-Bob Marley

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