



## Monday Morning Report

June 28, 2021

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### INTERNAL

The **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council's Executive Committee is scheduled to meet July 21 at 2pm by videoconference. If you would like to add to the agenda, contact [council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org).

COVID-19 UPDATE: Global cases are at 181,167,056 today, with 3,924,865 deaths. Nearly 3 billion vaccine doses have been administered thus far. US cases have reached 33,625,392, with 603,967 deaths (6/28). (**Johns Hopkins**) Texas was reporting 2,543,158 confirmed cases with 51,199 fatalities yesterday, including in **Bexar County**: 185,945 cases with 3,625 deaths; **Guadalupe County**: 11,677 cases, still with 222 deaths; **Comal County**: 6,035 cases with 305 deaths; **Hays County**: 19,059 cases with 225 deaths; **Travis County**: 84,571 cases with 1,037 deaths; and **Williamson County**: 39,874 cases with 483 deaths (6/27/21). (**TDHHS**).

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### INFRASTRUCTURE

Within hours of announcing a bipartisan deal in **Washington** on two separate infrastructure packages - one through reconciliation and one through the regular order process - President Biden was scrambling over the weekend to walk back comments implying that the two measures were linked and that he would veto one if he didn't also get the other. The comments upset some on both sides of the aisle. The deal remains fragile. [Story](#). [More](#).

For years, older cities in the Northeast and Midwest have complained that they can no longer afford to maintain and upgrade their legacy infrastructure systems such as roads, bridges, dams, and water systems. Newer cities in the South and West are now facing the same financial challenge, **Governing Magazine** reports [here](#).

Longtime **San Antonio** civic leader Leo Gomez - currently CEO for the Brooks Development Authority - is urging residents to support an enhanced \$36 million highway connection to Loop 410 from south New Braunfels Avenue within the Brooks campus. Project description [here](#). [MAP](#).

About two-thirds of US drinking water originates in forests and, in the aftermath of wildfires, erosion can threaten the quality and quantity of water for US cities. In an article datelined out of **Bellvue**, Colo., the best environmental reporter in the country studies the long-term effects of forest fires on urban water supplies. [Story](#).

Winter storm Uri's power blackouts and the COVID-19 pandemic have focused the **Austin-Travis County** Food Policy Board's attention on 'the fragility and inequities in our systems' for maintaining food security. Among recommendations, the board is encouraging the production of more food locally. [Story](#).

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### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

Retailers report that global supply chains continue to deal with uncertainty, creating more shortages and disrupting production lines. Adding to the global microchip shortage and the recent blockage of the Suez

Canal, the port of **Yantian** - one of the busiest ports in the world and a through-point for 90% of the world's electronics - has been shut down by COVID-19. Warning bells for Amazon. [Story](#).

Batteries are the new oil, says **Axios**. The news service reports that shortages of raw materials used to make batteries for electric vehicles - largely controlled by China - are looming, even as US policy and automakers make a major shift away from gas-powered cars. 'You can't make ketchup without tomatoes,' says an involved CEO. [Details](#).

It took some time, but even the **New York Times** has noticed the creative-types migration from **Los Angeles** to **Austin**, publishing a piece last week on three actresses who made the move following pandemic-generated lifestyle re-examinations. High housing prices are duly noted, along with some interesting statistics (90,000 Californians moved to **Austin** in 2018-19), but not a word about the oppressive summer heat. [Story](#).

Our friends at the **San Antonio Report** have published a handy civic guide entitled '*Local Government 101: Your Roadmap to Local Government*,' that explains **San Antonio** and **Bexar County** jurisdictions, school boards, public utilities, and many other tax-supported entities impacting citizens' lives. Take a look [here](#).

**Austin's** soccer team successfully debuted its new stadium last week, but the story of how **Austin**, instead of **San Antonio**, got a major league franchise is starting to come out - and **Bexar County** judge Nelson Wolff is clearly not happy about how the deal went down. According to Wolff, conflicts of interest were involved. [Story](#).

Veterans' groups have turned their ire on **San Antonio's** largest company, USAA, with members threatening to cancel their accounts because of comments made by Fox News commentator Tucker Carlson about current US military leadership. The dispute has erupted on Twitter, and the **Huffington Post** has the details [here](#).

## Thought of the Week

*"Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."*

- Will Rogers

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