



## Monday Morning Report

September 13, 2021

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### INTERNAL

The **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee is meeting this Wednesday, September 15th at 2:00 pm by videoconference. For questions or contributions, contact [council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org). **Draft Agenda.**

**COVID-19 UPDATE:** As of today, confirmed global cases reached 224,749,500, with 4,632,043 deaths. US cases are at 40,956,471 with 659,984 deaths (9/13/21). (**Johns Hopkins**). Texas reported yesterday 3,189,853 cases with 58,855 deaths, including **Bexar County:** 243,104 cases with 4,328 deaths; **Guadalupe County:** 15,749 cases, with 273 deaths; **Comal County:** 9,662 cases with 388 deaths; **Hays County:** 26,669 cases with 285 deaths; **Travis County:** 109,645 cases with 1,221 deaths; and **Williamson County:** 57,064 cases with 582 deaths (9/12/21). (**TDHHS**).

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### INFRASTRUCTURE

Despite supply-chain problems, electric vehicle (EV) sales topped three million worldwide in 2020, a 40% increase over the previous year, and nearly 50% of consumers say they are seriously considering purchasing an EV or hybrid vehicle. A new **McKinsey & Company** report predicts substantial changes to auto maintenance, power train manufacturing, and public infrastructure as a result. **Story.**

The US currently has about 110,000 battery chargers for electric vehicles, but the **New York Times** reports that more than ten times that number will be required to achieve the Biden administration's policy guideline that 50% of all new cars sold by 2030 be electric. And despite rapid expansion (above), the US electric vehicle market remains relatively small at 4% of new sales and less than 1% of vehicles currently on US roads. **Story.**

**Forbes** reports that Israeli startup company StoreDot has created a prototype electric car battery, using silicon instead of graphite, then can recharge to full capacity in less than ten minutes - helping to resolve one more issue that has been hampering EV absorption rates, range anxiety. **Story.**

Tomorrow, Tuesday, September 14, from 12:30-2:00 pm (ET) the **Wall Street Journal** hosts 'The Future of Transportation' online conference on post-pandemic travel recovery with transit, airline, and railroad industry leaders. Everything from 'drones to infrastructure' is what they promise. Go **here** to learn more. **Register.**

An interactive web-based tool called the Flood Decision Support Toolbox lets emergency managers & the public have near real-time information on statewide reservoir and traffic conditions to assess flood risks and identify evacuation routes as a flood event is occurring. It also lets users see estimated economic impacts on homes and communities near monitoring sites. **Story** (2/3 down left column). **Website.**

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

Stanford University's Hoover Institution has published three essays explaining how California's tax policies are driving corporate headquarters out to states like Texas: "The primary reason...is economics, plain and simple. California is too expensive, too regulated, and too heavily taxed, both for companies and for the workers they hire. These businesses are predictably moving to states with lower costs, fewer regulations, lower taxes, and better quality of life for their workers." *Opinion*.

**Austin** energy writer Robert Bryce writes in the *Wall Street Journal* that Generac, the company that produces home generators, set a July sales record of \$920 million, a 68% increase over last year. And what's good for Generac, he opines, is bad for America: the Texas (and US) electrical grid is becoming less reliable. *Opinion*.

## Thought of the Week

*"Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it."*

- Charles R. Swindoll

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