



## Monday Morning Report

September 16, 2019

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### INTERNAL

The **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee is scheduled to meet *this* Wednesday, September 18, 2:00 pm at the Council offices in **San Marcos**, 304 N CM Allen Parkway. Please RSVP to [council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org).

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### INFRASTRUCTURE

The National Association of City Transportation Officials has released the second, updated version of its *Blueprint for Autonomous Urbanism*, a how-to guide for local jurisdictions preparing for a future of connected and self-driving vehicles. The report outlines policies and tools city departments can use to address street designs, pedestrian crossings, fleet services and administrative guidelines. [Details](#). Get the [report](#).

**Austin** ranked 5th and **San Antonio** ranked 11th in a study of US metropolitan areas at risk for widespread wildfire damage and associated reconstruction costs. According to the analysis, over 50,000 **Austin** residents risk up to \$16 billion in losses due to wildfires; in **San Antonio**, about 30,000 residents are exposed to just over \$8 billion in property losses. [Story](#). [Report](#).

**Austin** and **San Antonio** mobility planning could potentially get hit by a stray bullet in America's trade war with China: a legislative move in **Washington** to ban Chinese-manufactured vehicles - including subway cars and buses - from US markets. A smoke screen claim of fearing 'spy trains' is masking a deeper concern of disrupted markets for US manufacturers and freight lines. [Story](#).

A Texas judge in **Seguin** has stopped efforts to drain four lakes in **Guadalupe County** that were supposed to begin this week. Residents in areas surrounded lakes controlled by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) had filed a lawsuit claiming that draining the lakes would lower their property values, kill century-old cypress trees, and render the lakes unusable. GBRA says aged dams forming the lakes northeast of **San Antonio** are unsafe. **New Braunfels** has appealed for state assistance to repair the dams. [Story](#).

In pretty thorough wrap-up on the current status of high-speed rail in America, **US News & World Report** offers an analysis of the competitive situation between the Texas Central Railroad's proposed **Houston-Dallas** project and French operator SNCF's **Dallas-Laredo** proposal. [Story](#). [More](#).

Some **New Orleans** residents got so tired of waiting for city crews to fix a pothole in their neighborhood that they named it 'Homer's Hideout,' furnished it, and offered the space up for rent on AIRBNB. Pretty clever, and it worked. [Story](#).

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### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

Although it made for big headlines and shocking video - and will probably roil energy and stock markets for a few weeks - the **Wall Street Journal** reports that the impacts of this weekend's drone attacks on

Saudi Arabian oil facilities are more psychological than actual. They say redundancies in Saudi oil infrastructure should have production output back to normal this week. [Story](#).

**New York's** High Line elevated parkway enhanced local tax base along its route by over \$1 billion but, critics say, forced out residents as property values nearby escalated. Now, a multi-university study of 17 different parks projects nationwide proposes solutions for 'adaptive reuse' that allow for 'greening without gentrification.' **Austin's** Waller Creek project is mentioned for having no 'displacement features at all.' [Story](#).

Former **Express-News** editor Bob Rivard, who will be hosting a one-on-one breakfast forum with **San Antonio** mayor Ron Nirenberg this Wednesday (9/18), posted a series of questions in the **Rivard Report** that he believes the mayor needs to answer as he enters his second term after an 'unexpectedly' close reelection. Among them: racism, economic inequality, guns, immigration, and climate change. [Details](#).

Texas Speaker of the House Dennis Bonnen is under fire for providing an activist a 'hit-list' of 10 Republicans he supposedly wanted defeated - this after asking his Republican colleagues not to oppose any current incumbents. Veteran **San Antonio** journalist Rick Casey suggests that the reason Bonnen's targets made the list was because of 'anti-city' legislation that would have banned political jurisdictions from hiring lobbyists. [Opinion](#).

A **Business Insider** columnist compares electric vehicle manufacturers Elon Musk (Tesla) and RJ Scaringe (Rivian) to combustion car-makers Henry Ford (Ford Motor Company) and Alfred Sloan (General Motors) and, in the process, reveals some interesting history on innovation, building the modern corporation, and how personal attitudes can influence the direction of giant enterprises. [Story](#).

## Thought of the Week

*"If I had asked people what they wanted, they would have said  
faster horses."*

- Henry Ford

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