



Monday Morning Report

October 7, 2019

INTERNAL

Mark your calendars: The next meeting of the Executive Committee of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council is scheduled for Wednesday, December 18, 2:00 pm at the Council offices in **San Marcos** (304 North C.M. Allen Pkwy). For questions or to add items to the agenda, email council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

A **Houston** energy company with ties to the owner of **Texas Monthly** magazine has canceled plans to build a petroleum products pipeline through the Hill Country and over the Edwards Aquifer near **San Antonio**. The company is reportedly currently seeking a less controversial route for the project, but some say the whole enterprise points to a lack of state oversight and authority over pipelines. [Story](#). [Opinion](#).

In an attempt to combat the 'heat island effect' and global warming, the city of **Los Angeles** - with thousands of miles of heat absorbing black roads - began painting black streets white. The problems with this practice were just pointed out by a University of California at **Los Angeles** study: the white streets are making pedestrians feel 7 degrees hotter because of reflected heat. Back to the drawing board. [Story](#).

Also worried about global warming, landscape architects around the world have united to create the Climate Positive Design Challenge with this goal: all landscape architecture project created between now and 2030, such as new parks, corporate campuses, or playgrounds, should be designed to store or sequester more carbon than they emit. Organizers say doing so will eliminate a gigaton of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere by 2050. The project is touting new software developed by a **San Francisco** consultancy. [Story](#).

The US Army Futures Command in **Austin** has announced a multi-year, \$65 million deal with Texas A&M University System to develop new technologies for laser and hyper-sonic defense weaponry, including materials for withstanding hyper-velocity blasts, coordinated maneuvering of air and ground vehicle, and resilient computer networks for autonomous vehicles to share battlefield information. [Story](#).

The proliferation of services like e-scooters, shared bikes, shared rides and other new mobility mechanisms has left a gap in data about just how much and why consumers are using such services - and how much they are impacting public transportation systems. A startup company in **Palo Alto** has begun answering such questions for participating cities. [Story](#).

At a freight movement conference in **Dallas** last month, experts debated the extent and rate of absorption for autonomous vehicles in to the North American freight fleet and two clear trends emerged: those who believe that infrastructure will improve incrementally to enable autonomous vehicle deployment, and those who believe that widespread infrastructure improvement is needed before widespread deployment can take place. The answer might tell us what happens next in freight movement. [Story](#).

As both **Austin** and **San Antonio** struggle with giving up single-occupancy car lanes for dedicated bus lanes, as other cities from **Seattle** to **New York** are doing, **Los Angeles** Metro is circulating a fascinating

film clip showing just how much more efficient dedicated bus lanes can be: moving 70 buses per hour in dedicated lanes. [Clip](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

Capital Metro in **Austin** is seeking a new vice president of operations and maintenance oversight to ensure contract compliance on all aspects of their fixed route and ride share services. They're looking for a seasoned professional to oversee a long laundry list of projects with a salary range from \$140,000 to \$182,000 per year. [Details](#).

At the time of his death at 112 last year, Richard Overton was the oldest living World War II veteran. Now, there's an effort to have his former home in East **Austin** designated as an historical landmark. The city's Historic Preservation office approved the initial zoning last week. [Details](#).

Corridor Council founder (and former **San Antonio** mayor) Henry Cisneros is merging the investment company that he started with a **New York** firm to form Shank Williams Cisneros LLC. The deal is set to close next month and Cisneros will become vice chairman of the new firm. [Details](#).

Money Inc magazine published its '2019 Worst Companies to Work For' list and, among notable retail outlets like Dillard's or bankrupt entities such as Forever 21, the one that caught our eye was **Omaha's** Union Pacific Railroad, rated by its 10,000-plus employees as the Number One worst company to work for in the US. [Story](#).

Thought of the Week

"No man is above the law and no man is below it; nor do we ask any man's permission when we require him to obey it. Obedience of the law is demanded; not asked as a favor."

- Theodore Roosevelt

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