



## Monday Morning Report *Columbus Day Edition*

October 15, 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 Parkway). For questions or to add items to the agenda, email [council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org).

---

### INFRASTRUCTURE

Hourly bus service between **Austin** and **San Antonio** is being proposed once again by former Alamo City mayor (and Corridor Council founder) Henry Cisneros. 'Behind the scenes talks' have been ongoing between **San Antonio's** VIA and **Austin's** Capital Metro, he said, though that news seemed to come as a surprise to a Cap Metro spokesperson according to one report. Several private companies currently provide such services and a contract arrangement with one of them seemed the most likely outcome of the talks. [Story](#).

While **Austin-San Antonio** transit systems pursue traditional or autonomous bus systems for internal and external connections, our neighbors to the north in **Dallas-Ft. Worth** are investing heavily into new rail systems. Just months after opening a connection from **Fort Worth** to DFW Airport, planners have announced a new line - to go operational by 2022 - that will connect the airport to the suburb cities of **Coppell, Carrollton, Addison, Richardson, and Plano**. More details [here](#).

An electric, pilot-less air drone designed by Boeing has completed 114 successful test flights at a range in **Pendleton**, Oregon. The 8-fan, single occupancy drone is envisioned by Boeing as an airborne alternative to existing ride-share services, soaring over increasingly congested urban streets and highways. Some say the technology is running years ahead of regulators and public acceptance. [Story](#).

The scale and scope of TxDOT's planned \$7 billion re-make of **Houston's** highway system is becoming apparent as the projects move forward, particularly for the city's historic black neighborhoods and the Fifth Ward: TxDOT expects to acquire 162 single family homes, 643 multifamily units, and 508 public housing units for improvements to the downtown loop system (including Interstates 10, 45, and 69). [Details](#).

A judge's temporary stay order has prevented the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority from draining a series of lakes along the Guadalupe River northeast of **San Antonio**, but that hasn't prevented anger over the situation from flooding the agency with complaints for allowing the dams to reach such a crisis point that two have already collapsed. The latest developments [here](#). More [here](#) on proposed repair deal (halfway down left side column).

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

**Austin** joins a list of 29 other major world cities (including **Athens, Lisbon, Venice, and Copenhagen**) that have managed to steadily reduce their greenhouse gas emissions since 2015, according to a new report from a coalition of cities known as C40 - mayors of the globe's largest urban areas - just ahead of the upcoming World Mayors Summit in **Copenhagen**. Altogether, the 30 cities represent 58 million urban citizens. [Story](#).

Some of the biggest players in the **San Antonio** biomedical complex - UT Health San Antonio, Brooke Army Medical Center, the Southwest Research Institute, and the Texas Biomedical Research Institute - have announced a \$1.25 billion 'Precision Therapy Collaborative' that promises new technologies, new jobs, and new opportunities for the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor. [Opinion](#).

A former mayoral candidate in **San Antonio** in 2009, public relations executive Trish DeBerry, has tossed her hat into the ring to replace retiring **Bexar County** commissioner Kevin Wolff. Candidates have until Dec. 9 to file for the March primary election. [Details](#).

**Atlantic** magazine's James Fallows says one of the simplest, most-effective things communities can do to impact air quality and increasing temperatures is to plant trees. Lots of them. He reports on various tree-planting projects and impacts in the US, including his hometown of **Redlands**, California, and offers organizing tips for those interested in pursuing large-scale tree projects. [Story](#).

A startup company in **Austin**, Icon, has come up with 3D printing technology capable of building tiny homes in about a day for a fraction of the cost of traditional construction methods, they say. The company hopes to target the growing demand for affordable housing across the US. [Details](#).

**Texas Government Insider** profiled **San Antonio's** Chief Innovation Officer, Brian Dillard, last week. He's a third generation Eastside San Antonian but spent ten years in the military as a cyber security specialist with postings in **Omaha**, South Korea, and the United Kingdom. [Details](#).

A 500-acre section of an iconic ranch along the Blanco River may become a **Hays County** park as part of a cooperative pact put together by commissioner Lon Shell with the Hill Country Conservancy, a conservation group based in **Austin**. The proposed park is part of the El Rancho Cima, a former Boy Scout Ranch on the outskirts of **Wimberley**. For more details, go [here](#).

Best New Idea: In France, mail carriers for the national postal service also perform welfare checks on the elderly or infirm and let other family-members or friends know if there are any new needs, concerns, or health problems. Each visit takes 6-15 minutes and those visited sign a receipt acknowledging items and outcomes discussed, just like signing for a package. The subscription service, called 'Watch Over My Parents,' began in 2013 following a heatwave that killed thousands, many elderly. [Story](#).

## Thought of the Week

*"You can never cross the ocean unless you have the courage to lose sight of the shore."*

- Christopher Columbus

This newsletter was sent to you on behalf of [council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org). It is available to our members. If you wish to unsubscribe from this newsletter, please [click here](#) to send an email request to council@thecorridor.org, or send your request to: Optout Request, Monday Morning Report, PO Box 1618, San Marcos, TX. 78667.

©2019 Austin-San Antonio Corridor Council