



## Monday Morning Report

October 22, 2018

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### INTERNAL

As per our revised meeting schedule for the Executive Committee of the **Austin-San Antonio Corridor Council** there will be no meeting this month, but the next scheduled meeting for the Executive Committee is Wednesday, December 19 at 2pm.

RSVP or submit agenda items to [council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org).

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### INFRASTRUCTURE

Some major themes that emerged from a big national transportation conference of influence leaders in **Baltimore** last week: innovations generated by states will shape national policies emanating from the White House; increased tolling of Interstates will be the key to rebuilding the system nationwide but will require public acceptance; mileage-based tolling (such as the Oregon experiment) are spreading; and 'trucks only' tolling - despite discrimination lawsuits - are being implemented by more states on a targeted basis. [Story](#).

Elon Musk says the first of his Boring Company test tunnels, from **Hawthorne** to downtown **Los Angeles**, will open to public on the night of Dec. 10, followed by 'free rides for the public the next day.' His proposed transit system, he says, will travel at 150 miles an hour using 'skates' for passengers or cars. [Details](#).

**London**-based publication *Traffic Technology International* this month profiles the director of the Texas Transportation Institute at Texas A&M at **College Station** - Gregory Winfree - a former Obama administration assistant secretary for research and technology at the US Department of Transportation. Interesting recap of TTI past projects and future strategies is included. [Profile](#).

An important commission appointed by mayor Ron Nirenberg has concluded that **San Antonio** International Airport should be expanded, rather than relocated, and rejected the notion the facility was 'landlocked.' The commission is recommending that runways be realigned, commercial enterprise locations shifted, and said new land purchases are cheaper than relocation options. The conclusions were "right on the mark," according to former city council member (and former Chamber of Commerce president) Joe Krier. [Story](#).

The **San Antonio** Mobility Coalition will be hosting "*The 2019 Legislative Session: What Lies Ahead*" luncheon with confirmed panelists Sen. José Menéndez, Rep. Justin Rodriguez, and Steven Albright on Thursday, November 29. [Details](#).

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

Amazon's HQ2 team seems to have zeroed in on urban locations as the potential site for its 50,000 employee, \$5 billion second campus, the *Wall Street Journal* reports. The paper says Amazon

executives have revisited urban environments like **New York, Washington DC, Chicago, Newark, and Miami**. Story includes a shortlist of updated Amazon requirements. [Story](#).

**Austin** (-1.6%) and **San Antonio** (-1.1%) were among 11 top metro areas in the US to experience falling rent prices last month, according to a Zillow Rent Index real estate study. "Rents remain high by historic standards, but September's modest annual decline in rents should ease some of the pressure pushing higher-income renters to buy," said one of their economists. [Details](#).

**Rivard Report** editor Bob Rivard unloaded over the weekend on the **San Antonio** fireman's union charter amendment proposals on the ballot Nov. 6 calling one of them - term limits for city managers - 'the definition of ridiculousness.' And then he got tough. He also makes a 'return on investment' argument for city manager Sheryl Sculley that's hard to contest. Read it [here](#).

Expect 'unprecedented action' later this week when the Lower Colorado River Authority opens eight floodgates on Mansfield Dam above **Austin** in response to heavy flooding across Central Texas. Our neighbors in **Llano, Kingsland, Marble Falls, and Granite Shoals** in **Llano** and **Burnet Counties** are all suffering from too much rain - with more potentially expected over the next week. [Details](#).

## Thought of the Week

"The hardest thing about any political campaign is how to win without proving that you are unworthy of winning."

- Theodor Adorno

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