



Monday Morning Report

January 13, 2025

INTERNAL

The **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee meets *this* Wednesday, January 15 at 2 PM by Zoom. [Draft Agenda](#). For more information, email council@corridor.org.

City of **Austin** council member Paige Ellis, chair of the city's Mobility Committee and member of the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization board, will be joining the Executive Committee of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council as of this month. Her [bio](#).

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts will release the Legislature-guiding 2026-2027 Biennial Revenue Estimate in **Austin** today, Monday, January 13, at 2:00 pm. [Story](#). Watch the presentation live [here](#).

With the Legislature starting up again this week, **San Antonio Axios** provides a handy guide to this session's major agenda items, including the state budget, school funding, the border, and the Speaker's race [here](#).

Officials have announced that AECOM will lead the management of project delivery teams for the first phase of **Austin's** \$7 billion Project Connect light rail effort, set to begin construction in 2027. The four-year, \$98.5 million contract includes 10-miles of electric rail, 15 stations, and related bike/path projects. [Story](#). [Details](#). [More](#).

[Rail News Roundup](#): **North Texas** leaders prepare to spend at least \$1 million defending lawsuits threatening a **Dallas-Ft. Worth** high-speed rail connection ([here](#)); California is moving into the track-laying phase of construction for the first 22-miles of the **Central Valley** high-speed rail project ([here](#)); and Amtrak received \$21-million towards restoring service between **Mobile** and **New Orleans** along the Gulf Coast line. [Story](#).

The average US driver lost 43 hours to traffic congestion in 2024, the latest *INRIX Global Traffic Scorecard* reported last week. **San Antonio** motorists ranked 21st on the list, virtually tied with **Austin** (22nd) at about 39 hours lost to traffic congestion (almost two days worth of time). **New Braunfels'** delays *decreased*. [Details](#).

Since it coincided with brutally cold weather last week, it's too early to judge whether the nation's largest test of congestion pricing in **New York** is working, but early reports had buses on time, fewer cars on the streets, shorter tollway wait times, and less bridge traffic. That hasn't stopped grouching about the costs to drivers. [Story](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

RealPage, a property management software company widely used to suggest rental prices to landlords, has been sued by the US government for unlawfully decreasing competition in housing markets. The **Washington Post** posted a tool allowing users to see buildings owned by involved companies. Check your city [here](#).

A new cost-of-living index by **Numbeo**, places **Austin** rental costs at 50.1 compared to rents in **New York**, 12th highest in the US and *the* highest in Texas. **San Antonio** clocked 34.6; **Houston**, 39.8; **Dallas**, 46.2. [Details](#).

Billions of dollars had been invested in autonomous driving technologies by the time Tesla rolled out its robotaxi prototypes late last year (appropriately, in **Hollywood**), and **Insider EV News** took the opportunity to compare Elon Musk's version with those of Google's Waymo and General Motors' Cruise. Here are the results. [Story](#).

Kyle has a new director of transportation and public works, city of **Austin**-veteran Mike Trimble. [Details](#).

The **San Antonio Express-News** surveys upcoming **Hill Country** projects, including putting a spotlight on new businesses in **Boerne**, **Buda**, **Fredericksburg**, **New Braunfels**, **San Marcos**, and **Kyle**, but most importantly, answering the burning question on everyone's minds: where will the next Buc-ee's be? [Story](#).

Thought of the Week

"Anyone can be successful in life, regardless of natural talent or the environment within which we live."

– Jimmy Carter

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