



Monday Morning Report

February 26, 2024

INTERNAL

At last Wednesday's meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee (2/21) members heard presentations from advocacy groups *Texas Water Trade* and *Transit Forward*, received updates on regional passenger rail developments, TxDOT's long term improvement plans for IH-35 between **Austin** and **San Antonio**, other regional infrastructure issues, and a new federally-funded water resources and resiliency study of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor being initiated by **San Marcos**-based Texas State University. [Final Agenda](#).

The next meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 20 at 2 PM by Zoom. To add an item to the agenda, contact council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

At a conference in **San Marcos** last week TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams declared that due to surging population and trade growth, construction work on Interstate 35 between **Austin** and **San Antonio** "will never conclude." Faced with that cheerful prospect, the **Austin Monitor** has published the '*Ultimate Guide to IH-35 Expansion*,' detailing the long-term rebuilding plans for Central **Austin**. First story [here](#). [More](#). [Still More](#).

The **Austin** Transit Partnership, formed to manage the Capital Metro and city's Project Connect light rail and transit efforts, has moved to seek official approval of their funding model - possibly hoping to thwart a lawsuit filed by opponents. The partnership is also trying to issue the first \$150 million in bonds for design and engineering on the multi-billion project. [Story](#).

Recent transactions between the University of Texas and the city of **San Antonio** have increased speculation that the Spurs basketball team may be headed toward a brand new stadium in the heart of downtown, possibly at the current site of the Institute of Texan Cultures. [Story](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

It now appears that recently announced site acquisitions by **Austin**-based Tesla in **Kyle** and **Hutto** will be part of the electric vehicle manufacturer's expanding battery-development operations. The new insights into Tesla's planned moves into the cities were gleaned by the **American-Statesman** from job postings. [Story](#).

The **Washington Post** reports from a big annual auto show in **Pittsburgh** that US electric vehicle sales continue to lag projections, although sales of fully electric vehicles are still growing much

faster than gasoline-powered cars. The market share of plug-in hybrids is growing faster, too, they report. [Story](#).

The expanding state government presence at the Texas-Mexico border is good news for at least one **New Braunfels** company: the *Herald-Zeitung* reports that Team Housing Solutions was awarded a \$130 million contract to construct a new base in **Eagle Pass** for the National Guard. [Details](#).

RSVP Now! to the premier of **Austin** energy writer Robert Bryce's new five-part film series *Juice: Power, Politics, and The Grid* at the AFS Cinema on Monday, March 4, 6:30-8:30, 6259 Middle Fiskville Road. [Details](#). RSVP [here](#).

Just because it's featured on the *Express-News* website this morning, and only for that reason, we're alerting you to a **Wallet Hub** study claiming - based upon a series of questionable 'direct' and 'indirect' criteria - that **Austin** folks are harder-working than **San Antonio** folks. We're staying out of it. [Story](#).

Thought of the Week

"Do exactly what you would do if you felt most secure."

- Meister Eckhart

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