



Monday Morning Report

March 25, 2024

INTERNAL

The Executive Committee of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council met last week via Zoom for a presentation on an upcoming federally funded climate-water-and-energy study of The Corridor by Dr. Soe Myint and nine colleagues spearheaded by Texas State University. Also on the agenda: regional population updates, latest EV-adoption numbers, area highway improvements, and new developments with high-speed rail. [Final Agenda](#).

INFRASTRUCTURE

They're calling it 'Day Zero,' the point at which sometime this June **Mexico City** - home to 21 million people - will run out of water. **Axios** says the growing scarcity of water - the capital city is already rationing - in parts of Mexico is a bellwether of how worsening climate change may affect cities all over the world. Meanwhile, the nation's farmlands are running out of workers, as crop-picking migrants age or stream north to the US. [Story](#). [More](#).

It feels a little like that Y2K scare that never materialized but officials are warning about massive traffic jams along the route of April 8th's solar eclipse 'path of totality,' which includes the **Austin-San Antonio Corridor**. A similar event in 2017 caused 15-hour traffic jams in some rural areas, the **Washington Post** reports [here](#).

People in the US travel an average of 42 miles daily, according to a new study from mobility analytics firm Replica that looked at all modes including personal automobiles, public transit, walking, biking, and more. **Travis County** averaged 23.2 vehicle miles traveled per person; **Bexar County**, 22.9 per person. [Story](#). [Data Set](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

A \$1.3 billion data center has cleared preliminary hurdles for a 206-acre campus in **Caldwell County**, 10-miles east of **San Marcos** and about 3-miles northwest of **Lockhart**, officials told the **Express-News** last week. National developer Prime Data Centers is the, well, prime mover behind the project. [Story](#).

A fast-growing Swiss climate-tech company has chosen **Austin** as the site for its US headquarters. Climeworks, based in **Zurich**, specializes in direct air-capture carbon removal using giant turbines, chemicals, and minerals to remove carbon from the atmosphere and store it underground. [Story](#).

Climate change is already putting pressure on the economic, political, and social fabric of the US, the **Brookings Institute** reports, but that change is just the start: a new study of the Great

Migration of Black Americans from the south to the north points out how dramatically climate migration could affect the country soon. [Study](#).

Want to meet the new **Austin** city manager? A free public event later *today* (3/25) will host finalist candidates Sara Hensley and T.C. Broadnax from 6:00-7:30 pm at a city center at 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Dr. [Details](#).

The **San Antonio Express-News** reports that recent **Boca Chica** rocket launches by SpaceX have also launched a 'branding race' among **South Texas** towns hoping to cash-in on space-related tourism and prompting **Brownsville** to adopt the moniker 'Newspace City.' As if *Starbase* wasn't bad enough. [Story](#).

Just For Fun: A longtime friend of the Corridor Council sent us this [video](#) of a Chinese Rapid Transit train that apparently operates without tracks or overhead wires but follows a buried fixed guide-way system. And since we're thinking big about the future, why not trains on the moon? NASA contractor Northrup Grumman is already eyeing a transit project for a lunar colony. *Earth First*. [Story](#).

Thought of the Week

"A will finds a way."

- Orison Swett Marden

This newsletter is available to our members. If you wish to unsubscribe, please send an email request to council@thecorridor.org.

©2024 Austin-San Antonio Corridor Council