



Monday Morning Report

April 8, 2024

INTERNAL

The next meeting **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, April 17 at 2pm by Zoom. If you would like to add an item to the agenda, contact council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Axios news service calls **New York** city congestion pricing, set to begin in June, 'the biggest urban experiment in decades,' a first-in-the-nation policy they say other American cities - **Seattle, San Francisco, and Washington DC** are cited - might be eager to replicate. Motorists will pay \$15 to enter mid-town, with the revenue going to regional transit agencies. [Story](#).

Interstate 35 was the main topic discussed at last week's **Austin** Chamber of Commerce Regional Summit, with various panelists outlining construction timelines, 'Cap and Stitch' efforts, and upcoming related public meetings. TxDOT rolled out their Construction Partnership Program to keep residents and businesses updated. [Story](#).

Trains are cleaner, air pollution wise, than planes, right? Think again. A **New York Times** writer calculated the carbon footprint for her **New York-to-San Francisco** cross-country trip by Amtrak and a similar trip for airplanes and found that, for shorter trips, trains are indeed cleaner, but over long distances jetliners were more efficient. [Commentary](#).

Keying off the recent ship collision-induced **Baltimore** bridge collapse, economist Paul Krugman examines the relationship between supply chain disruptions and inflation in the US economy, finding that the global supply chain pressure index has worsened significantly since August. Issues at the Panama Canal & Red Sea attacks are cited. [Opinion. More. Still More.](#)

Texas State University hosted the first of a two-part Groundwater Symposium on April 2. Groundwater conservation district leaders discussed management and conservation of local aquifers. A synopsis of the discussions can be found [here](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

This morning's **New York Times** quotes a University of Texas at **San Antonio** economist who pegs the statewide economic impact of the eclipse today at \$285 million. "The most profitable 22 minutes in Texas history," predicted the economist, Bulent Temel, in a related **Express-News** opinion piece. [Story. Opinion.](#)

Austin-based Tesla's lousy last week (disastrous production and sales figures, [here](#)) was capped off by a **Reuters** news report claiming the company was canceling a long-underway project to

develop a super low-cost, mass-market electric vehicle. Owner Elon Musk responded on X that **Reuters** was 'lying.' [Story](#).

Texas has attracted more millennials recently (400,000 in the last year) than any other state, reports the **San Antonio Express-News**, and a new study by a moving company explains why: better housing and better job opportunities. Despite high interest rates and affordability issues, Texas outshines New York and California. [Story](#).

Food & Wine magazine has named **Austin** as the 4th best foodie city in the US, citing in particular Nixta Taqueria and 2023 Restaurant of The Year, Birdie's. They include a link to Chef-of-the-Year Edgar Rico's Guide to the Texas Capital, which (criminally) doesn't even mention Maudie's. [Story](#). [Rico's Guide](#).

Thought of the Week

"The reappearance of the light is the same as the survival of the soul."

– Victor Hugo

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