



Monday Morning Report

May 1, 2023

INTERNAL

The next meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17 at 2pm by Zoom videoconference. For more information or to add to the agenda, email council@thecorridor.org.

"*Getting There: The Texas Electric Transportation Roadmap*," the new book put out by our partners at the Texas Electric Transportation Resources Alliance, has a handy QR code inside that is updated in real time and will tell motorists where the nearest working electric charging station is anywhere in the US. Check it out [here](#).

The Central Working Group for TxDOT's I-10 Corridor Study meets this Friday, May 5, 9-11:30 am, at the Alamo Area Council of Governments, 2700 Loop 410, Suite 101, in **San Antonio**. More information [here](#).

INFRASTRUCTURE

A largely anti-transit policy analyst for the conservative Cato Institute in **Washington** says Texas can learn from Florida in delivering higher-speed passenger rail services. Mark Joffe, in an opinion piece for the **Dallas Morning News**, cites Brightline's use of existing corridors (railways and highways) to rapidly deploy service between **West Palm Beach** and **Orlando**, as opposed to new greenfield routes through farmland. [Story](#).

The recent merger of Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern railroads (now CPKC) - effectively a US-Mexican railroad - has created a scramble for new intermodal arrangements (and tensions) among Class 1 railroads servicing freight trade flows between US-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement partners. Union Pacific and BNSF are not happy about it and are responding with their own new intermodal partnerships. [Story](#).

Non-stop flight access from **San Antonio** to **Washington's** Reagan National Airport got a boost last week from a new business coalition ([Capital Access Alliance](#)) fighting the 1,250-mile 'perimeter rule,' which limits certain flights from using the closest airport to the US Capitol - a years-long quest by US Rep. Henry Cuellar. [Story](#). [More](#).

That trouble-plagued \$1 billion Harbor Bridge project in **Corpus Christi** took another hit last week, a crane fire 450-feet in the air that resulted in falling debris injuring two people who were watching a Hooks baseball game nearby. Already five years behind schedule, this latest event can't help the timeline. [Story](#). [More](#).

Although they are amazing tourists, driverless robo-taxis in **San Francisco** are causing traffic jams, frustrating local drivers, and leading to an increase in collision incidents - including recently rear-ending a public bus ([here](#)). Similar issues are cited in **Phoenix**, **Austin**, and **Los Angeles**, the **Washington Post** reports. [Story](#).

While **San Antonio** has about 250 electric vehicle charging stations, only 30 of them are 'fast' stations enabling a vehicle to re-charge in under an hour - all of those are on the city's north side, says the **San Antonio Report**. Good news: the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is set to receive \$18.6 million to fix that. [Story](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

A nationwide shortage of construction workers may pose a major challenge to building projects in the **Austin-San Antonio Corridor**, the **Express-News** reports. With billions of dollars in investments pouring in to fund infrastructure and development, trade associations are launching new workforce development efforts to solve the problem. [Story](#).

San Antonio developer Kairoi Residential is seeking approvals to rezone over 100-acres of riverfront in east **Austin** for a massive project that would include 2,219 residential units, 3.4 million sq. ft. of office space, 184,000 sq. ft. of restaurants, a 127,000 square foot shopping plaza, and a 385-room hotel, the **Express-News** reports. [Story](#).

Mayoral candidates in **New Braunfels** took to the pages of the local **Herald-Zeitung** last week to lay out their platforms and visions for the city's future. Growth-related issues, policing, water resources, economic development, and new parkland proposals seemed to be common themes. [Story](#).

A second study emerged last week confirming record sea level rise along the Texas **Gulf Coast**, this one attributing unprecedented water levels in at least 120-years to a combination of warmer temperatures and so-called 'Rossby waves' - massive 600-mile-wide ocean undulations invisible to human eyes. [Story](#).

Thought of the Week

"Nothing ever seems impossible in Spring, you know."

– L.M. Montgomery

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