



## Monday Morning Report

May 4, 2026

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### INTERNAL

The next scheduled meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee is Wednesday, June 17 at 2 PM by Zoom. For more information, contact [council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org).

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### INFRASTRUCTURE

The 35-year veteran transportation director of the North Central Texas Council of Governments in **Dallas-Ft. Worth**, Michael Morris, was fired last week - although some local officials are trying to have him reinstated via court action. Morris championed toll lanes, rapid bus transit, and high-speed rail, angering conservative board members. [Story](#).

**Dallas** Area Rapid Transit, the state's second-largest transit agency, won two-out-of-three local elections over the weekend. **Addison** and **University Park** voted to remain members, but **Highland Park** chose to withdraw amid complaints the service wasn't worth the cost. Twelve area cities remain members, the *Tribune* reports [here](#).

**Guadalupe County** voted to approve tax abatements and a development agreement last week for a 706-acre data center along its border with **Hays County**. The campus of ten buildings will require 'approximately' 20,000 gallons of water per day, officials said ([here](#)). And a proposed **Fort Bliss** military data center may require more water than the entire city of **El Paso**, the *Texas Tribune* reports. [Story](#).

Joby Aviation began a week-long series of air taxi demonstration flights last month between **Manhattan** and John F. Kennedy airport, making the usual one-hour car trip in about ten minutes, the company announced (4/27). The flights, using electric vertical-takeoff-and-landing vehicles, are part of a national federal program rollout. [Story](#).

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### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

Major US drug charges against a sitting governor, a senator, and eight other officials of Sinaloa state rocked Mexico last week, reports *El Pais*, adding more tension to the already-testy US-Mexico relationship on the cusp of new trade negotiations beginning in July. The US claims drug cartels installed Gov. Ruben Rocha. [Story](#).

The US Dollar Index, measuring dollars against other major currencies, has had its steepest six-month decline in over 50 years. the **Associated Press** reports, falling about 10% since President Trump returned to the White House. The news service says it's 'a hidden tax' making products less affordable for Americans. [Story](#).

Americans paid \$125 million more for gasoline last Friday than they did the week before, the **Wall Street Journal** reports, noting that the US pumps 375-million gallons of gas on a typical day. Texans paid about 25-cents per gallon more last week than the week before, but pity poor Ohio, where motorists paid 75-cents more. [Story](#).

For the first time since the Great Depression more people moved out of the US last year than moved in - negative net migration, the **Wall Street Journal** reports, caused partly by new deportation policies but also revealing a disturbing trend: millions of Americans are departing for foreign countries they find safer and cheaper. [Story](#).

In a 'State of the County' address last week **Travis County** judge Andy Brown cited progress on child and mental health care, housing and drug prevention funding as achievements, and announced new investments in parks and downtown **Austin**. He also noted studies underway on **Austin-San Antonio** passenger rail. [Story](#).

**San Antonio** mayor Gina Ortiz Jones' chief of staff Jenise Carroll quit last week, just days after her deputy chief of staff Pat Wallace also resigned from the mayor's office - that's seven top deputies who have departed since Jones took office. Other city councilmembers say the high turnover churn has become an issue. [Story](#). [More](#).

Former military intelligence analyst Michael French has defeated incumbent Neal Linnartz to become mayor of **New Braunfels**, according to complete but unofficial election results, according to media reports [here](#) and [here](#).

## Thought of the Week

“You just can’t beat the person who never gives up.” – Babe Ruth

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