



Monday Morning Report

May 8, 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.

TxDOT's I-10 Study Central Working Group (on which Corridor Council staff serves) met in **San Antonio** last Friday (5/5) to consider final recommendations to the overall study Steering Group. Improvements to US 290 from **Junction to Houston**, improvements to highway 46 from **New Braunfels to Seguin**, and US 123 from **Seguin to San Marcos** were all advanced in the process. Details should be available soon [here](#).

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Biden administration granted environmental approval to a first-in-the-nation congestion pricing plan for **New York** last week, potentially allowing tolls on vehicles entering **Manhattan** as a congestion-reduction measure. Other cities could follow, with national implications. Expect legal challenges from neighboring jurisdictions. [Story](#).

The **San Antonio Express-News** reports that a proposed tunnel from the airport to downtown **San Antonio** is still being mulled by the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority even though the agency hasn't heard anything in nearly six months from the project's proposed contractor, Elon Musk's The Boring Company. [Story](#).

'Just Kill Me Now:' Under discussion now for two decades, that Interstate 45 rebuild project in **Houston** seems finally poised to begin at last. The problem? It will take 18 years to complete the \$10 billion project, officials say. Not all local motorists are pleased with the timeline. [Story](#). [More](#).

The US Occupational Safety and Health Administration is now investigating the 400-foot in-the-air crane-fire accident last month that injured two people near the site of the \$1 billion Harbor Bridge construction project in **Corpus Christi**, already five-years behind schedule. One of the injured is also now suing. [Story](#). [More](#).

Once part of the American dream, a new car is now out of financial reach for many, the **Washington Post** reports. Higher prices, higher interest rates, higher monthly payments, and lower supplies have led to a widening gap between those who can afford new cars and those who can't. The average car cost soared to \$48,000.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

The Texas Economic Development Act - a replacement measure supplanting the prior Chapter 313 economic development tax incentive legislation deemed a priority by Speaker Dade Phelan - which passed

the House in **Austin** last week, excludes renewable energy companies from the measure's tax relief provisions. [Story](#).

Real estate developers Koontz Corps has compiled 11 land parcels bought from 26 different owners to create a 188-acre industrial 'mega-site' off Interstate 35 near Loop 353 in **San Antonio** for a new industrial park to service growing regional demand for warehousing, manufacturing, and distribution space. [Story](#).

Insurance and financial services giant USAA posted its first annual loss in 100 years last week, a \$1.3 billion net loss on \$36 billion in revenue for 2022. The **San Antonio**-based firm blamed high interest rates, inflation, supply chain problems, and labor disruptions for its first losing year since 1923. [Story](#).

Austin's city council, perhaps frustrated by stalled efforts on comprehensive development code reform, is moving forward rapidly on a series of land use issues including last week's votes on eliminating parking requirements outside of downtown ([here](#)), building heights ([here](#)), and making it easier to sub-divide lots ([here](#)).

New Braunfels has a new mayor. Attorney Neal Linnartz will succeed former Corridor Council Executive Committee-member Rusty Brockman, who did not seek re-election, in the city's top elected spot. [Story](#).

Sometimes called '**San Antonio**'s beach,' **Port Aransas** has made **Condé-Nast Traveler's** list of '*The 8 Most Under-Rated Beach Towns*.' The website touts hiking trails, Tex-Mex, and dolphins as attractions. [Details](#).

Thought of the Week

"Problems are not the problem; coping is the problem."

– Virginia Satir

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