



Monday Morning Report

May 11, 2026

INTERNAL

OOPS. Citing local media and unofficial election results, we reported last week that Michael French won the **New Braunfels** mayoral election over incumbent Neal Linnartz. *Not quite right*, apparently. After a disputed city attorney opinion ([here](#)) over city charter conflicts with the state constitution, a runoff will be now be held. [Story](#).

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.

INFRASTRUCTURE

In the US, 5,000 people are killed each year in crashes involving one of three million large trucks on American highways any given day. But some crashes - particularly in **New Orleans** - are not accidents at all but carefully choreographed scams involving crooked lawyers, doctors and passengers scheming for millions in insurance payouts, according to astonishing reporting from the *New Yorker*. This is well worth your time. [Story](#).

TxDOT's online survey of public comments about Interstate 35 from **Laredo** through **Austin-San Antonio** to the Oklahoma border ended last week after receiving 1,096 contributed comments. Traffic and safety issues were common, also cyclist & pedestrian hazards, and the Loop 1604 intersection. [Here](#) are the comments. [Story](#).

Political tensions continue to roil **San Antonio** city government, the latest example being last week's 10-1 vote over consultant contracts for the downtown Project Marvel development. After being outvoted (9-2) during a dispute over when to discuss the related issues, mayor Gina Ortiz Jones voted against the contracts themselves. [Story](#).

Powerful **North Texas** Council of Governments transportation director Michael Morris has returned to his job again - for now - after a court ruled his firing unconstitutional. His reinstatement may be challenged. [Story](#). [More](#).

A rash of data center proposals are sparking more controversy in **Hays County** and **Central Texas**, even after **San Marcos** rejected a local facility, that cost the city millions in tax revenue.

Water & energy usage and 'heat island' effects are concerns. New research shows data centers could consume 3-9% of all Texas water by 2040. [Story](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

Texas stands to gain billions of dollars in contracts if the Trump administration's 44% increase in defense spending (up to \$1.5 trillion) is approved. The **Houston Chronicle** outlines where that money might go, citing projects in **Austin**, **San Antonio**, **Houston**, and **Ft. Worth**, among others. [Story](#).

It's a good time to be a home buyer in Texas (comparatively), the **Express-News** reports, since most of the major markets - after years of sizzling price increases, are starting to cool down. **Austin** prices have dropped 2%, year-over-year, with a median price of \$530,000; **San Antonio** is down 3.3%, with a median price at \$260,000. [Story](#).

AI chipmaker Nvidia and glassware manufacturer Corning are teaming up to build three new factories in Texas and North Carolina which, if the deals pan out, could bring thousands of jobs to **Austin**, the **Statesman** reports [here](#).

Elon Musk Watch: SpaceX will spend at least \$55 billion - and maybe up to \$119 billion - to build a new AI chip manufacturing facility, Terafab, in **Grimes County**, Texas, between **College Station** and **Houston**, the **New York Times** reports, citing public filings. [Details](#). And Tesla and Buc-ees may be joining forces on EV charging. [Story](#).

After voting itself out of **Dallas** Area Rapid Transit earlier this month, the city of **Highland Park** moved quickly to provide on-demand transit services through a private company and create a 'Builders Shuttle' to limit construction worker parking within the city. An official said, "It will be... cheaper than giving \$8 million to DART." [Story](#).

Thought of the Week

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."
– Benjamin Franklin

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