



Monday Morning Report

May 25, 2026

Memorial Day

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.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The US House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee leadership in **Washington** agreed to a five-year, \$580 billion surface transportation bill (BUILD America 250 Act) last week, saying that their goal is to send the measure to the White House for signature by the September 30 expiration of the current funding regime. [Story](#). [More](#). [Still More](#).

The **New York Times** devoted lengthy coverage to **Corpus Christi's** water woes earlier this month, pegging the problem on poor policy decisions and over-promising scarce resources to industrial users ([here](#)). Add **Rockport** to the one-dozen cities in **South Texas** declaring water emergencies ([here](#)); and business columnist Chris Tomlinson says Texas is running out of water and must turn to new technologies (desal) before it's too late. [Opinion](#).

Political and legal challenges continue to threaten **Austin's** \$7 billion-plus Project Connect light rail effort, the **Texas Tribune** reports, implying in a headline that a soaring price tag and smaller rail footprint that voters approved in 2020 have sent the project 'off the rails.' A recent Texas Supreme Court decision hasn't helped. [Story](#). [More](#).

The **Express-News** reports that traffic on **San Antonio's** far West Side has inspired more than 1000 posted complaints on Facebook ([here](#)) about congestion linked to new real estate and business developments in the area, stretching as far as **Castroville**. The **Bexar County** RMA is working on improvements. [Story](#). [More](#).

Austin may only be able to fund one of several planned 'caps' designed to create public spaces over IH-35 during reconstruction efforts through downtown, the **Statesman** reports, as officials struggle to meet TxDOT timing requirements for viable local-share funding mechanisms. [Story](#). Mayor Kirk Watson explains why [here](#).

Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization chairman Rudy Metayer sent thanks to retiring executive director Ashby Johnson via social media earlier this month; Johnson had led the **Austin**-area staff for a decade. [Post](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

State filings earlier this month indicate that Toyota is eyeing a \$2 billion investment in an additional assembly line and manufacturing plant in **San Antonio** that could add 'thousands' of jobs to the company's existing **Bexar County** payroll of nearly 4,000 employees. Another 5,800 work nearby with Toyota suppliers and support outfits. [Story](#).

Despite thousands of potential jobs and millions in local tax revenues, not everyone is happy about Elon Musk's plans to build a \$55 billion advanced microchip factory - the largest in the world, named Terafab - in **Grimes County** near **College Station**. Citing Musk's 'environmental track record,' residents expressed concerns to local officials at a special meeting about the project saying it would be 'immoral' to give the venture tax breaks. [Story](#).

San Antonio is currently the seventh-largest city in the US but is poised to overtake **Philadelphia** as the nation's sixth-largest city within a few years, US Census data indicates. But the 'city of brotherly love' is not loving the idea, according to the **San Antonio Current**, because aggressive annexation is making the difference. [Story](#).

And **Austin** just topped the one-million mark in 2025 population, also according to US Census data, and that's just within the city limits - not the metro, county, or region - which came as no surprise to the city's demographer: she believes the 2020 Census undercounted by almost 40,000 people due to the pandemic. [Story](#).

Now It's Getting Personal: Spiking meat prices are threatening a rash of closures for even the oldest Texas barbecue restaurants, the **Washington Post** reports: wholesale brisket costs have gone up 28% since last year, squeezing the profit margins for around 3,000 cue-slinging joints across the Lone Star State. Inflation, tariffs, meatpacking consolidation, drought, labor shortages, and shrinking ranch land are the culprits. [Story](#). [Drudge Report](#) (middle column).

Thought of the Week

Remember on Memorial Day “those who came out of the trenches as writers and poets, who started preaching peace (and) made this world a kinder place to live.” – Eric Burdon

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