



Monday Morning Report

July 1, 2024

INTERNAL

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

INFRASTRUCTURE

Former **Travis County** commissioner Gerald Daugherty (and perennial Capital Metro gadfly) opined over the weekend that **Austin** would be better off following the example of **San Antonio's** VIA Metropolitan Transit and building out a rubber-tire Bus Rapid Transit system than investing \$7.4 billion in Project Connect. [Opinion](#).

With Amazon robotaxi subsidiary Zoox launching an Uber-style dial-up ride program on **Austin** streets later this month, you might be interested in viewing a pre-launch promotional video showing the test vehicles and how they operate. [Video](#). [Details](#).

Government Technology magazine says five **Dallas**-area cities are considering elevated, on-demand autonomous cable cars as a potential solution to local traffic congestion, among them **Arlington, Plano, Frisco, and DeSoto**. The system under consideration is called Whoosh, developed by a Google spinoff. [Story](#).

What's it like to ride The Boring Company's tunnel passenger system under the **Las Vegas** Convention Center? A **US Sun** reporter took the trip and got instead of a high-speed pod, well, a Tesla. The story cites a legacy of over-promising and under-delivering on the much-hyped hyperloop. [Story](#). [Video](#).

Austin has a new transportation blog, *Mobility Matters*, operated by the city's Transportation Department and - like their weekly newsletter - covers such topics as local street projects, safety issues, and major events. [Here](#).

Bexar County judge Peter Sakai has been added as a speaker for the upcoming '*Lone Star Sustainability Forum*' in **San Antonio**, Aug. 6-8, at the Embassy Suites - Landmark. The event is hosted by the Institute for Leadership in Capital Projects. [Register](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

ESPN senior National Football League reporter Bill Barnwell says **San Antonio** "is easily the best expansion candidate" in the US for a new NFL football team. Citing existing fan support for the Spurs basketball team and proximity to **Dallas** and **Houston**, Barnwell used five other market criteria to select Alamo City. [Story](#). [More](#).

[French Cowboys?](#) French boutique hospitality company Wilder Ways has purchased six hotels and nearly one hundred vacation rentals in **Blanco, Comfort, Gruene, Wimberley, and Johnson City**. And **San Marcos** now boasts a new 12-acre boutique hotel with 30 cabins & 10 vintage Airstream trailers for rent. [Story](#). [More](#).

Just one month after launching **San Antonio's** first nonstop European flight to **Frankfurt**, Condor Airlines announced last week that it will scale back on the number of those flights next year. For now, the seasonal service remains operating three times a week, reduced to two times a week next year, officials said. [Details](#).

Joby Aviation and Archer Aviation announced plans for an air taxi mobility network for the **San Francisco** Bay Area last week, scheduled to deploy next year. Both companies have been certified by the Federal Aviation Administration to operate commuter and on-demand commercial flights. [Story](#). [More](#).

More than 90% of all the heat trapped in the atmosphere by the greenhouse gas effect goes into the oceans - nine times more than the heat trapped by the land, says a **New York Times** op-ed. That heat expands the volume of water and is now responsible for at least one-third of all sea-level rise. Important, scary piece [here](#).

Thought of the Week

"If you don't think every day is a good day, just try missing one."

– Cavett Robert

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