



Monday Morning Report

July 8, 2024

INTERNAL

The next meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee will be Wednesday, July 17, at 2:00 pm via Zoom. Our guest speaker will be Jeff Goodell, **New York Times** best-selling author of *"The Heat Will Kill You First: Life and Death on a Scorched Planet."* For more about the book, go [here](#). Members and guests are invited to attend. **RSVP** (Meeting ID: 899 6784 3284 & Passcode: 898169).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Advocates for **New York** city's controversial congestion-pricing plan - 'paused' last month by the state's governor - are now threatening a lawsuit to force the program into existence, **City-Journal** reports. The \$15 charge to enter midtown during peak hours would have generated billions for local transit systems, but even some advocates argue a lawsuit will only make the tolls more unpopular if successful. **Opinion**.

Texas cities are losing 88 billion gallons of water annually due to aging pipeline infrastructure and extreme heat, costing millions of dollars and straining the state's water supply. Heat can cause soil to dry and shrink, stressing older pipes and making them more likely to leak. State records show **San Antonio** losing 19.5 billion gallons in 2023; **Austin** had 7.1 billion gallons of water lost, the **Texas Tribune** reports. **Story**.

TxDOT hosts a Stakeholder Workshop Meeting for the 2024 Texas Rail Plan *today* (July 8) in **San Antonio**. Freight rail discussions start at 9:00 am; passenger rail presentations start at 1:30 pm at the TxDOT District Office, 4615 NW Loop 410, 78229. The next meeting is in **Houston** on July 12. **Details**.

As part of the Biden administration's global warming initiatives, the US has embarked on a \$1 billion effort to plant more trees in urban areas to offset rising heat and absorb carbon dioxide. **San Marcos** and **Pflugerville** have already received 2023 grants ([here](#)), but the program has challenges, the **Washington Post** says. **Story**.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

Tesla's big gigafactory continues to draw more industrial development to the booming State Highway 130 Corridor in northeast **Austin**, including a 1.35 million sq. ft. project in six buildings by **St. Louis**-based Sansone Group and Juniper Crossing - another million sq. ft. project from Blackstone subsidiary Link Logistics. **Story**.

Reporting from **Boca Chica**, the **New York Times** yesterday took aim at Elon Musk's \$3 billion SpaceX compound for environmental impacts, including fiery debris raining down on public lands, local bird populations, and people. The paper says Musk pits US agencies against each other to enable his projects. [Story](#).

The University of Texas at **San Antonio**'s online cybersecurity degree program was ranked by **Forbes** as the 5th best in the US, citing the Bachelor of Business Administration program for its flexibility and rigor. The UTSA program, launched in 2017, has graduated 300 students and was compared to 30 other US programs. [Story](#).

Thought of the Week

"Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up."

– Thomas A. Edison

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