



## Monday Morning Report

July 20, 2026

---

### INTERNAL

Heads Up: The **Monday Morning Report** will take a break from our publishing schedule next week due to staff travel, thus expect no **MMR** on Monday, July 27th. We'll return to our regular schedule on Monday, August 3rd.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council is scheduled for Wednesday, August 19th at 2 PM. For more information or to add an item to the agenda, contact [council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org).

---

### INFRASTRUCTURE

TxDOT's new study of passenger rail between **Austin** and **San Antonio** utilizing enhanced Amtrak operations - conducted at the Corridor Council's request and just released last month - has prompted an unusual, joint positive editorial response from both the **Express-News** and the **Statesman** beneath the headline '*Hey, Greg Abbott, make passenger rail between Austin and San Antonio a reality.*' **Editorial. The Study. Analysis.**

Last week's extreme heat in **North Texas** caused parts of highway US 69 between **Greenville** and **Celeste** - 65-miles northeast of **Dallas** - to melt, with chunks of asphalt reportedly sticking to motorists' tires and damaging pavement and passing vehicles, **WFAA** reports. TxDOT says about five miles of roadway needs repair. **Story.**

Incidents involving robotaxis in **Austin** and **San Antonio** have led the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to issue warnings and request more data from Waymo, Tesla, Zoox, and other autonomous vehicle operators about how they plan to keep their vehicles from interfering with emergency services. **Story.**

The **Texas Observer** reports that - over the past decade - state lawmakers have systematically reversed climate-related planning efforts by Texas cities including everything from emissions-reduction measures to 10-minute breaks for construction workers. Transportation and transit have been particularly affected, they say. **Story.**

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

A Chinese AI-developer, **Beijing**-based Moonshot rocked US technology markets last week with its release of Kimi K3, an artificial intelligence model far better - and much cheaper - than any US AI model currently in use, the **Wall Street Journal** reports [here](#). And Nobel Laureate Demi Hassabis, founder of Google DeepMind, proposes an international framework for safe AI development. 'We've found a way to make sand think.' [Opinion](#).

Longstanding energy and economic ties between US and Texas are put at risk by the Trump administration's retreat from the US-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement, the **Texas Tribune** reports [here](#). And the world's largest asset manager, BlackRock, says US-Mexico investment prospects are clouded but not killed by Trump's stance. [Story](#).

**Henrico County**, VA welcomed the construction of 37 new data centers for their jobs creation and tax revenue, but now regional electricity rates will rise nearly 37% by next year and local schools are being asked to dim their lights, quit using space heaters, and limit daily computer use to reduce power demands, **INC**, magazine reports. [Story](#).

**Lockhart**, in **Caldwell County**, joins a growing list of Texas cities contemplating an outright ban on data centers, all struggling with the lure of economic development as opposed to the electricity and power demands of the centers. At least five data centers are planned or under construction in **Caldwell County**, the **Statesman** reports. [Story](#).

Whoop, Whoop! Texas A&M University in **College Station** outranked every other Texas school in American Caldwell's Global University 2026-27 Visibility Rankings. Noted without comment: "The ranking measured news coverage, searches, social media followers and online attention - not academics." [Details](#).

## Thought of the Week

"Don't watch the clock; do what it does. Keep going."

– Sam Levenson

This newsletter is available to our members. If you wish to unsubscribe, please send an email request with subject UNSUBSCRIBE to [council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org).