



Monday Morning Report

August 15, 2022

INTERNAL

The **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee will meet *this* Wednesday, August 17 at 2 PM by videoconference. To add an item to the agenda, contact council@thecorridor.org. **Draft Agenda**.

COVID-19 UPDATE: As of yesterday, global cases had reached 590,224,851, with 6,435,450 deaths. US cases are at 92,927,104 with 1,037,021 deaths (8/14/22) (**Johns Hopkins**). Texas reported 6,156,713 cases as of Friday, with 88,091 deaths, including in **Bexar County**: 527,468 cases with 6,250 deaths; **Guadalupe County**: 28,673 cases, still with 406 deaths; **Comal County**: 24,666 cases, also still with 563 deaths; **Hays County**: 59,423 cases, with 448 deaths; **Travis County**: 237,276 cases, with 1,768 deaths; and **Williamson County**: 124,347 cases with 893 deaths (8/12/22). (**TDHHS**). *Regional hospitalization-rate data found [here](#).*

INFRASTRUCTURE

The **Washington Post** warns that transportation policy makers can no longer build roads, bridges, airports and railroads with methods and materials based upon historical climate data. Noting recent recurring bouts of extreme heat worldwide, the paper says outdated planning assumptions will result in major infrastructure failures and reduced project-service life. They built a virtual city, **Meltsville**, to show why and how. **Story**. **Meltsville**.

Although Elon Musk told Tesla shareholders last week that his tunneling venture, The Boring Company, was making progress - and **San Antonio** officials continue discussions about an airport-to-downtown project ([here](#)) - a **Time Magazine** writer says Musk once admitted that his original hyperloop proposal was just a ploy to derail a **Los Angeles-to-San Francisco** highspeed rail project and that he never planned to build it. **Story**.

This is the 25th anniversary year of **Austin's** Residential Parking Permit program, through which residents limit parking in front of their homes, and at least 383 total city blocks have received designation since the program began in 1997. But local growth pains are making the designations more controversial, **Axios** reports. **Details**.

A commentator for **Railway Age** magazine believes that the **Dallas-to-Houston** high speed rail project backed by Texas Central Railway is not yet dead. But after winning an eminent lawsuit just 12 days after their president resigned, Texas Central - a now-\$30 billion venture - still needs what it always needed: money. **Opinion**.

Another supply-chain threat: Low water levels on the Rhine River, a crucial European trade route, have dropped so low that barge traffic is operating at only 20-30% of capacity, forcing a shift to railroads & trucks to move cargo. The problem? Railroads are already at 100% of capacity and trucking costs three times more than barges. **Story**.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

A writer in *The Atlantic* argues that rather than easing their own high housing costs during the pandemic, California exported affordability problems to other non-coastal states by unleashing a flood of emigrants fleeing high housing costs and taxes - but with pockets stuffed with cash. As **Dallas** discovered, "You eventually run out of vacant land within a reasonable commute of job centers." **Austin** is referenced. [Story.](#)

Cities beset by heat waves are re-naming and re-purposing traditional 'cooling centers' - areas designed to allow residents to avoid dangerous weather - into 'climate resilience hubs,' which provide a variety of resources from social services to emergency training to phone charging. **Austin, Spokane, & Miami** are referenced. [Details.](#)

No one knows when, but scientists say California will be hit in the foreseeable future by the Big One - and no, it's not an earthquake. Climate trends are shaping up to deliver a 'megastorm' wallop to the Golden State packing 100-inches of rain from an 'atmospheric river' developed in the Pacific Ocean. Could the 'river' reach Texas? [Story. More.](#)

New Braunfels has given initial approval to a new river resort development on a 20-acre tract near the Guadalupe River. The project still needs to clear flood plain hurdles from the Federal Emergency Management Administration but, if approved, it will offer cabins, condos, cottages, RV's and commercial parking. [Details.](#)

Texas Government Insider reached into **Williamson County** last week to profile new **Hutto** city manager James R. Earp, formerly with the city of **Kyle** for 16 years. Best quotation: "There is strength in thought diversity, which helps to reveal our blind spots." [Details.](#)

Thought of the Week

"Don't downgrade your dream just to fit your reality. Upgrade your conviction to match your destiny."

- Stuart Scott

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