



Monday Morning Report

August 17, 2026

INTERNAL

The Executive Committee of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council meets *this* Wednesday, August 19th at 2 PM by Zoom. [Meeting Agenda](#). For more information, contact council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Six railroad crossings projects in the **Austin-San Antonio Corridor** received funding from a total of \$755 million in grants Texas received from the Federal Highway Administration announced last week, all leveraged with state funding leveraged by Senate Bill 1555 (which the Corridor Council supported) passed in the last legislative session. Four of the projects are in **Bexar County** and **San Antonio**; two in **Kyle** and **Hays County**. Funding details [here](#).

TxDOT held a webinar for stakeholders regarding their *Texas Triangle Strategic Multimodal* plan late last month, noting that while highway capacity connecting the Triangle Cities has increased just 4%, travel traffic by autos is up 24%, truck traffic up by 47%. Interestingly, the stakeholders stated a preference for high-speed rail to connect **Houston**, **Dallas**, and **Austin-San Antonio**. Website link [here](#). Webinar presentation [here](#).

The Chron newsletter reports that hundreds of people have signed a petition demanding action from TxDOT regarding Highway 361 between **Port Aransas** and **Corpus Christi** following a deadly crash last week that closed the highway for over four hours. Three other fatal accidents have occurred there in the last year. [Story](#).

Though actual construction is probably years - if not decades - away, landowners are raising alarms about TxDOT's plans for a new 125-mile long I-14 Interstate route running roughly between **Walker** and **Bell** Counties from **Huntsville** to **Rogers**, including a 75-mile loop around **Bryan-College Station**. Details are [here](#).

While not unprecedented, it's somewhat unusual for a mayor to vote against an annual city budget but that's what happened in **Austin** last week, with mayor Kirk Watson joining one other councilmember to oppose the \$6.6 billion, 2026-27 spending plan. Watson raised affordability and sustainability concerns [here](#) in his newsletter. [Story](#).

That much-delayed, much-maligned California high speed rail project planned to eventually connect **Los Angeles-to-San Francisco** may run out of money by next year, local officials say, despite state infusions of over \$1 billion a year over 20 years. The lead agency is considering borrowing against future revenues, **SmartCities** reports. [Story](#).

News From the States newsletter says the stopgap funding bill passed as the US Senate left **Washington** last week for the August recess does not include \$38 billion in advanced transportation funding for states, set to expire September 30 ([here](#)). And **Transportation 4 America** weighs in on various re-authorization scenarios. [Opinion](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

Real estate outfit **Redfin** set out to discover which US cities had neighbors and neighborhoods most willing to help each other out (we're guessing that might help sell houses) and **Austin** ranked 8th out of the top ten, let by **Salt Lake City** at Number One. The Mueller and Brentwood neighborhoods drew special mentions. [Details](#).

Delta Air Lines announced last week that the company will launch an **Austin-to-Paris** nonstop service beginning next March 27, 2027. Delta is now the second-largest carrier operating out of Bergstrom International. [Details](#).

Caldwell County voted to ban tax incentives for data centers days after reports surfaced that the county judge Hoppy Haden and a former assistant county attorney had agreements (later negated) to sell adjoining ranch properties for a local data center project. At least five **Caldwell County** data centers are built or planned. [Story](#).

The chief operating officer of behemoth Paramount Skydance movie and television company told his board that if the company cannot work out a proposed merger deal with Warner Brothers opposed by California's attorney general, Paramount would possibly relocate to Texas, Tennessee, or Georgia, **Puck** reports. [Details](#).

The **Loadstar** logistics newsletter spotlights a weird sidebar to the Iran war: congestion at the Panama Canal leaves over 100 ships waiting in line for passage, many headed to Texas Gulf ports viewed as alternatives to the Mideast. Shippers are paying as much as \$4 million to 'jump to the head of the line,' they report. [Story](#).

Not only is Europe burning up with extreme temperatures and widespread wildfires this summer, but many major rivers from the Danube to the Po are drying up, with potentially profound consequences for shipping, tourism, supply chains, and the European economy, the **New York Times** reports. Auto manufacturers and nuclear power plants are forced to pause operations; old maps of wealth and power may need to be redrawn. [Opinion](#).

Nixta Taqueria in **Austin**, Garcia's Mexican Food in **San Antonio**, and Burnt Bean Company in **Seguin** all made a roundup of the best US Mexican food restaurants in the **New York Times** over the weekend. [Story](#).

Thought of the Week

“If you really want to do something, you’ll find a way. If you don’t, you’ll find an excuse.” – Jim Rohn

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