



Monday Morning Report

September 9, 2024

INTERNAL

The **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, September 18 at 2 PM by Zoom. To add an item to the agenda, contact council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Late last month the Texas Transportation Commission approved their ten-year, \$148 billion Unified Transportation Program - virtually all dedicated to highway maintenance and construction - including \$8.6 billion in projects for **Austin** and \$5.7 billion for the **San Antonio** area. [Details](#).

Amtrak's takeover of the Texas Central Railroad's **Dallas-to-Houston** high speed rail effort has resulted in an injection of \$64 million in funding from the Federal Railroad Administration into the project for further planning and engineering. [Story](#). [More](#). [Still More](#). Long-time **San Antonio** activist Bill Barker responds: [Opinion](#).

Federal studies show that connected vehicles communicating with each other and with roadside infrastructure could save up to nearly 1500 lives per year, the **Associated Press** reports in an article about automobile data collection efforts and the controversies that it might spark. An **Austin** truck safety program is cited. [Story](#).

Self-driving robotaxis already operating in **San Francisco**, **Phoenix**, and **Las Vegas** are getting some human help from remote operators in remote control centers - sometimes hundreds of miles away - the **New York Times** reports in profiling one such center in **Foster City**, CA, which supports Amazon-owned Zoox vehicles. [Story](#).

The *Fourth National Climate Assessment* report, mandated by Congress, has some grim news about the continuing impact of climate change on US infrastructure, including bridges, which, as the **New York Times** reports, can "fall literally apart like Tinkertoys" due to extreme temperature changes. Fully one-fourth of all US bridges are at risk of eventual collapse, according to both the assessment and reporting. [Report](#). [Story](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

Comal County residents are fighting the construction of a new concrete plant between **New Braunfels** and **San Marcos**, alleging that the state permitting process was violated by not adequately publicizing public meetings related to the plant proposed by Five Star Concrete. They're trying to overturn an approved permit. [Story](#).

Fredericksburg will get a new city hall, paying \$10.5 million to buy the Hill Country University Center, a 26,000- sq. ft. building formerly used as a regional campus for Texas Tech University and Central Texas College. [Details](#).

Join the **San Antonio** chapter of the Institute for Leadership in Capital Projects tomorrow for a tour and luncheon presentation, 'World Heritage Center: Where The City Meets Its Legacy,' Tuesday (9/10), 12-2:00 pm. [Details](#).

Congratulations to researchers from the University of Texas at **Austin**, who have discovered an antibody that neutralizes all known COVID-19 variants and mapped the exact molecular sequence of the antibody - opening the possibility of manufacturing it on a larger scale for future treatments. [Study](#). [Story](#).

Good Idea: Pulitzer Prize-winning **Austin** author Larry Wright is proposing that the 385-acre military base Camp Mabry, currently used by the Texas National, Air National, and Texas State Guards be converted into a state urban park. He says reversion clause could be invoked returning ownership from the feds to the state. [Details](#).

That goofy **Time Out** survey proclaiming **Austin's** nightlife as first in the US and No. 5 in the world continues to generate headlines, now in **Travel & Leisure**. The survey queried bar & restaurant patrons about where they found the best nightlife, which strikes us as like asking your barber if you need a haircut, but *oh, well*. [Story](#).

Thought of the Week

"Hard work keeps the wrinkles out of the mind and spirit."

– Helena Rubinstein

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