



## Monday Morning Report

September 12, 2022

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### INTERNAL

The **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee meets Wednesday, September 21 at 2 PM by videoconference. The meeting will include a presentation by Will Smithson of HNTB on 'Future Traffic Trends on Interstate Highway-10 and Interstate Highway-35.' To add an item to the agenda, contact [council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org).

COVID-19 UPDATE: Global cases reached 608,709,777 today, with 6,514,732 deaths. US cases are at 95,250,753 with 1,050,323 deaths (9/6/22) ([Johns Hopkins](#)). On Friday, Texas reported 6,300,360 cases, with 88,811 deaths, including in **Bexar County**: 540,413 cases with 6,307 deaths; **Guadalupe County**: 29,192 cases, with 413 deaths; **Comal County**: 25,144 cases, still with 563 deaths; **Hays County**: 61,222 cases, still with 449 deaths; **Travis County**: 242,925 cases, with 1,785 deaths; and **Williamson County**: 127,087 cases, still with 903 deaths (9/9/22). ([TDHHS](#)). *Regional hospitalization-rate data found [here](#).*

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### INFRASTRUCTURE

The threat of a national railroad workers strike looms this week in **Washington** for the pro-labor Biden administration and Congress, bringing with it the prospect of more supply-chain disruptions and a further spiking of food prices (already up 13% over last year). Peak crop harvesting season and the November election season combined make the threat more potent than usual as 115,000 workers may walk off the job. [Story](#).

Some lawmakers have questioned what effect converting 50% of US car ownership to electric vehicles would have on the already strained electric grid and [Politifact](#) has the answer: not much. Utility companies would adjust to the market forces of supply-and-demand, and not every owner would charge simultaneously. [Story](#).

**Corpus Christi** has now surpassed **Houston** and **Beaumont** as the leading Texas exporter of crude oil ([here](#)), which makes it newsworthy that the US Environmental Protection Agency stepped in last week to nix a major oil export terminal proposed for 21-miles off the Gulf Coast city. Pollution concerns are the issue. [Story](#).

The Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) World Congress is set for September 18-22 this year in **Los Angeles**. The event brings together world leaders, practitioners, policy makers, researchers, and private industry innovators working in the transportation field, one of the largest such conferences globally. Info & register [here](#).

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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

The successor organization to the **San Antonio** Economic Development Foundation, now called Greater: SATX Regional Economic Partnership, says they've raised nearly \$38 million (half from the private sector) for a five-year effort to recruit new corporations to the region, improve local air services, and develop workforce talent. [Story](#).

In what could be big news for **Austin's** semi-conductor industry, the US Commerce Department is planning further curbs on exports to China of microchips and microchip-manufacturing equipment used to develop artificial intelligence. And the US is already working with other foreign governments to create similar bans. [Story](#).

The leading candidates for mayor of **Austin** will be participating in a forum *tonight* (9/12), 6:30-8:00 pm, at the Austin Central Library, and you can register [here](#).

Elon Musk Watch: SpaceX plans near **Bastrop** include a \$43 million facility ([here](#)); Tesla announced that it is evaluating plans for building a lithium refinery somewhere near the Gulf Coast (**Robstown?**) to produce its own electric batteries ([here](#)); Musk has a new reason for killing a Twitter purchase ([here](#)); and, an ex-girlfriend is auctioning off pictures of the *wunderkind* from his college days ([here](#)). Nice.

## Thought of the Week

*"What is a challenge if not a real friend in disguise to strengthen us?"*

- Sri Chinmoy

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