



Monday Morning Report

September 16, 2024

INTERNAL

The **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee meets *this* Wednesday, September 18 at 2:00 pm by Zoom. Bruce Ashton, from San Antonians for Rail Transit (<https://www.railforsanantonio.com>), will be our guest speaker. **Draft Agenda**. To add an item to the agenda, contact council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

San Antonio added 22,000 new residents last year (2022-2023), more than any other large US city, the **Express-News** reports. **New Braunfels** was also among other Texas cities that ranked in the top ten cities for population growth. Educational attainment and demographic details are included in the article. **Story**.

Freight railroads, including Union Pacific, are running longer and longer trains through Texas - some more than three miles long - and generated 8000 complaints for blocking intersections last year alone, the **Wall Street Journal** reports. The average time to clear an intersection is more than seven minutes. **Story**. **More**.

Austin holds an open house Saturday, September 28, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm to unveil revised concept sketches for caps to potentially cover portions of IH-35 through downtown as part of TxDOT's rebuild project. **Details**.

Smart Cities Dive updated its survey of current US high-speed rail projects last week, adding new information about a Siemens Mobility facility under construction in upstate New York to build 220-mph trainsets for Brightline's **Las Vegas**-California project. Details for six other US high-speed rail projects are included. **Story**.

The **Washington Post** highlights 'The Disaster No Major US City Is Prepared For' by examining a recent heat wave-with-associated-loss-of-electric-power in **Houston**, where extreme heat combined with no air conditioning could kill 600-1500 people, according to a peer-reviewed statistical model the paper developed. **Story**. **More**.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

Southwest Airlines and **San Antonio** International Airport are squabbling over gate-access at the planned new third terminal, with Southwest - which makes up almost 40% of all flights at the airport - refusing to sign a long-term lease agreement unless it gets 10 gates in the new terminal, scheduled to open in 2028. **Story**.

Washington DC-based **The Hill** quotes Texas agricultural commissioner Sid Miller saying the state is running out of water - particularly in the **Rio Grande Valley** - where he says, "Production is down 80%. And it's all about water," citing international disputes, declining groundwater, over-pumping, and climate change. [Story](#).

As soon as next month, shipping industry officials warn that the first dock workers strike in 50 years could begin when current contracts with the longshoremen's union time out on Sept. 31. Major US ports, including **Houston**, **Corpus Christi**, and **Brownsville** and many related supply chains could be affected, officials said. [Story](#).

Congratulations to former **New Braunfels** mayor (and Corridor Council Executive Committee member) Rusty Brockman, honored this month by the Braunfels Foundation Trust as a Living Legend of New Braunfels. [Details](#).

Take it slow if you're driving between **Austin** and **Dripping Springs**, as **KUT** radio reports that **Hays County** Sheriff's office deputies are patrolling that stretch of US 290 more heavily following recent accidents. [Details](#).

Texas State University in **San Marcos** announced a record-breaking enrollment figure for the Fall, 2024 semester of over 40,000 students, largest in its 125-year history. The freshman class, 8,165, also a record. [Details](#).

All Aboard: As part of a broader transportation and economic development effort to connect Texas Triangle cities with passenger rail, **Travis County** judge Andy Brown and **Bexar County** judge Peter Sakai have organized an invitation-only promotional Amtrak trip between **San Antonio** and **Austin** for next week (9/23). [Details](#). [More](#).

Thought of the Week

"Courage, my friends; 'tis not too late to build a better world."

- Tommy Douglas

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