



Monday Morning Report

September 19, 2022

INTERNAL

The **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee meets *this* 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. ***Draft Agenda***.

COVID-19 UPDATE: Global cases reached 612,070,031 today, with 6,526,720 deaths. US cases are at 95,662,098 with 1,053,434 deaths (9/19/22) (***Johns Hopkins***). Last Friday, Texas reported 6,324,165 cases, with 88,954 deaths, including in **Bexar County:** 542,5353 cases with 6,314 deaths; **Guadalupe County:** 29,294 cases, still with 413 deaths; **Comal County:** 25,261 cases, still with 563 deaths; **Hays County:** 61,521 cases, still with 451 deaths; **Travis County:** 243,919 cases, with 1,787 deaths; and **Williamson County:** 127,660 cases, with 907 deaths (9/16//22). (***TDHHS***). *Regional hospitalization-rate data found [here](#).*

Later this week the Johns Hopkins University COVID reporting methodology will change to daily, rather than hourly reporting, among other reporting changes. ***Details***. Although President Biden declared the pandemic over last night on **60 Minutes**, the US is still losing nearly 500 people per day to COVID-19. ***Perspective***.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The number of Americans primarily working from home as opposed to traditional offices tripled between 2019-2021, from 5.7% to 17.9%, according to Census Bureau data released last week. A remarkable 48.3% of **Washington DC** employees worked from home in 2021. Commuting by public transportation has been cut in half over that same period, according to the data. ***Report. Interactive Map. More.***

Memo to **Hays County** from **Travis County** regarding State Highway 45 Southwest: '*Game on.*' **Hays County** voted Aug. 30 to fund a \$2.5 million, 3.7-mile 'gap' project between FM 1626 and IH-35 - effectively connecting the Interstate to Mopac (Loop 1) in **Austin** - and last week **Travis County** commissioners responded with a letter declaring their opposition to the project over environmental and truck traffic issues. ***Story. Map.***

Gov. Greg Abbott's border crackdown continues to bear fruit for **Santa Teresa**, a tiny town in New Mexico just 10-miles from the Texas state line, which has seen its truck and trade traffic double. Officials on both sides of the border says the alternative border-crossing route has been a 'godsend' to avoid supply chain delays. ***Story.***

With the Biden administration trying to curb greenhouse gas emissions by limiting highway expansions, his nominee to run the Federal Highway Administration raised some skeptical eyebrows during Senate confirmation hearings in **Washington** last week. "I've added highway capacity in every state I've worked

in," Shailen Bhatt, who previously led Colorado and Delaware transportation departments, testified. [Story](#).

The Alamo Area Council of Governments is sponsoring a 'first-ever' showcase for fleet-oriented electric vehicles next week in **San Antonio**, September 30th, at the CPS Energy headquarters, 500 McCullough Ave, from 10 am-3 pm, featuring five different suppliers of medium-and heavy-duty electric trucks. [Details](#). An event for the community 'SA Drive Electric' will follow on Saturday, October 1st at the same location. [Link](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

Southwest Airlines is increasing the number of non-stop flights from/to **San Antonio** International Airport, impacting 20 destinations including **Denver**, **St. Louis**, **Phoenix**, and **Chicago**. Also included are more weekend flights to **Cancun** and the return of **Ft. Lauderdale**, Fla. non-stops. [Details](#).

But it was another **San Antonio** airport, Kelly Field, making news over the weekend as Florida governor Ron DeSantis took 'credit' for transporting two private jet planeloads of about 50 Venezuelan immigrants from the Alamo City to **Martha's Vineyard** in Massachusetts. Through what jurisdiction, under what authority, and with whose assistance DeSantis acted remained unanswered as of this morning. [Story](#). [More](#).

Our friends at the **San Antonio** Mobility Coalition host a presentation *this* Friday (9/23), 9-10:00 AM via Zoom, on a freight shuttle technology they say is being developed for the port of **Houston**, **El Paso-Juarez**, and potentially portions of IH-35. Michael Yager, P.E. chief development officer for the project, makes the presentation. [Details](#). Zoom call details available from iharlan@samcoinc.org.

Biden administration bank regulators in **Washington**, concerned that the steady growth of the US's largest regional banks is increasing risks to financial stability, are considering requiring those banks to add financial cushions (raise long-term debt) that could absorb losses in the event of insolvencies. [Story](#).

Despite the fanfare in **Washington** last week about avoiding a railroad strike that might have had devastating effects for inflation and supply-chains, a very real threat remains that up to 115,000 rail workers could still walk off the job - depending upon the outcome of union votes starting later this week (9/22). [Details](#).

Continuing a 129-year-old tradition, **Comal County** hosts the biggest fair and rodeo in Central Texas this week in **New Braunfels** from Sept 21-25, with carnival rides, a parade, typical rodeo events, and even a tractor pull. [Details](#).

Thought of the Week

"From what we get, we can make a living. What we give; however, makes a life."

- Arthur Ashe

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