



Monday Morning Report

October 2, 2023

INTERNAL

The next meeting of the Austin-San Antonio Corridor Council's Executive Committee is tentatively scheduled for 2:00 pm Wednesday, October 18 by Zoom. To add an item to the agenda or raise any issues or concerns, email council@thecorridor.org.

Bexar County judge Peter Sakai is serving as chairman for a TxDOT study of the US 90 Corridor from the I-10 intersection at **Van Horn**, west of **San Antonio**, for 763-miles to the Louisiana border. The effort is seeking public input via an online survey open to your comments until November 3. Participate here: [Study Overview](#). [Survey](#).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Travis County has joined a chorus of local jurisdictions and environmental groups questioning TxDOT's plans for rebuilding Interstate-35 in downtown **Austin**. Commissioners complained about a lack of responsiveness to earlier information requests and requested further study of the project's environmental impacts. [Story](#). [More](#).

Despite opposition from their public transit union, **Austin's** Capital Metro approved a five-year, \$752 million contract (9/25) with **Paris**-based Keolis to manage the agency's bus systems and personnel. Officials cited the company's experience with electric buses and bus rapid transit operations in making the award. [Story](#). [More](#).

The Biden administration in **Washington** awarded \$1.4 billion in funding for railroad safety improvements in 35 states last week, including three Texas projects that totaled \$14.8 million. Improved grade-crossings in downtown **Laredo** netted \$4 million; bridge upgrades in the **Rio Grande Valley** got \$3.5 million. [Story](#). [Details](#).

Austin Bergstrom International Airport will begin offering non-stop flights to **Monterrey**, Mexico on budget airline Viva Aerobus in March, 2024, with one-way tickets starting at \$94 ([here](#)). And the **Express-News** surveyed recent successes of the **San Antonio** International Airport in the midst of \$2.5 billion in upgrades. [Story](#). [More](#).

Truck stops, a symbol of Americana and personal mobility since the 1950's, are being redesigned to incorporate electric vehicle recharging stations and to accommodate longer stays, full- and fast-service restaurants, better bathrooms, kitchens, and dog parks, the **New York Times** reports. [Story](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

A flight of capital from US Treasury bonds over the last few months may pose challenges for a global financial system that underpins the \$170-trillion nexus of international credit, **The Telegraph** reports. Yields on 10-year Treasuries have risen by 120 basis points since May, reaching a 15-year high of 4.7% last week. Synopsis [here](#). [More](#).

The post-pandemic slump in office occupancy rates has led to currently more than 100 office building-to-housing conversions underway nationwide, the **Washington Post** reports, but the process is far from easy and brings long-lasting effects to infrastructure and neighborhoods. Policy recommendations include cities providing incentives for conversion, expediting permitting and zoning, and 'one-stop' centers for conversions. [Opinion](#).

Texas figures prominently in the First Street Foundation's '9th Annual National Risk Assessment: The Insurance Issue,' released last week. The report analyzes cost, affordability, and the general insurance risks of locations across the US, incorporating climate change assessments. Expect higher rates. [Story](#). [Report](#). [More](#).

Opportunity **Austin**, the uber-successful, private sector-driven economic development organization founded by Gary Farmer, will have a new full-time CEO for the first time beginning October 21. Ed Latson, currently leading a local regional manufacturers trade group, will take charge of a new strategic plan and \$35 million budget. [Story](#).

Thought of the Week

"Success is not final; failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

- Winston Churchill

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