



## Monday Morning Report

November 13, 2023

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### INTERNAL

The **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee meets [this](#) Wednesday, November 15, at 2:00 pm by Zoom. **Draft Agenda**. To add an item to the agenda, email [council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org).

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### INFRASTRUCTURE

TxDOT plans to spend \$642 million in federal funding intended for carbon emission reductions on...wait for it...more highways, the **Texas Tribune** reports. A draft '*Texas Carbon Reduction Strategy*' released October 25 (open for public comment only until November 8) argues that adding lanes to existing highways will reduce congestion, thus reducing emissions. Air quality officials called the strategy 'disappointing.' **Story. Draft.**

Electric vehicles are selling briskly in the US, but not fast enough to reduce huge inventories being produced as major manufacturers flood the market with dozens of new models. That's causing carmakers to rethink or pause previously-announced robust expansion plans ([here](#)). Federal tax credits and incentives have spurred production, but not sales ([here](#)). Are range anxiety or high prices the cause, or is it skeptical car dealers? **Story.**

A lawsuit has been filed to stop the **Austin** Project Connect transit effort, claiming the city and Capital Metro can't spend property tax money or issue debt for the \$7 billion project because what is being built is so different from what was proposed to voters in a 2020 election - other claims question the funding mechanisms. **Story.**

**Austin's** city council has directed their staff to begin work on a financing plan for about \$600 million in funding for the 'Cap and Stitch' portion of the IH-35 Central Expressway project through downtown. An initial \$15 million is set aside to begin planning for eight 'caps' along the highway between US 290 and Lake Austin. **Story.**

Transportation leaders participating in the **San Antonio Report's** *CityFest* conference last week discussed a whole range of issues including new rapid transit projects, new flights to Mexico and airport expansions, and transportation options for the **Austin-San Antonio Corridor** - including a potential rail connection. **Story.**

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### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

Businessman and former city council member Jeff Webster will be the new president of the Greater **San Antonio** Chamber of Commerce, replacing president (and ex-**Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council chairman) Richard Perez, who stepped down in 2022. **Story.**

**Loadstar**, a newsletter closely covering worldwide shipping and logistics companies, predicts a dire 2024 for forwarders in the air cargo and containerized sea freight industries after huge rate cuts for supply chain providers in 2023. 'The wheels have fallen off' for global forwarders, they write, and 'job cuts are inevitable.' [Story](#). [More](#).

Texas will build a new \$370 million Statewide Emergency Operations Center and headquarters facility near the **Austin** Bergstrom International Airport, officials announced last week. Construction begins this month and completion is expected by 2026. [Details](#).

The **San Antonio**-based HEB grocery chain, which has announced a number of new stores and renovations recently in the **Austin-San Antonio Corridor**, will spend \$28 million to renovate their existing store in **Kyle**. Work begins this April and is expected to be complete by November 2025. [Story](#).

**Axios** reports that four-in-ten Californians and three-in-ten New Yorkers say they are considering moving out of state, joining 8 million Americans who changed states in 2022, part of a movement away from high cost-of-living east and west coastal areas. Most are heading to Texas or Florida, the news service says. [Story](#). [More Trends](#).

Volocopter and **Tampa** International Airport have released video of what they say is the first-ever flight test of an electric vertical takeoff and landing personal passenger drone (eVTOL) at a major airport. [Details](#). [Video](#).

## Thought of the Week

"Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude."

- Harry Truman

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