



Monday Morning Report

November 25, 2024

INTERNAL

At last Wednesday's meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee (11/20) members heard a presentation from the **Washington DC**-based Capital Hill Public Policy lobby team on the "*Post-Election Federal Funding Outlook For Transportation*," discussed new options under consideration for high-capacity transit across the Corridor, and updates on various Council projects. [Agenda](#).

INFRASTRUCTURE

A new interactive map from the **Washington Post** and private data company AlphaGeo scores US metro areas on 28 factors involving climate risk and resiliency (capacity to rebound from adversity). **Austin-San Marcos** ranks 'high' for resiliency, 'medium' for risk from heat, drought, and wildfires; **San Antonio-New Braunfels** also ranks 'high' for resiliency, but 'high' too for risks from heat, drought, wildfire, and hurricanes. [Story & Map](#).

Amtrak vice president Andy Byford, who recently rode the rails between **San Antonio** and **Austin** with a delegation of local officials, said last week that his agency has big plans for the Texas Triangle cities of **Dallas, Houston, Austin, and San Antonio**. Of all the potential high-speed rail corridors in the country, he said, the case for the \$30 billion **Dallas-to-Houston** line is 'the most compelling' and 'would benefit the whole state.' [Story](#).

The **Austin** city council approved five-year updates to the 100-year Water Forward plan and Drought Contingency Plan last week. The measures, which incorporate planning for climate change, call for more conservation efforts, reducing and recycling city water usage, and new metering technology. [Story](#). [More](#).

Austin's city council also directed the staff last week to consider a regional approach to parks funding, acquisition, and maintenance in exploring badly needed new parks funding strategies. [Story](#).

The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority is considering adding two new toll lanes in each direction between Caesar Chavez and Slaughter Lane in **Austin** as part of its Mopac South Project, set to begin construction later this year. After ten years of study, the project still draws a lot of concern from local residents. [Story](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

The booming city of **Kyle**, in the heart of the **Austin-San Antonio Corridor**, just issued a Request For Proposals seeking a private sector developer to design, construct, and operate a hotel-convention center to be built on a four-acre, creek-front site in their Lake Park District. [Story](#).
[Request For Proposals](#).

Regional Airport News: **San Antonio** International Airport becomes the first in the nation to deploy a new AI-enabled parking technology that 'fingerprints' your car, removing the need for tickets or credit cards ([here](#)). Hawaiian Airlines bids 'Aloha' to nonstop flights from **Austin** to **Honolulu** in March 2025, but Frontier Airlines adds new service to **Orlando, Chicago, Cincinnati**, and **Phoenix** three times a week. [Story](#).

Beginning this month, riders can hail a driverless Waymo taxi anywhere within an 80-square-mile area of **Los Angeles** (excluding freeways) and, although **San Francisco** daily trips have jumped from 77,000 to 312,000, not everyone fully enjoys the robotaxi experience - according to a [Sunday Times](#) reporter. [Story](#).

Not to be outdone, Texas riders in **Austin, Houston, and Dallas** will soon be able to hire a car service not just with a fully human driver, but an armed one as well. The BlackWolf ride-sharing service - which bills itself as the safest riding platform around - features drivers carrying guns. What could possibly go wrong? [Story](#).

Thought of the Week

"Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground."

- David Icke

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