



Monday Morning Report

December 2, 2024

INTERNAL

Howard Peak, former **San Antonio** mayor and a former chairman and Executive Committee member of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council, has died at the age of 75. Peak championed water conservation programs and the regional Alamo City parks & trail system that now bears his name. [Story](#).

The December meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee has been postponed to January 15.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The **Texas Tribune** recapped the history of high-speed rail development in the Lone Star State last week while reviewing the current status of the now Amtrak-controlled **Dallas-to-Houston** effort. One point the piece makes is that opposition from Southwest Airlines, which probably defeated earlier projects, is no longer likely. [Story](#).

Texas lawmaker John Bucy (D-**Austin, Williamson County**) has introduced House Bill 483, which directs TxDOT to enter into a comprehensive development agreement with a private sector developer to create a high-speed rail line along the Interstate 35 Corridor from **San Antonio** to **Dallas**. State Senator Sarah Eckhardt has filed a companion bill in the Texas Senate. [Story](#). [Bill Text](#).

Once again, IH-35 in **Austin** between US 290 North to Ben White Boulevard has been named as one of the state's most congested highways by the Texas A&M Transportation Institute's 2024 congestion study, placing third after other highways in **Houston** and **Dallas**. Annual per-mile delays equaled 904,542 person-hours. [Story](#).

San Antonio's VIA Metropolitan Transit will have a new president and chief executive officer beginning in January 2025 when Jon Gary Herrera, 56, takes over from retiring current chief exec Jeff Arndt. [Details](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

A new Rice University study finds that long-term drought conditions - such as occurred in the 1950's - could lead to a severe economic downturn in Texas. Losses by 2030 could potentially be in the billion-dollar-per-day range unless substantial new investments are made in water infrastructure and supply. [Story](#). [Report](#).

That same Rice University study (above) applauds the **San Antonio** Water System's long-term planning efforts - which incorporate climate change in forecasting future supply needs - showcasing

the agency as an example of how other Texas cities could diversify their water resources portfolios and infrastructure. **Story.**

City-owned **Austin Studios** contributed \$2.6 billion to the local economy and helped to generate more than 37,000 jobs over the last quarter-century, according to a new 2024 Creative Workforce Report from the Austin Film Society. The 20-acre site is located at the former Robert Mueller Municipal Airport. **Story. Report.**

In a story datelined out of **Johnson County**, the **Texas Tribune** reports on complaints from farmers and ranchers of dead pets, cows, and horses being poisoned by sewage-based fertilizers originally billed as environmentally friendly but apparently contaminated with 'forever chemicals.' Scary stuff. **Story.**

Thought of the Week

"All the beautiful sentiments in the world weigh less than a single lovely action."

– James Russell Lowell

This newsletter is available to our members. If you wish to unsubscribe, please send an email request to council@thecorridor.org.

©2024 Austin-San Antonio Corridor Council