



Monday Morning Report

December 4, 2023

INTERNAL

The next meeting of the Corridor Council Executive Committee is scheduled for December 20 at 2:00 pm, via Zoom. To add an item to the agenda, contact council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Congratulations to Corridor Council founding chairman Henry Cisneros and the *Texas Tribune* on a terrific panel presentation last week on *'The Interconnected Future of San Antonio and Austin,'* a wide-ranging discussion of transportation, water, housing affordability, greenspace preservation, and other issues challenging the fastest-growing cities in Texas and the nation. Panelists included economic development representatives from **San Marcos, Austin, New Braunfels** and **San Antonio**. Read about it [here](#). Watch the [video](#). [More](#).

As **Manhattan** embarks on the largest-yet test of congestion pricing as a means of reducing congestion in the US, the *New York Times* outlines the history and effectiveness of similar efforts in **London, Stockholm, and Singapore**, and explains how the program will work. Efforts elsewhere have cut congestion (short term) and air pollution, with relatively minor disruptions but high costs for commuters. [Story](#). [More](#). [Conflicts](#).

Spurred in part by an incident earlier this year in which a Fed Ex cargo plane nearly collided with a Southwest Airlines passenger jet at Bergstrom International Airport in **Austin**, the Federal Aviation Administration turned to outside experts for an independent assessment of US airport safety. Their report, issued earlier this month, is downright scary. [Story](#). Read more about the **Austin** near-collision event [here](#). The [report](#).

'N2N,' climate researchers' shorthand for 'natural gas to nuclear,' is used to describe a transition path weaning the world off of fossil fuels by building small, cheap, modular nuclear power plants to replace existing energy sources. As a Dow Chemical site in **Corpus Christi** demonstrates, the *Houston Chronicle* reports on how difficult that transition will be due to a lack of regulatory clarity and uncertain uranium supply chains. [Story](#). [Process Issues](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

In an interesting sidebar to the COPS28 global climate change meeting in **Dubai** that began last week, local jurisdictions (municipalities and counties) leaders are meeting to share ideas about how cities can act locally to meaningfully effect climate change on a global scale. Bad news: a letter from mayors says, 'There is no viable technology currently or expected to be available...that can extract carbon from the atmosphere.' [Story](#).

Americans spent an average of one hour per day commuting to work in 2019, according to the **Washington Post**, and that in turn has led to auto emissions becoming the leading source of greenhouse gases in the US since 2017. Could converting suburban communities into '15-minute cities' alter that equation? **Opinion**.

The nation's largest port by trade value, the Port of **Laredo**, is funneling a river of products through **San Antonio** and thus fueling economic development across a wide range of business sectors including auto manufacturing, logistics companies, distribution centers, and fresh produce. The **Express-News** says the **Laredo-San Antonio** relationship anchors a new South Texas Economic Triangle. **Story**.

Some residents of **New Braunfels** and **Seguin** rejoiced when the 100-year-old Lake Dunlap dam, which had collapsed in 2019, reopened earlier this year and began to fill. Now, however, some downstream residents complain that the revitalized dam is reducing the free flow of water through their riverside properties. **Story**.

Studies show that a growing fear among aging baby-boomers is the high cost of long-term care services. 'The daily cost of daily assistance is out of reach for most,' reports **Axios**. 84% of seniors in **Austin** and **San Antonio** cannot afford in-home health care, and 85% can't afford assisted living care, research shows. **Story. Data**.

Thought of the Week

"It is wise to direct your anger towards problems, not people; to focus your energies on answers, not excuses."

- William Arthur Ward

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