



Monday Morning Report

July 2, 2018

INTERNAL

The next Executive Committee meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council is Wednesday, July 18 at 2:00 pm. This meeting is currently scheduled at the Council offices at 304 C.M. Allen Parkway in San Marcos but local roadwork may cause relocation. We'll let you know. Come by to meet our new chairman John Thomaidis, mayor of **San Marcos**. RSVP to council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Riding a wave of discontent over corruption and the status quo, leftist candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador achieved a landslide victory in yesterday's presidential election in **Mexico**. He received a broad mandate to re-shape **Mexico's** government, culture, and society, according to many observers. Details [here](#).

Transit-oriented development is transforming cities and suburbs all over the world, but the rush to increase density and tax bases can lead to 'transit-induced gentrification' - that is, current residents priced out by rising prices and taxes. Affordability of housing becomes a growth-limiting obstacle. **Arlington County** transportation economist Michael Ryan suggests pairing transit development with affordability credits packages under a specific Federal Housing and Urban Development program as a remedy. Story and links [here](#).

Related to affordability and transit-oriented development (above), the National Resources Defense Council published a summary earlier this month of how public transportation can actually lead to gentrification and why affordable housing needs to be a part of transit plans. They cite examples from **San Francisco, San Diego, Chicago, Atlanta**, and other cities. [Story](#).

Some interesting details emerged last week with a proposal that the (**Austin-area**) Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority provide a loan for the relocation of Capital Metro's Kramer Metrorail Station a half-mile north to service the planned Broadmoor redevelopment site. The 4-0 vote (two board members recused by conflicts) to move forward on loan negotiations marks a first for the agency becoming involved in a transit project, with the chairman remarking that it is not simply a "pavement company" whose sole mission is to build toll roads. [Story](#).

Something you may not want to contemplate in 100-degree heat, but a 64-mile trail-and-bike way system is nearly complete that will allow enthusiasts to ride their bikes from **Dallas** to **Fort Worth**. With the completion of two bike-pedestrian bridges later this year, the network will be within about 5 miles of completion. [Details](#).

Austin's Capital Metro will begin a pilot autonomous shuttle bus service by the end of the year, officials say, running from the Central Library to the Downtown Station. The shared-use vehicles will carry up to 15 passengers and an attendant, with 5-7 minute service intervals. [Details](#).

That 'make-or-break' regulatory hearing in **London** last week resulted in Uber getting a 15-month probationary operating permit, key to the ride-hailing company's European development strategy in its

largest overseas market. An earlier ban on Uber over licensing issues similar to those raised by **Austin** was lifted. [Details.](#)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

There are between 63,000-100,000 unfilled truck-driving jobs in the US, a shortage that is beginning to negatively impact the economy and drive up prices - according to industry officials. As a result, companies are offering higher wages, cash bonuses, and expanding age and skills requirements. Oh, and don't expect self-driving trucks to solve the shortage. A *Washington Post* story datelined in **Lake Milton**, Ohio, but a big driver (sorry) of NAFTA trade movement capacity. [Story.](#)

The new permanent president of Port **San Antonio** announced new construction at the **San Antonio** Museum of Science and Technology last week, part of a grander strategy to develop the former airbase as a high technology hub. [Details.](#)

That ongoing saga of a proposed landfill site in **Caldwell County** near **Lockhart** (east of SH 130 and north of FM 1185) appears to have hit the 'pause' button as Green Group Holdings, the developer, awaits an appeal in district court. Local opponents are trying to reverse a permit granted for the landfill by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. [Details.](#)

Bad news for pigs: **Guadalupe County** commissioners approved a program last week that will offer a \$5 bounty on every feral hog tail turned to county officials. The wild hogs continue to be a problem on area roads, including the higher-speed sections of State Highway 130. A Texas State University offshoot will manage the project. [Details.](#)

Thought of the Week

"If I knew I was going to live this long, I'd have taken better care of myself."

-Mickey Mantle

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