



## Monday Morning Report

August 27, 2018

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### INTERNAL

Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, is the next scheduled meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee. The meeting will be at 2:00 pm in the Council offices at 304 C.M. Allen Parkway in **San Marcos**. To suggest an agenda item or RSVP, respond to [council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org).

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### INFRASTRUCTURE

A new revised NAFTA deal was announced this morning in **Washington**, but the revamped trade treaty will exclude Canada for now and concentrate primarily on the automotive industry and the energy sector. The new treaty must be approved by Congress before its provisions become effective. Canada is expected to rejoin the trade talks now that a bilateral agreement has been reached between the US and Mexico. [Story](#).

There's been a lot of reporting this month on the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Harvey and much of the eastern half of Texas is still in recovery mode. But the best piece we've seen so far is *The Atlantic's* re-telling of how the storm devastated **Houston**, the nation's fourth-largest city, through the eyes of its former mayor, Bill White. Hurricane Harvey killed 50 people in Houston, and left policymakers asking, "How did we get here?" [Story](#).

**Arlington**, Texas has signed a one-year deal with autonomous vehicle producer Drive.ai to begin providing ride-sharing services for 'last-mile' transportation service to its entertainment district. The pilot program starts this October, funded in part by the city and using a \$343,000 federal grant. [Details](#).

A company that has developed a chip technology for identifying individual automobiles either still or in traffic says the Chinese government may begin using the chips to limit congestion and air pollution. Authorities there already use a license plate system in **Beijing** to limit the hours certain cars can be on the highways, but the new chips make it possible to more accurately monitor the system. [Details](#).

Transportation Advocates of Texas has a board meeting *this* Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, at the Austin Club beginning at 12:00 noon. The club is located at 110 E. 9th street in **Austin**. RSVP to [lharlan@samcoinc.org](mailto:lharlan@samcoinc.org).

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### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

In a story datelined out of **McKinney**, Texas, the *New York Times* reports today that the \$1.7 billion federal Job Corps program doesn't work and is failing its students. In April, the Labor Department's inspector general also concluded that 'Job Corps could not demonstrate beneficial job training outcomes.' 50,000 students enroll in the program each year to learn more than 100 trades including automotive repair, welding, plumbing, and other trades. [Details](#).

*Texas Government Insider* this week profiles **San Marcos** city manager Bert Lumbreras as he reflects on 36 years in city management work from **Austin** to **Waco**. He notes the one thing he wished people

knew about San Marcos is that "It is one of the fastest growing communities...across the country yet it continues to maintain its home town charm and vibrant local energy." [Story](#).

The new head of the Army Futures Command in downtown **Austin** is pledging to work more pro-actively with private companies in support of the Command's mission to bring innovation to the military's weaponry and strategies. "We want to come to find you," said Lt. General John Murray, approved just last week by the US Senate to lead the unit. [Story](#).

Despite a deal being reached last week for a soccer stadium in **Austin**, the mayor of **San Antonio** - Ron Nirenberg - is not giving up on securing a soccer franchise for Alamo City. He visited with Major League Soccer commissioner Don Garber last week and told the media, "San Antonio is, in my opinion, the best market for soccer and it's a great opportunity for us." [Details](#).

**Round Rock**-based Fix Entertainment has filed plans to build a 39,000 square-foot movie theater and brewery on **San Antonio's** far west side at Loop 1604 near Potranco Road. The \$8.3 million project is expected to be completed in May, 2019. [Details](#).

Just in time for the city's 300th birthday comes '**San Antonio: A Tricentennial History**,' due out this October from historian Char Miller and published by the Texas State Historical Association. The book is billed as the 'first general history of the nation's seventh largest city.' [Details](#).

## Thought of the Week

"I have an irrepressible desire to live till I can be assured that the world is a little better for my having lived in it."

- Abraham Lincoln

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