



Monday Morning Report

September 9, 2019

INTERNAL

The **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee is scheduled to meet *next* Wednesday, September 18, 2:00 pm at the Council offices in **San Marcos**, 304 N CM Allen Parkway. Please RSVP to council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Rally For A Rail Line: KSAT-TV in **San Antonio** is the latest news outlet to focus coverage on that joint letter 20 members of the Texas House sent to the chairman of the House Transportation Committee requesting an interim study on the issues and obstacles to creating a commuter rail line between **Austin** and **San Antonio**. A key legislator in the effort says a goal of the study is to be prepared with options and funding ideas for the 2021 Texas Legislature. [Story](#).

You just knew this was coming: property owners in the Guadalupe River valley lake system east of **San Antonio** are suing the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority to prevent the agency from draining - or 'de-watering,' as it's called - the lakes fronting their property. Plans are still in place to drain lakes Gonzales, Meadows, Placid and McQueeney, in that order, later this month. [Story](#).

At their meeting in **Austin tonight** (9/9) members of the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization will consider and probably adopt the '2019 Regional Transportation Demand Management Plan,' which reports that the agency staff expects a near doubling of **Austin**-area population by year 2045 to 4.5 million. Population is expected to grow by about 3% per year in that time period, absorbing an additional 55,000 people per year. [Draft Plan](#).

In a \$929 million budget released last week (9/3) the **San Antonio** Water System suggested that it will be raising rates by 9.9% in 2020, adding about \$80 a year to the average water user's annual bill. The increases are likely linked to beginning payments on the agency's \$2.8 billion Vista Ridge project to insure a long-term water supply. [Details](#).

In a story datelined out of **San Diego**, the **New York Times** reports that skepticism about electric scooters - once hailed as the future of personal last-mile transportation - is rising. Cities as geographically diverse as **Paris**, **Atlanta**, **Portland**, and **New York** have all imposed new restrictions or limitations on their use; **Columbia**, S.C. has banned them. Story mentions health concerns documented in **Austin** also. [Story](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

San Antonio continues to make affordable housing a top priority, says mayor Ron Nirenberg in an opinion editorial in the **Rivard Report** last week. He points to steady and gradual implementation of the city's Mayor's Housing Policy Task Force report from last year (which was incorporated into National League of

Cities policy recommendations) and 4400 new low-cost units currently in the pipeline. [Op-Ed. Task Force Report.](#)

The latest report from the Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program is focused on developing resilient infrastructure to combat climate change and avoid the flooding associated with increased rainfall from intense storms such as the still-around Hurricane Dorian. It calls attention to the declining 'urban tree canopy' across the US (about 1% per year loss, or about 130,000 acres every year from 2009 to 2014). Their science indicates that areas with more trees and less impervious cover are better prepared to deal with floods, and notes that **Los Angeles** recently appointed an urban forest ranger to promote canopy growth. [Story.](#)

Former **Travis County** judge Bill Aleshire, now a practicing attorney, has been raising issues for at least the last year about the use of McKalla Place in north **Austin** for a major league soccer stadium that is scheduled for a groundbreaking ceremony *today*. Aleshire says McKalla, a former chemical manufacturing site closed after a 1985 explosion, is unsafe unless workers are protected by bio-hazard suits and equipment blast shields. [Background. Details.](#)

Former **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council executive committee-member Rusty Brockman announced he is running for mayor in **New Braunfels**, seeking to replace the term-limited current mayor, Barron Casteel. [Details.](#)

Uh-Oh: JPMorgan created a tracker index that analyzed 14,000 tweets from President Trump and found that 'a broad swath of assets from single-name stocks to macro products have found their price dynamics increasingly beholden to a handful of tweets from the commander in chief.' [Story.](#)

Thought of the Week

"It takes less time to do a thing right, than it does to explain why you did it wrong."

- Henry Wadsworth
Longfellow

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