



Monday Morning Report

September 30, 2019

INTERNAL

Mark your calendars: The next meeting of the Executive Committee of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council is scheduled for Wednesday, December 18, 2:00 pm at the Council offices in **San Marcos** (304 North C.M. Allen Pkwy). For questions or to add items to the agenda, email council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The 'storm of the century' could start coming every year by 2050, according to an eye-opening warning from a special report issued last week by scientists for the United Nations, based on more than 7,000 individual scientific studies. 'The timescale for [major storms] is changing dramatically, and may become irrelevant in categorizing storms,' said one independent researcher. Four major events in four years have already struck **Copenhagen**, she notes. [Story](#). [UN Report](#).

The **Rivard Report** in **San Antonio** had a big scoop over the weekend: they published a proposed route map for that crude oil and condensate pipeline designed to move petroleum products from the Permian Basin to the Gulf Coast. Bad news is that it cuts right through the Texas Hill Country and over a recharge zone for the Edwards Aquifer, which provides drinking water for 2 million people. State officials said they have no control over the route. [Story](#).

The California High Speed Rail authority has approved prospective routes for the **Northern California** portion of their project. They plan to use existing Union Pacific and Caltrain rights of way from **San Jose** to **Gilroy** and new dedicated right of way to **Merced**. The **San Francisco** to **San Jose** section will use an existing Caltrain corridor. [Details](#).

Back to School for State and Local Workers: House Bill 3834 requires all state and local employees - and elected officials - to annually complete one of at least five cyber security training programs. The first certification must occur by June 14, 2020. Local governments must use a certified training program, unless the local government employs a dedicated cyber security officer. The Texas Department of Information Resources in **Austin** is leading the effort. [Story](#).

A new study based on children from **Mexico City** links air pollution to substantial cognitive decline and increased risk of dementias such as Alzheimer's disease. The report builds upon earlier research from the 1990's but names a specific culprit: amyloid plaques created as tiny particulate matter moves from the lungs to the brain. [Story](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

Port **San Antonio** announced plans for a new \$50 million five-story, 174,000 sq. ft. facility designed to lure still more cyber security companies to their 1900-acre campus. The Port already hosts about 1,000 cyber security workers in an existing building that opened last year. This building, Project Tech 2, will open in 2021. [Details](#).

Voom, the Airbus-owned helicopter ride-sharing service, has begun service in **San Francisco** to five Bay Area airports including **SFO, San Jose, Napa, Oakland** and **Palo Alto**. An average trip starts at about \$250 and can save up to an hour and a half of commuter time. [Details](#).

'Medical Forum II: The Growing Impact and Importance of **San Antonio's** Billion-Dollar Research Collaborative' will take place on Tuesday, October 15, 11:30 to 1:00 pm at the Embassy Suites on NW I-10 in **San Antonio**. For details and to register, go [here](#).

Ford Motor Company is bringing its autonomous vehicles to the streets of **Austin**, the company announced last week (9/25). They will begin by street mapping downtown in November, then slowly deploy on an experimental basis until they launch an autonomous taxi and delivery service at scale in 2021. For now, two safety drivers in each vehicle at all times. [Story](#). [More](#).

The US Census Bureau released its annual income and poverty rate data last week and, in a nutshell, **Austin** median incomes went up, but so did poverty. In **San Antonio**, the poverty rate reached 20%, the highest in five years, and median incomes fell. [Austin Details](#). [San Antonio Details](#).

Thought of the Week

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

- Anne Frank

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