



Monday Morning Report

November 26, 2018

INTERNAL

The next scheduled meeting for the **Austin-San Antonio Corridor** Council Executive Committee is Wednesday, December 19 at 2pm. RSVP or submit agenda items to council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The National Climate Assessment released Friday in **Washington** contains three main conclusions: extreme hot weather is becoming more common while extreme cold weather becomes more rare; climate change has doubled devastation from wildfires in the American west; and rising sea levels will necessitate mass migrations from coastal cities. A product of 13 federal agencies and 300 individual studies, the report predicts major negative impacts on US economy and transportation networks. Summary findings and infrastructure impacts [here](#). Overview [here](#). More analysis [here](#).

Transportation planners across the US are counting on 'roboshuttles' - autonomous or self-driving buses - to solve mobility issues but yesterday's **Washington Post** raises issues about the viability and safety of the systems that have been tested thus far. One program has already been suspended following safety concerns raised by the Federal Transit Administration. [Story](#).

The Federal Railroad Administration in **Washington DC** issued a final rule defining a new category of high speed rail that it says will allow the use of existing infrastructure and removes some restrictions on expensive dedicated rights of way, perhaps opening the door to a new generation of US passenger services. The new Tier III passenger trains can operate over the shared track at conventional speeds and as fast as 220 mph in areas with exclusive rights of way and without grade crossings. [Story](#). [Ruling](#).

TxDOT is hosting a statewide series of workshops to gather input for their Truck Parking Study and Freight Infrastructure Design Considerations report as part of the Texas Freight Mobility Plan Implementation. The **San Antonio** meeting is tomorrow (11/27). For more details and meeting sites/times, click [here](#).

Hoping to reduce congestion around **Austin's** Bergstrom International Airport, officials have moved the pickup point for taxis and ride-sharing services to a new location near the nearby rental car facility - about 600-feet from the airport exit. [Story](#).

San Antonio's Hemisfair Park Area Redevelopment Corporation is beginning a public input process to develop a 'vision and use' plan for Tower Park, near the Tower of the Americas, that will include five acres of green space and 10 acres of mixed use development. [Details](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

Travis County has released its wish list for the 2019 Texas Legislature's session that begins in January. The list includes fighting state-imposed revenue caps, support for homestead exemption flexibility, state funding for the county's STAR flight emergency program for Central Texas, and creation of a new civil state district court. [Details](#).

The Central Texas Technology Center backed by **Comal** and **Guadalupe Counties** has been honored with one of nine Stars of Texas awards from the Southwest Regional Executive Development Association for its efforts to build workforce for the region. [Story](#).

Retiring US Congressman Lamar Smith has been named as 'Texan of the Year' by the 2019 Texas Legislative Conference in **New Braunfels**. Smith reflects on 32 years of service in the US House of Representatives [here](#).

Thought of the Week

"The most difficult thing in the world is to know how to do a thing
and to watch someone else do it wrong, without comment."

- T. H. White

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