



Monday Morning Report

March 20, 2017

INTERNAL

Join us for an in-depth workshop discussion on the challenges, benefits and cost, the government role and local impacts to the present and future of self-driving cars. **"Self-Driving Vehicles: Are We There Yet?"**, Wednesday, 8:00 AM – 12 Noon, March 29 at the Hyatt Regency **Austin**. Opening remarks and presentation will be by Commissioner Brigid Shea, **Travis County**. Speakers include Steve Dellenback with Southwest Research Institute, Ginger Goodin, Director, Texas A&M Transportation Institute Policy Research Center, Kristie Chin, Kara Kockelman, Professor and Lisa Loftus-Otway, Attorney, Transportation Engineering University of Texas at **Austin**, Rick Wilhelm, Attorney, Dickinson Wright PLLC. Special guest, Robert Spillar, Director, City of **Austin** Transportation will close the program with a presentation on the City of **Austin**'s Smart City Program for New Mobility. Registration is required to this free event. [Details](#).

INFRASTRUCTURE

As part of a statewide initiative to improve congestion, the TXDOT launched 11 new traffic cameras to provide real-time data of the highway through downtown **Austin**. [Story](#).

According to an internal performance report, human drivers were forced to take control of Uber's self-driving cars once per mile during testing in Arizona. The report reveals how Uber's self-driving car program is performing using a key metric for evaluating progress toward fully autonomous vehicles. [Story](#).

Collisions at road-rail crossings in Central Texas have fallen almost 60% since the 1980s. The number of deaths in such collisions have fallen by a similar amount as crossings see better signals. [Story](#).

President Trump's proposed federal budget blueprint will cut the US Department of Transportation's budget by \$2.4 billion, or 13%, to \$16.2 billion. As for rail, the budget will terminate federal support for Amtrak's long-distance service. [Story](#).

A new study highlights six major priorities for city policymakers attempting to respond to the advent of driverless vehicles. "Cities have a window of opportunity to shape how the autonomous vehicle is used and must act now to define policies that minimize risks and maximize the benefits of driverless technology," it says. [Report](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

The **Austin** Transportation Department wants to improve safety and has launched a Vision Zero Input Map interactive tool that makes it quick and easy to share places where streets need to be safer. With the map, Austinites can select their mode of travel, choose from a preset list of concerns or add their own, and provide additional details. [Input Map](#).

In a significant shift away from the trend of the past 50 years, job growth in city centers for 21 out of 41 metropolitan areas has outperformed job growth in the surrounding suburban areas - according to a recent demographic study. [Story](#).

The commission studying how to celebrate **San Antonio's** 300th anniversary as a city will also be studying a proposal from the Smithsonian Institution in **Washington** to highlight the Alamo City's culture and history on the National Mall next year. [Story](#).

Thought of the Week

"Some things have to be believed to be seen."

~Ralph Hodgson

