



## Monday Morning Report

May 23, 2016

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### INTERNAL

At last week's meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee (5/18) members discussed developments between the two regional Metropolitan Planning Organizations regarding Lone Star Rail, a **Dallas-Ft. Worth-Austin** planning initiative on higher speed rail, the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority, and state and federal legislative priorities for the region. [Details.](#)

Join us next Wednesday, June 1st at the **San Antonio** Plaza Club for a luncheon & discussion with Congressman Henry Cuellar and the Department of Transportation Commissioner Jeff Austin on "*The Future of South Texas Transportation: **San Antonio** to **Monterrey** High Speed Rail*". Details [here.](#)

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### INFRASTRUCTURE

**Georgetown** and **New Braunfels** topped the list of the country's fastest-growing communities - four of which are in Texas - from July 2014 to July 2015, according to the latest figures from the US Census Bureau for cities with a population greater than 50,000. [Story.](#)

In a long thought-piece articulating a vision for **San Antonio's** future, former **Express-News** editor Bob Rivard argues for unprecedented bond spending in the urban core, using the city's upcoming 300th birthday and HemisFair 2018 to redefine downtown (without a baseball stadium). [Opinion.](#)

The US Department of Transportation received more 212 applications totaling \$9.8 billion for just over \$800 million available this year for the FASTLANE grant program - an initiative targeting nationwide efficiencies in rail and highway freight shipments. [Details.](#)

A trend among millennials moving away from car ownership may be changing, according to a new study indicating that 35% of all new auto loans in 2015 went to millennials. The study also shows that younger buyers are more impatient purchasers and better educated on their options due to the Internet. [More.](#)

Protecting water quality on the Comal River is on the **New Braunfels** city council agenda this evening (5/23) as members ponder a \$425,000 plan to safeguard the river and tributaries from harmful bacteria. [Story.](#)

"250 million cars will be able to talk to each other by 2020" and "The auto industry will see more change in the next five years than it has in the last 50," are just two insights from a **Ft. Worth** transportation writer's thoughtful piece: "*Five Signs That Driverless Cars Are Here To Stay.*" [Story.](#)

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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

Last year at this time **Austin** had Uber and Google fiber while **San Antonio** had neither; now **San Antonio** has both, noted **Bexar County** judge Nelson Wolff in an annual *State of the County* address laced with news about a growing tech economy, more river development investments, and the local sports market. [Story](#).

**San Antonio** bids farewell this morning to Tejano music icon Emilio Navaira, who died last week at age 53 in **New Braunfels**. Navaira released 20 albums over his career and won a Grammy in 2002. [Story](#).

Voting ends today in a **USA Today** 'Ten Best' contest to name the nation's favorite tubing rivers, and **San Marcos** and **New Braunfels** are in the running. [Details](#). Vote [here](#).

It has been 50 years since Charles Whitman killed 14 people from the campus tower at the University of Texas in **Austin**, but the **Los Angeles Times** raised an issue over the weekend over who actually killed Whitman. Strange story about an even stranger event [here](#).

## Thought of the Week

*"You can never plan the future by the past."*

~ Edmund Burke