



Monday Morning Report

October 12, 2021

Columbus Day Edition

INTERNAL

We're combining the October and November meetings of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council into a single meeting on Wednesday, November 17, at 2:00 pm by Zoom videoconference. Thus, no meeting this month on October 20. We'll send additional emails to reflect this change. Please contact us with any issues or concerns at council@thecorridor.org.

COVID-19 UPDATE: As of this morning, global cases reached 238,368,665 with total worldwide deaths of 4.6 million. 6.5 billion vaccine doses have been administered. US cases are at 44,456,936 with 714,064 deaths. (10/12/21) ([Johns Hopkins](#)). Yesterday, Texas was reporting 3,436,593 cases with 66,467 deaths, including **Bexar County**: 259,228 cases with 4,888 deaths; **Guadalupe County**: 17,231 cases, with 313 deaths; **Comal County**: 10,847 cases with 435 deaths; **Hays County**: 28,963 cases with 326 deaths; **Travis County**: 116,783 cases with 1,375 deaths; and **Williamson County**: 63,067 cases with 658 deaths (10/11/21). ([TDHHS](#)).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Brightline - the fast-moving Florida company developing rail commuter solutions around the US - has announced a new 320-mile **Orlando-to-Miami** project, scheduled to open in 2028. The company is also eyeing Las Vegas to Los Angeles service, and the story mentions the potential of a **Dallas-Austin-San Antonio** line. [Story](#).

The remaining readers of the **San Antonio Express News** were told by columnist Greg Jefferson this week - in an opinion piece ostensibly about Elon Musk's The Boring Company examining various tunneling operations in the **Austin-San Antonio Corridor** - that the Lone Star Rail District had 'failed spectacularly.' The piece did not mention that the paper had earlier editorialized many times in favor of the project, nor that the effort was ended locally by **San Antonio** political leaders who had previously appointed Lone Star's board. [Opinion. More](#).

Next month, officials will present a \$2 billion expansion plan for **San Antonio** International Airport to the city council that includes a new Terminal C, a rebuilt Terminal A, a new parking garage, and new security features that will consolidate checkpoints. The projects are expected to be completed within 6-8 years. For details, go [here](#).

New York Times columnist Tom Friedman fears a populist backlash to the whole climate/green movement due to rising fuel and energy prices in the US, China, and Europe this winter - accompanied by heat shortages - quoting a European analyst: "This winter - people are going to die of cold...Make no mistake, this winter is going to be shocking." [Opinion. More](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

The number of 100-degree temperature days in Texas will nearly double over the next 15 years, compared to 2001-2020, and average temperatures will increase by 1.8 degrees, says a new report from the state's weather guru, John Nielsen-Gammon, in the **Houston Chronicle**. Urban flooding will also increase, by between 1--15%, compared to what was expected for year 2000-2008. This is serious, people. [Story](#).

The whole world knows by now that Elon Musk is moving his Tesla corporate headquarters to **Austin** from California ([here](#)) but, maybe less-known, is that his new manufacturing facility in **Berlin** is catching some flak from local residents over environmental concerns and water usage by the plant. "I would tell him to stop building electrocars but rather fly to Mars," said one. [Story](#). [More](#).

Several Latino-owned **San Antonio** businesses were highlighted by **Time** magazine in a survey article last week on US COVID-19 impacts on the economy, including Jamie Place's on Commerce Street and Me Latte. The piece contains a lot of demographic data on the city's workforce, population, and Latino-owned businesses. [Story](#).

The announcement last week by **Bexar County** judge Nelson Wolff that he would not be seeking re-election next year has set off a scramble for candidates who hope to replace him. Only the second person in more than a century to serve as both San Antonio mayor and county judge, Wolff's will be tough shoes to fill. Among those who might try, says the local paper: state representative Ina Minjarez, State District Judge Peter Sakai (who has announced for the spot), and current **Bexar County** commissioner Tommy Calvert. [Story](#). [More](#).

Once called the 'Tom Brady' of police chiefs, Art Acevedo - the former head of the **Austin** and later the **Houston** police departments - was suspended from the top cop job in **Miami** this week after wood-shedding local city leaders about improperly meddling in personnel decisions. His fate remains in doubt. [Story](#). [More](#).

Thought of the Week

"You can never cross the ocean unless you have the courage to lose sight of the shore."

- Christopher Columbus

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