



Monday Morning Report

February 5, 2024

INTERNAL

The next meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee will be held on Wednesday, February 21, at 2:00 pm via Zoom. Sharlene Leurig, Chief Executive Officer of the Texas Water Trade (<https://texaswatertrade.org>), will be a guest speaker. RSVP to council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

As predicted, opponents of the proposed expansion of IH-35 through central **Austin** have filed a federal lawsuit alleging violations of US environmental clearance processes and, in a separate complaint, civil rights violations. Both the city of **Austin** and **Travis County** had earlier urged TxDOT to pause the project for further environmental reviews. TxDOT says the project will continue on schedule. [Story](#). [Lawsuit](#). [Complaint](#).

Meanwhile, TxDOT has scheduled an open house in **New Braunfels** for 5:00 pm, Feb. 20 to lay out a study of other potential safety and mobility improvement projects for a 45-mile section of IH-35 through **Bexar, Comal, Hays, and Travis Counties** linking **San Antonio** to **Austin**. Details are [here](#).

Problems arising from the deployment of self-driving cars in **Austin, San Francisco, Phoenix,** and other cities have led to the University of Oregon's Urbanism Next Institute to publish "*Autonomous Vehicles: A Guidebook for Cities*," to assist local policymakers in managing issues related to self-driving vehicles. [Story](#). [Guidebook](#).

First it was a ban on e-scooters, and now **Paris** is going after Sport Utility Vehicles (SUVs) with a referendum vote yesterday proposing to triple parking fees (to nearly \$20-an-hour) on SUVs in the central city. Proponents say SUVs generate more emissions and more lethal car/pedestrian accidents than standard cars. [Story](#).

San Antonio's Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is steering \$34.5 million to **New Braunfels** from the agency's 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program. For a list of funded projects, go [here](#). Also, **Guadalupe County** voted last week to join in developing a **New Braunfels** public transit program. [Details](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

Texas gained more jobs via business re-locations than any other state in the US over the last decade, according to a new study from the Federal Reserve Bank of **Dallas**. More than 25,000

establishments re-located to Texas from 2010-2019, bringing 281,000 jobs with them, the **Texas Tribune** reports. [Story](#). [Study](#).

Former **San Antonio** mayor Julian Castro's signature SA2020 visioning project, founded in 2010, will cease operations in March of this year, the **Express-News** reports, but it didn't exactly go quietly: a scathing report on the city's finances and policies - and a resolution opposing the war in Gaza, may have played a part. [Story](#).

Greater: SATX, corporate successor to the **San Antonio** Economic Development Foundation, will shift its focus this year to seeking more direct foreign investment in the Alamo City, according to recent discussions with the city over funding for the public-private partnership. Among the targets: Canada, Germany, Japan, and the UK. [Story](#).

Thought of the Week

"You have the right to change your mind."

- Oprah Winfrey

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