



Monday Morning Report

February 9, 2026

INTERNAL

The next meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive committee is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 2 PM by Zoom. For more information or to add an item to the agenda, contact council@thecorridor.org.

Condolences to the friends and family of **Comal County** judge Sherman Krause, 62, who passed away over the weekend, according to the **New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung**. Krause had served as county judge since 2011 and had recently announced his retirement. [Story. More.](#)

INFRASTRUCTURE

The three-time former chairman of the Texas House Transportation Committee told a conference in **Mission** over the weekend that the state 'cannot pave our way out of population growth,' and that Texas investments in rail infrastructure can 'immeasurably enhance not only safety but the entire transportation system.' [Story.](#)

Energy writer Robert Bryce, based in **Austin**, notes that losses related to electric vehicles have mounted for US auto manufacturers, including the latest announcement of a \$26 billion loss by Stellantis (the former Chrysler), which he says raise total US corporate losses related to EV's at a whopping \$140 billion. [Newsletter.](#)

Austin's Transportation and Public Works Department has released their 2026 Local Mobility Annual Plan, highlighting over 200 upcoming mobility network projects designed "to make it safer, easier, and more comfortable for people to move around" in the city. [Story. The Plan.](#)

Starting *today* (2/9), expect some big changes to IH-35 through downtown **Austin** for drivers and pedestrians: multiple exit/entrance ramp closures and new bypass routes related to the ongoing construction of the IH-35 Capital Expressway Project. TxDOT's updates are available [here](#).

Officials with the Texas A&M Forest Service announced the commencing of construction last month on a new \$2.5 million facility in **Fredericksburg**, near the **Gillespie County** Fair Grounds, intended to bolster emergency wildfire response and other environmental protections in the Texas Hill Country. [Details. More.](#)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

In a story datelined out of **Weslaco**, in Hidalgo County, the **Wall Street Journal** reports that immigration raids in **South Texas** are starting to hurt the local economy, shutting down construction, housing, and other projects across the Rio Grande Valley. [Story](#). The Federal Reserve Bank of **Dallas** agrees, [here](#).

A rash of multi-million-dollar data centers in and around **San Antonio** are raising concerns from local officials about electric power consumption, water usage, and - in particular - planning issues arising from numerous companies filing permit approval requests for millions of square feet of new facilities. [Story](#).

Artificial intelligence researcher Dr. Alan D. Thompson, writing in his newsletter '*The Memo*' about the latest AI product Claude Opus 4.6 from Anthropic: "I don't want to alarm anyone, but this frontier model is far, far beyond human...Perhaps for the first time, this model feels both superhuman and complete." Scary. [Review](#). [Release](#).

Trump family transactions involving a \$500 million crypto investment from the United Arab Emirates and subsequent approval of advanced artificial intelligence-enabled microchips shipped to the Gulf states, has sparked controversy. Even the conservative **National Review** launched a five-part investigation. [Story](#).

Austin has been selected by the Saudi Arabian Football Federation as site for the national major league soccer team leading up to the FIFA 2026 World Cup - called arguably the 'world's largest sporting event.' [Details](#).

On Saturday (2/7), voters in **Leander** elected Na'Cole Thompson as the city's mayor, **Community Impact** reports [here](#).

Thought of the Week

"All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered; the point is to discover them."
– Galileo Galilei

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