



Monday Morning Report

February 10, 2025

INTERNAL

The Executive Committee of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council meets Wednesday, February 19 at 2 PM by Zoom. For more information or to add an item to the agenda, please email council@corridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

New US Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy last week issued a puzzling fundamental change to how federal transportation dollars will be spent, ordering that all the department's programs prioritize projects in 'communities with marriage and birthrates higher than the national average.' Some observers believe the move is an effort to steer funding away from urban areas and toward red (Republican) or rural states. [Story](#).

By using the artificial intelligence-driven *NoTraffic* software management system at 80 intersections, **Tucson** has been able to reduce traffic congestion by up to 46%, according to **City-Today**, saving local drivers 1.25 million hours previously lost in traffic with a \$24.3 million economic benefit. Texas cities currently using the system include **Arlington, Dallas, Ft. Worth, Garland** and **McKinney**, the *Statesman* reports. [Story](#). [More](#). [More Details](#).

It looks like Uber and Waymo will get a three-month head start on Tesla by beginning self-driving, autonomous rideshare services in **Austin** as soon as next month (March), according to **CBS**. The companies partnered to offer an 'Autonomous Vehicles' option under 'Ride Preference' for Uber accounts. [Story](#).

Pushback against the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority's plans for the two toll-lanes in each direction expansion of South Mopac continues, with counterproposals being submitted by **Austin, Westlake Hills, and Rollingwood**, in addition to the agency receiving more than 1200 comments in recent public feedback. [Story](#).

Rail News: Using \$400,000 in federal funding, Oklahoma is evaluating 52 railroad grade crossings for closure or separation in anticipation of launching commuter passenger rail service between **Edmond** and **Norman**. More [details](#). California's 171-mile **Bakersfield-to-Merced** high-speed rail project faces Trump's ire, shortfall. [Story](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

The **Express-News** continues to pitch the relationship between **Austin** and **San Antonio** as competitive rather than cooperative, this time keying off of a **Time Out** global magazine list of 'The Ten Best Cities In The US 2025' that ranks three Texas cities - **Austin, Dallas, and San Antonio** - in the Top 10. [Story](#).

Bastrop is responding to explosive growth, much of it generated by the promise of Elon Musk's various businesses (SpaceX, The Boring Company, etc.) relocating to the area, but many in the economic development arena are frustrated by the stop-and-go pace and uncertainty generated for local enterprises. [Story](#).

With an eye towards growing the local sports tourism industry, **Buda** moves forward on a \$6.5 million expansion of its Sportsplex facility to include four new softball fields, two concession stands, 26 batting cages, 899 new parking spaces, and eventually an RV parking area to accommodate traveling teams and families. [Story](#).

After Department of Government Efficiency studies revealed production costs rose 13% in 2023 and lost \$179 million that year, President Donald Trump has ordered the US Treasury to quit producing pennies; DOGE chief Elon Musk says minting coins that cost more than they're worth no longer make cents (*sorry!*). [Story](#).

Thought of the Week

"There are years that ask questions and years that answer."

– Zora Neale Hurston

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