



## Monday Morning Report

February 12, 2024

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### INTERNAL

The **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee meets Wednesday, February 21, at 2:00 pm via Zoom. Sharlene Leurig, Chief Executive Officer of the Texas Water Trade, will be a guest speaker. RSVP to [council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org).

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### INFRASTRUCTURE

As neighbor-to-the-north **Fort Worth** inches closer to the one million mark in population, **Tarrant County** leaders met last week for a Transportation Summit highlighting the city's first-ever 25-year long-range transportation plan, tying together all the region's growth trends and transportation modes into a single, coherent vision. [Story](#).

TxDOT has released new details about how the agency will manage traffic issues related to lane closures coming as major changes to IH-35 in north **San Antonio** are constructed - some already happening since last weekend. The north and southbound lanes and access lanes from IH-410 to Loop 1604 will be affected. [Details](#).

Low-cost European airline Condor is wooing potential **Austin** passengers as it prepares to launch first-ever **San Antonio-to-Frankfurt** service later this year, **Axios** reports. A marketing executive for the airline pitches the short (75-miles) distance from the Capital to **San Antonio** International, business overlaps between Austin/Alamo City and **Frankfurt**, and - brilliantly - German American heritage in **New Braunfels** and **Fredericksburg**. [Story](#).

After being among the first cities to ban e-scooters, bike-and-transit-friendly **Paris** voters last week approved tripling the cost of parking (to almost \$20 an hour) in the urban core for Sports Utility Vehicles, which they view as 'bulky and polluting.' Citing global warming, the city's mayor said the vote was 'a form of resistance.' [Story](#).

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### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

**Austin** topped the Milken Institute's list of the *Best Performing Large US Cities* - released last week - based upon 13 economic factors but basically a measurement of growth, with the report citing high wages, plentiful jobs, and a low cost of living. The report noted a growing 'donut effect' of surrounding suburbs poaching workers and businesses from the urban core. **San Antonio** ranked 34th. [Story](#). [Report](#). [Methodology](#).

Shifting global trade patterns and increasing 'nearshoring' by manufacturers fleeing Asia, led the US to buy more goods from Mexico than China last year (2023) - for the first time in two decades,

the **New York Times** reports. The trends have also led to the US-China trade deficit decreasing by 20% last year, to \$427 billion. [Story](#).

The IH-35 **Austin-San Antonio Corridor** is well-positioned to withstand any broader national economic downturn, a former Federal Reserve Bank of **Dallas** economist told a **San Marcos** Partnership panel last week, saying he expected the recent 'phenomenal growth' to continue. He also contrasted **San Antonio's** 'more stable' military-based economy with **Austin's** high-growth, high-tech industries' economic 'roller-coaster.' [Story](#).

**San Marcos** took another step closer last week toward imposing a 'can ban' of single-use beverage containers along the San Marcos River in the city's parks and recreational areas. If approved on final reading, the ban would go into effect May 1, just in time for peak tubing season. [Story](#).

## Thought of the Week

*"The universe is full of magical things patiently waiting for our wits to grow sharper."*

- Eden Phillpotts

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