



Monday Morning Report

February 16, 2026

INTERNAL

The next meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive committee is *this* Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 2 PM by Zoom. Former TxDOT District Engineer John Kelly will be discussing a proposal to develop a 'signature bridge' over Lady Bird Lake on IH-35 in **Austin**. For more information, contact council@thecorridor.org. **Draft Agenda**.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Personality conflicts and a hotly contested election are roiling local politics in **San Antonio**. Five city councilmembers seek to censure Alamo City mayor Gina Ortiz Jones for 'repeated instances of unprofessional conduct,' ([here](#) & [here](#)). And a debate for two **Bexar County** judge candidates turned fiery last week. **Story**.

Primary elections for county judge are also underway in **Hays** and **Comal Counties**, with local media offering candidate forums ([here](#)) from **Community Impact** and [here](#) from the **New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung**.

San Antonio's Alamo-Area Metropolitan Planning Organization has a new executive director: Brandon Wheeler, who assumed the top staff role on Feb. 2, bringing with him 16-years of experience with the **North Texas** Council of Governments. Former executive director Isidro (Sid) Martinez departed in December 2024. **Details**.

After earlier supporting construction of the USMCA/NAFTA-related 1.5-mile-long Gordie Howe International Bridge connecting **Detroit**, Michigan and **Windsor**, Ontario in Canada, President Trump blocked the opening of the bridge last week, reportedly to favor the competing tolled Ambassador bridge, **ProPublica** says. **Story**.

Also last week, **Politico** reported that the Trump administration had killed \$135 million in previously approved funding for electric vehicle charging infrastructure (more than 2600 charging points) in California, Colorado, Illinois, and Michigan - all 'blue' states - citing claims of 'waste and mismanagement' in the program. **Story**.

"Give Waymo a Chance" says the **Washington Post**, slamming proposed legislation to regulate autonomous vehicles on behalf of taxi and truck drivers who may lose jobs because of the

technology. Safety data available - fewer mistakes than human drivers - trumps the economic concerns, the paper argues. [Opinion](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

Greater: SATX - a **San Antonio** business development organization - is trying to renew its financial agreements with the city, despite falling short on its 2025 projected goals for new jobs and business investments. They are seeking up to \$759,250 for 2026, less than last year, the **San Antonio Report** says. [Details](#).

A Japanese plastics company is planning to create up to 300 jobs with a nearly \$40 million new plant on **San Antonio's** South Side, the **American-Statesman** reports. It will be the first US plant for Sanko Texas Corp., will use the facility as its US headquarters. The firm creates plastic products for other manufacturers. [Details](#).

A **Bank of America** study released last month says **Austin** is still the number one destination for people moving from other parts of the US but, contrary to the narrative that those new residents are largely coming from the coastal states California and New York, one-in-four are people moving in from other parts of Texas. [Story](#).

Austin-based defense contractor Skyways Air Transportation plans to build the world's largest fully autonomous drone fleet and double its workforce this year, the **American-Statesman** reports. Their currently deployed drones can carry up to 30 pounds and travel 450 miles - new models will double those numbers. [Story](#).

Global climate scientists have detected a worrisome new trend: the *rate* of atmospheric warming has *increased* alarmingly in the last three years, the **Washington Post** reports. "Something has changed," said one scientist. "The past warming rate is no longer a reliable predictor of the future." Davy Crockett once told Congress: "You can go to hell. I am going to Texas." Soon, there may not be much difference. [Story](#).

Thought of the Week

"It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit."

– Harry S. Truman

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