



## Monday Morning Report

February 17, 2025

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### INTERNAL

The Executive Committee of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council meets *this* Wednesday, February 19 at 2 PM by Zoom. Chad Coburn, from the Rail Division of TxDOT, will be joining us to discuss progress on SAT-DFW, SAT-HOU, and AUS-SAT passenger rail developments. ***Draft Agenda***. For more information, please email [council@corridor.org](mailto:council@corridor.org).

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### INFRASTRUCTURE

Home prices, real estate development investments, and ridership are soaring along the \$6.2 billion privately financed Brightline train route in **South Florida**, with some property values increasing by more than 131%, the **New York Post** reports. Ridership was 2.7 million travelers in 2024 - up nearly 40% over 2023. ***Story***.

President Trump told the **New York Post** that he could withhold up to \$30 billion in funding via the US Department of Transportation in order to kill **Manhattan's** ambitious congestion pricing program for midtown streets. He is also targeting the city's many bike lanes for removal, saying they cause congestion. ***Story. More***.

Although now reportedly paused because of a federal court order, Trump administration executive orders have also sowed confusion and uncertainty for local transportation (and other) projects in **Austin** and **San Antonio**. TV news outlet **KSAT** says \$325.5 million of Alamo City's 2025 budget is federal dollars, now in doubt; the **Austin Monitor** identified \$1.145 billion in transportation funding alone under threat. ***AUS details. SAT. More***.

The **Express-News** last week published a handy map and synopsis of anticipated highway expansion projects in the **San Antonio** region (up to Austin), including timelines divided into 3-year timeframes, 10-year timeframes, and long-term projects well into the future. Interstate 35, Loop 1604, and I-10 will see the most work. ***Story***.

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### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

Fast-growing **Kyle** is also moving fast developing trails for its surging population: the city council just purchased 7.3-acres to continue the Vybe Trail, an 80-mile paved path that aims to

connect all **Kyle** neighborhoods to different areas of the city, **Community Impact** reports. 74.5% of residents are within 10 minutes of Vybe. **Story**.

Three major Texas university think-tanks have cooperated to develop a five-year legislative agenda for the state's 26 metro area, the *Texas Metropolitan Blueprint*, that includes 27 specific recommendations guided by six main principles for innovation, housing, infrastructure, talent-growth, and civic engagement. **Story. Report**.

No Silver Lining: Scientists think they have discovered the key to the last two years of extraordinary global heat: reduced cloud cover caused by (you guessed it) increased global heat and related drought - a climate feedback loop difficult to predict, the **Washington Post** reports. Welcome to the *albedo effect*, they say. **Story**.

Residents of **Comfort**, **Helotes**, and now **New Braunfels** are opposing three different large housing developments backed by Florida-based Lennar Homes, which has applied for permits to dump millions of gallons of treated wastewater into creeks that eventually empty into Canyon Lake and the Edwards Aquifer. **Story**.

## Thought of the Week

“Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence.”

– Calvin Coolidge

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