



Monday Morning Report

February 23, 2026

INTERNAL

The **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council's Executive Committee met last week for a presentation by John Kelly, former TxDOT **San Antonio** District Engineer, on the prospects of a 'signature bridge' over Lady Bird Lake during reconstruction of IH-35 through downtown **Austin**. Other issues on the agenda included designation of a new director for the Alamo-Area MPO in **San Antonio**, developments at **Dallas** Area Rapid Transit, Union Pacific/Norfolk Southern's merger application to the Surface Transportation Board, data center power & water demands, interim legislative charges and the long-term outlook for state transportation funding. *Agenda*. For more information, contact council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Governor Greg Abbott appointed **El Paso** business attorney Pat Gordon to the Texas Transportation Commission last week for a term set to expire on Feb. 1, 2027. Gordon will fill out the term of former TxDOT chairman J. Bruce Bugg, Jr., of **San Antonio**, who died last August. *Announcement. More*.

Airport Updates: Southwest Airlines announced new nonstop flights beginning in October from **Austin** Bergstrom to **Memphis & Knoxville**, TN, **Santa Rosa**, CA, and **Destin**, FL. And **San Antonio** International Airport announced late last month that Breeze Airways would begin operating new nonstop flights to **Raleigh-Durham**, **Memphis**, and **Pensacola**, FL later this year. *Story. More*.

Project Connect officials last week approved the phase of a potential billion-dollar design-build light rail contract with the **Austin** Rail Constructors consortium, enroute to a 2027 construction start-up. *Details*.

Our friends at the **San Antonio** Mobility Coalition hosted local TxDOT District Engineer Charles Benavidez last week for a comprehensive update on local ongoing and anticipated construction projects in the Alamo City-area. In addition to other projects, the presentation included information on Loop 1604, IH-10, and IH-35. View it *here*.

Regional transportation leaders gather on March 4 in **San Marcos**, 11:00-1:00 pm, for an Infrastructure Summit featuring TxDOT commissioner Steven Alvis, **Austin** District Engineer

Tucker Ferguson, **San Antonio** District Engineer Charles Benavides, **Williamson County** Commissioner Cynthia Long, & others. [Details](#).

Following a nine-hour meeting that ended at 3:00 am before a chamber packed with local residents, the **San Marcos** city council voted down a proposed \$1.5 billion data center last week by a 5-2 margin. Meanwhile, **Hays County** judge Ruben Becerra will propose a local moratorium on such data centers this week. [Story](#). [More](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

That \$85 billion merger application for Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern railroads - rejected as incomplete by the Surface Transportation Board earlier this year - will be re-filed on April 30, the Union Pacific CEO told an investor group last week. The Board has told UP that it wants more market share data. [Story](#). [Filing](#). (2/17).

Detroit News reports that just weeks before President Trump blocked opening of the new Gordie Howe International Bridge between **Detroit** and **Windsor**, Canada, the owner of the competing, tolled Ambassador Bridge contributed \$1 million to a Trump-aligned political action committee. [Story](#). And now, the **New York Times** says the president is mulling a new USMCA/NAFTA trade pact that leaves out Canada. [Story](#).

The Lower Colorado River Authority is studying the possibility of a new, downstream off-channel reservoir near **Eagle Lake** that could potentially add up to 90,000-acre-feet of water, or 13-billion gallons of additional water reserves for Central Texas, **Community Impact** reports. LCRA already owns the 2000-acre site. [Story](#).

Rideshare company Uber will invest over \$100 million to develop electric autonomous vehicle charging stations as part of scaling up robotaxi operations, **Reuters** reports. Analysts say the move, which includes partnering with 20 charge point builders & operators, is an attempt to quickly exploit current market share advantages. [Story](#).

The killing of Jalisco New Generation drug cartel leader Nemesio Ruben Oseguera Cervantes - known as 'El Mencho' - set off a spasm of violence in **Puerto Vallarta**, **Guadalajara**, and elsewhere in Mexico. Public transit is cancelled, stores and schools ordered closed in Michoacan & Jalisco states. [Story](#).

Thought of the Week

“Though criticism and negative thinking can serve as a steam valve for pain, they never solve my problems, only distract me from them.” – Al-Anon

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