



Monday Morning Report

February 24, 2025

INTERNAL

At last week's Executive Committee meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council (2/19) members approved a 2025 budget, heard an update on TxDOT's Rail Division progress toward intercity connections between **SAT-HOU**, **SAT-DFW**, and **AUS-SAT**, recapped highway improvements coming in the next decade to **Austin** and **San Antonio**, discussed new policy directives out of **Washington** on transportation funding, and heard from Hahn Public about ongoing activities regarding rail funding from the 89th Texas Legislature. [Agenda](#).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Incoming US Department of Transportation secretary Sean Duffy is moving quickly to kill big-ticket, transit-oriented projects on the East and West Coasts, exercising federal authority to reverse New York's congestion pricing plan - which would have funded major rebuilds of that region's aging subway systems - and the over-budget **San Francisco-Los Angeles** high-speed rail project. Nate Silver [Analysis](#). California rail [Review](#). [Angry Public Response](#).

KXAN-TV reports that, based upon staff briefings to city mobility committees, a \$100+ million federal grant for **Austin's** 'cap-and-stitch' project to build green space over a sunken IH-35 is threatened by new funding priorities outlined by the Trump administration. That grant is part of \$220 million the city now thinks is at risk. [Story](#).

The Federal Highway Administration has named a new chief executive officer for the SH 130 Concession Company, current managers of the 41-mile southern stretch of State Highway 130 toll road between **Seguin** and **Austin**. Ananth Prasad, a 30-year transportation and toll road veteran, replaces Tyler Duvall. [Story](#).

Orlando's airport authority will build a vertical-takeoff-and-landing facility for 'flying cars,' creating a linking point for regional rail, highway and airport connections, local officials announced last week. Partners are being sought via a Request For Information proposal forthcoming next month (March) for the so-called 'vertiport.' [Story](#).

No surprise, but a statewide trade group of civil engineers says Texas must invest more in water, wastewater, and transit infrastructure - giving the state a "C" grade on its 2925 annual report card. A related group, the American Society of Civil Engineers, gave the state a "C-." grade in their report. [Story](#). Here's the [Report](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

In his annual letter to shareholders Warren Buffett, the 'oracle of **Omaha**,' warns **Washington** against 'fiscal folly,' and signals suspicions of a slowing economy. Currently sitting on a record \$334 billion in cash, Buffett has been shifting assets out of technology companies recently, selling off holdings in Apple and other tech giants. [Story](#).

Drought Continues: Canyon Lake near **New Braunfels** is seeing water levels plummet to the lowest level in over 50 years, according to local officials, a 12% water level drop over the last year. 98% of **Comal County** is now experiencing extreme or exceptional drought conditions, the US Drought Monitor reports. [Story](#). [Map](#).

Kerrville officials rejected a developer's request to annex land for a proposed 1500-home development, saying they had concerns about the size of the project and the potential infrastructure costs to the city. [Story](#).

Travel-oriented website **InsideHook** led last week's edition with '*How to Spend A Perfect Weekend in **San Antonio***,' highlighting local boutique hotels and eateries like Pete's Tako House and Bohanan's Prime Steaks and Seafood. Also cited: the world's largest cowboy boots and the world's largest Virgin Mary mosaic. [Story](#).

Congratulations to Corridor Council member STV, Inc., selected to provide construction management services for one of the premier infrastructure projects in the US, the reconstruction of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in **Baltimore**, which collapsed after being struck by a cargo ship in March of last year. [Details](#).

Thought of the Week

"There are many ways of going forward, but only one way of standing still."

– Franklin D. Roosevelt

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