



## Monday Morning Report

March 3, 2025

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### INTERNAL

The next meeting of the Austin-San Antonio Corridor Council Executive Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19 at 2 PM by Zoom. For more information or to add an item to the agenda, contact [council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org).

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### INFRASTRUCTURE

Two bills calling for TxDOT to enter a Comprehensive Development Agreement to create a high-speed rail corridor along Interstate 35 have advanced in the Texas Legislature. House Bill 483 (Bucy) was referred to the House Subcommittee on Transportation Funding ([here](#)), and Senate Bill 424 (Eckhardt) has been referred to the Senate Finance Committee ([here](#)). Text of both bills can be found on Texas Legislature Online [here](#).

At least 19 bills have been filed in the State Legislature that would dramatically change Texas toll road policies, the **Dallas Morning News** reports, with several modifying how unpaid toll fees are dealt with and at least one bill that would require voter approval for any new toll roads anywhere in the state. [Story](#).

Amtrak issued a Request For Qualifications last week seeking private sector partners (companies, joint ventures, contractors and subcontractors) for the proposed **Dallas-to-Houston** high speed rail project. A short list of interested parties will be vetted, and those entities will be invited to submit proposals, officials said. [Details](#).

Areas of California hit hard by recent wildfires have begun deploying AI-powered cameras as an early warning system to detect potential blazes - particularly at night. The bots have detected over 1200 confirmed fires so far, beating human callers to 911 emergency services one-third of the time, the **Wall Street Journal** reports. [Story](#).

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### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

With new Trump administration trade tariffs supposedly set to begin tomorrow and the world's largest conference of global container shippers meeting this week in **Long Beach, CA**, **Reuters** reports that roiled supply chains and markets uncertainty are driving down costs and demand - weakening shipping rates. [Story](#).

Research firm Search Logistics surveyed the nation's 50 largest cities to determine which best served the co-working and affordability needs of young entrepreneurs, the **Express-News** reports, and most of the Top 10 slots went to Texas cities - **San Antonio** ranked 8th, behind **Fort Worth** (5) and **Houston** (6). [Story](#).

Two big new data centers are being developed about three miles apart in rural **Hays County**, just outside of **San Marcos**, but **KXAN** reports that not everyone is happy about it. Local residents worry that the rural nature of their homes will be threatened by the projects and are raising questions about water usage by the centers. [Story](#).

Port **San Antonio** is leaping out front in developing as a hub for flying taxis - otherwise known as electric takeoff-and-landing vehicles. A recent study commissioned by the Port identified several potential routes for such aircraft within the next five years, including a 45-minute trip from Port **San Antonio** to **Austin** Executive Airport. [Story](#).

## Thought of the Week

"I attribute my success to this: I never gave any excuse."

– Florence Nightingale

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