



Monday Morning Report

March 4, 2024

INTERNAL

The next meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 20 at 2 PM by Zoom. To add an item to the agenda, contact council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The **San Antonio Express-News** reported last week that **Georgetown**, with about 100,000 people, will run out of water within six years unless new sources are found by 2030. The city's new Integrated Water Resources Plan predicts that an additional 99,000 acre-foot of supply must be developed by 2070. [Story. Report.](#)

The final rollout of **New York's** controversial congestion pricing program is set to begin in June, adding a \$15 fee to enter midtown **Manhattan** and raising north of \$1 billion per year that will be redirected to local transit projects. Mirroring similar efforts in **London** and **Paris**, big city mayors will be watching. The **New York Post** has [details](#).

The **Travis County** commissioners were updated last week on the county's 'Telework Dashboard,' a web tool reporting the impacts of an effort to build a 75% remote workforce. So far, the telework plan is generating 'notable benefits' to the environment, infrastructure, productivity and recruitment, the court was told. [Story.](#)

A \$56 million construction project underway on State Highway 46 is reaching **Bulverde**, in **Comal County**, converting the two-lane state road into a six-lane highway with raised medians and sidewalks, the **Herald-Zeitung** reports. The project, begun in 2022, is about 40% complete, TxDOT says. [Story.](#)

Reports emerged last week that Elon Musk's The Boring Company tunnel project in **Las Vegas** has workers wading in toxic mud up to their knees, sparking inquiries into labor conditions and tunnel safety by state and federal authorities. "I'll never, ever drive in one of those tunnels," said one former employee. [Story.](#)

Self-flying robo-airtaxis are apparently on their way to **Sugar Land** and **Houston**, according to the **SmartCities** website. The cities and Wisk, a Boeing subsidiary, expect service to begin by 2030. [Details.](#)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

Low-cost, mass-produced Chinese electric vehicles are set to flood a US auto market already beset by oversupply and consumer reluctance, warns an op-ed in the **New York Times** this weekend.

Vehicles with superior range costing as little as \$11,000 will challenge American manufacturers' ability to compete. [Opinion](#).

January was the hottest month on record for the world's oceans and climate scientists are 'freaking out' about the pace of increasing temperatures that could affect aquatic life, rainfall patterns, hurricane intensity, and global thermal currents that warm entire continents and steer weather-creating jet streams, the *Times* reports [here](#).

Already targeted for drought, flood, fire, and hurricane risks, Texas is seeing major insurers raising premiums already in the wake of the state's largest-ever Smokehouse Creek wildfire near **Amarillo**. Allstate, the second-largest insurer in Texas, cited wildfires 'potential catastrophe losses' in a regulatory filing this month. [Story](#).

San Antonio's Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has a new president: Luis Rodriguez, an experienced executive with two decades of chamber work behind him, will take over on April 1, replacing Marina Gonzales. [Details](#).

The lofty **New York Times** Travel Section turned its attention to **Austin** with one of its '36 Hours In...' features highlighting the usual local hotspots in anticipation of the *South By Southwest* Conference later this month. [Link](#).

ESPN sports network, eyeing possible major league baseball expansion cities, listed **Austin** and **San Antonio** as potential new markets, prompting speculation on Reddit about what a possible **Austin-San Antonio** team might be called. The *Express-News* came up with 'Central Texas Breakfast Tacos.' Stop. Just please stop. [Story](#).

Thought of the Week

"One-fifth of the people are against everything all the time."

- Bobby Kennedy

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