



Monday Morning Report

March 9, 2026

INTERNAL

The next meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council's Executive Committee is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 18 at 2 PM by Zoom. For more information or to add an item to the agenda, contact council@thecorridor.org.

Michael Aulick, a long-time Executive Committee member of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council and former Executive Director at the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, died Sunday (3/8) following a brief illness. After working as a transportation executive in **New Orleans** and **New York**, Aulick joined CAMPO in 1992 and served for 15 years until resigning in 2007. He will be missed. Services details are not yet available.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Despite rapid transportation technology changes, the secretary general of the International Association of Public Transport favors a carrot-and-stick approach to congestion: restrictions on private vehicles and good service from buses, trains, and subways, *El Pais* reports. "A traffic jam of electric cars is still a traffic jam." [Story](#).

VIA Metropolitan Transit last week rejected **San Antonio** mayor Gina Ortiz Jones' request that the agency initiate a fare-free pilot bus program, with VIA staff citing budget and safety concerns over the proposal. [Story](#).

The **San Antonio** city council approved a \$3.2 million study last week of reconnecting the east side and parts of downtown now divided by Interstate 37. The study will examine a 2-mile stretch including the new Project Marvel entertainment district sites. The goal is to improve pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. [Story](#).

San Antonio will receive an approximately \$5 million grant from the TxDOT rail crossing/grade-separation fund recently created by Senate Bill 1555, supported in the Legislature by the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council. The grant will be directed at the Union Pacific railroad crossing at Zarzamora Street and Frio City Road. [Story](#).

When a confused Waymo robotaxi blocked an ambulance enroute to last week's mass shooting event in **Austin**, it wasn't a remote operator who solved the problem. It was a local police officer who quickly used a posted QR-code scan to access the vehicle and drive it out of the

way. But the episode is raising questions. [Story](#). And the Texas State University's ALERRT training program is being credited for saving lives after that shooting event. [More](#).

Pflugerville, north of **Austin**, has declared a water emergency after a pipeline providing raw water to Lake Pflugerville failed. About 65,000 residents may be out of water by April, the *Express-News* reports [here](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

Transportation-as-a-Service could provide 95% of passenger-miles-traveled while offering transportation four-to-ten times cheaper per mile than buying a new car and two-to-four times cheaper than operating an existing vehicle - reshaping the world's energy economy, a new advocacy report says. [Opinion](#).

San Antonio has appointed long-time city staffer Shannon Miller to oversee downtown development projects, including the Project Marvel entertainment district and other downtown placemaking projects. Miller had previously served as director of the Office of Historic Preservation since 2008. [Story](#).

The **Comal County** commissioner's court has appointed Kristen Hoyt to fill the unexpired term of former county judge Sherman Krause, effective immediately. Hoyt - a former county Tax Assessor-Collector - won the Republican primary election for the post last week and will run unopposed in November's general election. [Story](#).

Inside Climate News says that the impending water emergency in **Corpus Christi**, if not resolved, will have a 'devastating effect' on the Texas and US economies by choking supplies of jet fuel to Texas airports and gasoline to Lone Star state motorists. Interviews refer to decades of poor planning and missteps by officials. [Story](#).

Kendall County is using a combination of taxpayer bonds and conservation easements to preserve open space and defend against development spurred by population growth. The *Express-News* reports that the county-led initiative to protect land for wildlife, water quality and recreation could serve as a model for other counties. [Story](#).

Thought of the Week

"If you can't describe what you are doing as a process, you don't know what you're doing."

– W. Edwards Deming

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