



Monday Morning Report

March 11, 2024

INTERNAL

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

INFRASTRUCTURE

Drought in Panama and Houthi attacks in the Red Sea continue to tangle global supply chains, driving up costs and adding significant delays across a wide array of products. Currently, ships waiting days to cross the Panama Canal are also paying eight times the normal toll fees for passage; re-routing container ships to avoid the Red Sea is adding millions per day, per ship in fuel and insurance, the *Wall Street Journal* reports. [Story](#).

City Journal reports on Elon Musk's plans to develop **Snailbrook**, a new 6000-acre town near **Bastrop**, placing the effort within the same historical context as the founding of **Houston** and **The Woodlands**. Nearby **Georgetown**, **Kyle**, and **Leander** are cited as the first-, third-, and fourth-fastest growing cities in the US. Musk says the report is false but state records and jobs listings indicate otherwise, the *Journal* claims. [Story](#).

The route of a proposed 7-story, elevated high-speed rail line connecting **Dallas** to **Fort Worth** is becoming controversial and disrupting the usually collegial **North Texas** Council of Governments, which initiated the project. Envisioned as an extension of an eventual **Houston-Dallas** bullet train, the effort is now a source of friction between **Dallas** and some surrounding suburban jurisdictions. [Story](#).

San Antonio is asking Union Pacific Railroad to clean up its act, at least as far as track maintenance goes. The *Express-News* reports on complaints about potholes along the railroad company's multiple urban road crossings, incidentally, disclosing that the city meets monthly with UP regarding maintenance. [Story](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

Large parts of the US, including Texas, are running out of energy as demand soars due to large, electricity-hungry data centers and clean-technology factories. The rapid deployment of artificial intelligence, requiring computing infrastructure that uses exponentially more power than traditional data centers, is adding to the problem. [Story](#).

Interstate 35 is getting another Buc-ee's gasoline station, this one between **San Marcos** and **Kyle**, and planned to have 120 gas pumps and charging stations for between 100-175 electric vehicles.

Buc-ee's will invest \$50 million in the facility and create 175 jobs with salaries averaging \$44,000 per year. [Details](#).

Austin's search for a new city manager has been narrowed down to three prospective candidates: former **Dallas** city manager T.C. Broadnax, Sara Hensley, city manager in **Denton**, and Brian Platt, current city manager in **Kansas City**, Missouri. Expect a final vote in early April. [Story](#).

Thought of the Week

"Somewhere between perfect success and abject failure is a sweet spot that maximizes long-term progress."

- Adam Alter

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