



Monday Morning Report

March 23, 2026

INTERNAL

The **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council's Executive Committee met last week (3/18) for a briefing on delays to the federal transportation funding reauthorization process, a report on the South-Central Texas Resiliency Project's first workshop March 4 in **San Antonio**, discussion of a new federal program for connecting Texas cities with small electric aircraft aimed at passenger flights within three years, new interurban bus transit service being studied between **New Braunfels-San Antonio**, automated trucks on SH 130, and updates on possible intervention in the proposed Union Pacific/Norfolk Southern merger before the Surface Transportation Board. *Final Agenda*.

The next meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council's Executive Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15 at 2 PM by Zoom. For more information or to add an item to the agenda, contact council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Corpus Christi's water crisis could lead to \$20 billion in lost industrial investments, officials said last week. *Story*. City leaders authorized entering discussions with **San Antonio's** CPS Energy to jointly finance solutions. *Story*. Meanwhile, Governor Abbott is pressing to move forward on a \$1 billion-plus desalinization plant, threatening to take control of the local government. Water problem or corporate welfare problem? *Opinion*.

Automated Vehicles Updates: *Axios* reports that the federal government is racing to catch up to AV developments with appropriate regulations, clearing a path for widespread production of cars with no steering wheels; Zoox and Waymo unveil new production designs; electric vehicle losses continue. *Stories*. The **Wall Street Journal** writer says *this* time, the hype around self-driving going mainstream is real. *Opinion*.

Politico says hope is fading for passing a new transportation funding bill before the current legislation expires on September 30th. They report that lobbyists for the measure in **Washington** are hearing from Congressional leadership that lawmakers are 'way behind' on drafting and still hashing out key agreements. *Story*. TxDOT comments on potential delays [here](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

Elon Musk announced over the weekend that Tesla and SpaceX would collaborate to build a massive new chip factory in **Austin** to support artificial intelligence, robots, cars and human settlements in space, the **Wall Street Journal** reports. Similar projects have cost up to \$20 billion over many years, analysts said. [Story](#).

Delta Airlines announced that it will launch or expand nonstop service from **Austin** to **Phoenix** and **Bozeman** this year ([here](#)); and newsletter **View From The Wing** says **Austin** Bergstrom may get its first Asia nonstop service this year, citing talks among Korean Air, Delta and Samsung for a **Seoul** flight. [Story](#).

According to **SmartCities**, citing Pew Research, **Austin** managed to actually drive local rents down by more than 16% between 2021 and 2026 through housing policies that included new construction, targeted rezoning, parking requirements reductions, and cutting restrictions on accessory dwelling units. Between 2015-2024, the city grew housing stock by 120,000 units - a 30% increase vs. a US average of 9%. [Story](#). [Pew Study](#).

Southern Living magazine has once again cited **San Antonio** and **Austin** as among the South's best cities in their just released 'The South's Best 2026' list. **Austin** ranked 14th; **San Antonio**, 19th. [Details](#).

That 'South's Best 2026' list ([above](#)) from **Southern Living** also includes a shout-out to the 100-year-old Blue Bonnet Cafe in **Marble Falls**, known for its 'mile-high' pies. We can vouch for the coconut creme: it may not really be a mile-high, but it's addictive and will certainly end up making you a mile-wide. [Details](#).

Thought of the Week

“Your present circumstances don’t determine where you can go; they merely determine where you start.” – Nido Qubein

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