



Monday Morning Report

April 20, 2026

INTERNAL

At last week's meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council's Executive Committee (4/15) members received updates on **Austin's** new downtown plan, IH-35 construction projects currently underway in the Corridor, Interim Charges being studied by the Texas Senate and House Transportation Committees, activities of the **Austin-San Antonio** Resiliency Project, developments on passenger rail studies being conducted by TxDOT, and ongoing discussions about developing a new regional group, modeled upon the North Texas Commission, that would expand upon the Corridor Council's infrastructure and economic development focus to include Workforce Development, Education, Healthcare, Housing, Water, and other public policy pursuits. [Agenda](#).

The next scheduled meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee is Wednesday, June 17 at 2 PM by Zoom. For more information, contact council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Solving current Texas water problems and meeting future demand could cost \$174 billion over the next 50 years, according to a draft state water plan released last week. Construction inflation has more than doubled the projected costs since the last statewide water plan was issued four years ago, *Texas Tribune* reports. [Story](#). [More](#).

Ride-hailing company Uber may begin shifting away from driver-owned vehicles to company-owned robotaxi fleets, *SmartCitiesDive* says, based upon reporting from the *Financial Times* suggesting that Uber is studying a \$10 billion investment to become the largest supplier in the ride-hailing field. **Austin** is cited. [Story](#).

A new data platform from the World Resources Institute maps urban heat risk block-by-block and models which cooling solutions - such as trees, shading structures, or cool roofs - could have the biggest impact as solutions to extreme heat. The project has already launched in **Boston**, **Atlanta**, and more than 20 cities worldwide. [Story](#).

Austin mayor Kirk Watson wasted no time nixing a proposed \$47 million long term office lease agreement for a new headquarters floated by Project Connect light rail leaders last week, the

Express-News reports. Transit partnership officials paused the proposal after Watson called the expenditure 'inappropriate.' [Story](#).

Bandera County officials have declared sections of State Highway 46 "unsafe" and "inadequate," calling upon TxDOT to improve the two-lane roadway connecting **Bandera** and **Kendall Counties**. Officials said recent population growth around **Boerne** has led to multiple crashes and fatalities along the route. [Details](#).

Dallas Area Rapid Transit has named an interim chief executive officer, David Leininger, as it seeks a permanent new leader, the **Morning News** reports. The previous chief executive resigned earlier this year following threats by five municipal partners to withdraw from the agency over service they deemed inadequate. [Story](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

Reuters reports that the world has lost over \$50 billion worth of crude oil knocked out of the global market since the Iran war began 50 days ago and estimates that more than 500 million barrels of crude and condensates have been lost - describing the situation as 'the largest energy supply disruption in modern history.' [Story](#).

The **Brookings Institute** has issued a new report analyzing how small and mid-sized cities can optimize vacant land and underutilized buildings in their downtown areas to thrive in a post-pandemic economy. The report identifies key challenges to shifting public perception of downtowns and makes practical recommendations to boost economic vibrancy based upon insights gained in **Akron**, **Birmingham**, **Cincinnati**, and **Richmond**. Report [here](#).

Even more new data centers are on the way: the **Express-News** reports that state filings show a \$470 million project is planned for **Burlington**, a small **Milam County** town between **Austin** and **Waco**; and construction is starting this summer on a \$20 million data center in **Round Rock**, near the Dell Technologies campus. [Story](#).

A recent study by **Redfin** and **Glassdoor** ranked **Austin** in the Top Ten of US cities as a place for recent college graduates looking for a job. As reported by the **Express-News**, the study used metrics including affordability, the job market, quality of life, and work/life balance (read as 'nightlife'). [Story](#). [Report](#).

Thought of the Week

“Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere.”

– Albert Einstein

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