



## Monday Morning Report

April 27, 2026

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### INTERNAL

A memorial service will be held for Michael Aulick, former executive director of the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) and an Executive Committee-member of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council *this* Saturday, May 3, from 2-4:00 pm at the Salt Lick, BBQ, 18300 RM 1826, in **Driftwood**. See map [here](#). [Obituary](#).

There's still time to sign up for a meet-the-authors luncheon in **Austin** tomorrow, Tuesday (4/28), from 11:30 am -1:00 pm, with Henry Cisneros, Robert Rivard, and David Hendricks discussing their new book "*The Austin-San Antonio Mega-Region: Opportunity and Challenge In the Lone Star State.*" Register [here](#).

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](mailto:council@thecorridor.org).

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### INFRASTRUCTURE

US Senator John Cornyn said last week that he opposes federal funding for **Austin's** \$7.1 billion proposed Project Connect light rail line, despite it having received a 'medium-high' rate in scoring for Capital Investment Grants by the Federal Transit Agency. "We don't need this sort of project along with the profligate spending," he said. [Story](#).

Local officials are calling for a more detailed environmental review after the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority released an initial study last week on the South Mopac (Loop One) plan to add toll lanes from Caesar Chavez Street to Slaughter Lane in **Austin**. Water, wildlife, noise, and heat island effects cited. [Story](#).

Wait times at **South Texas** bridge border crossings from/into Mexico have grown to as much as five hours long as US Customs and Border Patrol conduct a 'heightened bridge cadence' that is hitting hard for the **Rio Grande Valley** economy, according to local officials.

**Brownsville, McAllen, Hidalgo, Reynosa & Matamoros** are affected. [Story](#).

TxDOT is crowing about a major milestone achieved for the \$678 million "Y" at Oak Hill Parkway project, part of reconstructing the intersection of US 290 and SH 71: "for the first time,

westbound US 290 traffic can travel from downtown **Austin** to **Drippings Springs** without stopping at a light!" an X-post reports. [Details](#).

**SmartCitiesDive** reports that four key trends are increasing demand for US intercity bus travel: rising gas prices and air fare surges, more and better buses, state subsidies for intercity service, and improved terminals. The Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization in **San Antonio** is exploring connecting **New Braunfels** with downtown and linking that service with **Austin's** Capital Area Rural Transit Service. [Story](#). [More Details](#).

Combined US exports for petroleum products (gasoline, jet fuel, etc.) hit a *record* 12.9 million barrels per day last week, but there's a hard ceiling of about 5.5 million daily barrels across any given month, **Axios** reports. That's because **Gulf Coast** ports and refineries are hitting historically high - and unsustainable - levels. [Story](#). [More](#).

There were no injuries but plenty of traffic disruptions over the weekend as a 240-car Union Pacific Railroad freight train derailed in downtown **Austin**. State, federal, and railroad investigators are still studying the accident. [Story](#).

Officials in **Hidalgo** and **Cameron Counties** announced plans last week for a \$1 billion private sector-financed desalination plant on **South Padre Island** designed to serve the **Rio Grande Valley** with 50-100-million gallons of water per day. The plant would use reverse osmosis technology proven in Asia, Israel, and elsewhere. [Story](#).

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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

**San Antonio** mayor Gina Ortiz Jones is ruffling feathers (and just lost her sixth key staffer last week) as she charts a new course for the city's economy, business columnist Chris Tomlinson writes. "She wants to benefit all residents, not just the corporate variety," he says, "She's made more than a few enemies by trying to negotiate better terms for building a new NBA arena for the Spurs...and expanding the downtown entertainment district." [Opinion](#).

**Austin's** Zydeco Development has pulled out of a proposed 70-megawatt data center in **Hutto** following formal protests by local residents, following a trending backlash to such projects nationwide. The **American-Statesman** says it's tracking 70 similar projects planned or operating between **San Antonio** and **Waco**. Details [here](#).

Three Elon Musk-linked firms have been connected by commercial real estate companies to a 111,000-sq.ft. lease for office space at the downtown **Austin** former Seaholm Power Plant, including the new chip manufacturing facility he has dubbed Terafab. Tesla, xAI, and SpaceX, Musk firms, were also linked to Intel Corp. [Details](#).

**Proto-Town**, a 1200-acre campus in **Lockhart**, serves as a business commune for young tech founders and other entrepreneurs who live and work there in a ranch-style house surrounded by trailer parks, a robotics facility, and a drone-building site, the **Wall Street Journal** reports, "the latest sign that **Austin** and its surroundings are becoming a base for these so-called 'hard-tech' companies." The development was just valued at \$100 million. [Story](#).

New rules for commercial drivers' licenses for immigrants could lead to job losses for 200,000 current truck drivers in the US, 6500 of them in Texas, according to reporting from **El Pais**. The

rules affect immigrants here legally while seeking asylum and DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) recipients. **Austin** is referenced. [Story](#).

## Thought of the Week

“Take advantage of every opportunity. If you don’t give up, you’ll find a way.” – Jane Goodall

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