



Monday Morning Report

April 29, 2024

INTERNAL

The next meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee is *tentatively* scheduled for Wednesday, May 15 at 2pm by Zoom. If you would like to add an item to the agenda, contact council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Cities along the Gulf of Mexico are experiencing sea levels six-to-nine inches higher than they were just ten years ago, the **Washington Post** reports this morning, twice the global average of sea level rises. **Galveston, Houston, Corpus Christi, and Brownsville** are cited. "It's very abnormal and unprecedented," said one scientist. "Almost everywhere, we're preparing for the wrong disaster," said another. [Story. More.](#)

The **Express-News** launched a series on **San Antonio** transit options with a look at an Amtrak train trip to **Austin**, and the author wasn't too impressed: hot compartment, broken Wi-Fi and device-charging outlets, 45-minutes late on a two-and-a-half-hour trip, and a traveling companion high on bath salts. [Opinion.](#)

Construction began last week on Brightline's \$12 billion high-speed rail line from **Las Vegas** to near **Los Angeles**. The 218-mile trip will take two hours and 10 minutes, a journey that ordinarily takes about three hours by car without traffic interruptions. \$3 billion of the project's cost will be covered by federal funding. [Story. More.](#)

Last week's meeting of the Texas Transportation Commission included a presentation on the current status of the staff's *Connecting Texas 2050* long range plan, indicating a 25-year funding needs assessment of about \$30 billion per year, versus current funding levels of about \$13 billion per year. The [2050 Plan Draft.](#)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

News that high-tech firm Oracle Corp. is moving its corporate headquarters from **Austin** to **Nashville** has sparked a spate of articles about 'the bloom being off the rose' for the Texas state Capital, but that was probably inevitable after two decades of consistently positive stories about the city's surging population rates and booming economy. But even so, there's still plenty of good news (**Austin's** economy is 20% larger than **Nashville**). [Story.](#)

After a tough financial quarter, Southwest Airlines announced it was withdrawing from four airports, the first such cutbacks since 2019. As part of the changes, **Austin** loses a flight to

Cozumel, Mexico. **San Antonio** International Airport meanwhile adds non-stops to **Philadelphia**, **Burbank**, & **Torreon**, Mexico. [Story](#). [More](#).

Mexico's upcoming June 2 elections may be the most violent in the country's recent history, with 30 candidates murdered so far. In February, two mayoral candidates - one each from the two largest political parties - were killed within hours of each other, the Council on Foreign Relations reports [here](#).

Some Otterly Good News: For the first time in more than 70 years, four North American river otters have been sighted in the **San Marcos** River, the **University Star** reports. The sightings serve as an indicator of the overall health or condition of the river ecosystem, local scientists said. (Sorry about the headline. Couldn't resist.) [Story](#).

Thought of the Week

"Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower."

- Steve Jobs

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