



Monday Morning Report

May 6, 2024

INTERNAL

As noted at last month's **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee meeting, we're going to combine the May and June meetings into a single meeting to be held the usual time on Wednesday, June 19 at 2:00 pm via Zoom. Thus, there will be no Executive Committee meeting next week. To suggest an agenda item, email council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

San Antonio city council member (and chairwoman of the Alamo-Area Metropolitan Planning Organization) Melissa Cabello-Havrda says it's time to revive plans for a rail connection between **Austin** and **San Antonio**. Writing in the *Express-News*, Havrda cites population growth, traffic congestion, and local transit planning progress as reasons for rail now - and she touts new discussions among regional elected officials. [Opinion](#).

Austin approved an application last week for a \$191 million loan request from the Texas State Infrastructure Bank to help pay for the \$525 million 'Cap and Stitch' program covering sections of a soon-to-be-buried Interstate 35 through downtown. The effort had earlier received a roughly \$100 million grant from federal funds. [Story](#). [More](#).

Nonstop flights from **San Antonio** to **Washington** Reagan National Airport (DCA) - a long-sought goal of the city and local business groups - just may happen due to a compromise measure tucked into the Federal Aviation Administration's re-authorization bill - a 'must pass' by May 10. US Senator Ted Cruz led the push. [Story](#).

A highlight of last month's Southwestern Rail Conference in **Dallas** was a presentation by Andy Byford, Amtrak's Vice President, for High-Speed Rail Development, about his agency's role in reviving the Texas Central Railway's proposed **Dallas-to-Houston** bullet train. Byford discussed other Amtrak projects in the Texas Triangle as well, including **Houston-to-San Antonio** passenger service. [Story](#). [Video](#).

You're invited to the Interstate-35 NEX SOUTH: PHASE 1 Groundbreaking Ceremony scheduled for 11:00 am, Tuesday, May 14 at 2 Winnco Dr. in **San Antonio**. For [details](#). RSVP [here](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

San Antonio's Ready to Work program is seeking \$49.5 million for its 2025 fiscal year, the workforce development agency's largest proposed budget to date. Officials attribute the increase to serving more participants and a new initiative that subsidizes employers to do on-the-job training

and 'upskilling' their existing employees. By the end of fiscal 2024, the program will have spent \$37 million. [Story](#).

A new nonstop Spirit Airlines flight service between **San Antonio** International Airport and **Dallas/Fort Worth** will commence on July 10, with tickets already on sale now. In making the announcement, officials cited the attractiveness of **San Antonio** as a tourist destination for **Dallas/Fort Worth** residents. [Details](#).

February 2021 Winter Storm Uri just won't go away. **San Antonio's** CPS Energy is now seeking a jury trial to hear their accusations of price gouging and other improper practices by its suppliers. The agency paid \$850 million to suppliers during the week of the storm, more than it would ordinarily spend in a year. [Story](#).

Another fatal crash in **Seattle** involving Tesla's Autopilot driver-assist program - this one just four months after a safety recall of more than two million Tesla vehicles - has raised new questions about whether federal oversight of assisted-driving programs is adequate. Nearly ten years after the debut of Autopilot, regulators have yet to set safety stands for self-driving technology, the **Washington Post** reports. [Story](#).

An item in the **Herald-Zeitung** noting last week's 91st birthday for **Abbott** native Willie Nelson reminded us of an anecdote he likes to relate with a sardonic smile: the day after recording his famous song, 'What Can They Do To Me Now?', his house burned down. Happy Birthday, Willie. [Opinion](#).

Thought of the Week

"Either I will find a way, or I will make one."

– Philip Sidney

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