



Monday Morning Report

May 28, 2024

Memorial Day Edition

INTERNAL

The next meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, June 19, at 2:00 pm via Zoom. To add an agenda item to the agenda, contact council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The drumbeat for a revived discussion of passenger rail between **Austin** and **San Antonio** continued last week with another story in the *Express-News* about a rail-related advisory panel newly formed by the **Travis** and **Bexar County** judges. That item prompted some additional industry chatter on Linked-In. [Story](#). [Comments](#).

Another Space X Starship rocket blew up during launch last week at the company's test facility near **McGregor**, giving **Central Texas** a little taste of what **Boca Chica** has been dealing with lately. Space X now employs 13,000 people near **Brownsville** and the *New York Times* yesterday took note of the impact on locals. [Story](#). [Opinion](#).

Railroad unions and federal officials are raising safety concerns about the growing use of remote-controlled trains after a rash of recent accidents, the *New York Times* reports. Union Pacific, the main rail operator in the **Austin-San Antonio Corridor** - is expanding remote operations on trains up to 1.5 miles long, the article notes. [Story](#).

As climate change turns up the heat in communities worldwide, *Smart Cities* is highlighting **San Antonio**'s effort to deploy 'cool pavement' strategies - including using specially designed asphalts that reflect more light and absorb less heat - pursued by the city's Sustainability Office. [Story](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

Former **Mexico City** mayor Claudia Sheinbaum is likely to become president when Mexico's federal elections are held early next month ([here](#)) and the *Washington Post* notes that rising cartel-driven crime - now expanded from drug trafficking into everything from protection rackets to tortilla production - will be Job One. [Story](#).

Despite a rising tide of layoffs elsewhere in the high-tech industry, Samsung continues to expand its operations in Texas with sales offices in **Austin** and **Houston**, adding to the chip-maker's existing \$17 billion investments in **Williamson County** and **Taylor** recently. [Story](#).

Last year's 2023 Austin City Limits Music Festival generated \$499.9 million and the equivalent of 3,766 full-time jobs for the **Austin** economy, according to the latest figures produced by Angelou Economics as part of a reporting process required by the event's partnership with the city.

[Details.](#)

Southern Living magazine placed **Austin** 13th and **San Antonio** 12th in their '2024 list of the 'Friendliest Cities In The South' rankings last week ([here](#)). And **US News & World Report** published 'Best Places to Live in the US' report last week, supposedly based upon the strength of the local job market and quality of life. [Story.](#)

Texas State University in **San Marcos** last week announced one of the largest-ever naming rights agreement for a Texas university stadium, a 15-year \$23 million agreement with University Federal Credit Union. The facility has been called Bobcat Stadium since it opened in 1981 (and we're guessing it will remain so to most). [Story.](#)

Thought of the Week

"Heroism doesn't always happen in a burst of glory. Sometimes small triumphs and large hearts change the course of history."

– Mary Roach

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