



## Monday Morning Report

May 30, 2022

### Memorial Day Edition

#### INTERNAL

The Executive Committee of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council met earlier this month (5/18) for a presentation from national General Motors electric and fleet officials on the current 'state of play' in developing EV's for government use, the various models available, and comparable life-cycle costs vs. traditional gas-powered vehicles. In addition to various project updates, the Committee also discussed and approved a proposed plan ([here](#)) for seeking enhanced Amtrak passenger rail service in the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor. For questions or concerns, email [council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org).

**COVID-19 UPDATE:** It's not over until it's over. Due to more transmissible though less lethal variants, new US infections are five times higher this Memorial Day than last year ([here](#)). Worldwide confirmed cases are now at 528.8 million, with 6,287,421 deaths. US cases reached 83,984,472 yesterday, with 1,004,730 reported deaths (5/29/22). ([Johns Hopkins](#)). On Friday, Texas was reporting 5,617,405 confirmed cases with 86,804 deaths, including in **Bexar County**: 479,649 cases with 6,143 deaths; **Guadalupe County**: 26,570 cases, still with 398 deaths; **Comal County**: 22,428 cases, still with 550 deaths; **Hays County**: 53,237 cases with 433 deaths; **Travis County**: 210,761 cases with 1,736 deaths; and **Williamson County**: 111,916 cases still with 879 deaths (5/27/22). ([TDHHS](#)). *Current regional hospitalization-rate data is found [here](#).*

#### INFRASTRUCTURE

'Sun Belt' communities are booming as major cities bleed population to suburbs and exurbs in a signal that pandemic-era attitudes have shifted for good, reports [The Hill](#). More than half of major US cities registered a loss of population over the last year, sparking big gains for Texas cities, in particular: **Georgetown**, **Leander**, and **New Braunfels** are cited. [Story](#). [More](#) (third item, left-hand column).

**Austin**-based Tesla joined other electric vehicle companies in an asking the federal government last week to add medium and heavy-duty truck equipment to their plans for a nationwide electric vehicle charging network. Though only 10% of the US fleet, heavy-duty trucks contribute 45% of mobile nitrogen oxide pollution, 57% of particulates, and 28% of global warming emissions, says the Union of Concerned Scientists. [Story](#). [Report](#).

Ford Motor Company and the German city of **Cologne** are testing technology that could offer new protections for pedestrian and school safety zones, geofencing systems that automatically alert drivers and enforce a slowdown by connected vehicles passing through the protected area. [Details](#).

The Alamo Regional Mobility Authority (ARMA) and the public got a first detailed look at **Bastrop**-based The Boring Company's proposal for a tunnel project connecting **San Antonio** International Airport to downtown and the Pearl development earlier this month (5/19). Environmentalists and skeptics have a lot

of questions already, but the ARMA's chairman nonetheless envisions possibly expanding the system to **Austin** eventually. [Story](#).

Capital Metro in **Austin** has appointed an interim president and CEO, Dottie Watkins - the agency's current deputy CEO - to serve temporarily while the board conducts a nationwide search for a replacement for former CEO Randy Clarke, who departed for **Washington DC** earlier this month. [Story](#).

---

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

Prominent venture capital firms are sending warning signals about future funding flows to start-up enterprises, the life's blood for many **Austin** and **San Antonio** technology companies, advising existing firms to cut costs and conserve cash, according to **CNBC**. Sequoia Capital, one of the largest, is circulating a slide deck entitled 'Adapting to Endure.' [Story](#). [More](#).

An **Atlanta**-based research firm has developed a six-point, five-year strategy document to guide the Greater **New Braunfels** Economic Development Foundation - a public-private partnership of **Comal County, New Braunfels**, the local Chamber of Commerce, and New Braunfels Utilities. Transportation and mobility improvements are highlighted, among other suggestions. [Details](#).

Another day, another **Austin** growth-pains story? Not this time: the **American Statesman** has instead collected *all* their recent growth-pain stories under one headline into a population-surge impacts survey that includes housing, homelessness, gentrification, the student population, and more. Take a look, [here](#).

**Austin** Bergstrom International Airport is now suggesting passengers arrive three-hours before their flights due to a triple-whammy of revived travel demand, ticket-counter & concessions employee shortages, and persistently long Transportation Security Administration lines. [Story](#).

## Thought of the Week

*"As we set today aside to honor and thank our veterans, let us be mindful that we should do this every day of the year and not just one."*

- Beth Pennington

This newsletter is available to our members. If you wish to unsubscribe, please send an email request to [council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org).

©2022 Austin-San Antonio Corridor Council