



## Monday Morning Report

June 3, 2024

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### 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](mailto:council@thecorridor.org).

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### INFRASTRUCTURE

The freak storm that slammed **Houston** last month was a warning of just how quickly risks are multiplying in a rapidly warming world, **Austin** climate writer Jeff Goodell ('*The Heat Will Kill You First*') opines in today's **New York Times**. Nearly a million homes lost power and air conditioning, which a week later - with a temperature index at 115 degrees - could have been catastrophic. The Hurricane Katrina of Heat? [Opinion](#).

Replacing old electric power lines with newer technology could *double* the capacity of the US electric grid almost overnight, the **Washington Post** reports. Carbon technology can carry more power than existing wires, but utility companies make more money installing new lines than upgrading existing ones. [Story](#).

The average age of the US automobile and light truck fleet now stands at a record 12.6 years, good news for auto dealers and downstream maintainers, **Axios** reports. Cars are built better and more durable than they used to be, but they are also more expensive - giving pause to motorists about replacing them. [Details](#).

Sales of hybrid vehicles (gas-and-battery powered) are surging, even as the sales of electric vehicles are stalling out - despite hefty government subsidies, the **Washington Post** reports [here](#). One reason for consumer reluctance about EV's is 'range anxiety,' but amazing news from China last week may change the equation. BYD Co. unveiled a new \$13,500 hybrid able to travel 1,250 miles without recharging or refueling. [Story](#).

With the **San Antonio** metro area set to grow from 2.7 million people today to nearly 4 million by 2050, TxDOT is planning to spend billions on highway upgrades or new construction over the next decade, the **Express-News** reported last week. Of note: TxDOT's 10-year Unified Transportation Plan has grown from \$34.5 billion in 2015 to more than \$100 billion in 2024. [Story](#).

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### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

A post-pandemic trend to boost downtown housing and economic activity through converting low-occupancy office space into affordable housing - known as 'adaptive reuse' - may work in cities like

**New York** or **San Francisco, Route Fifty** reports [here](#), but is probably not viable for newer office towers in **Austin** (or **San Antonio**), a city auditor and local reporting find. [Story. More.](#)

**San Antonio International Airport is on a roll**: just weeks after launching its first trans-Atlantic nonstop flight to **Frankfurt** and posting a record passenger year (900,000 passengers in April alone), officials announced another raft of nonstop flights to **Burbank, Philadelphia, and Torreon**, Mexico. [Story.](#)

New housing construction starts in **San Antonio** this year have so far out-ranked **Austin**, according to a **SmartAsset** recent study. **Houston** and **Dallas** ranked first and second, Alamo City took fifth and the Texas capital ranked seventh, using real estate research firm Zillow data on the top 150 US metros. [Story.](#)

OK, so this is scary: hailstones in **Lubbock** last week were so big that forecasters required a new word to describe them; "as big as grapefruit" wasn't sufficiently accurate so the National Weather Service went with "DVD-sized hail." (Time to put the moon rocks back where we found them.) [Story. More.](#)

## Thought of the Week

*"It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop."*

– Confucius

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