



Monday Morning Report

August 1, 2022

INTERNAL

The next meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, August 17 at 2 PM by videoconference. To add an item to the agenda, contact council@thecorridor.org.

COVID-19 UPDATE: Global cases yesterday reached 577,161,909, with 6,399,973 deaths. US cases are at 91,316,648 with 1,029,926 deaths (7/31/22) ([Johns Hopkins](#)). Texas reported 6,054,379 cases as of Friday, with 87,695 deaths, including in **Bexar County**: 519,202 cases with 6,224 deaths; **Guadalupe County**: 28,296 cases, with 404 deaths; **Comal County**: 24,255 cases, with 562 deaths; **Hays County**: 58,297 cases, with 442 deaths; **Travis County**: 233,005 cases, with 1,756 deaths; and **Williamson County**: 122,210 cases with 889 deaths (7/29/22). ([TDHHS](#)). *Regional hospitalization-rate data found [here](#).*

INFRASTRUCTURE

What some people are calling Amtrak's 'bold vision' for an expanded national rail network by 2035 isn't quite bold enough, with projected travel times between certain cities that are actually *longer* than those same trips in the 1940's and '50's, according to tech publication [Motherboard](#). Case in point: the projected 2035 travel time from **Dallas** to **Houston** will take five minutes more than the old, discontinued Sunbeam service. [Story](#). [Amtrak Plan](#).

Remember 'Carmageddon,' the **Los Angeles** highway project widely expected to create disastrous traffic jams that never happened? The project involved - a Sepulveda Freeway HOV-lane expansion - finally finished a year late and \$1.6 billion over-budget; new studies show most delays were related to unanticipated utilities construction and inadequate agency oversight. Read '[Why America Can't Build](#)' [here](#) from [Palladium](#).

Last week's devastating floods in **St. Louis** and eastern Kentucky were the result of two back-to-back, 1-in-1000-year weather events with one thing in common: sudden deluges overwhelmed man-made systems designed to divert and control water. Global warming will make such events more frequent, experts say, and the [Washington Post](#) has analyzed the meteorological underpinnings of the two events and explains why. [Story](#). [More](#).

Former **Austin** Capital Metro president Randy Clarke has stepped in to a new, somewhat similar job in **Washington D.C.** and his hometown newspaper says he's facing a 'financial cliff' of anemic ridership, personnel and political problems that may be 'insoluble.' [Opinion](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

The multi-billion Chips and Science Act passed last week by Congress has **Austin** tech advocates almost giddy with anticipation at more than \$52 billion in funding and tax credits for companies that manufacture chips, and billions more for scientific research encouraging technology innovation. The result, said one official, is that "Central Texas will lead America in developing semiconductors and semiconductor equipment." [Story](#).

Consulting firm McKinsey & Company, as part of its Featured Insights series, has developed several reports on 'The Office of the Future,' including workplace designs, floor plans, connectivity, real estate considerations, and other issues related to a post-pandemic workplace. Take a look, [here](#).

Tucker Stephenson, a one-time sports reporter in **Seguin**, will be taking over as managing editor of the **New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung** newspaper. Stephenson, who had served as sports editor for the paper since 2016, will replace current editor Chris Lykins, who's moving into management with the paper's parent company. [Story](#).

What do you get a man who already has everything? A new airport, apparently. The **San Antonio Express-News** and newsletter **Austonia** are reporting that Elon Musk is developing a new private airport to possibly be located near **Bastrop**, site of Musk's future campus for The Boring Company. [Story](#).

And a new border crossing at the US-Mexico border. **Electrek** reports that Tesla has struck a deal with the state of Nuevo Leon for an exclusive crossing lane for their vehicles in **Nuevo Laredo**. More [details](#).

Thought of the Week

"If you can't do great things, do small things in a great way."

- Stewart Brand

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