



Monday Morning Report

August 7, 2023

INTERNAL

The next meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee is tentatively scheduled for August 16 at 2 pm by Zoom. To add an item to the agenda, email council@thecorridor.org.

The Texas Electric Transportation Resources Alliance (TxETRA), on which the Corridor Council serves as an advisory board member, met last Friday (8/4) for presentations on current electric vehicle (EV) adoption rates in Texas, **San Antonio** municipal codes changes related to EVs, and other policy matters. [Adoption Data](#). [Codes](#).

INFRASTRUCTURE

IH-35 In Austin Update: TxDOT expects to receive environmental clearances by September for the multi-billion dollar rebuild of the Interstate through downtown, *Texas Government Insider* reports, with construction expected to begin next year and run through 2032. Local officials are still eyeing financing options for the 'caps.' [Story](#).

Lone Star Constructors, a joint venture led by Fluor and Austin Bridge & Road, won the \$700 million TxDOT contract to design, build, and maintain the **San Antonio** IH-35 Northeast Expansion Project (NEX) last week. Construction on the four miles of elevated lanes starts in 2024 and is scheduled for completion in 2028. [Story](#).

Google subsidiary Waymo says it will expand its ride-hailing services in **Austin** but did not specify a timeline for the move. The company already operates some form of 24/7 ride-hailing or ride-sharing in **San Francisco**, **Phoenix**, and **Los Angeles**, the *Statesman* reports. [Story](#).

Detroit-based Ford Motor Company filed a patent application last month for a 'charge-while-driving' technology that uses hardware embedded in the roadway to re-charge electric vehicles through an induction process. [Story](#).

As US vehicles get larger, traffic deaths are increasing, and *The Conversation* reports that cities are beginning to encourage smaller, lighter vehicles by prioritizing smaller parking spots, using bollards to create narrower lanes, and ending vehicle access to schools and businesses during high-density travel times. [Details](#).

The Federal Railroad Administration in **Washington** is seeking public input regarding Amtrak's currently underway Long Distance Service Study, which is looking at improving the nation's passenger rail service network. Results of a series of recent regional meetings are available [here](#). Submissions deadline is August 24, 2023. Details on the study and public comments are [here](#).

7 to comment on TxDOT's \$100 billion ten-year Unified Transportation Program, the annually updated list of projects selected based upon safety, congestion, connectivity, and road

preservation. According to the agency, investments will also include public transportation, maritime, aviation, rail, freight, international trade, and bicycle and pedestrian connectivity.

[Details.](#)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

As predicted, the 99-year-old Yellow freight company filed for bankruptcy yesterday, throwing 30,000 people out of work, putting at risk a 30% ownership position of the federal government, and promising more disruption in US supply chains just as they were easing pandemic-era kinks, the **New York Times** reports. [Story. More.](#)

One of **Time** magazine's *100 Most Influential Companies in 2023*, Eviation, is profiled by **Forbes** about its Alice aircraft - 'sleek, silent, and electric' - capable of flying 300-kilometers on a single charge, with \$3.5 billion in pre-orders. The company's CEO says, "Electric flight is a step change that will transform society." [Story.](#)

A new Brookings Institution study examining the role of proximity to activity centers in reducing miles-traveled says the average **San Antonio-New Braunfels** household traveled 34,256 miles in 2022, slightly higher than the national average of 30,000 miles; in 2022, **Austin** households traveled just over 33,000 miles. [Story. Study.](#)

Southwest Airlines will begin offering seasonal nonstop service between Austin Bergstrom International Airport and **San Juan**, Puerto Rico in March of next year. Other new flights from **Austin** announced included **Cozumel**, **Puerto Vallarta**, **Panama City**, FL, and **Telluride**, Co. [Details.](#)

Developers of that \$267 million Hill Country Studios project in **San Marcos** got their final zoning approvals last week and say they are on track to break ground later this year on 820,000 sq. ft. of television and film production facilities on about 200 acres at 6202 W. Centerpoint Road. The project includes 200,000 sq. ft. of offices. [Story.](#)

Iconic swimming hole Jacob's Well has stopped flowing again for the sixth time in recorded history - all six times occurring in the last 23 years, **KUT** radio reports. Increased population, heat, and drought are to blame, local environmental leaders said, adding 'It's heartbreaking.' **Hays County** stands to lose millions in revenue. [Story.](#)

"I Am Code:" Three friends asked an artificial intelligence application to write a book of poetry and - if you're interested in AI and its multiplex dimensions - the results, as summarized in the **Washington Post**, were surprising and unsettling. If you have time for just one non-work-related article this week, make it this. [Opinion.](#)

Thought of the Week

"All human wisdom is summed up in two words; wait and hope."

- Alexandre Dumas

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