



Monday Morning Report

August 10, 2026

INTERNAL

The next meeting of the Executive Committee of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, August 19th at 2 PM. For more information or to add an item to the agenda, contact council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Consider the lowly highway guardrail: ubiquitous, frequently battered strips of metal about 30-inches off the ground, designed to prevent vehicles from flying off the roadbed. But the **New Yorker** reports that improperly installed or maintained guardrails may be responsible for 1,000 highway fatalities a year - virtually all of them preventable - and that there are currently tens-of-thousands-of-miles of faulty guardrails lining the nation's highways. [Story](#).

The Texas House Transportation Committee meets next Monday, August 17, 9:30 AM in **Austin** with an agenda including whether TxDOT should receive prioritization guidance from the Legislature on projects. [Details](#). And the Transportation Funding Subcommittee meets at 10:00 AM, Wednesday, September 2, in **Corpus Christi** to examine the formula and discretionary funding categories TxDOT uses for projects, among other items. [Agenda](#).

The **Austin American-Statesman** asked readers to identify the city's worst intersections and the crowd-sourcing effort came up with ten crossings responsible for more than 300 injuries in the last four years. Chief culprits: the merging of US 183 tollway and SH 71 eastbound; west 45th at Shoal Creek Boulevard; and Loop 360. [Details](#).

This week's **San Antonio** city council meeting (8/13) should be a doozy: the staff's 2026-27 budget will be unveiled, the council debates a reconsideration vote of a \$489 million commitment to the Spurs arena for the Nov. 3 election ballot, re-programming \$100 million in Ready To Work funding to budget gaps, and pre-K-4-SA extensions. [Story](#).

Keying off last week's webinar appearance by the agency's chief information officer, governance newsletter **RouteFifty** says TxDOT is embracing artificial intelligence for everything from traffic management to collecting and analyzing crash data, to improving employee efficiency, and encouraging responsible AI adoption. [Story](#).

Amazon-owned Zoox starts upscaling its driverless ride-hailing service today in **Las Vegas**, charging fares after receiving federal regulatory clearances last month for its purpose-built, four-passenger shuttle vehicles without steering wheels or human controls. In **Austin, Miami**, and **San Francisco**, it offers limited free service. [Details](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

Corporate restructuring and consolidation, plus expanding use of artificial intelligence for technical functions, are leading to mass layoffs at Texas television and radio broadcasting stations, **Chron** reports [here](#). Changing viewing habits are also contributing. **Austin, San Antonio, Waco**, and **Corpus Christi** are included. [More](#). [Still More](#).

More reporting is emerging on how auto insurance companies are dodging legitimate claims for as many as six million US accidents last year. The **Wall Street Journal** analyzed the top ten insurers, concluding that claimants received nothing on 45% of auto liability and medical claims made last year. "The chance of getting a payout from your insurer has become increasingly remote," they report. [Story](#).

In the end, it wasn't the headline-making water crisis or the aborted planning for a desalinization plant that brought down **Corpus Christi** mayor Paulette Guajardo - but, per her own city council - it was perjury, misconduct, malfeasance, or willful neglect of duty, that led to her 30-day suspension from office. What a hot mess. [Story](#).

[This letter](#) to the **San Marcos Record** last week describes the 'great day' September 30, 1880, when the International and Great Northern Railroad brought 'trains coming and going, engines screaming' to town, while the construction crew worked day and night pushing on towards **San Antonio**. But our **Bastrop** correspondent, Dr. Erhard, warns "that a railroad would be injurious if not fatal to our town. Times change, people don't."

Thought of the Week

"If you really want to do something, you'll find a way. If you don't, you'll find an excuse." – Jim Rohn

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