



Monday Morning Report

August 12, 2024

INTERNAL

With great sadness we note the passing last week of Pete Winstead - former Chairman and decades-long Executive Committee member of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council - at the age of 84. Friend, mentor, and legendary civic leader, Pete was the founding chairman of the Texas Turnpike Authority and more than anyone else responsible for the construction of State Highway 130. He will be missed, never replaced. [Story](#).

The next meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council's Executive Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, August 21 at 2 pm by Zoom. For more information, contact council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

[Get ready for Carmageddon, Part II](#): **FOX 7 News** reports on the anticipated impacts of IH-35 reconstruction beginning this fall through Central **Austin**. The piece mentions simultaneous construction projects related to Project Connect, Capital Metro's rail-and-transit initiative, but neglects to point out that IH-35 in **San Antonio** is also undergoing major construction over the next few years. Alternatives, anyone? [Story](#).

TxDOT is hosting a public meeting *next week* on the 2024 Texas Rail Plan, Monday, August 19, at 4:30 pm. Public comments are encouraged, and you could suggest that passenger rail between **Austin-San Antonio** would mitigate the upcoming effect of IH-35 construction on traffic congestion. (Florida created TriRail in the 1980's to offset major construction on the IH-95 Corridor, and it is still operating successfully today.) [Link](#).

State and local funding is now in place to restore Amtrak service between **Mobile, Ala.** and **New Orleans**, enabling local jurisdictions to take advantage of more than \$100 million in federal grants for the project. [Story](#).

Axios reports that US train travel has come roaring back since the pandemic, with Amtrak speeding toward an annual ridership record and other companies also posting record ridership. Riders are drawn by low ticket prices, sustainability factors, and the views, says the news service. New routes & federal dollars are helping. [Story](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

New housing market price updates are available for **Austin** (rate of price increases is slowing) [here](#); and homes in **San Antonio** are staying on the market longer (high mortgage rates are not helping), [here](#).

While **San Antonio**'s quest to score more transatlantic flights has been running into some headwinds ([here](#)), Delta Airlines is expanding service from Alamo City to **Boston**, adding to **Atlanta, Detroit, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New York** (JFK) and **Salt Lake City** service already in place. [Story](#).

That 100-mile Great Springs Project to connect **San Antonio** to **Austin** via trails and water features continues to make progress, according to the *Express-News*, with a new Limestone Link trail set to open next year. [Details](#).

The \$100-million, 712-acre Sedona development will add nearly 3000 homes in **San Marcos**, including 100-acres of commercial/multifamily housing and a wastewater treatment plant, the *Express-News* reports. [Details](#).

Texas State University in **San Marcos** will partner with Mexican investors to build a satellite campus next year in **Queretaro**, Mexico, after receiving Board of Regents approvals last week. The university, with about 35,000 enrolled students, currently also has about 1800 students at their **Round Rock** campus. [Story](#).

Thought of the Week

"When facts change, I change my mind. What do you do."

– John Maynard Keynes

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