



Monday Morning Report

August 24, 2026

INTERNAL

After months of discussion, members at last week's meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee voted unanimously to help form and affiliate with the new **Central Texas Alliance** - being led by founding Corridor Council chairman Henry Cisneros - and gradually phase out operating as the Council. Stay tuned for more details. A formal announcement will take place Friday, September 18, at Texas State University in **San Marcos**. In other agenda items, members received updates on TxDOT's Statewide Multi-Modal Plan, new studies on AUS-SAT passenger rail, and details from the federal accident report on Union Pacific's April derailment in downtown **Austin**, among other updates.

Contact council@thecorridor.org for details.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Those two TxDOT studies of passenger rail between **Austin-San Antonio** released recently sparked more media coverage last week, some largely accurate from **KUT** radio and more not-so-much from **SmartCities**. The Amtrak-based study has a probably doable price tag of from \$800 million to \$1.8 billion; the new-build alternative using IH-10/SH 130 rights-of-way is more financially challenging at \$13 billion. **KUT story**. **SmartCities**.

The **Express-News** provided an update last week on the \$245 million TxDOT upgrade of IH-10 between **Seguin** and **San Antonio**, adding lanes and overpasses from FM 464-to-SH 130, expected complete by 2029. **Details**.

Two major new east-west highways are also taking shape on **San Antonio's** South Side, one a 2.1-mile route connecting Toyota's manufacturing facility to US 281, and the other - called the South Texas Parkway - stretching between Interstate 35 and Interstate 37 south of Loop 410. Total price tag: \$1.6 billion. **Story**.

Electric planes from Beta Technologies - with a 300-mile range - began test flights from **Galveston's** airport last week, enroute to developing eventual commuter flights between **Houston** and **Sugarland**, an official said. **Story**.

The **Texas Tribune** reports that **Corpus Christi's** dire water problems are not just a local issue but reflect a statewide failure of planners - based on orders from the governor - not to

incorporate global climate change into forecasts of future resources and potential needs. Historical data is no longer the appropriate modeling tool. [Story](#). [More](#).

View From The Wing airline newsletter reports that - after securing 15 gates at **Austin** Bergstrom and announcing a new **Austin-Paris** nonstop - Delta Airlines is eyeing **San Antonio** as its next new expansion arena. [Story](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

After California's attorney general filed a lawsuit to prevent the mega-merger of Paramount Pictures and Warner Brothers, the **New York Post** reports that Paramount officials are looking at the option of moving to **Austin** as a new headquarters, even referencing a specific 415,000 sq.ft. site on Old Manor Road. [Story](#). [More](#).

Amazon announced last week that their new multi-billion-dollar robotics facility will be an anchor tenant at the Dogs Head development planned for East **Austin** along the Colorado River. The new facility will add 300-500 manufacturing and engineering jobs to the company's existing 17,000 employees in the city. [Story](#).

AY-AY-AY! **El Pais** reports that **San Antonio** mariachi musicians believe their traditional attire for performances is making them targets for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents after at least five of their community were detained in recent months. 'My dream is for him to get out of there and come back to singing.' [Story](#).

Water concerns led the **Leander** city council to reject last week a proposed \$1 billion Leander Springs development project that would have created a 4-acre recreational lake or lagoon using water from the Trinity Aquifer. Officials expressed fears about the impact on local water wells and cited limited Capital Metro train service. [Story](#).

The Trump administration shattered one of the world's most durable trade alliances Saturday (8/23), imposing 50% tariffs on \$20 billion of Canadian goods ranging from whiskey to agriculture. Canada's prime minister quickly responded, promising 'dollar-for-dollar' retaliation. *Keep yer stick on the ice, eh?* [Story](#). [More](#).

Thought of the Week

"Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it."
– Henry David Thoreau

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