



## Monday Morning Report

August 26, 2024

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### INTERNAL

The **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee met last week (8/21) to hear about the **Austin** Housing Conservancy's effort to expand into other parts of the Corridor - including **San Antonio**, **San Marcos**, and **New Braunfels** - updates on upcoming IH-35 construction schedules, and **Travis County**'s program for a new coalition collaborating to bring passenger rail to the Texas Triangle cities. [Final Agenda](#).

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### INFRASTRUCTURE

Rapid growth in **Kyle**, the second fastest-growing city in the US, caught the attention of the **Wall Street Journal** last week with a story focused on the combined impacts of climate change and 'gangbuster' population growth. The **Journal** says bigger populations drive business growth while stressing dwindling natural resources like water. **New Braunfels**, **Leander**, and **Georgetown** were also cited for their growth rates in the piece. [Story](#).

New political leadership in **Houston**, the petroleum capital of the US, is turning away from expanding public transit in favor of more highways, reports the **Washington Post**. Former Texas state senator John Whitmire, now the city's mayor, wants to focus on road repairs and has paused new rail and bus lines, the paper says. [Story](#).

TxDOT says that \$59 million Highway 46 expansion project in **Comal County**, begun in 2022, is 50% complete between **New Braunfels** and **Bulverde** - and should be complete by 2026, the **Herald-Zeitung** says. [Details](#).

Megabus - the low-cost transit provider that once connected **Dallas**, **Houston**, **Austin**, and **San Antonio** - is discontinuing all of its Texas bus routes following a bankruptcy announcement by its parent company. [Story](#).

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### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

Seeking a recurring revenue business model, **Detroit** auto manufacturers General Motors (GM) and Ford are turning to **Silicon Valley** software developers, **Axios** reports, hoping to bring digital innovation to automobiles increasingly seen as tech platforms. GM expects to generate \$20-25 billion from software by 2030. [Story](#).

The **Washington Post** editorial board says that current Mexico president Andres Lopez Obrador's plan to 'emasculate' his country's judicial system - replacing all federal judges - before his statutory exit on September 30 poses a threat to democracy and would endanger the economic integration of North America. [Opinion](#).

**San Antonio** will soon be home to the third largest public research university in the state, after University of Texas regents voted last week to merge the University of Texas at San Antonio and UT Health San Antonio under one umbrella by 2025. The new entity's research expenditures will total nearly \$470 million. [Story](#). [More](#).

A **San Antonio** city council committee voted unanimously to begin the process of phasing out horse-drawn carriages on downtown streets in favor of electric carriages, such as those currently operating in **Philadelphia**. The move, controversial among traditionalists, is based on both animal welfare and traffic congestion. [Story](#).

We're not vouching for the methodology, but **Austin** was the only US city to make **Time Out's** new list of 'The World's Best Cities for Nightlife.' The culture and travel publication asked local residents to rate their own cities on quality and affordability. Cheer Up Charlie's was singled out for 'sweaty dancing under the stars.' [Story](#).

In the end, the unlikely **Boerne** 'boys of summer' Little League team ran out of pitchers on their way to the Little League World Series in **Williamsport**, PA, over the weekend. For a recap of their remarkable run, go [here](#).

## Thought of the Week

*"Never apologize for showing feeling. When you do so, you apologize for the truth."*

– Benjamin Disraeli

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