



## Monday Morning Report

October 3, 2022

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### INTERNAL

The next meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council's Executive Committee is scheduled for November 16 at 2 PM by videoconference. There will not be a meeting in October. For more information, contact [council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org).

COVID-19 UPDATE: This morning global cases are at 618,134,742 with 6,547,136 deaths. US cases are at 96,401,724 with 1,059,640 deaths (10/3/22) ([Johns Hopkins](#)). On Friday, Texas reported 6,340,258 cases, with 89,093 deaths, including in **Bexar County**: 545,263 cases with 6,335 deaths; **Guadalupe County**: 29,405 cases, with 414 deaths; **Comal County**: 25,418 cases, with 565 deaths; **Hays County**: 61,985 cases, with 453 deaths; **Travis County**: 245,211 cases, with 1,791 deaths; and **Williamson County**: 128,344 cases, with 910 deaths (9/30/22). ([TDHHS](#)). *Regional hospitalization-rate data found [here](#).*

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### INFRASTRUCTURE

Traffic congestion in the ten most-populous US cities is slowly increasing again after two years of dropping during pandemic shutdowns, but has not yet returned to pre-pandemic 2019 levels, reports [Axios](#). Downtown **Houston**, **San Diego**, and **Phoenix** are closest to their pre-pandemic levels; **Chicago**, **Philadelphia**, and **San Jose** are furthest from those levels. **San Antonio** is referenced. [Story. Report.](#)

The Texas House Transportation Committee holds an Interim Hearing in **Corpus Christi** this Thursday, October 6, 9:00 am, to discuss new funding made available by the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act and how Texas can maximize receipt of federal grant funds. [Agenda.](#)

The Federal Aviation Administration has released design guidelines and technical specifications for vertiports, urban take-off and landing sites for electric - sometimes autonomous - 'flying cars,' although the agency has yet to certify any such vehicles as to airworthiness. **Orlando** may be site of the first commercial service, to be offered by German-based Lillium, which just released successful 'transition' flight-test video. [Story. Video.](#)

More On Electric Jets: United Airlines may be pulling out of New York's JFK Airport, but they're doubling down on electric aircraft, ordering or optioning up to 400 battery-operated air taxis from manufacturing start-ups Eve Air Mobility and Embraer. Not everyone is convinced, however, that electric airplanes are a 'thing.' [Story. More.](#)

Ride-hailing company Lyft says it's now offering autonomous vehicles in some areas of downtown **Austin** as part of a partnership with Ford Motor Company and Argo announced last year. They may be technically driverless, but their vehicles will still have two safety officers on board in the near term, the company said. [Story.](#)

As the \$5 billion plan to lower sections of Interstate 35 moves forward in Austin, city leaders are pondering the advantages of creating public greenspaces above the freeway, the well-publicized 'Cap and

Stitch' project reconnecting parts of East Austin to downtown. The somewhat-similar Klyde Warren Park in **Dallas** is emerging as an example of the possibilities. [Story](#). [More](#).

**New Braunfels** celebrated the opening of a new fire station on South Water Lane last week - designed to serve the city's west side - the second new fire facility opened under the auspices of Fire Chief Ruy Lozano since he took over the department last March. [Details](#).

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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

**San Antonio** ranked first in a list of cities deserving of a National Football League expansion franchise, according to website **Yardbarker**, which used population and other existing sports franchises as part of their selection criteria. A San Antonio team in the NFL would have a bitter interstate rivalry with Dallas and Houston, and that's 'must-watch TV' the website said. [Story](#).

The good news is that construction is booming in downtown **San Antonio**, with 15 major projects underway inside the 1604 Loop. The bad news is that so much moving dirt is disrupting local businesses, the **Express-News** reports, creating headaches for motorists and local policy makers. [Story](#).

Technology's next battlefield between Apple, Google, and Amazon will be your car, reports the **Wall Street Journal**. Automobiles are becoming smart phones on wheels, the paper says, in surveying investment strategies of big tech, and your choice of operating systems may end up determining your vehicle of choice. [Story](#).

Add invasive species to the list of threats to the global supply chain. **The Loadstar** shipping newsletter reports that a United Nations committee is warning of a threat to the world's agricultural markets from invasive species (insects and flora) changing locations due to climate change. Already, governments and the private sector are spending \$300 billion annually to defend against invasive pests. [Story](#).

If you want to escape the **Austin** City Limits Festival crowds later this week, you might consider spending some time in **New Braunfels** at the Redbird Listening Room's intimate songwriters' venue, which founder Dallas Burrow created in a 1930's house as a tribute to another cool music spot in **San Marcos** (the original Cheatham Street Warehouse). It's original folk, blues, and country music with - thank you, Dallas - no cell phones. [Story](#).

## Thought of the Week

*"Worrying is the brain's default position. We have to learn how to keep negative emotion in check by amplifying positive emotions."*

- Ray Williams

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