



Monday Morning Report

October 5, 2026

INTERNAL

More from the Central Texas Alliance launch event in **San Marcos** on September 18, from CEO A.J. Rodriguez:

Who was in the room

- 200+ attendees from 130+ organizations
- 27 of our 36 Founding Steering Committee (FSC) members
- 12 of our 13 counties represented

By sector

- Elected officials: 9 (3 city, 6 county)
- City staff: 18 | County staff: 4
- Private sector: 42 companies
- Chambers of commerce: 11 organizations
- Economic development: 11 organizations
- Nonprofits and foundations: 14 organizations
- Higher education: 6 institutions
- Transit and transportation: 5 agencies
- Water, energy and utilities: 5 agencies
- Regional planning and workforce: 6 agencies
- Media: 3 outlets

Photos from the event are available here: [CTxA Public Launch Event Photos](#)

The San Antonio Report covered the launch: [An old idea with new drive: Takeaways from the alliance uniting ATX-SATX region leaders](#)

INFRASTRUCTURE

The **Wall Street Journal** reports from **Orange**, Texas on the struggles US truckers face as diesel prices rise to an average of \$6.53 per gallon, up \$3 from just a year ago. Some are sleeping in their trucks, some are bringing food from home on the road, some are not washing their trucks, and some are just going bankrupt. [Story](#). [More](#).

TxDOT and local **Austin** partners have launched CTXGO, a free mobile app and companion website that provides regional construction information (including IH-35), roadway conditions, and other travel options. [Details](#). [Website](#).

It's no coincidence that Elon Musk resurrects his hyperloop concept whenever local officials get serious about rail projects. This time it's an X-statement: 'Boring Company is working on a simple, precursor Hyperloop tunnel between **Austin** and **San Antonio** (>200 mph).' **Las Vegas** and **Nashville** fell for the 'bait and switch.' [Story](#).

American-Statesman reporter Andrea Guzman provides a first-person account of riding in one of Tesla's new Cybercabs, a vehicle with butterfly doors but no steering wheel, braking, or acceleration pedals. She describes a 'more assertive' driving style than her own, accompanied by widely reported 'phantom braking.' [Story](#).

Starting in June, Southwest Airlines will begin service from **Austin** Bergstrom International Airport to **Nassau**, Bahamas, **Punto Cana**, Dominican Republic, and **Liberia**, Costa Rica. Domestically, they are adding flights to **Bozeman**, Montana, and **Savannah**, Georgia. Southwest is also bringing back seasonal service to **Portland**, Oregon. [Details](#).

The **San Antonio** Mobility Coalition hosts 'The State of Rail: The Economic Impact of Freight Rail with Union Pacific' on November 6, featuring Union Pacific Operations Vice-President Eric Gehringer. [Register & Details](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

Washington-based **The Hill** posts opinion writer John Mac Glionn's sobering take on AI's threat to the economy: "Constructing a modern data center requires hundreds of millions upfront, backed by decades-long power contracts and short-lived hardware assets that depreciate faster than luxury sports cars." And then it gets bad. [Opinion](#).

Congratulations to Dr. Kate Spradley, the first Texas State University in **San Marcos** winner of a MacArthur 'Genius Grant' of an \$800,000 multi-year stipend for her work identifying South Texas human remains. Read [more](#).

New Braunfels is getting a new, \$40 million, 150-room all suites hotel from Marriott, according to the **Express-News**, citing state data. **Ft. Worth** chef Tim Love will guide the attached Mexican food restaurant. [Details](#).

We all think IH-35 between **Austin** and **San Antonio** is awful, but for sheer terror it can't touch the 'Million Dollar Highway,' US highway 550 near **Ourray**, Colorado, which climbs more than 2000-feet in six miles, a two-lane roadway only twenty-three feet wide with no shoulder. The **New Yorker** tells the tale [here](#).

Thought of the Week

"However difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do
and succeed at." – Stephen Hawking

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