



Monday Morning Report

October 12, 2026

INTERNAL

Membership momentum for the Central Texas Alliance as of October 1, 2026:

- 92 organizations have pledged or committed to 2027 membership;
- 7 of 13 potential counties committed: Bexar, Caldwell, Hays, Medina, Travis, Williamson and Wilson;
- Of the 130 organizations in the room, 43 had already pledged before the Sept. 18 launch event;
- Since the launch, **Hays County's** Commissioners unanimously approved membership;
- 75 inquiries interested in membership have come in through the website since August 19.

The road ahead:

October

- Drafts of the bylaws, board slate, conflict of interest policy, Executive Committee structure, budget and CTxA legislative priorities are completed for review;

November

- Two full-time staff join the CTxA team;
- Full Steering Committee meeting (November 6) reviews draft documents;

December

- Existing Board adopts the bylaws, board slate, FY 2027 budget, legislative agenda and the consideration/formation of our 501(c)(3);

January 2027

- Directors are seated January 1 with signed conflict of interest forms;
- Texas 90th Legislative Session convenes January 12.

INFRASTRUCTURE

A new **Brookings Institution** report says that the future of US transportation policy demands new ways to pursue long-standing goals. They've launched a multi-year project examining how jurisdictions can better partner to address the nation's transportation challenges, and offer a new policy framework. [Story. Report.](#)

The **Express-News** asks but doesn't really answer 'Would you take a train to avoid **San Antonio's I-35 traffic?**' in a piece with at least one interesting statistic: a TxDOT study found

that just the 4.97-mile IH-35 stretch from Loop 1604 to Loop 410 recorded 354,461 hours of delay per mile per year. [Story](#).

Former **Real County** judge Garry Merritt, current leader of the Great Springs Project, lets his boots do the talking by beginning a 100-mile hike this weekend from the Alamo in **San Antonio** to the Texas Capitol in **Austin**, saying he thinks it's the best way to draw attention to plans for a new trail connecting the two cities by 2036. [Story](#).

Watch for nighttime closures all this week on IH-35 at Ben White (US 71) in **Austin**, part of the ongoing Capital Express Program. Get details [here](#) and for more information and updates, sign up [here](#).

Join the **San Antonio** Mobility Coalition on **Friday, November 6, 2026**, for a Transportation Leadership Series Luncheon: *'The State of Freight Rail and America's First Transcontinental Railroad.'* Keynote speaker, Eric Gehringer, Executive Vice President at Union Pacific. [Details](#).

The first edition of **Texas Highway's** new weekly newsletter, **The Roundabout**, goes out this week on October 16. Expect top reads from the media, places to go, and things to do around the state. Info [here](#), sign up [here](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

Electric power is now the gateway for future artificial intelligence development, **Goldman Sachs** reports, noting that while today's grid was built for roughly 60% average utilization, AI use is unpredictable and clustered in remote markets that will push grid utilization to 90%. **Abilene** now matches **San Francisco** for power demand. [Report](#).

Lenders are wary of offering mortgages in struggling neighborhoods with low-income levels and property values. But a new lending model is changing that, reports the **Wall Street Journal**, wherein private lenders approve loans based upon the property's value and rental income after renovation, rather than the borrower's income. [Story](#).

Fredericksburg's city council has agreed to a future highway re-alignment plan that opens the door for the Waldorf Astoria brand to continue construction design efforts for a 106-acre resort style hotel with 60 rooms and 80 private residences in the heart of the Texas Hill Country - all scheduled to open in 2029. [Details](#).

Thought of the Week

“By changing the inner attitudes of their minds, human beings can change the outer aspects of their lives.” – William James

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