



## Monday Morning Report

October 15, 2024

*Federal Holiday Edition*

---

### INTERNAL

There will be no October meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20 by Zoom.

---

### INFRASTRUCTURE

Public discussion is underway in **Austin** about converting portions of Congress Avenue from 7th to 11th streets into a grassy pedestrian mall. The *Congress Avenue Urban Design Initiative Vision Plan* - detailed on a city website ([here](#)) - is expected to be finalized by 2025. Public comment is invited until November 24 online and through several open meetings. [Details](#).

Interstate 35 and potential freight rail projects were central to a 'State of the Region' event last week in **San Antonio** featuring **Bexar County** judge Peter Sakai, **Webb County** judge Tano Tijerina and **Medina County** judge Keith Lutz. Tijerina warned that truck traffic out of **Laredo** - currently 16,000 per day, he estimated - is expected to increase by 5% annually, resulting in miles of waiting trucks idling on the highway. [Story](#).

**Fort Worth**, which had more Amtrak passengers than any other Texas city in 2023, is poised to become the hub of a new enhanced national passenger rail network, says the **Fort Worth Report**. In surveying recent passenger rail developments nationwide, the news site notes local mayor Mattie Parker's "all in" comments on the high-speed **Dallas-Houston** project and potential service to **Austin** and **San Antonio** from Cowtown. [Story](#).

Texas A&M University in **College Station** is considering an underground tunnel system to ease traffic congestion that would be constructed by Elon Musk's The Boring Company, based in **Bastrop**, local media reports. [Story](#).

The Federal Railroad Administration will be conducting a webinar next Tuesday, October 22, 1-2:00 pm ET, on the agency's Corridor Identification and Development Program entitled '*Implementing Process Improvements for Steps 1 and 2.*' Details and registration information are available [here](#).

---

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

Delta Airlines is adding five new nonstop flights out of **Austin** to **Panama City** and **Tampa, FL**, **Indianapolis**, **Memphis** and **San Francisco** beginning as early as next March. [Details](#).

The Biden administration has conditionally approved a new '4/5' international bridge at **Laredo**, so-called because it is the city's fourth bridge connector to **Nuevo Laredo** in the Mexican state of

Tamaulipas and the fifth bridge in **Webb County**, one of which leads to the Mexican state of Nuevo Leon. [Story](#).

According to **The Hill**, a new book by journalist Alex Hannaford called '*Lost In Austin*' details how the city's 'magic' has slipped away due to poorly planned development, in which it says "spiking rents have sent development sprawling into the Texas city's ecologically sensitive hinterlands, increasing traffic...etc." [Story](#).

The **New York Times** used extensive maps to focus on "*Where Americans Have Been Moving Into Disaster-Prone Areas*," which cites two decades of migration data for **Austin, San Antonio, Houston**, and other Texas cities and their exposure risks to hazards including hurricanes, floods, wildfires and excessive heat. [Story](#).

**Austin** has released the most detailed plans yet for parks and public spaces to be built as part of a 'cap and stitch' effort on Interstate 35 through downtown, **KUT** reports. The images show the highway's main lanes sunk 40-feet below ground level and more than 30-acres of decks created overhead. [Story](#).

Sign up now for the **San Antonio Report's** CityFest keynote luncheon, Tuesday October 29 at the Witte Museum, where four former mayors - Henry Cisneros, Phil Hardberger, Nelson Wolff, and Ivy Taylor - hold forth on the Alamo City's future. [Details](#).

## Thought of the Week

*"It does not require many words to speak the truth."*

- Chief Joseph

This newsletter is available to our members. If you wish to unsubscribe, please send an email request to [council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org).