

Monday Morning Report

November 2, 2026

INTERNAL

Federal Reserve Bank of **Dallas** President Lorie Logan, during a visit to **San Marcos**, referenced local leaders of the Central Texas Alliance banding together to keep pace with the booming influx of companies, workers, and investment 'that is driving one of the world's leading economies,' the Bank's newsletter notes ***here***.

INFRASTRUCTURE

It's a tangled web of politics and money but Pulitzer Prize-winning newsletter ***Inside Climate News*** (and the ***Texas Observer***) are reporting on a scheme to privatize normally publicly owned water supplies through a $6.5 billion desalinization project near water-starved **Corpus Christi**. The Israeli infrastructure developer IDE Technologies signed a deal with the city last summer, but no one yet knows what the water will cost. ***Story***. ***More***.

Last week, Spain suffered its second major high-speed rail crash this year, killing at least 68 people on the same track segment between **Madrid** and **Cordoba** where 47 people died earlier in January. Both collisions involved trains from the same public and private companies, indicating coordination issues in safety protocols. ***Story***. ***More***.

And here in the US, chief executive Ian Choudri of the California High-Speed Rail Authority - charged with building the politically-and-financially troubled **Los Angeles** to **San Francisco** passenger route - resigned last week after just two years on the job after facing mounting questions over inappropriate contractor spending issues. ***Story***.

The Federal Aviation Administration in **Washington** last week approved the nation's first Special Airworthiness Market Survey Certificate for carrying passengers on an electric vertical takeoff and landing aircraft to fly between New York and Vermont - for marketing purposes, initially, ***SmartCities*** reports. ***Details***.

Austin's Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization has launched *We Ride I-35*, a ride-sharing program aimed at making it easier for residents of **Kyle** and **Buda** to connect with one another for carpooling. ***Here***.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

Texas state government has assumed control of nine islands in the Rio Grande River between **Laredo** and **McAllen**, arguing the need to maintain the southern border's operational security, ***El Pais*** reports. Mexico is quietly asserting that the state has no such authority and that island ownership is the remit of international bodies. ***Story***.

San Antonio's city council has approved their legislative priorities for the upcoming 2027 legislative session in **Austin**, including defending the city's publicly owned utilities, seeking support for the Project Marvel Sports and Entertainment District, and funding for flood infrastructure and the South Texas Parkway. ***Details***.

WalletHub, after evaluating more than 400 cities for factors like cost of living, academic and work opportunities, social environments, and the quality of education. has named **Austin** as the Number One US college town. ***Story***.

The war in Iran has been very good to worldwide maritime shipping: average earnings in the industry grew 75% from last year and remain 92% above the average of the last 10 years. Oil shipments, in particular, are moneymakers: an exchange-trade fund (ETF) tracking that industry segment is up 4,750% this year. ***Details***.

Thought of the Week

> "Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs,
> even though checkered by failure." – Theodore Roosevelt

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