



Monday Morning Report

November 17, 2025

INTERNAL

The **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee meets *this* Wednesday, November 19 at 2 PM by Zoom. [Meeting Agenda](#). If you would like more information, please contact council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

TxDOT's just-released draft '*Texas Statewide Multimodal Plan 2050*' is raising eyebrows, not just by the conclusions it reached - that highways alone can't service the transportation needs of a state about to add 9 million new residents - but that it exists at all: "It is completely out of character for TxDOT to be addressing mass transit," says a former House Transportation committee chairman. [Story](#). [Draft Study](#). [Comments & Rail](#). [Opinion](#).

Game On: After shareholders okayed a merger last week between Union Pacific Railroad and Norfolk Southern, the largest rail merger in US history moves now to the federal Surface Transportation Board for regulatory approval - certain to be controversial - with important implications for the **Austin-San Antonio Corridor**. Expect more, longer trains (2+ miles) with more traffic tie-ups at crossings, and higher freight costs. [Story](#). [More](#).

In response to the UP/NS merger (*above*), national railroad passenger groups have already officially intervened with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) in **Washington**, opposing an expedited review process requested by the railroads and an earlier decision by the STB regarding filings by 'non-party stakeholders.' [Filings](#).

Austin drivers spend 64 hours stuck in traffic, **San Antonio** drivers 48 hours, in 2024 - according to the latest Texas A&M Transportation Institute's last Urban Mobility Report, but it could have been worse: post-Covid pandemic traffic congestion rebounded even more in some US cities. [Story](#). [Mobility Report](#).

Community Impact surveys \$240 million in new highway projects underway in **Hays County**, including work planned for **Driftwood**, **Dripping Springs**, and **Buda**. For details, go [here](#).

New Braunfels is launching its first-ever, publicly funded transit system - a new '*Ride The Rio*' on-demand ride-hailing app using a phone or website - partnering with **New York**-based VIA Transportation. [Story](#). [More](#).

Waymo, which had previously limited its driverless taxis to city streets, will begin offering its service on freeway lanes in **San Francisco**, **Phoenix**, and **Los Angeles**, reports **Axios**. Musk and **Austin** are cited. [Story](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

The Trump administration announced that it will cancel about a dozen current or planned flight routes between the US and Mexican cities, citing our southern neighbor's alleged flouting of a 2015 air transportation agreement and favoring native companies. Mexico suspects it's an effort to favor US companies. [Story](#). [More](#).

Texas water woes have drawn the attention of the *New Yorker*, which takes notice of the dire situation in **Corpus Christi**, before broadening out to the rest of the state ([here](#)). And last week at Tribfest in **Austin**, statewide water experts explored what it will take to solve the Lone Star State's long term water needs. [Story](#).

Hill Country residents feel threatened by a new high-voltage power line - the highest-voltage line in the state - that would stretch 370-miles through fourteen counties from **San Antonio** to **Fort Stockton** through some of the most beautiful, and ecologically fragile terrain in Texas, the *American-Statesman* reports. [Story](#).

Congratulations to the non-profit H.O.M.E Center, a mission to reduce homelessness in **San Marcos** and **Hays County**, and now winner of the Community Organization Award from the Texas Homeless Network. [Details](#).

A **Dallas**-based firm is planning to build a big new data center in **Taylor** on 220-acres just northeast of where Samsung's \$17-billion chip factory is under construction, *KXAN* reports. [Story](#). [More](#).

Noticed a shortage of feathery flying customers at your backyard bird feeder? It's not your imagination. The annual fall migration of birds through **Austin-San Antonio** is missing just one thing: birds. *KXAN* reports that mild weather has delayed the arrival of many species, including those pesky grackles. Amazing photos. [Story](#).

Thought of the Week

“The reason people find it so hard to be happy is that they always see the past better than it was, the present worse than it is, and the future less resolved than it will be.”

– Marcel Pagnol

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