



Monday Morning Report

November 18, 2024

INTERNAL

The **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee meets this Wednesday, November 20 at 2 PM by Zoom. There will be a presentation from Todd Bertson and James Reid, legislative consultants for the Capitol Hill Policy Group, regarding the "Post-Election Federal Funding Outlook for Transportation." [Draft Agenda](#).

If you would like to add an item to the agenda, please contact council@thecorridor.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

At last week's COP29 climate meeting in **Baku**, Azerbaijan, the World Meteorological Organization reported that the last ten years were the hottest on record, ocean heat is rising, Antarctic Sea ice is second lowest recorded, glacier loss accelerated, and extreme weather events caused massive economic losses. [Story](#). [Report](#).

And in another report linked to the **Baku** meeting, 50 leading scientists from the International Cryosphere Climate Initiative who study snow and ice issued a stark warning about changes to the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation - a key ocean current governing heat cycles that maintain the European climate - is on a path to collapse. Agriculture would suffer from a 6-degree temperature drop over the next ten years. [Story](#).

TxDOT has identified nearly 1500 Texas bridges slated for repairs in the next decade, the **Express-News** reports. Of those, 51 are in the **San Antonio** area, 28 in the **Austin** area. Statewide, about 50% of bridges are rated in good condition, 46.5% in fair condition, and 1.2% in poor condition. [Details](#). [Searchable Map](#).

British construction giant Balfour Beatty will oversee the \$746-million, 2.5-miles from State Highway 71 to Holly Street portion of the IH-35 reconstruction project in downtown **Austin**, including some elements of the Project Connect light rail effort and the key Riverside Drive intersection. Work starts next fall. [Story](#).

The **Austin** Mobility Committee unveiled new details last week of the vision for 'cap and stitch' projects along a reconstructed IH-35 in downtown, including more than 100-pages of analysis on how to add community spaces above the soon-to-be-sunken below grade Interstate. The city council considers the project this week. [Story](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

It took a while to determine whether or not a runoff would be required but, when all the votes were counted, Kirk Watson has been re-elected as **Austin's** mayor and will serve a four-year term.

[Details.](#)

Fast-growing **Kyle**, in the heart of the **Austin-San Antonio Corridor**, has issued a Request for Proposals for an 'upscale, family-friendly' restaurant to add to its Brick and Mortar District in the Plum Creek development. [Story.](#)

New Braunfels-based Aurora Innovation is expecting to launch its driverless trucks in April 2025, along the **Houston-to-Dallas** corridor, the **Express-News** reports, about a year later than announced earlier. [Details.](#)

Congratulations to **New Braunfels'** Gruene Hall, oldest dance hall in Texas, named the 2024 *'Live Music Venue of The Year'* by the Texas Country Music Association at a **Fort Worth** ceremony last week. [Story.](#)

Forget downtown or the suburbs: the **Associated Press** says recent census data show that most people moving in the US are headed to the exurbs, as much as 60-miles from urban centers in the South. They cite **Anna**, near **Dallas**, as an example and other cities in North Carolina and Tennessee. [Story.](#)

Using criteria that included quality of life, affordability, and job opportunities, **US News & World Report** recently ranked the *Ten Best Places to Live in Texas*, with **Austin** in first place, **San Antonio** in sixth. Even in ninth place you've got to wonder about **Beaumont**. Really? [Story.](#)
[Criteria.](#)

Thought of the Week

"The ties that bind us are stronger than the stresses that separate us."

– Colin Powell

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