

Monday Morning Report

November 23, 2026

INTERNAL

Former **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee-member Bobby Ray Inman, 95, died last week in **Austin**. Admiral Inman served as director of the National Security Agency, deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and once turned down a Defense Secretary nomination, the **New York *Times*** reports. ***Story***.

Last Chance: The **Monday Morning Report** will be discontinuing publication. But if you wish to continue receiving a weekly update on regional issues and items of interest for the **Austin-San Antonio Corridor**, hit REPLY and let us know. We'll pass it along to the new team. Thanks!

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INFRASTRUCTURE

For the first time since 2009, leaders gathered in **Antalya**, Turkey for the annual United Nations COP31 climate conference failed this weekend to agree on a joint statement after oil-producing nations blocked any mention of fossil fuels – the leading cause of global warming - in the final document, the **New York *Times*** reports. ***Story***.

New Democratic leadership in Texas state government is raising hopes for passenger rail service between **Austin** and **San Antonio**, and of eventually connecting the Texas Triangle cities by rail, the ***Express-News*** reports ***here***. Other media are also weighing in: ***Railway Supply*** reports ***here;*** more from ***Yahoo*** on statewide high-speed rail ***here***; more high-speed reporting ***here*** from ***KVUE***; and ***FoxNews4*** chimes in ***here***.

Meanwhile, trouble is brewing for the proposed mega-merger of Union Pacific Railroad with Norfolk Southern: the powerful American Public Transit Association filed a statement opposing the deal with the federal Surface Transportation Board, available ***here***; and one large rail union calls it 'a risk to every citizen in the US.' ***Story***.

The Trump administration is changing the rules for public transportation funding, making it more difficult even for projects that have been in the planning for years, the **New York *Times*** reports, and has moved at least $5 billion already appropriated into 2028. **Austin** light rail & **San Antonio** bus rapid transit projects could suffer. ***Story***.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

While President Trump bragged last week about his $400 million jet's 14-hour trip to **Schenzhen**, China last week for the Asia-Pacific Cooperation Summit (***here***), Mexican president Claudia Sheinbaum made this same trip in 21-hours, in a middle seat, flying economy class on China Southern Airlines - with a stopover in ***Tijuana***. Details ***here***.

The **Wall Street *Journal*** looks at what new Democratic state leadership may mean for Elon Musk's multi-billion Texas operations (***video***) and, apparently unconcerned, the Tesla founder announced plans last week for a new $3.1 billion refinery for solar manufacturing in **Nueces County**, near Musk's **Robstown** lithium refinery. ***Story***.

Austin ranked 4th, **San Antonio** 7th in a ***WalletHub*** study tracking the most-favored US destinations for travelers trying to escape winter weather. **Las Vegas** took first place (due to its cheap hotel rooms). ***Story***.

Incoming Democratic governor Gina Hinojosa told the ***Texas Tribune*** last week that she favors repealing the so-called 'Death Star' law, 2023 state legislation that restricts cities and counties from passing ordnances that conflict with state oversight in such areas as payday lending and water breaks for construction workers. ***Story***.

Thought of the Week

"I think of life as a good book. The further you get into it, the more it begins to make sense." – Harold Kushner

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