



Monday Morning Report

November 24, 2025

INTERNAL

Last week's meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council's Executive Committee focused largely on regional rail issues, although future TxDOT funding shortfalls, the new Urban Mobility Report, the Trump administration's cancellation of 13 Mexico flights - including a new **Austin** flight - and ongoing highway projects were also discussed. Updates were provided on ongoing TxDOT & **Travis County** passenger rail projects, new federal rail funding opportunities, local impacts and possible regional action before the Surface Transportation Board on the merger between Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern railroads were also considered. *[Final Agenda](#)*.

INFRASTRUCTURE

That newly released TxDOT '*[Texas Statewide Multimodal Plan 2050](#)*' prompted the **San Antonio Express-News** editorial staff to reflect on the study's implications for **Austin-San Antonio** passenger rail prospects (*[here](#)*), and the same writer posted in the **American-Statesman** a piece calling the *Plan* 'an admirable longshot.' *[Opinion](#)*.

Amtrak ridership is up 5% this year, and revenue is up by 10%, according to the agency's latest reporting, the **Washington Post** says. Officials attributed the gains to increased demands and nationwide problems with the air traffic system due to weather conditions and the recent government shutdown. *[Story](#)*.

More Waymo driverless robotaxis are about to be deployed in **San Antonio** in the coming weeks, part expansion plans from **Austin** into **Dallas, Houston, Miami, and Orlando** in the coming year (*[here](#)*). In **Austin**, the company reported 9 crashes of its vehicles in September, compared to four crashes by competitor Tesla. *[Story](#)*.

The job of one of the state's top transportation experts, Michael Morris, may be in jeopardy: the **North Texas** Council of Governments' executive committee was reportedly meeting last week to consider removing the 30-year veteran leader of the organization. He survived that meeting, but change may be coming. *[Story](#)*. *[More](#)*.

An **Associated Press** investigation reports that the US Border Patrol is monitoring driving habits nationwide to spot 'suspicious' travel patterns and then flagging the targeted motorists

for action by local law enforcement. Privacy concerns with the agency's program are mounting, the AP says. [Story](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

The '2025 Official Latino Donor Collaborative (LDC) US Latino Gross Domestic Product Report,' produced by Wells Fargo and Arizona State University, has determined that US Latino-originated GDP has reached an 'historic' \$4 trillion, ranking as the 5th largest economy in the world if considered independently. [Report](#).

The **San Antonio Express-News** reported last week (somewhat gleefully, some thought) that **Austin**'s ranking in the *Resiliency Consultancy's* ratings of the best 100 cities in the world had fallen from 53rd to 87th place. The rankings consider factors like economic vitality, prosperity, livability, and cultural aspects. [Story](#).

Rising insurance costs tied to climate change are eating into family budgets, rippling through US housing markets. In **Travis County**, home insurance accounts for 8% - on -average - of total home payments (which include mortgage & property taxes). In **Bexar County**, homeowners paid an average of \$1,535 in 2024 for insurance, up 15% year over year, the New York Times reports. [Story](#). [More](#).

The abrupt firing of the woman leading the \$550-million renovation of the Alamo in **San Antonio** drew attention from the **Washington Post** last week, which published a timeline of the 'woke' remarks of former director Kate Rogers - who has since filed a first amendment-based lawsuit over her dismissal - and the subsequent machinations of state officeholders Dawn Buckingham and Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst to replace her. [Story](#).

The **Wall Street Journal** notes that **Austin** is mourning the loss of Roy Bedichek Middle School, immortalized in the film '*Dazed and Confused*,' and viewed as one of the last vestiges of the Old Austin - soon to fall victim to school district budget cuts. Of course, everything is not alright, alright, alright. [Story](#).

Thought of the Week

“You can do anything, but not everything.” – David Allen

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