



Monday Morning Report

November 28, 2022

INTERNAL

The next meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee is tentatively scheduled for December 21 at 2 PM by videoconference.

Some are speculating that the COVID-19 pandemic is fading fast ([here](#)) and at least one **Monday Morning Report** subscriber thinks it's time to end our weekly reporting on the toll of COVID cases and deaths. If you have an opinion, let us know at council@thecorridor.org.

COVID-19 UPDATE: Global cases reached 641,683,560 this morning, with 6,631,166 deaths. US cases are at 98,571,212 with 1,079,207 deaths (11/28/22) ([Johns Hopkins](#)). Texas last reported 6,412,600 cases with 89,789 deaths, including in **Bexar County**: 550,822 cases with 6,372 deaths; **Guadalupe County**: 29,660 cases, still with 415 deaths; **Comal County**: 25,698 cases, still with 572 deaths; **Hays County**: 63,343 cases, still with 458 deaths; **Travis County**: 248,436 cases, still with 1,808 deaths; and **Williamson County**: 130,314 cases, still with 918 deaths (11/23/22). ([TDHHS](#)). *Regional hospitalization-rate data found [here](#).*

INFRASTRUCTURE

Texans approved more than \$35 billion in new infrastructure spending during the latest round of elections, the most for any single election in the last decade and more than any other state, says the **Houston Chronicle**. The reasons for the large spending surge include pandemic-driven project delivery delays and population growth; projects include schools, libraries, stadiums, wastewater facilities, parks, and roads. [Story](#).

The **Austin** city council will consider a resolution *this* Thursday (12/1, at 10:00 am) relating to interlocal collaboration to address potential impacts of the **Hays County** Transportation Plan on Austin's Water Quality Protection Lands. It's not mentioned in the agenda posting but this refers to the proposed State Highway 45 South West project extending MoPac to IH-35. Livestream [here](#).

The Biden administration has quietly approved a large oil export terminal to be built offshore from **Freeport**, the first of four such terminals planned for the Texas **Gulf Coast**, which will boost US oil export capacity by 2 million barrels per day. The approval seems at odds with other Biden administration decisions and global agreements to limit carbon emissions by 2030. [Story](#).

Cities around the world (including **Austin** and **San Antonio**) are grappling with what to do about e-scooters, an eye-sore and hazard for some, a mobility convenience for others. Now, one of the most mobility forward-leaning cities of them all, **Paris**, is considering a ban on the vehicles when current franchises expire. [Story](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

Get ready for Chinese electric vehicles entering the US market: the Swedish-designed but Chinese-built Polestar has already sold about 7,000 EV cars in the US in the first nine months of 2022, including some out of a **Dallas**-based dealership. Tesla, by comparison, sold 280,000 EV's in the same period. [Story](#).

In celebrating the 50th anniversary of UNESCO - the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization - the **Washington Post** names 24 US World Heritage sites worth seeing, including the chain of five centuries-old **San Antonio** missions anchored by the most famous, Mission San Antonio de Valero. [Story](#).

Last week it was **San Antonio** Chamber of Commerce Richard Perez stepping down. This week it's the **Austin** Chamber's president Laura Huffman who announced she is leaving the organization at year's end. Formerly chief executive of the Nature Conservancy, Huffman also served as an assistant city manager in **Austin** and **San Marcos**. Details [here](#).

Austin-based electric vehicle manufacturer Tesla has shed nearly \$700 billion in stock price valuation over the past year, due largely to the impact of rising interest rates on tech companies, according to **Axios**. But prior to the price collapse, Tesla's price per share had risen by a 'seemingly absurd 1700%.' What's next? [Story](#).

Thought of the Week

"When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around."

- Willie Nelson

This newsletter is available to our members. If you wish to unsubscribe, please send an email request to council@thecorridor.org.

©2022 Austin-San Antonio Corridor Council