Would you take a train to avoid San Antonio's I-35 traffic?

By Melanie Love Salazar



UCG/Universal Images Group via G

Social media users debate whether a 10-hour-long train ride is better than enduring traffic on I-35 in San Antonio and Dallas, where construction is rampant.

How many times have delays on San Antonio's I-35 made you late to an event? For some Texans, navigating construction, crashes or overzealous drivers is so inconvenient that they're looking for other options.

In a controversial TikTok post shared on Wednesday, October 7, one user, Heather Roberts, wrote that they would rather take a double-digit-hour train ride than brave the infamous highway. The post showed them on an Amtrak, surrounded by blankets and pillows.

"I'd rather bedrot on a train for 10 hours than fight traffic & be annoyed for 4-5 hours to get from Dallas to San Antonio," Roberts captioned their post. "But that's just me."

The Amtrak route from the 210 to North Texas takes roughly eight hours and 35 minutes, according to the Amtrak website. It's a tempting option that may not cost as much as you think. There is an option to book a private room, which starts at $191. However, coach seats start at $27, less than it costs to fuel up your tank. Still, some social media users weren't sold on the option.

"No thanks," one user, @Nester402, commented on Roberts' video.

Another commented, "But then you don't have a car when you get there, and if you rent one, it's so much more expensive, added to the ticket fee too."

Others shared past enjoyable experiences on Amtrak, including being able to rest without interruptions. Several shared that the price would ultimately be worth it for them.

"Honestly, I fear with the horrible gas prices we have now trains may be more of a thing for everybody," user @Al.Renroul wrote.

Residents do spend a baffling amount of time stuck in traffic. A 2025 Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) study found that the San Antonio I-35 stretch from Loop 1604 Northeast to Loop 410 recorded about 354,461 hours of delay per mile per year. Keep in mind that this stretch of road is just 4.97 miles long.

A major construction project is also underway across the interstate, leading to weekly shutdowns. Many of the closures, part of the larger I-35 Northeast Expansion (NEX) plan, begin around 9 p.m. and last overnight. The initiative is a 20-mile, $3.5 billion project scheduled for completion in 2032.

Traffic isn't only affecting how people travel but also where they choose to live. Local realtor John Fatheringham of the Neal & Neal Team at eXp Realty previously told MySA that shorter commute times are becoming more important to the clients he meets.

"For me, it really comes down to deciding what you're willing to trade," Cunningham said. "Some people would rather have the newer house and more space and accept the commute. Others would gladly give up some of that to spend less time in the car."

Goodwill Bridging the Skills Gap for Manufacturing



GUEST COLUMNIST
By Carlos J. Contreras, III

A strong manufacturing industry depends on people who have the skills and opportunities to help it grow. As National Manufacturing Month comes to a close, we want to take another opportunity to share how we prepare our neighbors for careers in a field shaped by technology, problem-solving, and innovation.

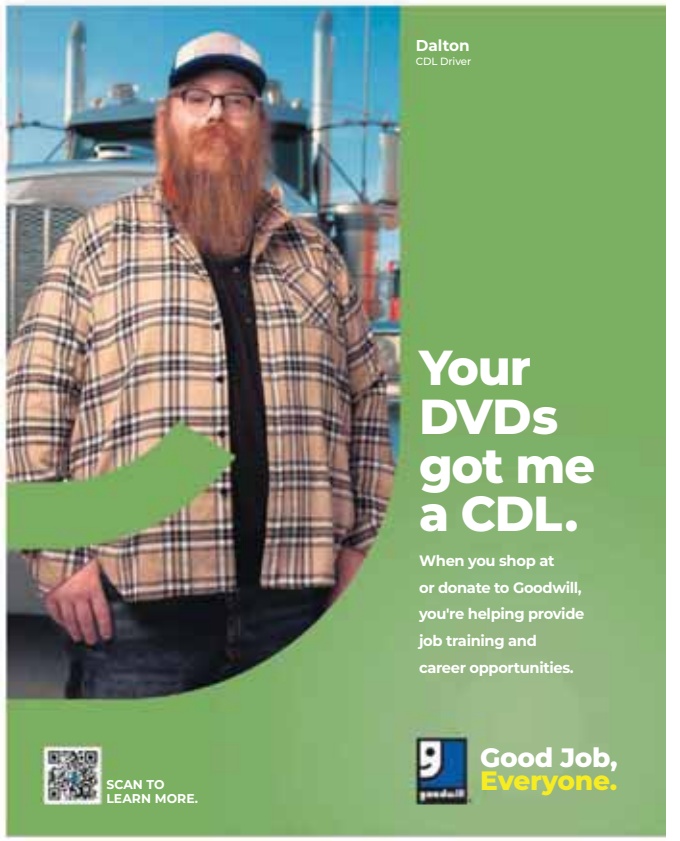
For someone entering the workforce or considering a career change, manufacturing offers promising career opportunities with room for advancement. Yet, simply knowing those opportunities exist does not always mean knowing how to pursue them. The cost of training, unfamiliarity with the industry, or a lack of relevant experience can make a promising career seem out of reach.

At Goodwill, our mission is realized when we help people build the skills and confidence they need to move forward and secure meaningful employment, particularly in industries like manufacturing.

Last year, Goodwill's Academy & Career Services launched Manufacturing Bootcamp, a three-week training program that introduces participants to the fundamentals of manufacturing, including blueprint reading, applied mathematics, quality control, and workplace safety. Offered at no cost, participants develop the skills needed to secure a good job while earning industry-recognized credentials, including OSHA-10 and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) Certified Manufacturing Associate certification. Since its launch in 2025, 67 participants have successfully secured employment in the industry, earning an average of $18 per hour and increasing their ability to support their families and plan for the future.

Workforce development in the trades, such as our Manufacturing Bootcamp, is only effective when training providers engage in meaningful dialogue with employers. Our Goodwill Academy team sought input from local manufacturers to gain valuable insight into the specific skills their workplaces need. We leveraged that insight to ensure our curriculum and hands-on training align directly with the expectations and demands of the job. When these efforts align, businesses gain access to prepared candidates, and job seekers gain a clearer, more direct path into the industry.

As manufacturing evolves, we must continue creating opportunities for people to access, learn, adapt, and grow alongside it. When we invest in people's potential, we strengthen our local workforce and give more families the opportunity to build a stable future.



We are deeply grateful to our community for helping make these opportunities possible. Donations and purchases at Goodwill stores help sustain our no-cost programs. If you or someone you know is interested in Goodwill San Antonio's Manufacturing Bootcamp or any of our other programs, please visit our career training options at www.goodwillsa.org.