

LUFKIN DISTRICT

N E W S



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Hurricane Harvey

August 25, 2017 went down in the weather history books with Harvey’s landfall between Port Aransas and Port O’Conner. It was the first Category 4 hurricane to hit the United States since 2004.

The Lufkin District has deployed over 100 employees from the days prior to the storm’s landfall and since to help with the cleanup that the hurricane left behind. Some employees are still deployed along the Gulf Coast. As of this publication, the district has 17 employees still working in the Corpus Christi, Beaumont and Houston Districts. The district will continue to replace the 17 every weekend until the work is completed.



Lufkin District rescue efforts during Hurricane Harvey.

When Harvey made landfall and it was safe to begin work, these men and women thought nothing of wading water, sleeping on cots and eating freeze-dried food. They did what it took to help others survive and continue to work to help get life back to normal for many in the storm-ravaged areas.

Because of those efforts, 26 Lufkin District employees received the Extra Mile Award from TxDOT on October 10th at the Transportation Short Course – a state award reserved for those who go above and beyond their duties. They rescued people who were trapped in floodwaters, helping to load them into the backs of dump trucks in order to get them safely to shelters in the Houston and Beaumont areas.

While some of the emergency situations that arose during Hurricane Harvey could not be planned for, the preparation that TxDOT made months and years ahead of Hurricane Harvey was successful due to the dedicated work of many of our employees. ■

To learn more about **Lufkin District projects**, visit our Construction or Projects and Studies pages at: txdot.gov/inside-txdot/district/Lufkin.html

We want to hear from you. Take our Newsletter Survey: surveymonkey.com/r/CH56VZW

DE CORNER



**Kevin Buranakitipinyo, P.E.,
Director of Operations for the
Lufkin District**

Kevin will oversee all maintenance and traffic activities for the Lufkin District. His TxDOT career began in May 2003 after graduating from Texas A & M University. He has served in many roles while at TxDOT, such as project engineer over the US 59 South Interchange Project in Lufkin, Nacogdoches Assistant Area Engineer, Nacogdoches Area Engineer and Director of Construction.



**Shannon Ramos, P.E.,
Director of Construction for the
Lufkin District**

Shannon will oversee all construction activities for the Lufkin District. She began her TxDOT career in January 2003 after graduating from Texas A&M University. She has served in many roles while at TxDOT such as project engineer over a \$10.9 million SH 94 bridge replacement, Nacogdoches Assistant Area Engineer and Nacogdoches Area Engineer.

Once again, TxDOT employees have proven to be some of the best in Texas. They stepped up throughout the state, no matter what challenges they faced, to help our neighbors along the Gulf Coast that were impacted by Category 4 winds and historical rainfall amounts from Hurricane Harvey.

I am especially proud of the Lufkin District employees and how they responded to the challenges that Hurricane Harvey presented to us. There have been over 100 district employees and 36 pieces of equipment deployed to counties near the Gulf to help in roadway repairs. We currently still have 17 deployed employees and will continue to rotate crews out each week until they are no longer needed.



Through careful planning and deliberate efforts statewide, there was a smooth execution of our emergency plan as we worked to repair, rebuild and reopen roads. In addition, Lufkin District employees who remained within the district during the hurricane were faced with flood waters and damaged roadways that presented their own challenges.

Some of our employees were even put into the position of helping to rescue those trapped in flood waters. There were many who found a safe, dry spot in the back of a dump truck for a ride to area shelters. That extra effort by our employees is not a job requirement, but a display of compassion for their fellowman during an event that took its toll on many.

In this newsletter, you will see photos and hear about some of those conditions that were encountered during Hurricane Harvey. Also, you will enjoy reading about our recently completed project in Coldspring. We were able to successfully add curb ramps to the downtown square sidewalks, and through extensive study and planning with local residents, we were able to preserve the old town feeling that the building facades create in this quaint town.

Also, see in this newsletter our quarterly Interstate 69 update. Follow our current and future construction projects as they progress through our nine county district with the information you will find on the maps from our area engineers.

As this work progresses, it is evident that the progress we are making in the Lufkin District with many construction and maintenance projects is constantly changing the landscape of East Texas. As we grow together, we are committed to developing the best transportation system to fit all of our busy lives. Drive safely. ■

Cheryl P. Flood, P.E.
LUFKIN DISTRICT ENGINEER

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Project

Coldspring ADA Project Wraps up for the Holidays

The American Disabilities Act of 1990 is a civil rights statute that prohibits discrimination against people who have disabilities. Under the ADA, designing and constructing facilities for public use that are not usable by people who have disabilities constitutes discrimination. As TxDOT gained an understanding of the requirements under the ADA, we have made every effort to achieve compliance.

The Lufkin District, led by Jimmy Thompson, embarked on one such project in the town of Coldspring along State Highway (SH 150) and Farm-to-Market (FM) 1514. The project had a fast-tracked design due to accessibility complaints and broke ground in May of 2017. The project was awarded to Houston contractor Trevway Inc. for retrofit and replacing existing sidewalk facilities with ADA compliant access.

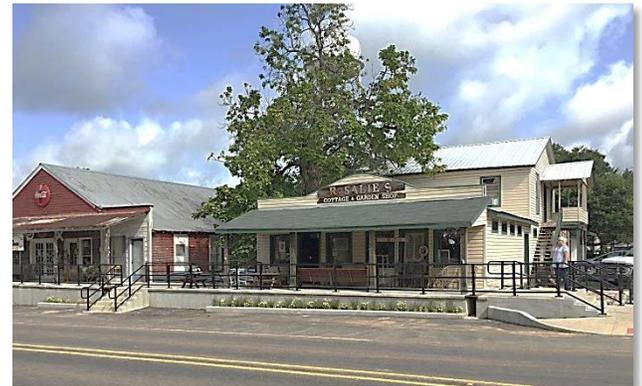
For Trevway Inc. and TxDOT, this was quite a different job as the bulk of work was on existing ROW adjacent to the face of the downtown buildings. This required expert carpentry to ensure the existing awning structures (some nearing 100 years old) would not be harmed. Along with great cooperation with the business owners and local citizens, the construction would literally take place on their doorsteps.

Change is not always easily accepted, and there was no shortage of conflict in a worksite that put construction workers and TxDOT representatives on the threshold of local businesses. Whether it was rescheduling of work around local events, reconfiguring rail layouts to better fit business functions, changing paint schemes to match local architecture, or remodeling awning rafters to meet height clearances, each challenge required collaboration between the public, TxDOT and Trevway, Inc. to provide a product that would better serve the area's need.

Livingston Area Office and Contractor Trevway Inc. completed all major construction items ahead of schedule and kept the commitment to accommodate the local businesses affected by this construction. The successful completion of this project is the direct result of an outstanding partnership between the business owners of Coldspring, Trevway Inc., and TxDOT's inspector Denton Maze (now retired). ▀



Before picture taken from Google Earth of shops looking northwest along FM 1514 (Byrd Ave).



After picture of ADA improvements in front of shops along FM 1514 (Byrd Ave).



Trevway, Inc. workers building new bulletin board for downtown events.

I-69 DEVELOPMENT IN THE LUFKIN DISTRICT

Jennifer Adams, I-69 Project Manager (936) 633-4469

The Lufkin District utilizes reports from the I-69 Advisory Committee, I-69 Segment One and Two Committees and local county committees, as well as resolutions of support from cities and counties to identify and prioritize smaller more fundable projects for development. These smaller projects will be a combination of upgrading the existing highway to interstate standards and constructing new location roadways where upgrading is not a reasonable and feasible alternative. No definitive decision on right-of-way (ROW) needs or how a project will be constructed is made until the District receives approval of the schematic and environmental study.



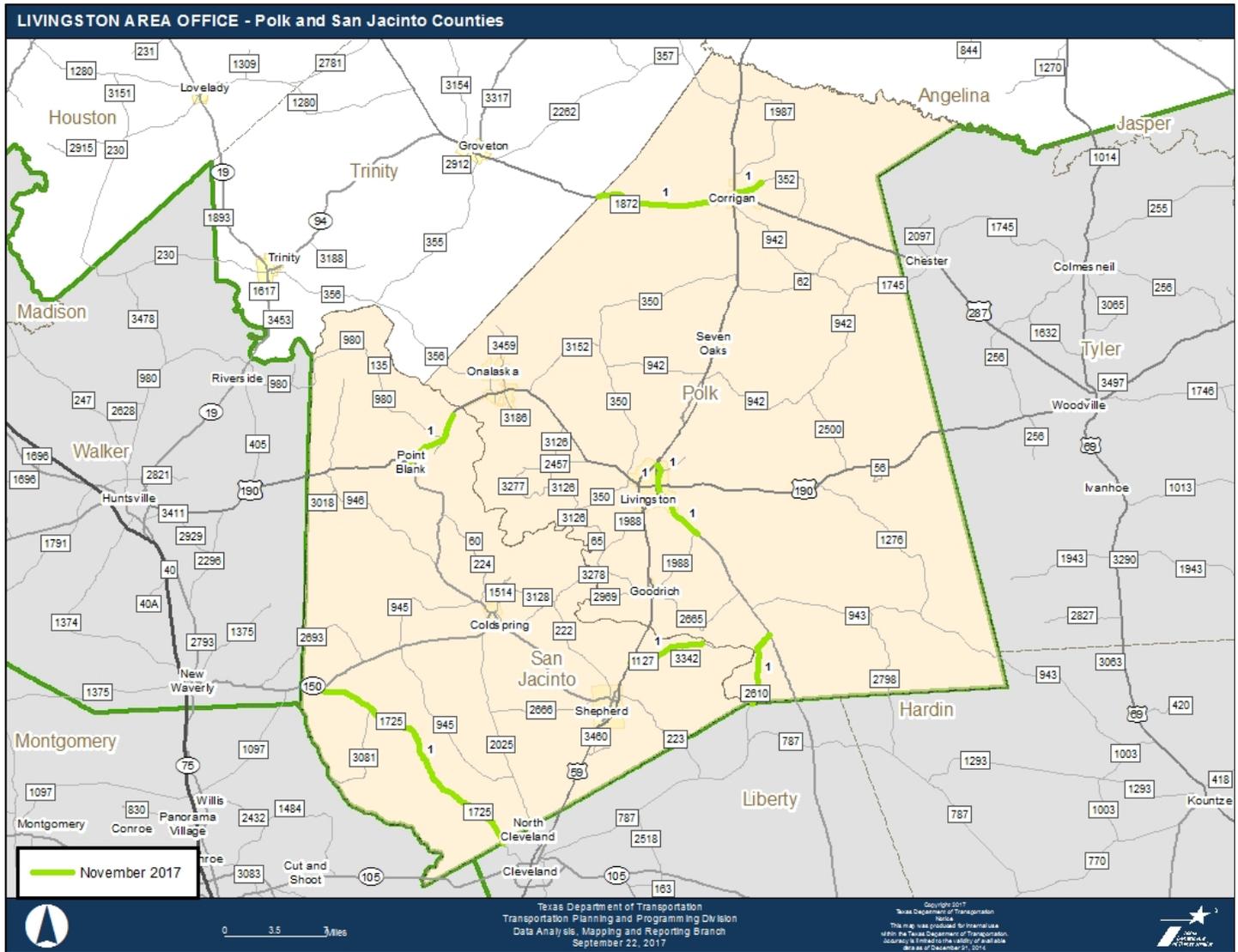
Driven by Texans

At this time, there are six projects that the Lufkin District is actively developing. These projects are in varying stages of approval. Below is a brief update on the status of these projects. For more information on these I-69 projects and others under development across the state, please visit our webpage at:

<http://www.dot.state.tx.us/drivenbytexans/projects.htm>.

- **US 59/SL 224 South Interchange** – project involves upgrading existing US 59 by constructing new US 59 direct connectors at SL 224 and frontage roads along SL 224 between SH 7 and US 59. TxDOT is currently working on engineering plans, purchasing right of way (ROW), and relocating utilities. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2019.
- **US 59 Diboll Relief Route** – project involves the construction of a new location controlled access roadway east of Diboll. TxDOT is currently working on engineering plans, acquiring necessary permits and purchasing right of way (ROW). Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2020.
- **US 59 Upgrade in Lufkin between Moffett Rd and SH 103** – project involves upgrading existing US 59 to a controlled access roadway by adding frontage roads. TxDOT has begun right of way mapping and preparation of engineering plans. Right of way acquisitions are anticipated to begin Summer 2018. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2020.
- **US 59 Upgrade in Redland between SL 287 and FM 2021** – project involves upgrading existing US 59 to a controlled access roadway by adding frontage roads. TxDOT has begun schematic and environmental studies and anticipates approvals in Winter 2018. After approval of the environmental document, TxDOT can begin the right of way acquisition and utility relocation processes. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2022.
- **US 59 Corrigan Relief Route** – project involves the construction of a new location controlled access roadway west of Corrigan. TxDOT is currently working on completing the schematic and environmental studies to hold a public hearing in Winter 2017. After receiving final comments at the hearing, TxDOT will submit the final schematic and environmental documents for approval. Once approved (anticipate early 2018), TxDOT can begin the ROW acquisition process. No construction funding has been identified, so there is no scheduled date for construction.
- **US 59 Upgrade in Shepherd between FM 2914 and North Cleveland** – project involves upgrading existing US 59 to a controlled access roadway by adding frontage roads. TxDOT has begun schematic and environmental studies and anticipates approvals in Winter 2018. After approval of the environmental document, TxDOT can begin the right of way acquisition and utility relocation processes. No construction funding has been identified, so there is no scheduled date for construction. ■

Livingston Area Office

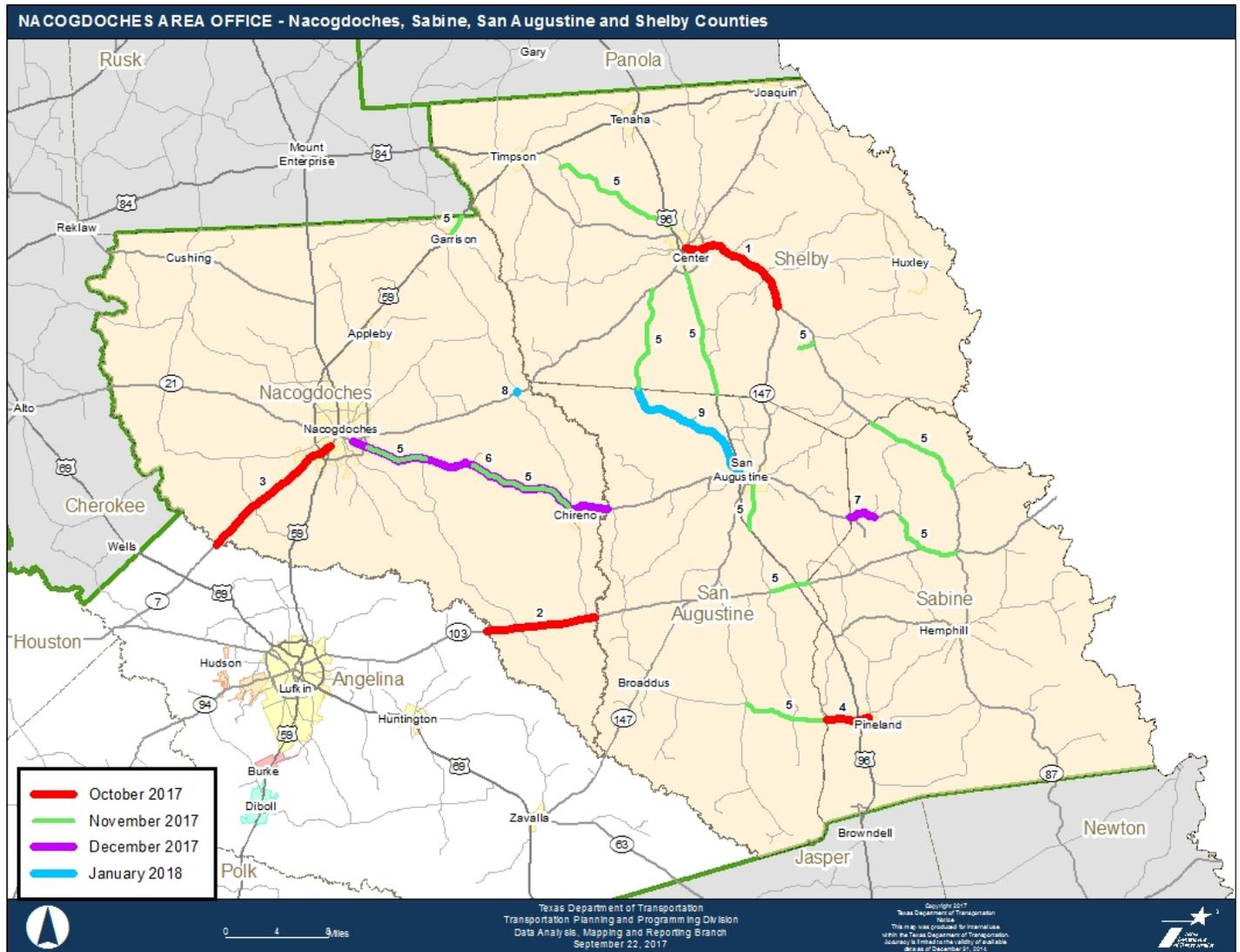


Upcoming Construction Projects

Project Number	County	Highway	Description	Estimated Cost	
0117-07-041	VA	VA	DISTRICT WIDE SEAL COAT	\$2,288,960.95	1

For more information, please visit the Project Tracker page at:
<http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/projects/project-tracker.html>

Nacogdoches Area Office



Upcoming Construction Projects					
Project Number	County	Highway	Description	Estimated Cost	
0064-01-067	SHELBY	SH 87	IMPROVE GUARDRAIL TO DESIGN STANDARDS, SAFETY TREAT FIXED OBJECTS	\$695,254.00	1
0336-06-028	NACOGDOCHES	SH 103	IMPROVE GUARDRAIL TO DESIGN STANDARDS	\$424,316.00	2
0553-03-031	NACOGDOCHES	SH 7	IMPROVE GUARDRAIL TO DESIGN STANDARDS	\$171,890.50	3
2637-02-015	SABINE	FM 83	IMPROVE GUARDRAIL TO DESIGN STANDARDS, SAFETY TREAT FIXED OBJECTS	\$472,845.00	4
0117-07-041	VA	VA	DISTRICT WIDE SEAL COAT	\$3,109,251.55	5
0118-08-074	NACOGDOCHES	SH 21	IMPROVE GUARDRAIL TO DESIGN STANDARDS, SAFETY TREAT FIXED OBJECTS	\$1,749,905.00	6
0119-02-019	SABINE	SH 21	IMPROVE GUARDRAIL TO DESIGN STANDARDS, SAFETY TREAT FIXED OBJECTS	\$310,484.50	7
0706-04-019	NACOGDOCHES	FM 95	REPLACE BRIDGE AND APPROACHES	\$1,424,955.20	8
1680-01-016	SAN AUGUSTINE	FM 711	RECONSTRUCT AND WIDEN PAVEMENT (24 FT)	\$5,630,000.00	9

For more information, please visit the Project Tracker page at:
<http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/projects/project-tracker.html>

DISTRICT CONTACTS

District Engineer:
Cheryl P. Flood, P.E.

District Public Information Officer:
Rhonda Oaks

Director of Transportation Planning and Development:
Kelly O. Morris, P.E.

Director of Operations:
Kevin Buranakitipinyo, P.E.

Director of Construction:
Shannon Ramos, P.E.

1805 N. Timberland Drive
Lufkin, TX 75901
(936) 634-4433

AREA OFFICE CONTACTS

Lufkin Area Office:
Lufkin Area Engineer
Jesse Sisco, P.E.
1805 N. Timberland Drive
Lufkin, TX 75901
(936) 633-4331

Livingston Area Office:
Livingston Area Engineer
Kevin Harbuck, P.E.
3161 US 59 N.
Livingston, TX 77351
(936) 327-8981

Nacogdoches Area Office:
Interim Nacogdoches Area
Engineer Shannon Ramos,
P.E.
918 Industrial Blvd.
Nacogdoches, TX 75961
(936) 585-7043

COUNTY MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR CONTACTS

Angelina:
Josh Bobbitt
(936) 634-3414

Houston:
Gerald Colter
(936) 544-2264

Nacogdoches:
Michael Moore
(936) 585-7041

Polk:
Patricia Fears
(936) 327-8914

Sabine:
Hoy Clark
(409) 787-1751

San Jacinto:
Archie Phillips
(936) 628-3328

San Augustine:
Jerry Fountain
(936) 275-9671

Shelby:
Clint Norton
(936) 598-4113

Trinity:
David Wars
(936) 642-1132