

LUFKIN DISTRICT

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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

US 69 SOUTH - Two to Four Lanes

From Huntington to the Jasper County Line

Motorists driving US 69 South between Huntington and Zavalla are likely to get a different view with recent right of way clearing that is happening ahead of a major construction project that will change the landscape drastically.



Work is divided into separate construction projects that are designed to widen the two lane roadway to a four lane divided rural roadway with shoulders.

Phase one work is currently under construction and is from the Huntington city limits to FM 844. Crews are clearing brush from FM 844 to FM 1270 south of Zavalla in preparation of phase two which will begin late summer 2018 and is anticipated to be completed in July 2022.



The third phase of this work is planned from FM 1270 to the Jasper County line. Plans are 30-percent complete and are on schedule to accept bids in Summer 2019.

All three phases are estimated at \$114 million to complete and will tie to the US

69 South projects that are being completed by the Beaumont District.

The finished projects along the Big Thicket Corridor will enhance safety, improve traffic flow and provide better connectivity between Lufkin and Beaumont. ▀

DE CORNER



Spring has brought sunshine and warmer temperatures to the Lufkin District and we are in full swing in all nine counties with construction and maintenance projects. Hopefully, we won't see too much rain during this season and work will progress. Either way, I am excited about new projects beginning and others that are completing.

In this issue you will find more information about project updates from all three of our area offices, the exciting new construction beginning on US 69 South between Huntington and Zavalla, and the recently completed FM 1878 Lanana Creek bridge replacement.

I am proud of our employees and always look for a reason to tell you about them. Check out our new series, A Day In The Life Of, to learn what it is like for Jessie Sisco, Lufkin Area Engineer, as he goes about his day and also about our new Houston County Maintenance Supervisor Danny Luna.

We have a lot of work coming up! As always, we want you to slow down in our work zones and have safe travels. Happy Spring!

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

LANANA CREEK BRIDGE PROJECT

The project began in May 2017 and while winter weather slowed the work a bit, it was opened to traffic at the end of March.



FM 1878 is a major corridor in the county that runs alongside Stephen F. Austin State University and Pecan Park. The project was necessary to replace the outdated bridge that was built in 1953 to meet current design standards and eliminate bridge weight limits.

Drewery Construction, Nacogdoches, served as contractor for the \$1.7 million bridge replacement that includes four 11-foot travel lanes, 5-foot shoulders and two 5-foot sidewalks on each side of the bridge with bridge railing that separates vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The newly constructed bridge is 160-feet in length with an additional 200-foot of pavement added at the approaches on each end.

The roadway has been closed to through traffic throughout the construction including the walking trail that traveled beneath it that leads to Pecan Park. The new bridge is aesthetically pleasing and will be a great asset to the Nacogdoches community for many years to come. ■

DISTRICT APPOINTMENT: HOUSTON CO. MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR



You might say that Danny Luna is well grounded in TxDOT. At 38, Luna began his TxDOT career right out of high school. He celebrates his 19th anniversary as an employee this year. Luna's first position was working as a flagger in the Nacogdoches Maintenance office. After 10 years, he seized the opportunity to serve as Trinity County Maintenance Supervisor. He most recently spent two years working as a TxMap specialist before being named Houston County Maintenance Supervisor in March.

A native of Nacogdoches, he and his wife Shelley have two sons, Ryan, 15, and Braxton, 13. Family activities are important to him and when he is not working, you will likely find this family camping, hunting, fishing or participating in various sports activities. ■

PAVED AND UPCOMING MAINTENANCE

A transportation summit to increase participation by disadvantaged business owners was held recently in the Lufkin District at Angelina College in Lufkin. The Feb. 22 event, known as PAVED (Projects Adding Value by Expanding Diversity) targeted small business owners interested in future prime and sub-contractor work on TxDOT construction projects.

PAVED is an initiative developed by TxDOT’s Civil Rights Division to increase the participation of disadvantaged business owners in highway construction. In addition, it provides networking opportunities, project-matching assistance between subcontractors and primes, and provides access to training in the areas of business development, business management and construction management industry to help them become competitive within the construction industry.

Other PAVED events are scheduled throughout the state in coming months including in Abilene, San Angelo, Corpus Christi, El Paso and Yoakum in April, May and June. For more information about PAVED, scheduled events and what it offers the small business owner, visit <http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/civil-rights.html>.

UPCOMING LOCAL LETTING MAINTENANCE PROJECTS	
Contract Description	Estimated Value
RMC 6327-67-001: Metal Beam Guardfence Repair/Replacement in San Jacinto County Letting date: 4/25/2018	\$213,375.00
RMC 6326-44-001: Ditch Cleaning in Houston County Letting Date: 4/25/18	\$211,790.00
RMC 6329-73-001: Thermoplastic Striping within the Lufkin District Letting Date: 4/25/18	\$286,530.00
RMC 6330-30-001: Ditch and Culvert Cleaning in Angelina County Letting Date: 8/1/18	\$170,302.00
RMC 6330-31-001: Tree Trimming in Angelina County Letting Date: 8/1/18	\$258,400.00
Districtwide: Crack Seal in Angelina, Sabine, San Augustine, and Shelby Counties Letting Date: 8/8/18	\$89,950.00
Districtwide: Crack Seal in Houston, Polk, San Jacinto and Trinity Counties Letting Date: 8/8/18	\$103,093.00

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF... JESSE SISCO, LUFKIN AE



Tucked inside a nearly 100-year-old building on the back side of the Lufkin District campus, you will find the front corner office of Lufkin Area Engineer Jesse Sisco. With 17 employees, he oversees construction projects and maintenance operations in Angelina, Houston and Trinity counties. He begins each day the same – with a safety meeting.

“We gather around and discuss concerns and go over issues that might come up on any of the construction projects,” Sisco said. “We have a relatively young (experience wise) office. I find out who needs help and give continual reminders of the thousand things we’ve got to watch out for.”

The discussion usually doesn’t stop there. Sisco remains in contact with his employees throughout the day and before the end of the day will likely discuss work for the next day, especially with his right hand men, Randal Cooper and Javier Hernandez.

“It truly is a team effort. All of my group are very hard workers,” he said.

Tending to detail is important to Sisco, but he is quick to say that reaching his TxDOT goals are just as important.

“I want each one of my guys to be fulfilled in what they do each day,” he said. “I want them to know they serve a bigger purpose here than themselves. I want them to know they are making a difference. I want that for myself too.”

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

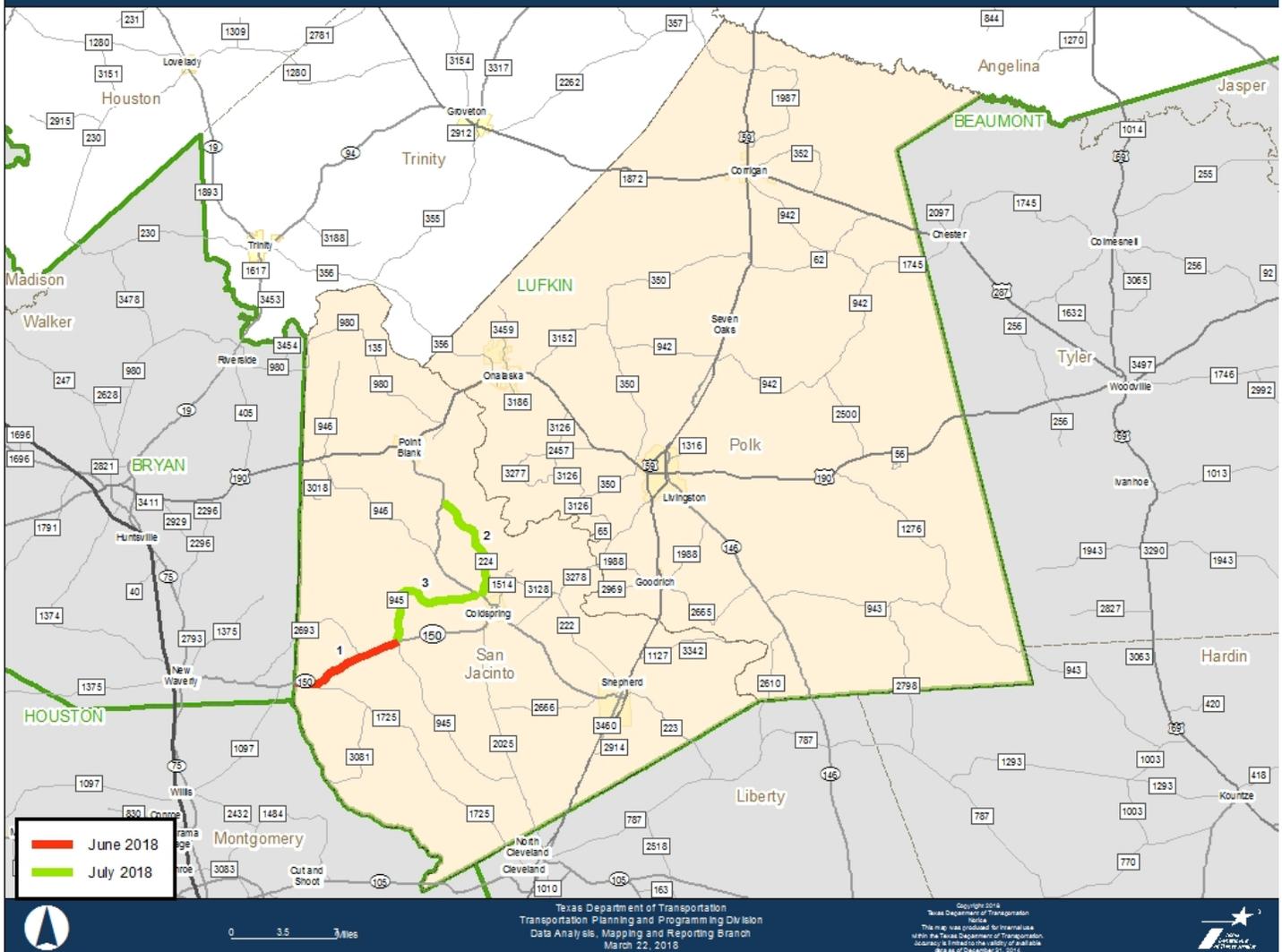
At this time, there are six projects that the Lufkin District is actively developing. These projects are in varying stages of approval. Below is a brief update on the status of these projects. For more information on these I-69 projects and others under development across the state, please visit our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

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 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 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 ROW mapping and preparation of engineering plans, and ROW 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 ROW acquisition and utility relocation processes (Spring 2019). 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 received approval of the schematic and environmental studies in March 2018. ROW appraisals are anticipated to begin Fall 2018 followed by ROW acquisitions in Winter 2018. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2022.
- **US 59 Upgrade in San Jacinto and Liberty Counties 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 ROW acquisition and utility relocation processes (Summer 2019). Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2023. ■

Livingston Area Office

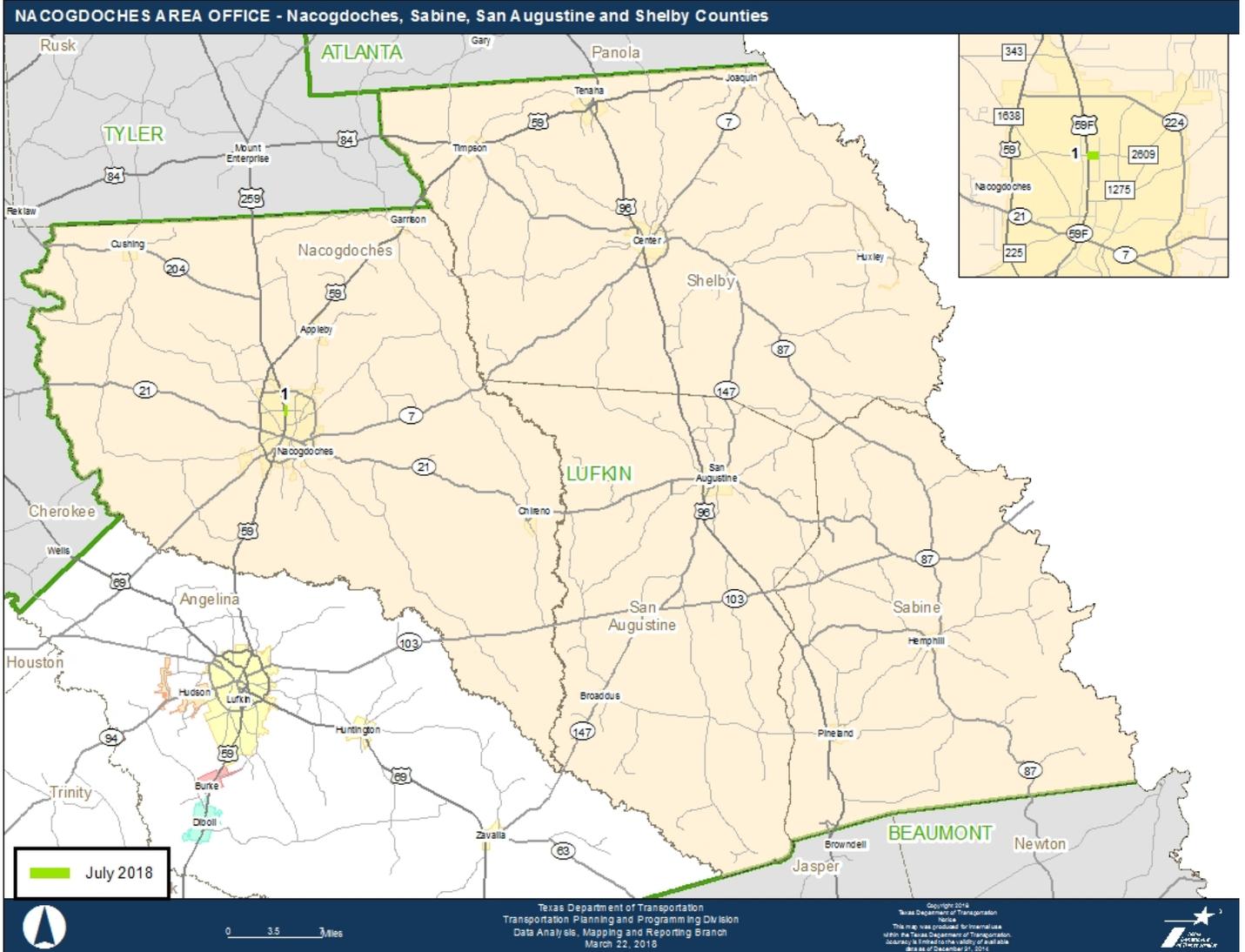
LIVINGSTON AREA OFFICE - Polk and San Jacinto Counties



Upcoming Construction Projects

Project Number	County	Highway	Description	Estimated Cost	
0395-02-041	SAN JACINTO	SH 150	RECONSTRUCT PAVEMENT AND ADD PASSING LANES	\$13,716,000.19	1
0403-02-019	SAN JACINTO	FM 224	IMPROVE GUARDRAIL TO DESIGN STANDARDS	\$572,692.00	2
2594-01-014	SAN JACINTO	FM 945	IMPROVE GUARDRAIL TO DESIGN STANDARDS	\$439,331.00	3

Nacogdoches Area Office



Upcoming Construction Projects				
Project Number	County	Highway	Description	Estimated Cost
2590-01-020	NACOGDOCHES	FM 2609	WIDEN FROM 2 TO 4 LANES	\$2,500,000.00

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

DISTRICT CONTACTS

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Rhonda Oaks

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Shannon Q. Ramos, P.E.

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I-69 Project Manager:

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