

LUFKIN DISTRICT

DISTRICT NEWS



IN THIS ISSUE | SUMMER 2017

US 84.....1
 DE Corner.....2
 US 59 Upgrade.....3
 I-69 Development.....4
 I-69 Development Cont.....5

PROJECT UPDATES

Livingston Area Office.....6
 Lufkin Area Office.....7
 Nacogdoches Area Office.....8
 AGC Award.....9
 Work Zone Safety.....9
 District Contacts.....10

To learn more about Lufkin District projects, visit www.txdot.gov.

RIBBON CUT ON US 84 BRIDGES

A \$20.8 million construction project was celebrated in May on the new US 84 bridges that span the Sabine River and join Texas and Louisiana.

The ribbon cutting was witnessed by residents of Joaquin, Texas, Logansport, Louisiana, business owners and transportation officials. The ribbon cutting was followed by a ceremony and luncheon at the DeSoto Parish Library in Logansport, hosted by the Logansport Chamber of Commerce and the City of Joaquin.

James Construction Group, Baton Rouge LA, served as contractor for the project that began with the groundbreaking in 2014, but the planning began many years before. After public hearings dating back to the 1980s, environmental studies uncovered the ruins of sunken steamships near the project. Efforts were successful to leave the relics intact as the project moved forward.

The newly constructed twin bridges each include two 12-foot lanes with 10-foot outside shoulders and 4-foot inside shoulders. The project was designed to provide a safe, efficient crossing of the Sabine River and meets current TxDOT design and safety standards.

TxDOT Commissioner Jeff Austin III and Dr. Shawn Wilson, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development were featured speakers.

“I am very proud of the surrounding communities and although TxDOT took the lead on this project, Texas and Louisiana worked together to see it through to a successful completion,” Commissioner Austin said.

Secretary Wilson agreed saying, “These bridges will forever connect Texas and Louisiana with a safe, efficient crossing of the Sabine River.”



Local residents and transportation officials from Texas and Louisiana celebrated the opening of the new US 84 bridges.



Construction areas are common this summer in the Lufkin District, like this one on Starr Avenue in Nacogdoches.

“One of my biggest concerns each day is for the safety of our workers. I urge you to stay alert, slow down and put away those mobile devices as you travel through our work zones.”
Cheryl P. Flood, P.E.

Take our Newsletter Survey:
www.surveymonkey.com/r/CH56VZW

DE CORNER

Welcome to our Summer edition of the Lufkin District newsletter. We are busy throughout our nine county district. We have many construction projects underway and are planning more for the future. In addition, we work daily to upgrade roadways. I am excited about what we have accomplished in the past few months and what is ahead.

One project currently under development will upgrade a portion of US 59 between Lufkin and Redland to current Interstate standards. I invite you to read about the project and learn where we are in its design and what is being planned for this roadway in order to meet interstate standards. Other projects currently under construction are clearing the path for I-69 in the Lufkin District. Take a look at our maps and project pages. They will update you on the latest progress throughout the district.



In addition, you will read about the completion of the two new bridges crossing the Sabine River on US 84 between Joaquin, TX and Logansport, LA. We had reason to celebrate at the ribbon cutting recently and the cities of Joaquin and Logansport turned out and hosted a great event for us. Speakers at the event were Dr. Shawn Wilson, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and TxDOT Commissioner Jeff Austin III.

We don't normally toot our own horn, but you will also want to read about the 2017 Construction Award and Design Award given annually by the Associated General Contractors Association. The Lufkin District brought home both awards this year. These are big awards and receiving them speaks highly of the talented professionals in this district.

With summer in full swing, the warm weather signals one of our busiest seasons. You will find contractors and maintenance workers on the road daily. One of my biggest concerns each day is for the safety of our workers. I urge you to stay alert, slow down and put away those mobile devices as you travel through our work zones. Whatever your summer plans include, please remember to drive safely through construction areas and know that TxDOT is on the job daily striving to meet Texas' growing transportation needs. ■

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

SUMMER 2017

Meeting Interstate Standards

The Lufkin District recently held an Open House to allow the public to review and comment on a planned upgrade for US 59 from SL 287 in Lufkin to Redland.

The proposed project on US 59 (future Interstate 69) includes the reconstruction of the main lanes to interstate standards with new frontage roads from south of FM 2021 to north of US 59/SL287 in Lufkin.

This project will improve the roadway to meet interstate standards, enhance safety and improve mobility along US 59, provide a more efficient hurricane evacuation route and provide system connectivity to I-69. The project would also include controlled access, which means access to the main lanes of US 59 would be provided via entrance and exit ramps.

The current estimate for construction is approximately \$20.5 million. Funding was identified in the March 2017 Unified Transportation Program and included project development services, environmental studies, schematic design and right-of-way (ROW) acquisitions.

ROW acquisitions are scheduled to begin in early 2019 and be completed by spring 2022. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2022.

Learn more about the US 59 upgrade project and sign up to receive email updates by visiting www.txdot.gov and enter "US 59 Redland" in the search option. Also we invite you to view the online open house at <http://bit.ly/2sRFBjY>. 📧



I-69 is a proposed national interstate that extends from Texas to Michigan. The Texas route includes several existing roads: US 59, US 84, US 77 and US 281.

In 2011, the first section of I-69 was established in Texas. Since then, TxDOT has been using the suggestions of the I-69 Citizen Committees to further plan and develop I-69 in Texas.

Local residents study proposed project maps for US 59/I-69 upgrades at the recent Open House in Lufkin and in Shepherd last year (below).



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.

At this time, there are six projects that the Lufkin District is actively developing. These projects are in varying stages of approval. Below is an 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/drivenbytexas/projects.htm>.

County & Project Name	Project Description	Schematic & Environmental Status	Right-of-Way Status	Construction Status
Angelina County: US 59 Diboll Relief Route	Project involves the construction of new US 59 main lanes east of Diboll. The roadway would be controlled access and designed to meet interstate standards.	Approvals of the schematic and environmental reevaluation were received in March and June 2016.	Estimated ROW cost is \$7 million. Appraisals are almost all complete and acquisitions have begun. Acquisitions are anticipated to be complete by Winter 2018.	Estimated construction cost is \$142 million. Construction funding was allocated in the March 2017 UTP revision with an estimated letting Summer 2020.
Angelina County: US 59 Upgrade in Lufkin between Moffett Rd and SH 103	Project involves upgrading existing US 59 to interstate standards by constructing frontage roads. The roadway would be controlled access.	Approvals of the schematic and environmental document were received in April 2007 and July 2008.	Estimated ROW cost is \$2.5 million. Appraisals will begin upon completion of the ROW map. Acquisitions are anticipated to be completed by Winter 2019.	Estimated construction cost is \$13.6 million. Construction funding was allocated in the March 2017 UTP revision with an estimated letting Summer 2020.
Angelina County: US 59 Upgrade in Redland between FM 2021 overpass and SL 287	Project proposes to upgrade existing US 59 to interstate standards by constructing frontage roads and overpasses. The roadway would be controlled access.	TxDOT to begin schematic and environmental studies in Summer 2017. Public meeting was held June, 26 2017. Anticipate schematic and environmental approval Fall/Winter 2018.	Estimated ROW cost is \$3 million. ROW acquisitions will not begin until TxDOT receives approval of the environmental documentation.	Estimated construction cost is \$20.7 million. Construction funding was allocated in the March 2017 UTP revision with an estimated letting Winter 2022.

I-69 DEVELOPMENT IN THE LUFKIN DISTRICT CONT.

County & Project Name	Project Description	Schematic & Environmental Status	Right-of-Way Status	Construction Status
Nacogdoches County: US 59/SL 224 South Interchange	Project involves the construction of new US 59 main lanes direct connectors at SL 224 and frontage roads for SL 224 between SH 7 and US 59. The roadway would be controlled access and designed to meet interstate standards.	Approvals of the schematic and environmental reevaluation were received in May and June 2016.	Estimated ROW cost is \$24.2 million. Appraisals are almost complete and acquisitions have begun. Acquisitions are anticipated to be complete by Winter 2018.	Estimated construction cost is \$75.5 million. Construction funding was allocated in the March 2017 UTP revision with an estimated letting date of Summer 2019.
Polk County: US 59 Corrigan Relief Route	Project proposes the construction of new US 59 main lanes west of Corrigan. The roadway would be controlled access and designed to meet interstate standards.	Survey work is almost complete and schematic and environmental studies have begun. Anticipate schematic and environmental approval Winter 2017.	Estimated ROW cost is \$6.4 million. ROW acquisitions will not begin until TxDOT receives approval of the environmental documentation.	Estimated construction cost is \$123.4 million. No construction funding has been allocated.
San Jacinto County: US 59 Upgrade between Shepherd and Cleveland	Project proposes to upgrade existing US 59 to interstate standards by constructing frontage roads and overpasses. The roadway would be controlled access.	Survey work has been completed. Schematic and environmental studies began Summer 2017. Anticipate schematic and environmental approval Fall 2018.	Estimated ROW cost is \$5.5 million. ROW acquisitions will not begin until TxDOT receives approval of the environmental documentation.	Estimated construction cost is \$88 million. No construction funding has been allocated.

**8
miles**

Currently meets I-69 standards; 141 miles of I-69 needs to be developed

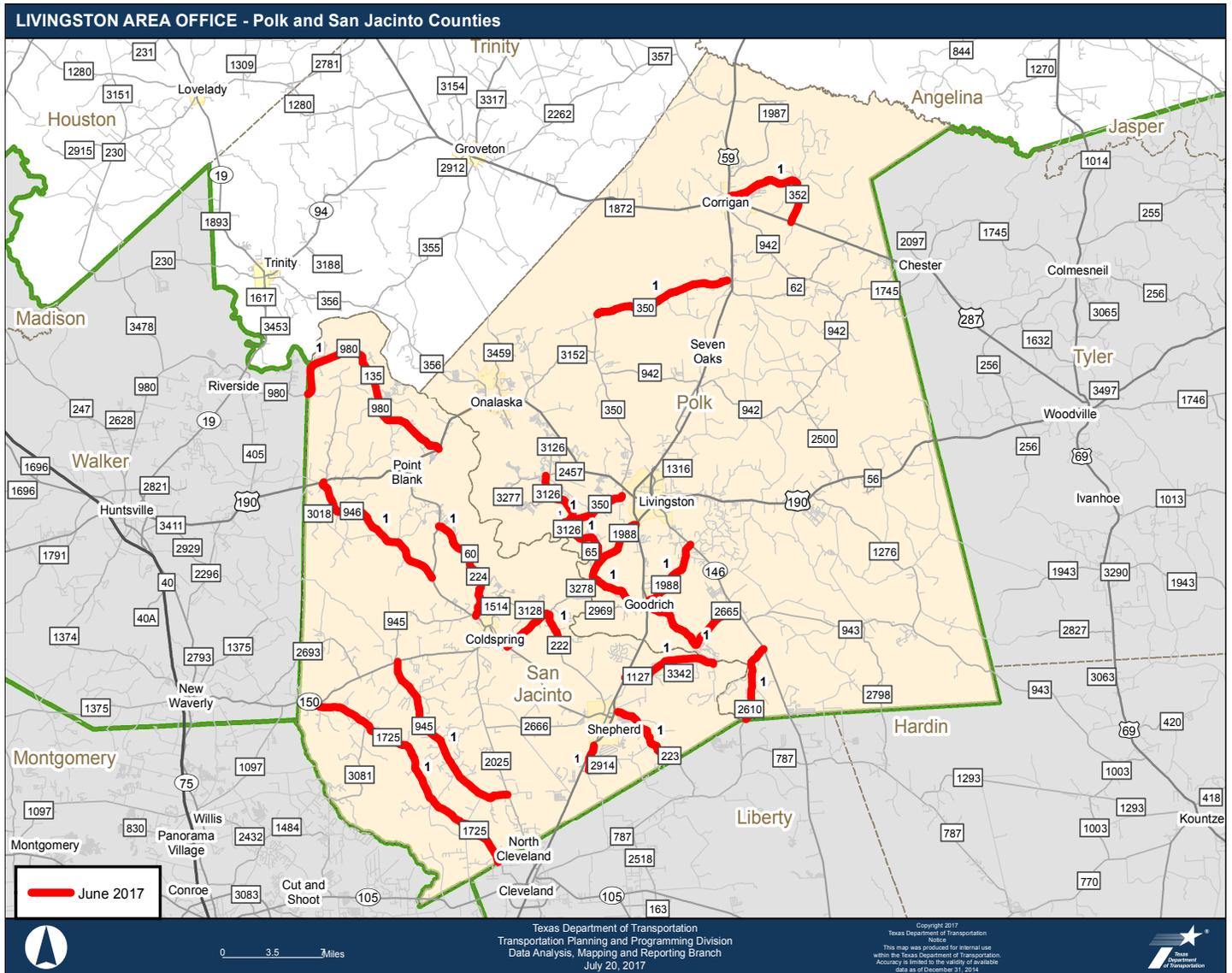
**1,600
miles**

Targeted to be designated as I-69 spanning from Canada to Mexico

**\$2.9
billion**

Estimated construction costs to complete I-69 through the Lufkin District

Livingston Area Office

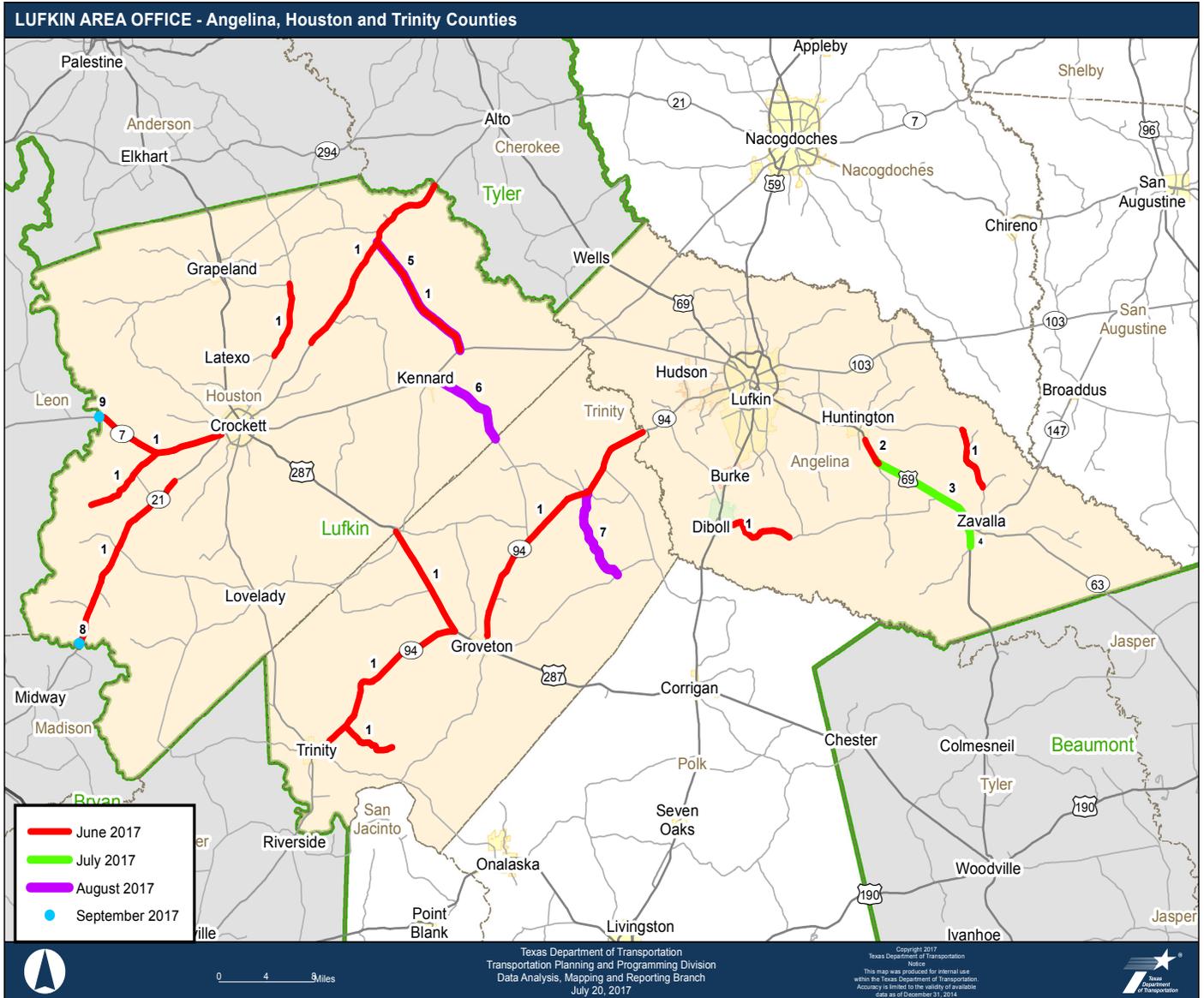


Upcoming Construction Projects

Project Number	County	Highway	Description of Work	Estimated Cost	
0059-04-046	SAN JACINTO	VA	PROFILE EDGELINE MARKINGS; PROFILE CENTERLINE MARKINGS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS	\$1,601,852.20	1

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

Lufkin Area Office

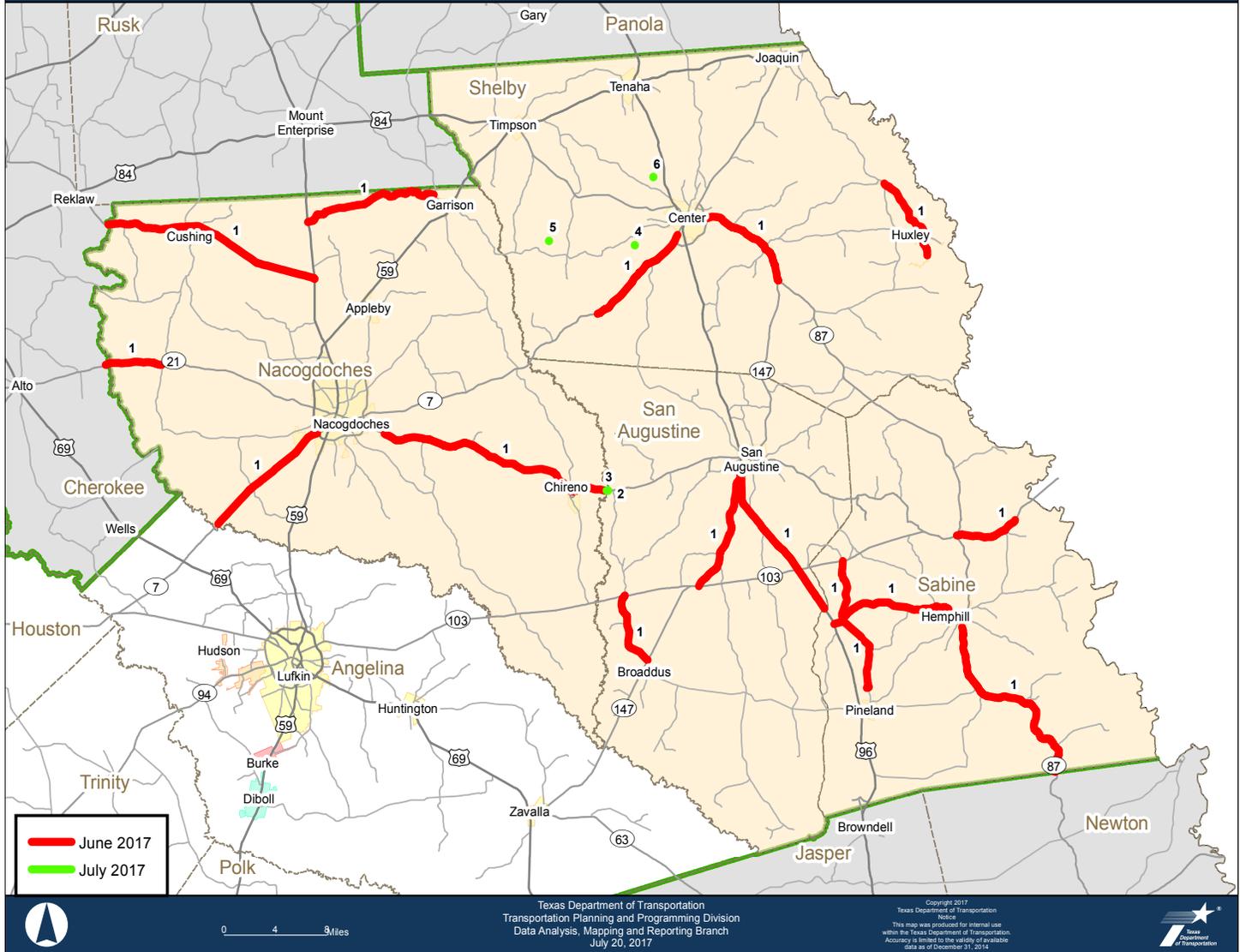


Upcoming Construction Projects					
Project Number	County	Highway	Description	Estimated Cost	
0059-04-046	HOUSTON	VA	PROFILE EDGELINE MARKINGS; PROFILE CENTERLINE MARKINGS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS	\$1,520,929.00	1
0200-02-031	ANGELINA	US 69	WIDEN FROM 2 LANES TO 4 LANE DIVIDED RURAL	\$10,065,346.45	2
0200-02-042	ANGELINA	US 69	CLEARING AND GRUBBING	\$1,600,001.00	3
0200-03-033	ANGELINA	US 69	CLEARING AND GRUBBING	\$380,001.00	4
0937-03-016	HOUSTON	FM 227	SAFETY TREAT FIXED OBJECTS	\$1,023,581.50	5
0940-01-019	HOUSTON	FM 357	SAFETY TREAT FIXED OBJECTS	\$496,959.50	6
2071-03-012	TRINITY	FM 357	SAFETY TREAT FIXED OBJECTS	\$603,268.00	7
0117-06-049	HOUSTON	SH 21	REPAIR BRIDGE	\$124,000.00	8
0335-02-036	HOUSTON	SH 7	REPAIR BRIDGE	\$1,034,000.00	9

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

Nacogdoches Area Office

NACOGDOCHES AREA OFFICE - Nacogdoches, Sabine, San Augustine and Shelby Counties



Upcoming Construction Projects

Project Number	County	Highway	Description	Estimated Cost	
0059-04-046	SHELBY	VA	PROFILE EDGELINE MARKINGS; PROFILE CENTERLINE MARKINGS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS	\$1,942,685.40	1
0118-10-057	SAN AUGUSTINE	SH 21	REMOVE & REPLACE 2 STRUCTURES	\$5,726,888.45	2
0118-10-066	SAN AUGUSTINE	SH 21	REMOVE STRUCTURE ONLY	\$55,700.00	3
0911-39-038	SHELBY	CR	REPLACE BRIDGE AND APPROACHES	\$238,500.00	4
0911-39-047	SHELBY	CR	REPLACE BRIDGE AND APPROACHES	\$262,000.00	5
0911-39-061	SHELBY	CR	REPLACE BRIDGE AND APPROACHES	\$238,300.00	6

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

PROJECT WINS 2016 TEXAS PROJECT AWARD

Three Lufkin District employees and the superintendent of Drewery Construction Company were awarded the 2016 Texas Project Award by the Associated General Contractors (AGC) for their work on a Nacogdoches County construction project.

Ana I. Mijares, P.E., Cathrine D. Loerch, C.E.T. Steven W. Smith, and Charles Ebernez will be presented the award at the AGC luncheon in August at the Hyatt Regency in Austin. The group is being recognized for their work on a project on FM 1878/Starr Avenue in Nacogdoches County.

The roadway provides a route to Stephen F. Austin State University, Pecan Park, a hospital, nearby medical offices and neighborhoods. There were several challenges to be resolved along the way. The road is utilized by emergency medical personnel as well as local residents and college students. The four lane, undivided highway narrowed to a two-lane road and created a bottleneck of traffic.

The new design included widening the roadway to a four-lane undivided roadway that included four 11-foot travel lanes, 3-foot shoulders, curb and gutter, sidewalks and upgraded traffic signals. The group resolved the project challenges with no displacements or relocations of businesses or residences.

Mijares was responsible for the design and Loerch work hand-in-hand with her to fit the proposed design within the limited right-of-way and found innovative solutions to utility conflicts. Smith served as inspector for the project, working closely with Drewery Construction, contractors for the \$1.4 million project. Smith also worked closely with the City of Nacogdoches, several utility companies and a local church, creating the least disruption for pedestrians and a safe pathway for college students to cross through to get to classes.

District Engineer Cheryl P. Flood, P.E. said she is proud of the award from AGC.

“Receiving this award speaks highly of the caliber of engineers, assistants and employees we have in the Lufkin District,” she said. “We are grateful as a district to be recognized by the AGC.”

SAFETY CORNER

Heatstroke is a leading cause of death among children. Even great parents can forget a child in the back seat of a vehicle.

A child's body temperatures can rise up to five times faster than that of an adult, and heatstroke can occur. A car's temperature can rise over 20 degrees in 10 minutes.

Always check the back seats of your vehicle before you walk away. Put your cell phone or purse near your child's car seat so you will be reminded that your child is in the vehicle.

If you see a child alone in a car, don't worry about getting involved; the Good Samaritan law offers legal protection for those who offer assistance in an emergency.



The widening project on Starr Avenue in Nacogdoches garnered the Lufkin District the 2016 Texas Project Award from the Associated General Contractors.

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

COUNTY MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR CONTACTS

Angelina:
Josh Bobbit
(936) 634-3414

Houston:
Gerald Colter
(936) 544-2264

Nacogdoches:
Michael Moore
(936) 585-7041

Polk:
Patricia Fears
(936) 327-8914

Sabine:
Rocky White
(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