

LUFKIN DISTRICT

NEWS

IN THIS ISSUE | SUMMER 2019

US59/SL224 South

Interchange..... 1

Click It or Ticket Campaign..... 2

Shepherd Public Hearing 2

DE Corner..... 3

Maintenance Projects..... 3

Hurricane Preparedness..... 3

I-69 Development 4

PROJECT UPDATES

Livingston Area Office..... 5

Lufkin Area Office..... 6

Nacogdoches Area Office..... 7

District Contacts..... 8

To learn more about Lufkin District projects, visit: txdot.gov/inside-txdot/district/lufkin.html

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

View past newsletters at: txdot.gov/inside-txdot/district/lufkin/newsletter.html

Check out TxDOT's 10-year Unified Transportation Program (UTP) at: txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/transportation-planning/utp.html

US 59/SL 224 South Interchange

Texas Transportation Commissioners awarded the \$86 million construction project dedicated to improving safety and mobility in Nacogdoches County on July 25, 2019. The project is expected to eliminate traffic conflicts by constructing new US 59 northbound and southbound main lanes that will directly connect to SL 224, just south of SH 7.

The project also includes the addition of overpasses at Spradley Street, US 59 and Old Lufkin Road. New frontage roads will be constructed along SL 224 between SH 7 and BU 59 and along US 59 between Spradley Street and Old Lufkin Road.

In 2013, the I-69 Angelina and Nacogdoches Counties Committee identified US 59/State Loop 224 South Interchange as a number one priority area for I-69 development in Nacogdoches County.

With support from local officials and the public, TxDOT revised the schematic to bring it up to interstate standards for possible future designation as I-69. An Open House was held in 2015, and TxDOT made further revisions to the project schematic based on public comments. Some of those changes included adding a U-turn at the SH 7 intersection and leaving Old Lufkin Road open at the south end of the project limits.

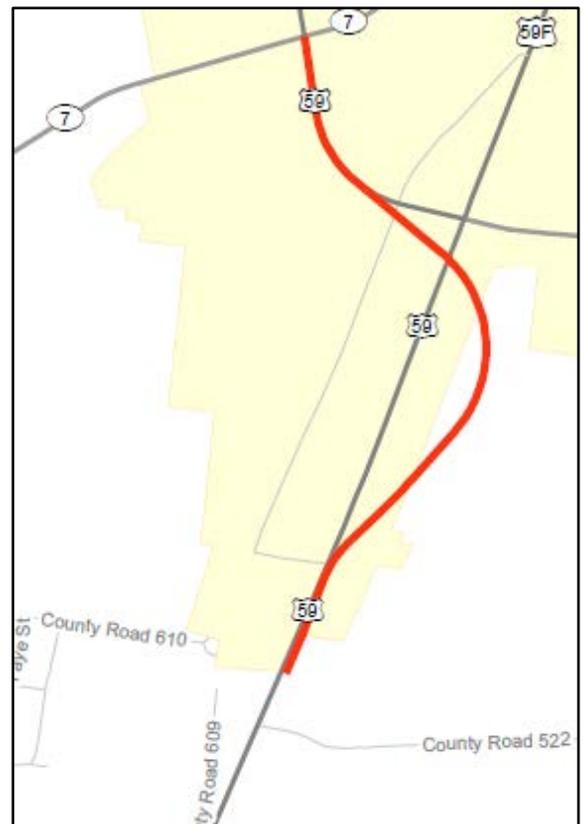


Image above depicts the proposed alignment in red.

Engineering plans and right-of-way acquisitions are complete and utility relocations are underway. Construction is anticipated to begin this fall and the project is expected to be open to traffic in Summer 2023, weather permitting. ■

Click It or Ticket Safety Campaign

Law enforcement agencies throughout Texas joined together May 20 through June 2, 2019, to support the annual Click It or Ticket safety campaign. The Lufkin event was held May 22, 2019, and speakers pictured from right to left included Lufkin District Engineer Cheryl P. Flood; Texas Highway Patrol Education Officer David Hendry; Lufkin District Traffic Safety Specialist Melissa McKnight; Angelina County Sheriff Greg Sanches; Lufkin Police Lieutenant David Young; and Lufkin Municipal Court Judge April Earley.



In 2018, there were 2,623 reportable vehicle crashes that resulted in 982 fatalities in Texas in which occupants failed to wear seat belts. From 2017 to 2018, that was a 6% increase in fatalities and a 3% increase in reportable crashes in which seat belts were not used. In the Lufkin District, there were 82 motor vehicle crashes in which unrestrained occupants sustained fatal or serious injuries. These crashes resulted in 34 fatalities and 56 serious injuries.

“Many of these injuries and fatalities were preventable,” Flood said. “Wearing a seat belt is the single most effective way to protect yourself and your loved ones in a vehicle. Choosing to buckle a seat belt reduces your risk of dying in a crash by 45%. Please choose to buckle up. And when driving, ask all your passengers to buckle up too.”

In 2018, of the 529 pickup truck drivers killed in Texas in a traffic crash, 258 were not wearing a seat belt. That number increased from 2017 by an alarming 19%. Also, one in five vehicle crashes in 2018 involved a teen driver. Of the 262 teen drivers and passengers killed in vehicle crashes last year, 111 were unrestrained. That number represents 42% who were unrestrained at the time of the crash and either died or suffered serious injuries. ▀

US 59 Shepherd to Cleveland Public Hearing



The public viewed the latest schematic design and spoke to engineers at the recent US 59 Shepherd to Cleveland Upgrade Open House and Public Hearing.

A crowd gathered on May 14, 2019 in the Shepherd High School Cafeteria in Shepherd to view the latest schematics and to hear about planned improvements on US 59 between Shepherd and Cleveland.

TxDOT is proposing to upgrade the existing US 59 from FM 2914 south of Shepherd in San Jacinto County to just south of SL 573(N) in Cleveland in Liberty County, TX. The project is being designed to meet interstate standards. The expansion will provide system connectivity to I-69 which is a 1,600 mile national highway connecting Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas. The project would also enhance safety, improve mobility and provide a more efficient hurricane evacuation route.

The proposed \$116 million, 6.62 mile project, will include the construction of northbound and southbound frontage roads, each with two 12-foot lanes and reconstruction of the US 59 main lanes which will provide two 12-foot travel lanes in each direction with a median barrier. The project will make US 59 a controlled access freeway, meaning access to the main lanes would be allowed only by entrance and exit ramps. The project also includes two overpasses with U-turns at Red Road and just south of the San Jacinto/Liberty County line. For more information visit www.txdot.gov using the keyword search 'US 59 Shepherd-Cleveland.' ▀



D.E. Corner

Cheryl P. Flood, P.E.

Summer is in full swing and we are busy upgrading roadways with new and ongoing projects. It is an exciting time of the year with many projects moving toward completion and others just beginning.

You will find exciting news on Page 1 about the US 59/SL 224 South Interchange project in Nacogdoches that will provide a direct connector from SL 224 to US 59 South. This project has been years in the making and we are proud to begin construction in the near future.

I hope you will read about the recent Public Hearing that was held in Shepherd. This project includes the addition of frontage roads, bringing US 59 between Shepherd and Cleveland up to interstate standards.

In addition, read about the recent Click It or Ticket event held in Lufkin with local law enforcement, check out our I69 progress and find out what your family can do to stay prepared during hurricane season.

With some major construction on the horizon, I hope you will stay connected. The public is always welcome to contact the district office with questions.

Be sure to visit drivetexas.org for information on local and statewide road conditions and closures as you plan your vacation. Drive safe and enjoy the summer.

UPCOMING LOCAL LETTING MAINTENANCE PROJECTS	
Contract Description	Estimated Value
<u>RMC 6338-13-001</u> : Ditch Cleaning in Houston County <u>Letting Date</u> : 7/15/2019	\$278,000.00
<u>RMC 6343-33-001</u> : Tree Removal and Trimming in Sabine County <u>Letting Date</u> : 8/14/2019	\$270,000.00
<u>RMC 6331-09-001</u> : Culvert Repairs in Polk and San Jacinto Counties <u>Letting Date</u> : 8/21/2019	\$150,000.00
<u>RMC 6318-71-001</u> : Tree Removal and Trimming in Nacogdoches County <u>Letting Date</u> : 8/28/2019	\$120,000.00
<u>RMC 6348-97-001</u> : Crack Seal in Angelina, Nacogdoches, Shelby and Sabine Counties <u>Letting Date</u> : 9/9/2019	\$281,000.00
<u>RMC 6348-98-001</u> : Crack Seal in Houston, Trinity Polk, San Jacinto and San Augustine Counties <u>Letting Date</u> : 9/9/2019	\$245,000.00

Hurricane Preparedness

Hurricane season begins June 1 and ends November 30. TxDOT urges motorists to prepare for weather emergencies by having a plan in place. That plan should include:

- A way to receive emergency alerts and warnings
- A plan to shelter in place plan
- An evacuation route(s) should you need to leave your home
- A communication plan in case you are separated from family

Familiarize yourself with evacuation routes ahead of time. Evacuation routes leading from the Gulf Coast through East Texas include US 69, US 59 and US 96. Maps and listings of other emergency services, agencies and weather forecasts can be found at www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/traffic/safety/weather/hurricane.html.

An emergency kit of non-perishable foods and bottled water on hand is always a good idea, as well as extra gasoline, batteries, flashlights, candles, and a battery-operated radio in case of a power loss. Motorists are urged not to drive in heavy rainfall, but if it is necessary, reduce speed, buckle up and stay alert. If you approach a barricaded or flooded area, do not attempt to drive through the water. It is illegal to go around TxDOT orange cones or barricades. In the case of local flooding, check TxDOT Lufkin on Twitter for local closures and alerts and TxDOT on Facebook for statewide information. ■

I-69 DEVELOPMENT IN THE LUFKIN DISTRICT

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

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/

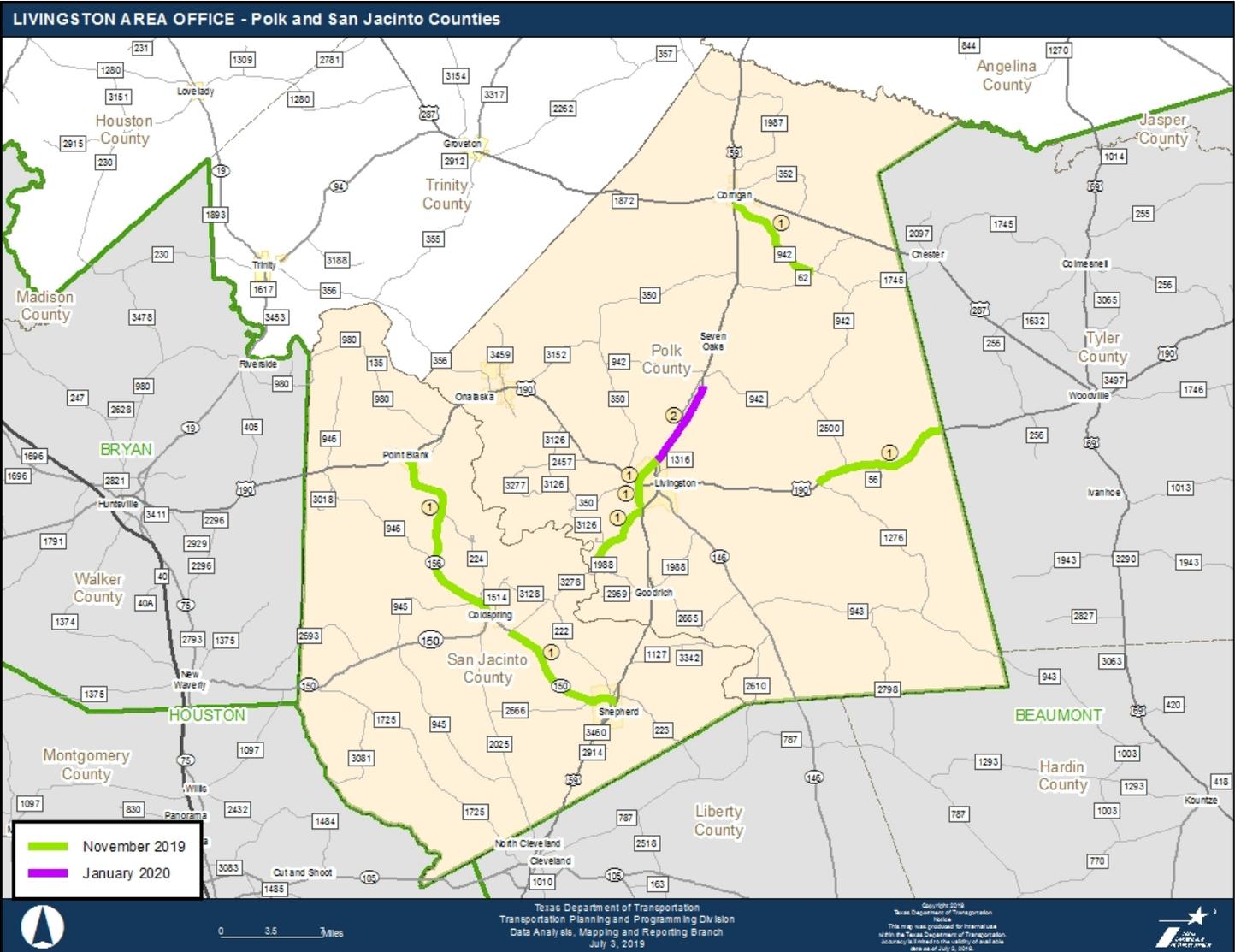


Driven by Texans

- **US 59/SL 224 South Interchange** – project involves upgrading existing US 59 by constructing new US 59 direct connectors at SL 224(S) and frontage roads along SL 224 between SH 7 and US 59. TxDOT completed the engineering plans and purchasing right-of-way (ROW). Utility relocations are currently underway. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in late 2019.
- **US 59 Diboll Relief Route** – project involves constructing a new location controlled access roadway east of Diboll. TxDOT acquired the necessary environmental permits and ROW for the project. TxDOT is currently finalizing the engineering plans, demolishing structures and relocating utilities. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in early 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. Preparation of engineering plans, ROW acquisition and demolition are underway. Once the ROW is clear, utility relocations will begin. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in late 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 received environmental clearance and completed ROW mapping. ROW acquisitions are underway and TxDOT has started preparation of engineering plans. 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 acquisitions have begun. TxDOT has started preparation of engineering plans. 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 anticipates approval of schematic and environmental studies in 2019. ROW acquisitions are anticipated to begin Summer 2019. TxDOT will soon prepare engineering plans. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2023. ■



Livingston Area Office



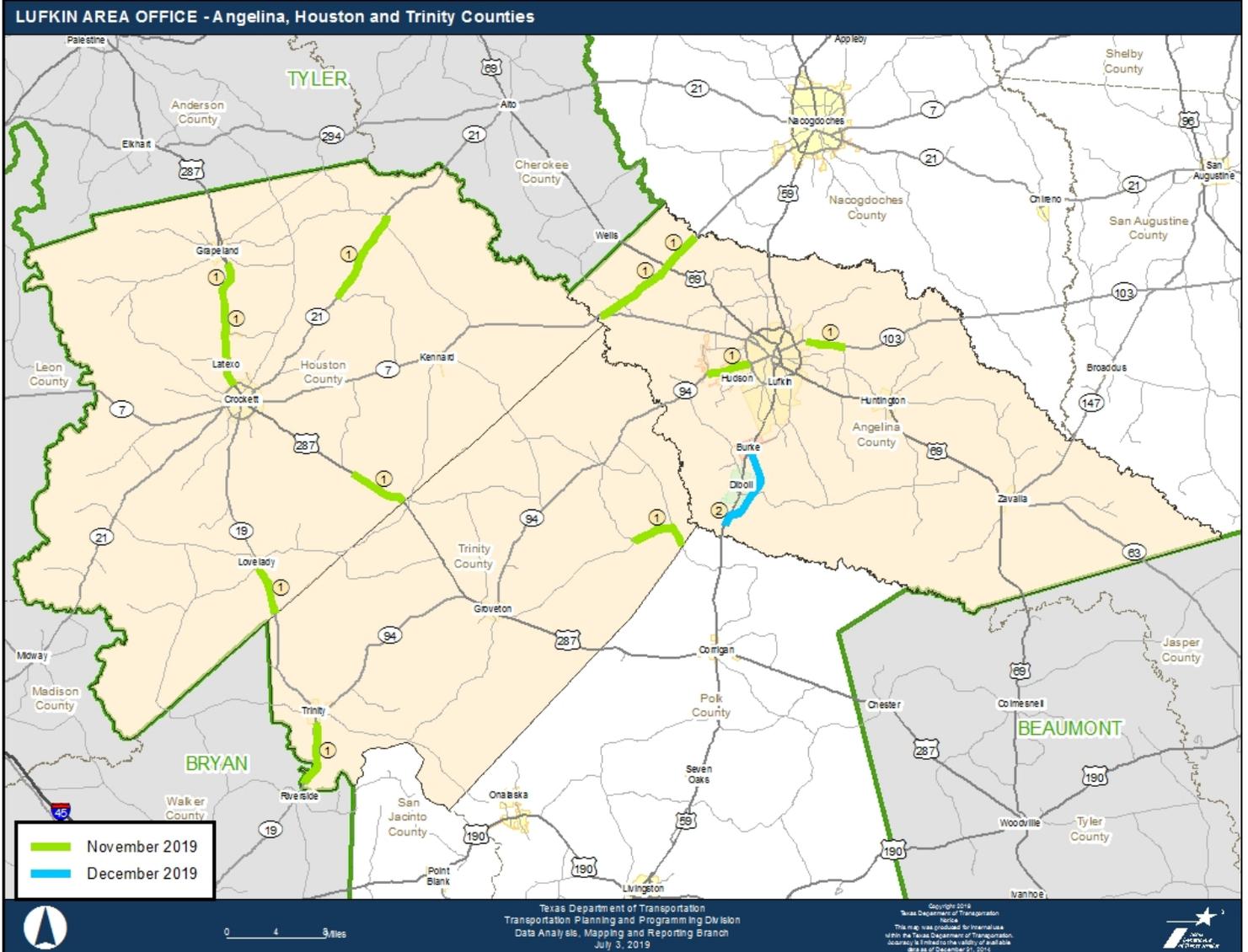
UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Project Number	County	Highway	Description Of Work	Estimated Cost	ID
0064-04-042	POLK	Various	Resurface roadways with seal coat	\$2,494,326.00	1*
0176-05-196	POLK	US 59	Resurface roadway	\$4,600,000.00	2

*Locations mapped and estimated cost is for this county only.

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

Lufkin Area Office



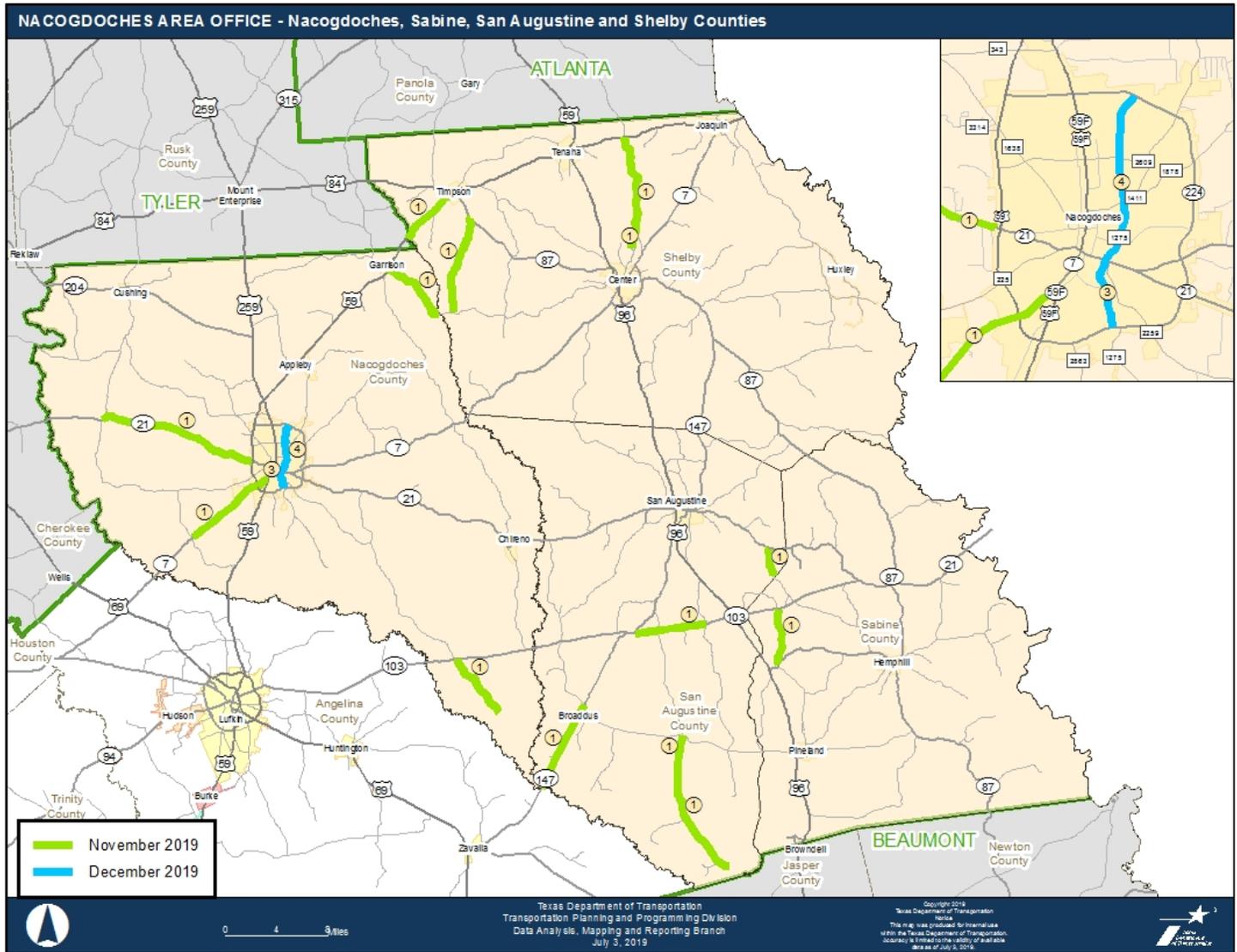
UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Project Number	County	Highway	Description Of Work	Estimated Cost	ID
0064-04-042	Houston	Various	Resurface roadways with seal coat	\$3,903,700.00	1*
0176-03-097	Angelina	US 59	Construction of US 59 Diboil Relief Route	\$137,776,329.36	2

*Locations mapped and estimated cost is for this county only.

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

Nacogdoches Area Office



UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Project Number	County	Highway	Description Of Work	Estimated Cost	ID
0064-04-042	San Augustine	Various	Resurface roadways with seal coat	\$4,170,417.75	1*
0911-00-081	Sabine	Various	Construct sidewalks in various locations near Pineland	\$1,000,000.00	2**
1407-01-029	Nacogdoches	FM 1275	Resurface with thin overlay	\$377,969.00	3
1407-03-019	Nacogdoches	FM 1275	Resurface with thin overlay	\$958,868.80	4

*Locations mapped and estimated cost is for this county only.

** Locations not mapped.

For more information, please visit the Project Tracker page at:
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 Construction

Shannon Q. Ramos, P.E.

Director of Operations:

Kevin Buranakitipinyo, P.E.

I-69 Project Manager:

Jennifer Adams

1805 N. Timberland Drive
Lufkin, TX 75901
(936) 633-4433

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
Matt Brazil, P.E.

918 Industrial Blvd.

Nacogdoches, TX 75961

(936) 585-7043

COUNTY MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR CONTACTS

Angelina:

Josh Bobbitt
(936) 634-3414

Houston:

Danny Luna
(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:

Kealon Hightower
(936) 275-9671

Shelby:

Clint Norton
(936) 598-4113

Trinity:

David Wars
(936) 642-1132