

LUFKIN DISTRICT

NEWS



IN THIS ISSUE | Fall 2023

US59/US259 Nacogdoches
Public Meeting 1
Sidewalk Improvement Plan ... 2
Senior Car Fit 2
Maintenance Projects 3
DE Corner 3
Move Over Slow Down 3
I-69 Development 4
Upcoming Construction
Projects:
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](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/transportation-planning/utp.html)

Join the TxDOT Team and Build a Career as Big as Texas: <http://www.dot.state.tx.us/jobs/default.htm>

US59/US259 Nacogdoches Public Meeting

The Lufkin District held a public meeting with a virtual option in Nacogdoches Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023, to gain public input into the US 59/US 259 North (Future I-69) project that is currently in the planning phase.

The meeting was held at the Nacogdoches County Exposition & Civic Center and there was a large turnout of area residents, stakeholders, and business owners anxious to find out the latest on this important upgrade.

Updated project schematics were on display for viewing and engineers were on hand to answer questions. The public was also able to leave comments and opinions both virtually and in person. TxDOT is proposing to upgrade US 259 and reconstruct the US 59/US 259 interchange to meet interstate standards from Stallings Drive/SL 224 to 1.3 miles north of US 259 in Nacogdoches County. The project is being designed to improve safety and mobility, due to increased traffic, congestion, and a high number of traffic crashes within the project limits.



This project will reconstruct the US 259 overpass at US 59 to current interstate standards. Updates will include:

- Reconstructing US 59 mainlanes and shoulders with continuous concrete traffic barrier between northbound and southbound lanes.
- Constructing new northbound and southbound US 59 frontage roads with sidewalks.
- Reconstructing US 259 mainlanes with raised median island and sidewalks.
- Constructing new flyover bridges to directly connect northbound US 59 to northbound US 259 and southbound US 259 to southbound US 59.
- Constructing truck parking between Stallings Drive/SL 224 and FM 343.

The summary on this public meeting can be found at the following website under “Public Meeting Documentation”. You can learn more about this project and others at <https://www.txdot.gov/projects/projects-studies/lufkin.html> or contact Rhonda.Oaks@txdot.gov for more information.

ADA Accessibility: Sidewalk Improvement Plan

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a civil rights law that mandates an equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) began using the ADA Accessibility guidelines as its accessibility standards in 1992. TxDOT adapted to ADA standards that were issued and are now applied to state and local government facilities.

The Lufkin District began construction for a district wide sidewalk improvement program in 2018 to replace or reconstruct sidewalks to be ADA compliant. TxDOT plans to continue making improvements to meet accessibility standards. The ADA standard for sidewalks is implemented to make it more accessible to people who use scooters, wheelchairs, and other mobility devices. Additionally, these sidewalks provide an alternate and safe means of transportation for pedestrian traffic, including safe routes for students to walk to and from school.

The Lufkin District has two sidewalk projects currently in the design phase and will let in July 2024. The project locations include the following:

	Location	County	From	To	Sidewalk (Linear Ft)
CSI: 0911-00-123 - Let Date July 2024					
1	US 259 - Nacogdoches (east & west sides)	Nacogdoches	west side - 700' S of Grammar Ln east side - CR 104	west side - 1600' S of FM 698 east side - 2400' S of FM 698	5,600
2	SH 21 - Nacogdoches (north side)	Nacogdoches	N. Sanders St	US 59 (Loop 224)	6,740
CSI: 0911-00-136 - Let Date July 2024					
3	US 69 - Lufkin (south side)	Angelina	1,350' E of Kenny Road	Loop 287	7,020
4	SH 94 (W Frank Ave) - West of Loop- Lufkin (south side)	Angelina	Mt. Carmel Rd	Loop 287	7,060
5	SH 94 (W Frank Ave) - East of Loop- Lufkin (south side)	Angelina	Loop 287	N Bynum St	5,820
6	SH 63 & SH 147 - Zavalla (north side)	Angelina	US 69	SH 147	3,400
Total LF					35,640

For more information contact Beth Ortego, PE – Lufkin District ADA Coordinator at 936-633-4351 or Elizabeth.Ortego@txdot.gov.

Senior Car Fit

The Lufkin District recently held its first Car Fit event for seniors. It is part of the Mature Driver Program offered through TxDOT, the Brazos Valley Injury Prevention Coalition and Statewide Initiatives/Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.



The free event was a big hit locally and worked to educate senior drivers and improve safety. Attendees were able to visit with a trained technician who checked their vehicle for the proper fit and reviewed 12 key areas of safety.

Those who could not attend the event are welcome to schedule a Car Fit check-up by contacting Melissa McKnight at 936-219-8922 or Melissa.McKnight@txdot.gov. The service takes less than 30 minutes but can be of value to senior drivers.





D.E. Corner
Kelly O. Morris, P.E.

I think all of us would agree that it has been a long, hot summer. Hotter than usual and that presents challenges for our employees who work on the highway each day. We meet each morning prior to going out on the roadway to remind each other of safety protocols, discuss the workday and with the 100-plus temperatures we have been experiencing, we also talk about how important it is to stay hydrated and how to watch for signs of heat-related illnesses.

We had a great, productive summer and now that fall is upon us, the weather will be cooling down and the holidays will be here before we know it. The Lufkin District currently has many major construction projects either underway or in the planning phase. As we look forward to a new year, there will also be many opportunities to improve and enhance our roadways.

This edition is packed full of useful information. I know you will want to read about the recent public meeting for the reconstruction and widening of SL 224 and US 259 in Nacogdoches. We had a great turnout and were able to answer many questions as well as hear comments from the public.

Also, read about the Sidewalk Improvement Plan. A districtwide program to replace and provide ADA compliant sidewalks in specific locations in the Nacogdoches and Angelina Counties.

The recent Car Fit safety event that was geared towards seniors and finding their best and safest fit in their own vehicle was a first of its kind to be held in the district and it was a considerable success. Check out how it can benefit all seniors. The "Move Over, Slow Down" law is important for us all to be familiar with and you will want to make sure you read about recent changes in that law. Many of our employees and contractors work close to moving traffic and we hope you will take the time to read about how this law has changed.

I know you will want to check out the progress and planning of I-69, and the construction updates and maintenance plans that are listed for your convenience. Please plan your drive according. Always slow down near a work zone and help us stay safe while we do our best to keep you safe.

UPCOMING LOCAL LETTING MAINTENANCE PROJECTS	
Contract Description	Estimated Value
Culvert Cleaning Letting date: August 2023	\$202, 173
Traffic Control Services Letting date: September 2023	\$1,051,744
Metal Beam Guard Fence Repair Letting date: September 2023	\$241, 395
Tree Trimming/Tree & Brush Removal Letting date: September 2023	\$215, 375
Traffic Control Services Letting date: October 2023	\$503, 250
Concrete Structure Repair Letting Date: October 2023	\$106, 507
Tree Removal Letting Date: October 2023	\$218, 700
Bridge Preventative Maintenance Letting Date: November 2023	\$600, 000
Bridge Preventative Maintenance Letting Date: November 2023	\$600, 000

Move Over Slow Down

Effective Sept. 1, the Move Over, Slow Down law was amended in Section 545.157 of the Transportation Code with the approval of House Bill 898 during the 88th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature.

Initially passed into law in 2003, the Move Over, Slow Down law requires drivers to move over a lane or slow to 20 mph below the posted speed limit when approaching police, fire, and emergency service vehicles using signals or flashing lights on the roadway.

In 2013, the law was amended adding that drivers must also move over for TxDOT workers and vehicles with flashing blue or amber lights. In 2019, service utility trucks, tow trucks, power utility vehicles, and garbage trucks were included.

The recent changes approved by the Texas Legislature include increased penalties for drivers who do not observe the Move Over, Slow Down law. Drivers who violate the law will be fined from \$500 to \$1,250 for the first offense; \$1,000 to \$2,000 for the second offense and if the incident results in bodily injury, it could be punishable as a state jail felony and mean a loss of driver's license.

The Move Over, Slow Down law has significantly contributed towards TxDOT efforts to improve roadway safety, reduce, and end roadway fatalities and promote work zone safety awareness.



I-69 DEVELOPMENT IN THE LUFKIN DISTRICT

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

There are currently eight projects that the Lufkin District is actively developing. These projects are in varying stages of development. Below is a brief status update. For more information on these I-69 projects and others under development across the state, please visit our webpage at www.txdot.gov and search "[I-69 Projects Overview](#)".



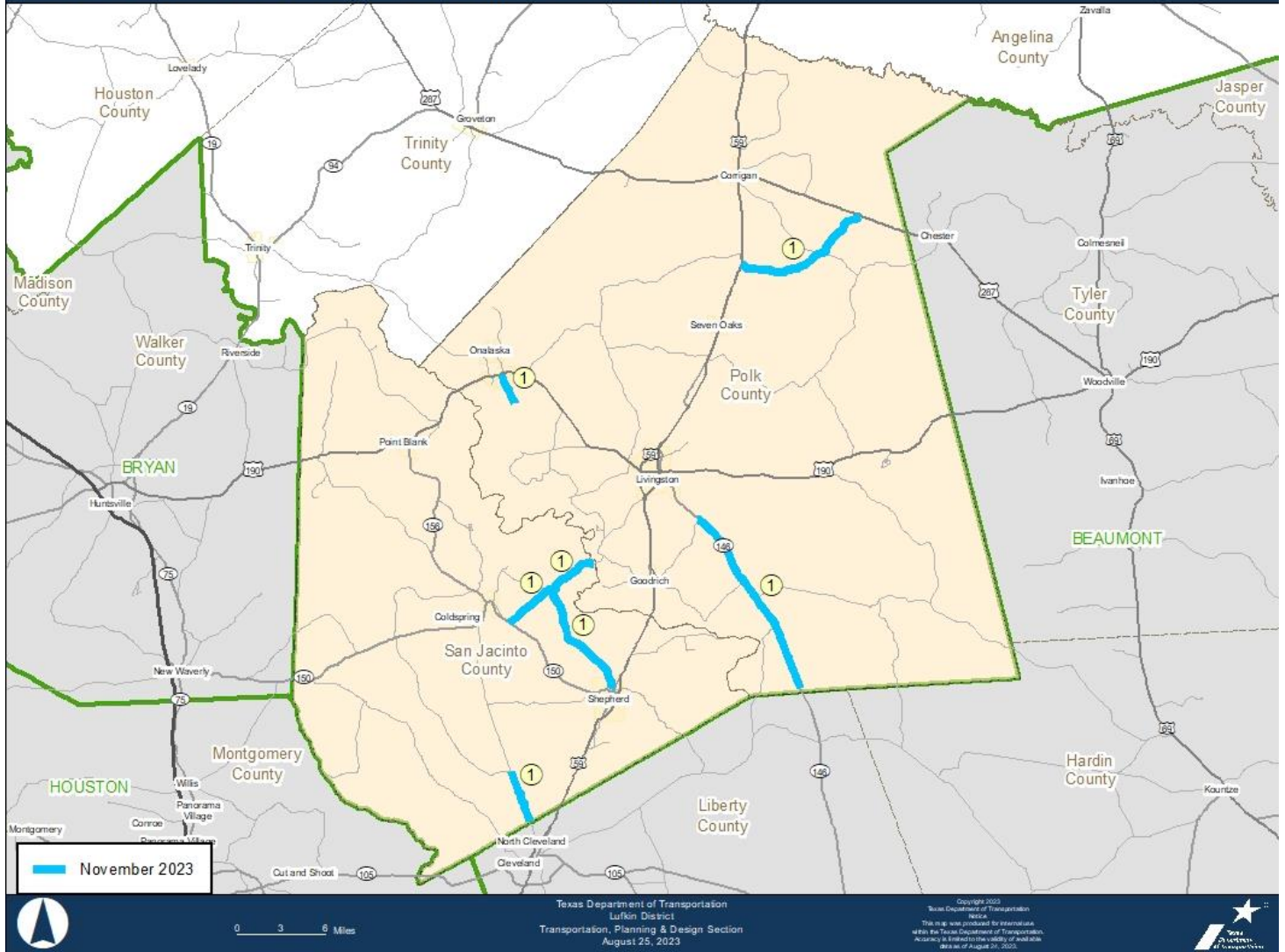
Driven by Texans

- [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. Construction began in September 2019 and is anticipated to be complete summer 2024, weather permitting.
- [US 59 Diboll Relief Route](#) – project involves constructing a new location-controlled access roadway east of Diboll. Construction began in Spring 2020 and is anticipated to be summer 2025, weather permitting.
- [US 59 Upgrade Moffett Rd to SH 103](#) – this project in Lufkin involves upgrading existing US 59 to a controlled access roadway by adding frontage roads. Construction began in 2021 and scheduled for completion in winter 2024, weather permitting.
- [US 59 Upgrade Redland](#) – project involves upgrading existing US 59 to a controlled access roadway by adding frontage roads between SL 287 and FM 2021. Construction began in late 2022 and is anticipated to be completed in fall 2025, weather permitting.
- [US 59 Corrigan Relief Route](#) – project involves the construction of a new location controlled access roadway, west of Corrigan. Utility relocations are finalizing, and construction began in fall 2022. Project is anticipated to be completed in summer 2026, weather permitting.
- [US 59 Upgrade Shepherd to Cleveland \(future I-69\)](#) – project involves upgrading existing US 59 to a controlled access roadway by adding frontage roads between FM 2914 and SL 573. Construction was awarded to begin in fall 2023 and is anticipated to be completed in fall 2029.
- [US 59/US 259 North Nacogdoches Interchange](#) – this project involves converting existing US 59 to a four-lane controlled access freeway from Stallings Drive/SL 224 to 1.3 miles north of US 259. The proposed project would include reconstructing the US 59/US 259 interchange to eliminate the current cloverleaf configuration and add new frontage roads. TxDOT began field surveying in late 2020. A public meeting was held on August 3, 2023. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2029.
- [US 59 Upgrade Shepherd to Trinity River](#) – project involves upgrading existing US 59 to a controlled access roadway by adding frontage roads between FM 223 (Church Street) to just north of the Trinity River. TxDOT executed a contract to begin schematic and environmental studies in early 2022. TxDOT began field surveying in late 2022, and a public meeting was held April 27, 2023. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2029.



Livingston Area Office

LIVINGSTON AREA OFFICE - Polk and San Jacinto Counties

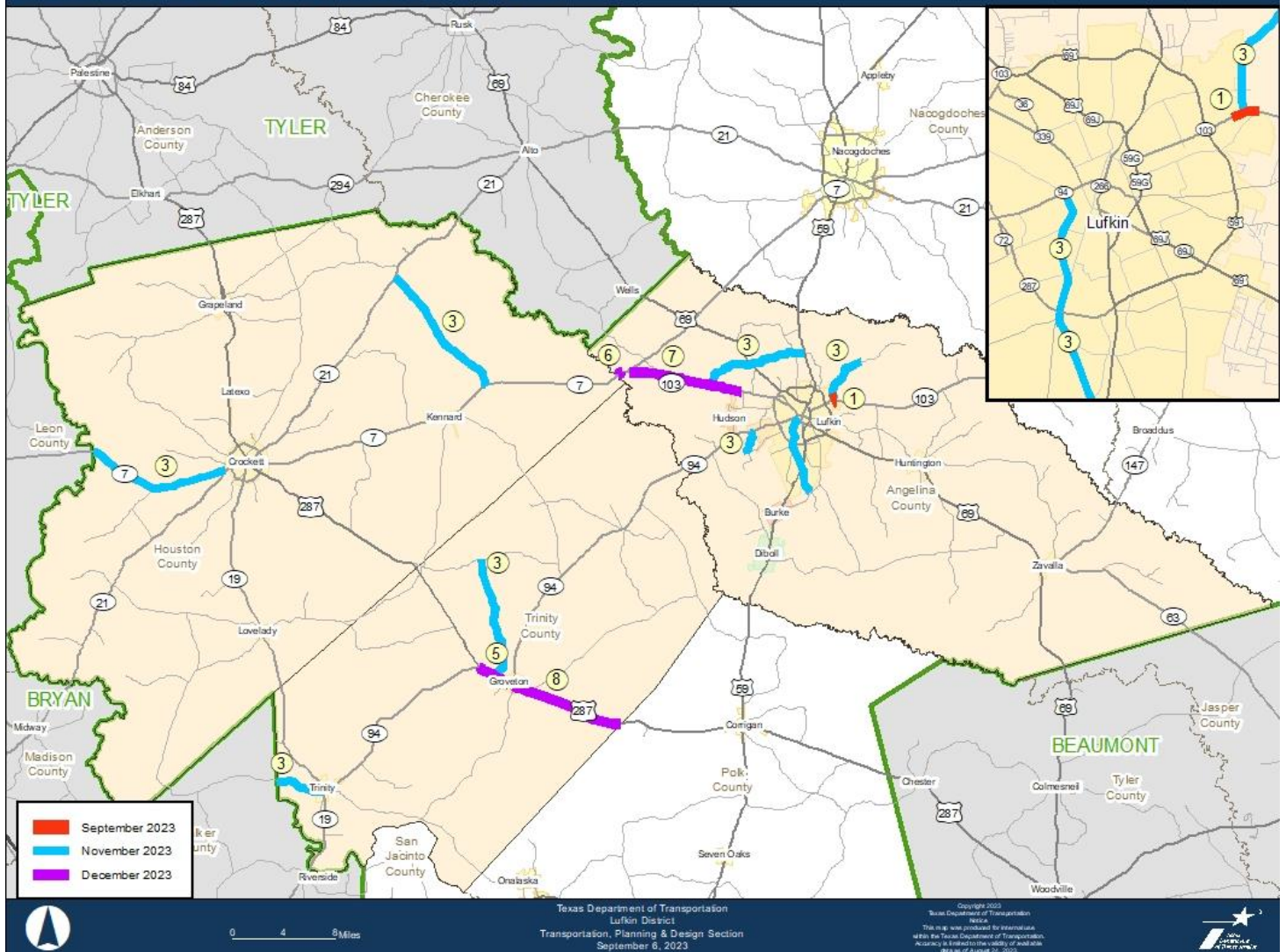


UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS					
Project Number	County	Highway	Description Of Work	Estimated Cost	ID
0063-07-003, etc.	Various	VA	Districtwide Seal Coat **	\$2,054,060.80	1
Total includes only projects in Polk and San Jacinto counties**					

For more information, please visit the Project Tracker page at:
[txdot.gov/inside-txdot/projects/project-tracker.html](https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/projects/project-tracker.html)

Lufkin Area Office

LUFKIN AREA OFFICE - Angelina, Houston and Trinity Counties



UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Project Number	County	Highway	Description Of Work	Estimated Cost	ID
0336-05-068	Angelina	SH 103	Install Traffic Signal	\$305,554.86	1
0911-00-116	Angelina	VA*	Bridge Maintenance	\$500,000.00	2
0063-07-003, etc.	Angelina	FM 324	Districtwide Seal Coat **	\$2,697,879.47	3
0911-38-075	Various	VA*	Wildflower Seeding – Governor’s Community Achievement Award	\$207,700.00	4
0319-01-069	Trinity	US 287	Resurface Roadway with thin Overlay Mix	\$313,815.04	5
0336-03-073	Angelina	SH 7	Resurface Roadway with thin Overlay Mix	\$93,846.15	6
0336-03-074	Angelina	SH 103	Resurface Roadway with Thin Overlay Mix	\$1,261,568.00	7
0341-01-030	Trinity	US 287	Resurface Roadway with Thin Overlay Mix	\$1,026,826.24	8

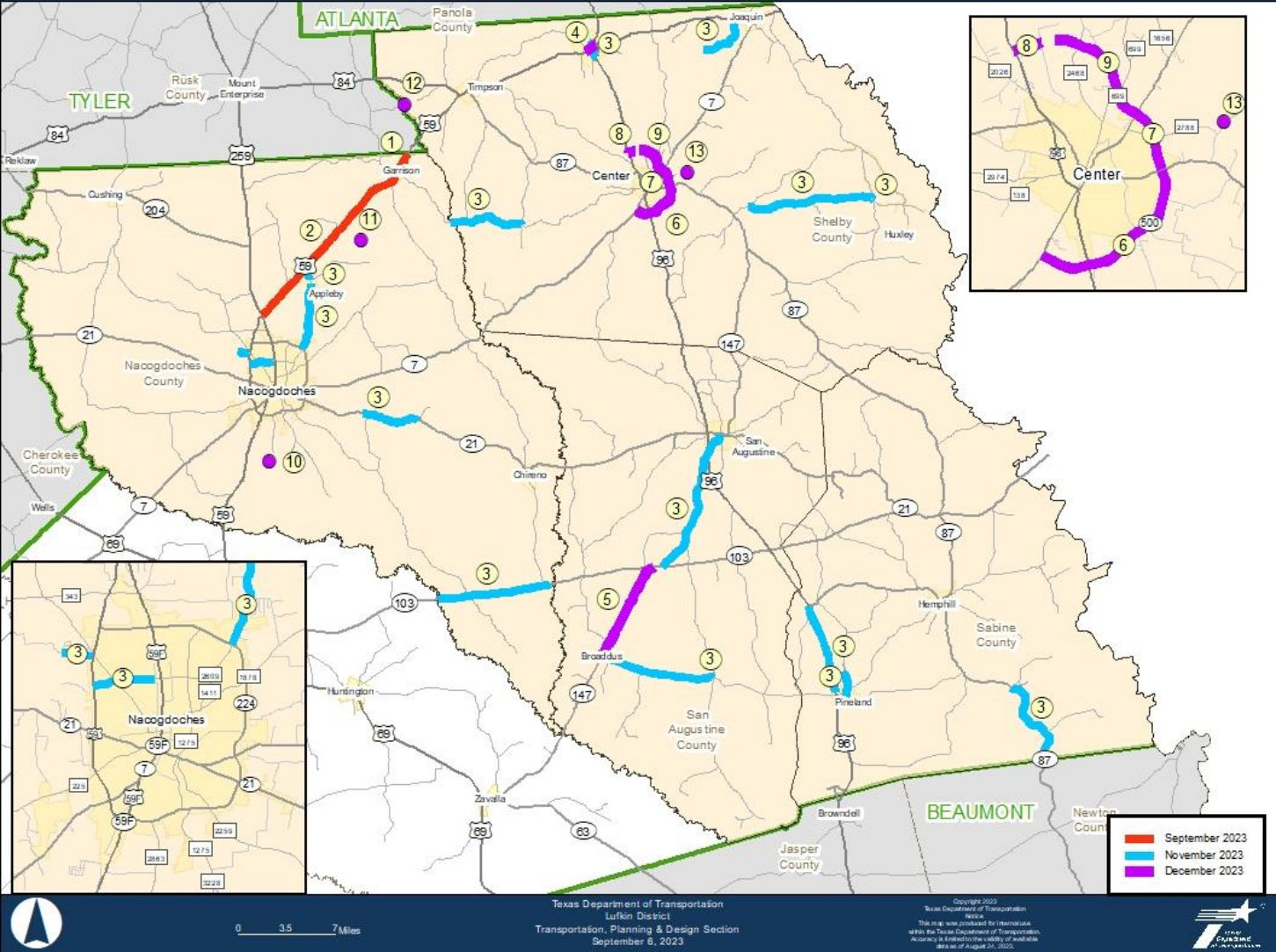
Project not mapped *

Total includes only projects in Angelina, Houston, and Trinity counties **

For more information, please visit the Project Tracker page at:
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 Of Work	Estimated Cost	ID
0175-06-045	Nacogdoches	US 59	Resurface Roadway with thin Overlay Mix	\$974,221.58	1
0175-07-065	Nacogdoches	US 59	Resurface Roadway with thin Overlay Mix	\$5,793,598.92	2
0063-07-003, etc.	Nacogdoches	VA	Districtwide Seal Coat**	\$3,847,948.52	3
0175-02-092	Shelby	US 59	Resurface Roadway with thin Overlay Mix	\$294,845.19	4
0390-02-051	San Augustine	SH 147	Resurface Roadway with thin Overlay Mix	\$1,403,000.00	5
3315-01-025	Shelby	SL 500	Resurface Roadway with thin Overlay Mix	\$425,666.56	6
3315-01-026	Shelby	SL 500	Resurface Roadway with thin Overlay Mix	\$256,481.28	7
3315-01-027	Shelby	SL 500	Resurface Roadway with thin Overlay Mix	\$121,714.42	8
3315-01-028	Shelby	SL 500	Resurface Roadway with thin Overlay Mix	\$520,243.27	9
0911-08-049	Nacogdoches	CR 526	Bridge Replacement	\$825,743.50	10
0911-08-050	Nacogdoches	CR 271	Bridge Replacement	\$632,053.00	11
0911-39-064	Shelby	CR 4760	Bridge Replacement	\$390,177.00	12
0911-39-065	Shelby	CR 3047	Bridge Replacement	\$676,238.50	13

Total includes only projects in Nacogdoches, Sabine, San Augustine, and Shelby counties**

DISTRICT CONTACTS

District Engineer:

Kelly O. Morris, P.E.

District Public Information Officer:

Rhonda Oaks

**Director of Transportation Planning
and Development:**

Matt Brazil, 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 ENGINEER CONTACTS

Lufkin Area Office:

Jesse Sisco, P.E.

1805 N. Timberland Drive

Lufkin, TX 75901

936-633-4331

Livingston Area Office:

Clint Jones, P.E.

3161 US 59 N.

Livingston, TX 77351

936-327-8981

Nacogdoches Area Office:

Randal Cooper, P.E.

918 Industrial Blvd.

Nacogdoches, TX
75961

936-585-7043

COUNTY MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR CONTACTS

Angelina:

Steven Harris
936-634-3414

Houston:

Danny Luna
936-544-2264

Nacogdoches:

Jack Smith
936-585-7041

Polk:

James Henagan
936-327-8914

Sabine:

Kenneth Courville
409-787-1751

San Jacinto:

Chester Dixon
936-628-3328

San Augustine:

Scott Duffey
936-275-9671

Shelby:

Clint Norton
936-598-4113

Trinity:

David Wars
936-642-1132