

LUFKIN DISTRICT

NEWS



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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>

Shepherd to Trinity Upgrade Public Meeting

TxDOT conducted a public meeting on April 27 for proposed improvements to US 59 from Shepherd to the Trinity River that will upgrade this section of roadway to meet interstate standards.



A large group gathered at the Shepherd High School Cafeteria to view the proposed schematics. Most took the opportunity to speak to TxDOT officials and leave comments and suggestions.

TxDOT is proposing improvements to US 59 that will include the construction of two-lane northbound and southbound frontage roads, the reconstruction of US 59 main lanes, the construction/replacement of the Trinity River Bridges with turnarounds, and an overpass with turnarounds at FM 1127. The project is planned from approximately 0.2 miles north of FM 223 (Church Street) to north of the Trinity River in San Jacinto and Polk counties.

The 6-mile project is designed to enhance safety, improve mobility, provide a more efficient hurricane evacuation route, and provide system connectivity to Interstate 69. Schematic and environmental studies will be done through 2024, with right of way acquisitions and utility relocations tentatively scheduled for 2025-2028.



Lufkin District Accessibility Program

Since 2018 the Lufkin District has completed construction or design of more than 25 miles of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalk along on-system roadways, not including pedestrian infrastructure incorporated in highway projects. One of the major goals of the Lufkin District is to ensure **everyone** gets home safely.

District ADA projects are under development in Lufkin, Zavalla, and Nacogdoches which will let for construction in 2024. These projects are the result of specific needs presented by and discussed with public and elected officials, school districts, and internal review of locations throughout the District. The Lufkin District is continuing to identify ADA projects within the District that will ultimately provide safe alternative routes for pedestrian traffic. If you see a need for ADA compliant sidewalks in your community, let us know.

Transportation Alternatives Program Call

TxDOT is announcing the Transportation Alternatives (TA) 2023 program call for projects for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. Through this competitive call for projects, TxDOT intends to identify projects for available non-urban TA funds and future anticipated TA funds for non-urban and small urban communities. The program call was opened on December 2, 2022.

Program Status:

Preliminary Applications were accepted on January 27, 2023. A total of 16 applications were submitted in the Lufkin District with 7 sponsors (Cities of Lufkin, Center, Coldspring, Crockett, Grapeland, Huntington, and Nacogdoches):

- Detailed Applications are due: June 5, 2023
- TxDOT Detailed Application review deadline: August 18, 2023
- Commission Awards: October 2023

Contact Elizabeth Ortego, P.E. – Lufkin District ADA Coordinator at (936) 633-4351 or elizabeth.ortego@txdot.gov for more information or to be added to the email list.

Safety Awards Banquet

The Lufkin District held its 38th annual Safety Awards Banquet on April 20 at the Pitser Garrison Convention Center in Lufkin with many awards given for safety and some big winners in Truck Rodeo competition.

Several Safe Operator certificates were handed out, as well as the Star Safety Recognition award that was given to Fred Stansberry who works at Shelby County Maintenance. Safe Operator awards with the most years went to Eli Carranza, Hemphill, with 28 years; Clint Norton, Center, with 22 years; Danny Luna, Crockett, with 22 years; and Thomas Smith, Groveton, with 23 years. Several other Safe Operator awards were given to employees with fewer years. Also awarded were certificates for No Preventable Vehicle Incidents and No Injuries to working groups within the district.



Most of the attendees were anxious to hear the Dump Truck Rodeo winners announced for the district and on the state level. State Dump Truck Rodeo winner for 2023 was Milton Kelley from Angelina County Maintenance and coming in at fourth place in the state competition was Cole Stewart from Hemphill County Maintenance.

Local 2023 Dump Truck Rodeo winners included:

- First Place: Charles Steele, Angelina County Maintenance
- Second Place: Cole Stewart, Sabine County Maintenance
- Third Place: Milton Kelley, Angelina County Maintenance
- Fourth Place: Reid Westbrook, Angelina County Maintenance

Winners in the district Pickup Truck Rodeo for 2022 were Josh Bobbitt, Angelina County Maintenance and Tabitha Taylor, San Jacinto County Maintenance. Everyone enjoyed the door prizes provided by various offices within the district, and the steak lunch provided by Roadhouse.





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

Summer is right around the corner and warmer days means one thing – the Lufkin District is busy.

We have major projects progressing in all three area engineer offices with the Nacogdoches US 59/SL 224 redesign; the Diboll Relief Project and the US 59 Redland Expansion; and the Corrigan Relief Route, all being built to interstate standards. As well, our maintenance sections are busier than ever, and crews will begin our sealcoat season soon.

While being busy is good, being safe is even better and more important. Our crews begin each morning with a safety meeting, what we refer to as tailgate meetings, to talk about the day ahead and remind everyone that getting home safely at the end of the day is our goal.

With that in mind, you will want to see the photos from the 2023 District Safety Banquet held in April. This banquet celebrates safety goals and milestones met through the year. It is good to stop and recognize our workers' accomplishments and talk about our goals that were met and those we are working toward.

While several construction projects are being built to interstate standards in the Lufkin District, I invite you to read about one that is still in design. The US 59 expansion project from Shepherd to the Trinity River will be an important part of tying the Lufkin District to Interstate 69 to the south. A recent Public Meeting held in Shepherd proved to be of interest to many people who came out and viewed the schematics and made suggestions.

I know you will want to see the I69 Updates and our project updates from the Lufkin, Nacogdoches, and Livingston area offices. Also, our maintenance sections are busier than ever in the summer season.

As the school year ends and many of you plan vacations, you will encounter our employees or contractors on the roadway in a work zone. Please slow down and give them room to work. Most injuries in work zones involve vehicle occupants, so obey all traffic control and stay alert. Your safety is also a big concern and a big part of us all having a great summer.

UPCOMING LOCAL LETTING MAINTENANCE PROJECTS	
Contract Description	Estimated Value
Bridge Preventative Maintenance Letting date: June 2023	\$383,570
Bridge Preventative Maintenance Letting date: June 2023	\$450, 411
Crackseal Letting date: June 2023	\$407, 408
Crackseal Letting date: June 2023	\$229, 772
Tree Trimming/Tree & Brush Removal Letting date: June 2023	\$208, 670
Metal Beam Guard Fence Repair Letting Date: June 2023	\$164, 755
Install Thermoplastic Striping Letting Date: June 2023	\$430, 645
Illumination Maintenance Letting Date: June 2023	\$258, 785
Culvert Cleaning Letting Date: August 2023	\$275, 882
Metal Beam Guard Fence Repair Letting Date: August 2023	\$240,887

National Motorcycle Awareness Month

On May 2, the City of Nacogdoches issued a proclamation recognizing May as National Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. TxDOT’s “Share the Road: Look Twice For Motorcycles” safety campaign stresses the importance of driving safely and the dangers motorcycle riders face. The Lufkin District is grateful for the Nacogdoches City Council standing with us in this important message.

Pictured from left: Melissa McKnight, Traffic Safety Specialist; Chat Huckaby, city council member; Amelia Ruiz Fischer, city council member; Tambra Barton, local motorcycle advocate; Jimmy Mize, Mayor; and Kelly Morris, Lufkin District Engineer.



“People on motorcycles are more vulnerable on our roadways,” said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. “It’s important for drivers to pay extra attention and look out for motorcycles – especially at intersections, when turning in front of oncoming traffic and while changing lanes. We all want to get home safe.”

TxDOT’s “Share the Road: Look Twice for Motorcycles” campaign is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel to help end the streak of daily deaths. Nov. 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on Texas roadways.



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 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 www.txdot.gov and search "I-69 Projects Overview".



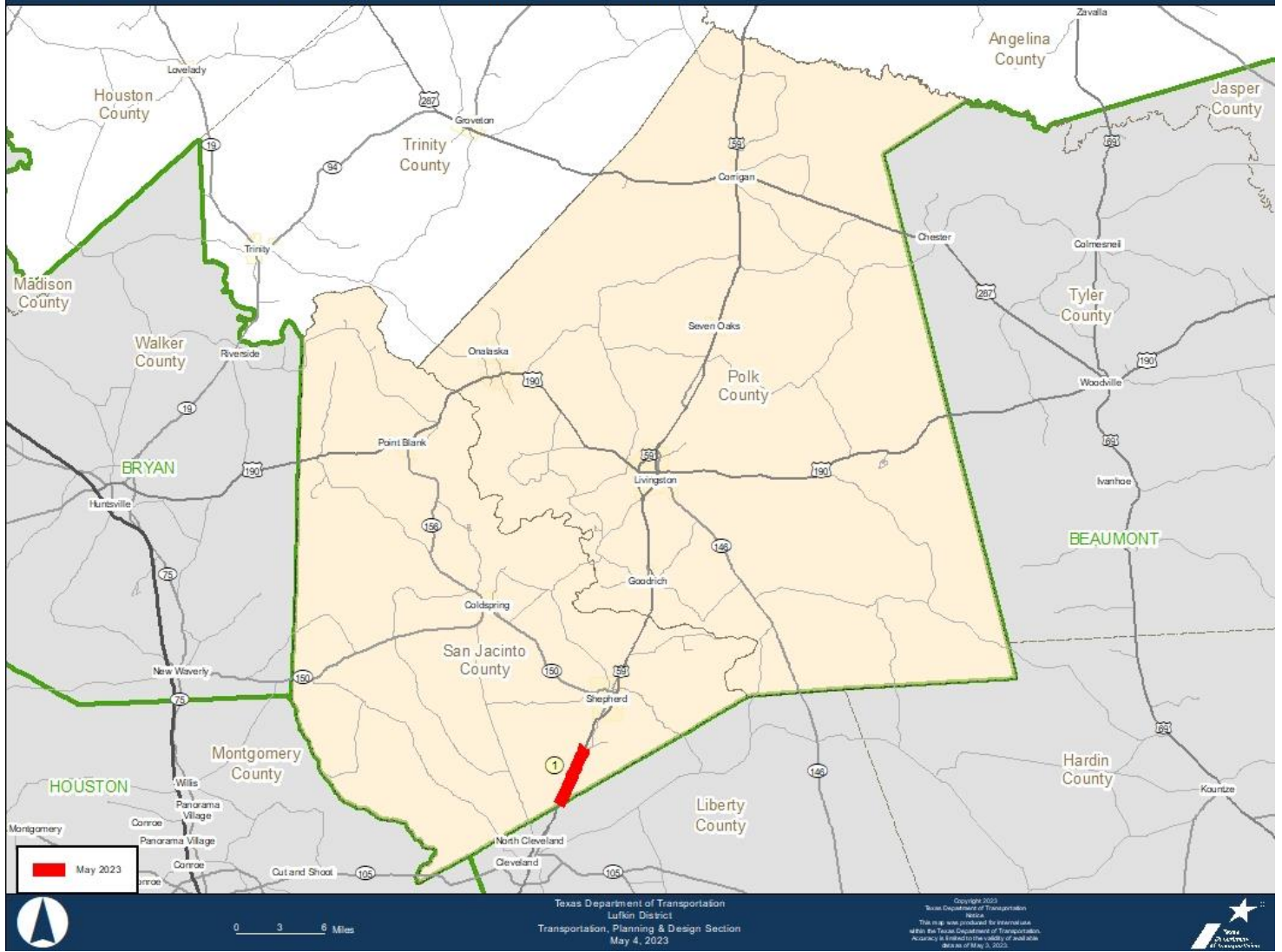
Driven by Texans

- **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.
- **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 complete late 2025.
- **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 Fall 2023.
- **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.
- **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 late 2027.
- **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. TxDOT received approval of schematic and environmental studies in August 2019. ROW acquisitions and demolition has begun. Utility relocations have begun. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in late 2023.
- **US 59/US 259 NORTH NACOGDOCHES INTERCHANGE** – this project involves converting existing US 59 to a four-lane controlled access freeway from Stallings Dr. to 1 mile north of US 259. The proposed project would include reconstructing the US 59/US 259 interchange to eliminate the current cloverleaf configuration and adding new frontage roads. TxDOT began field surveying in late 2020. A public meeting was held May 17, 2022, and one is planned for late 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 St) 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. A public meeting was held April 27, 2023. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2023.



Livingston Area Office

LIVINGSTON AREA OFFICE - Polk and San Jacinto Counties



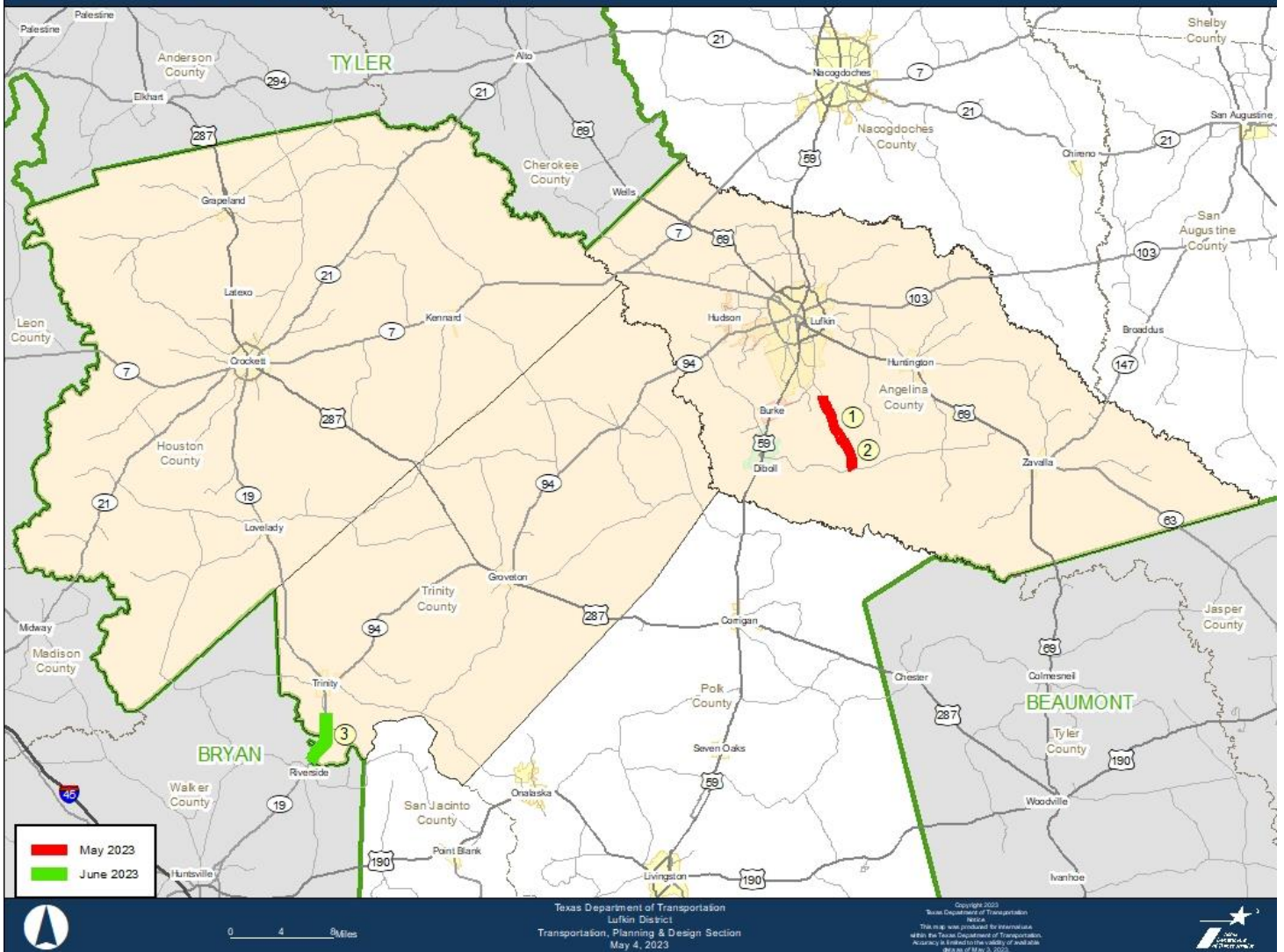
UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Project Number	County	Highway	Description Of Work	Estimated Cost	ID
0177-02-057	Polk	US 59	Convert to 4-Lane Freeway with 2-Lane NB & SB Frontage Roads (Future I-69)	\$98,655,525.23	1

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

Lufkin Area Office

LUFKIN AREA OFFICE - Angelina, Houston and Trinity Counties



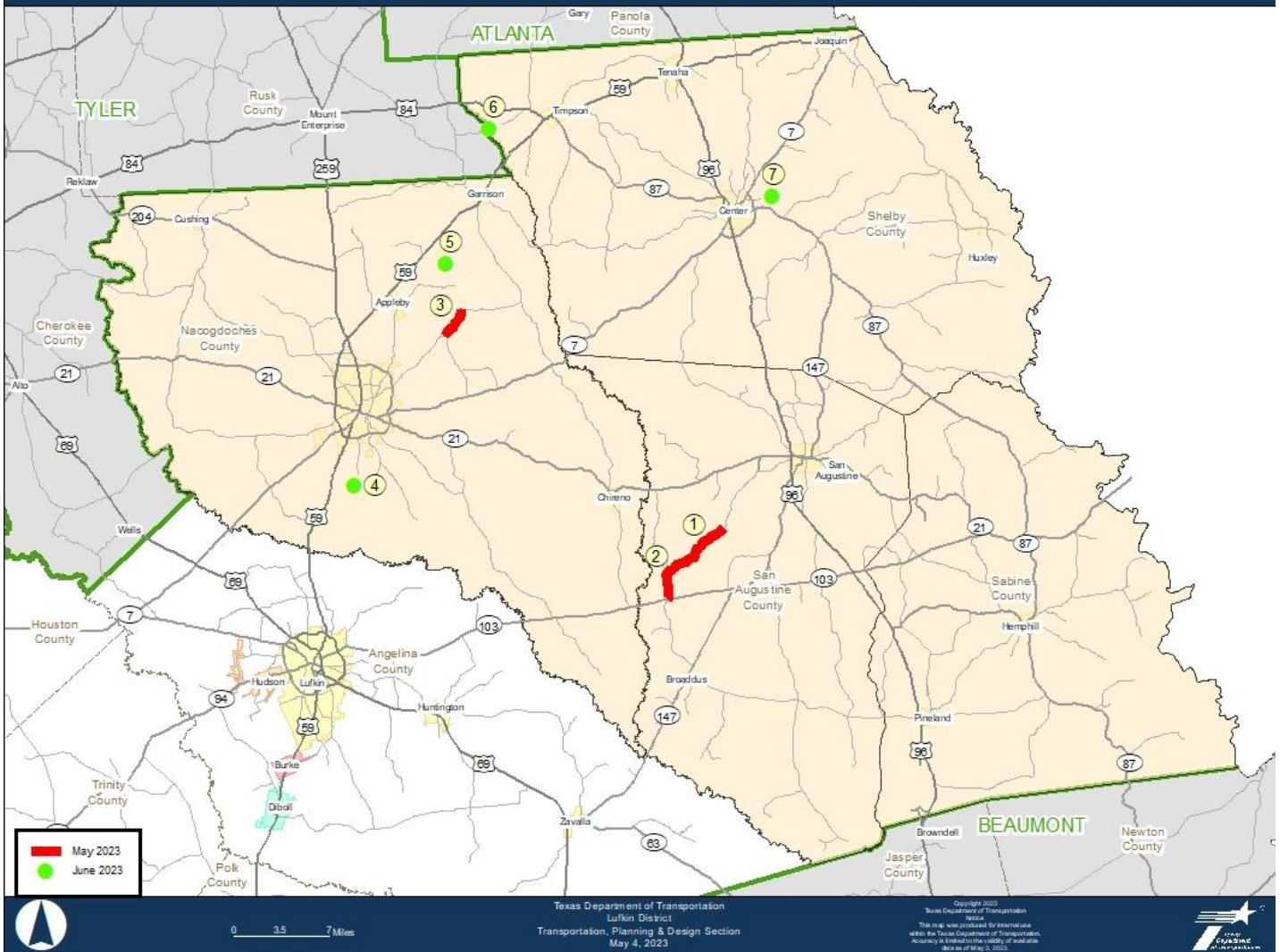
UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Project Number	County	Highway	Description Of Work	Estimated Cost	ID
0576-02-068	Angelina	FM 58	Reconstruct and Widen Pavement to 28 FT	\$3,684,801.81	1
0576-02-075	Angelina	FM 58	Provide Additional Paved Surface Width to 28 FT; Profile EdgeLine and Centerline Markings	\$3,802,431.98	2
0109-08-050	Trinity	SH 19	Install Cable Median Barrier	\$689,251.00	3

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
0597-02-023	San Augustine	Fm 1277	Reconstruct Existing Pavement and Widen to 28 FT	\$4,613,130.40	1
0597-02-025	San Augustine	FM 1277	Provide Additional Paved Surface Width to 28 FT; Milled Edgeline and Centerline Markings	\$6,573,423.10	2
1810-01-036	Nacogdoches	FM 1878	Provide Additional Paved Surf Width to 28', Profile Edgeline Markings, Profile Centerline Markings	\$4,151,943.75	3
0911-08-049	Nacogdoches	CR 526	Bridge Replacement	\$825,743.50	4
0911-08-050	Nacogdoches	CR 271	Bridge Replacement	\$632,053.00	5
0911-39-064	Shelby	CR 4760	Bridge Replacement	\$390,177,00	6
0911-39-065	Shelby	CR 3047	Bridge Replacement	\$676,238.50	7

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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