

# 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](https://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>

## New Positions Named in the District



The Texas Department of Transportation named Kelly O. Morris, P.E., to serve as the Lufkin District Engineer after the recent retirement of Cheryl P. Flood, P.E., who served with TxDOT for 38 years.

Morris began her career at TxDOT as a summer employee in 1993 and later began working full time as an Engineer In Training in the Livingston Area Office. She graduated from Texas A&M University in 1995 with a Civil Engineering degree and obtained her Professional Engineer's License in 2000.

She worked in the private sector from 1999 to 2013 and rejoined TxDOT as the I-69 Project Manager for the Lufkin District. She was named District Design Engineer later in 2013 and then promoted to Director of Transportation and Development in 2014 where she has led numerous challenging projects including the Diboll Relief Route and US 59 connector ramps in Nacogdoches.

"I look forward to leading the Lufkin District and continuing to work with all of our local communities and dedicated TxDOT staff. Our focus will remain on developing, building and maintaining a safe transportation system. I am excited about taking on new challenges and continuing my career as District Engineer in one of the best TxDOT districts in the state," Morris said.

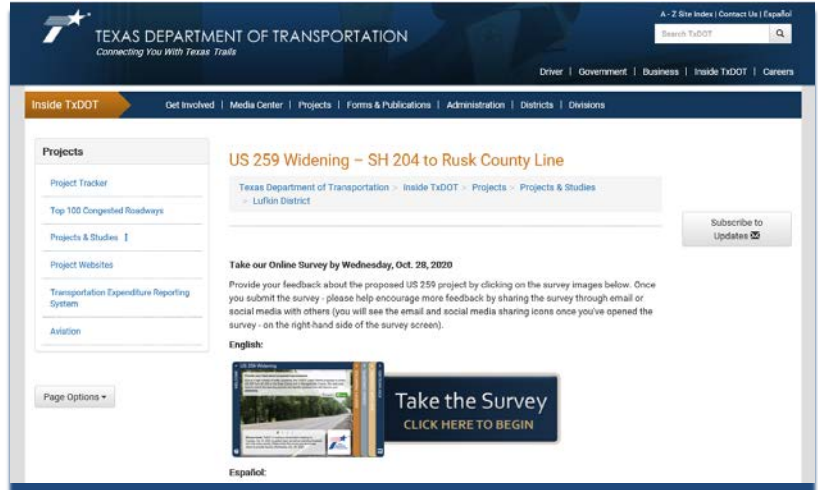
The Morris family, Kelly, Todd and children Sydney and Seth, make their home in Lufkin. Sydney began classes at Stephen F. Austin State University this fall. The family enjoys fishing and traveling together.

Other district changes include the naming of: Ana Mijares, P.E. as Lufkin District Director of Transportation Planning and Development; Michael Moore as Lufkin District Maintenance Director; James Henagan as Polk County Maintenance Supervisor, Jack Smith as Nacogdoches Maintenance Supervisor; Scott Duffey as San Augustine County Maintenance Supervisor and Kenneth Courville as Sabine County Maintenance Supervisor. ■

# US 259 Widening in Nacogdoches County

The Lufkin District is planning a proposed construction project in Nacogdoches County that will enhance safety and relieve congestion along US 259, major corridor in the area. The proposed project involves widening the roadway from SH 204 to the Rusk County line to provide:

- Two 12-foot northbound and southbound travel lanes
- Two 10-foot outside shoulders
- One 16-foot center two-way left turn lane
- Typical 200-foot right-of-way width
- One 12-foot acceleration lane for SH 204 traffic heading south on US 259



A virtual public meeting began Oct. 13 for the proposed project to inform the public of the proposed project. Project Information can be viewed at [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) by searching US 259 Widening.

US 259 serves as an important corridor for rural connectivity, and is also a freight and evacuation route. The project is designed to reduce congestion, enhance safety and mobility along US 259 and provide a more efficient hurricane evacuation route. TxDOT is currently mapping right-of-way and will begin preparing environmental documentation and engineering plans after reviewing public feedback from the virtual public meeting. TxDOT anticipates starting right-of-way acquisitions in 2022 and construction in March 2024. ■

## Road to Zero

How many deaths are acceptable each year on Texas roads? The answer is zero. TxDOT has an ambitious goal that will help us reach zero. But it is going to take all of us to get there. Every day for nearly 20 years, at least one person has died on Texas roadways, totaling roughly 70,000 people.



Nov. 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on Texas roadways. TxDOT's Road to Zero campaign, spearheaded by TxDOT Commissioner Laura Ryan, supports the End The Streak goal and is designed to end daily deaths on the roadway by 2050. It is a goal that all of us at TxDOT take seriously.

TxDOT is dedicating \$600 million for safety improvements along Texas roadways in coming months. The effort includes widening roads and adding rumble strips that alert drivers if they veer from their lanes. Reinforcing shoulders, turn lanes and deploying new technology will also increase safety.

The leading causes of fatalities continue to be failure to stay in one lane, alcohol and speed. How can you help us reach this goal and maybe save your life or the lives of your family?

- Buckle seatbelts – all passengers need to be buckled
- Pay attention – put phones away and avoid distractions
- Never drink and drive or do drugs and drive – get a sober ride home
- Drive the speed limit – obey speed limits and drive slower when weather conditions warrant

You can read more about Road to Zero, view the stats and the progress we are making here: <http://www.dot.state.tx.us/dashboard/highlight.htm>. We need you to be a part of the Road to Zero, not just to say we have met a goal, but to save lives. One of those lives could be yours or someone you love. ■



## D.E. Corner

Kelly O. Morris, P.E.

This is my first column in the Lufkin District newsletter as District Engineer. Exciting things are happening in the Lufkin District. We have some great people serving in the district's nine counties and I am thrilled to work alongside them.

COVID restrictions still have many of our employees working remotely, but others are working daily in the field on projects. All Lufkin District employees continue to follow health and safety protocols and will continue daily to do the work of the state, putting safety at the forefront of all we do.

Helping to create a safe, reliable transportation system will be an important focus in my role as DE. I know you will want to read about Road to Zero. This statewide initiative aims to end all Texas roadway fatalities by 2050. It will take all of us to reach that goal, but it is attainable.

I hope you read about our virtual Public Meeting for US 259 Widening in Nacogdoches County. This proposed project is greatly needed to reduce congestion and enhance safety. Before we move forward, we need to hear from you. Please visit our webpage and submit your comments.

You will also read about employee changes in some key positions in the Lufkin District. The district has seen several dedicated employees retire after many years of service, and I look forward to seeing the talent shine from those who have been named to replace them.

If you have questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me or our offices. We are here to help!

UPCOMING LOCAL LETTING MAINTENANCE PROJECTS	
Contract Description	Estimated Value
Tree Trim & Brush Removal in Houston County Letting date: 9/30/2020	\$281,755
Tree Trim & Brush Removal in San Jacinto County Letting date: 9/30/2020	\$281,400
Tree Trim & Brush Removal in San Augustine Co. Letting date: 10/7/2020	\$268,625
Tree Trim & Brush Removal in Shelby County Letting date: 11/4/2020	\$200,000
Bridge Preventative Maintenance (Angelina, Nacogdoches, Shelby, Sabine & San Augustine Counties) Letting Date: 11/11/2020	\$200,000
Bridge Preventative Maintenance (Houston, Trinity, Polk & San Jacinto Counties) Letting Date: 11/11/2020	\$200,000
Concrete Pavement Repair Districtwide Letting Date: 12/2/2020	\$200,000
Concrete Pavement Surface Repair Districtwide Letting Date: 12/2/2020	\$100,000

## Save Me with a Seat

TxDOT's free safety seat inspections are available throughout the year. To schedule a virtual car seat check-up with a TxDOT Traffic Safety Specialist, visit [SaveMeWithaSeat.org](https://www.savemeWITHASEAT.org) and enter your ZIP code to find the nearest TxDOT district office.

Visit [SaveMeWithaSeat.org](https://www.savemeWITHASEAT.org) to find out more about how to keep your child safe. Drivers can also find out if a child should be in a rear-facing, forward-facing or booster seat and get other child passenger safety tips at the website.

Texas law requires that children younger than 8 years of age, unless they are taller than 4 feet 9 inches, be secured in a child safety seat whenever they ride in a vehicle. Older children who have outgrown a booster seat must be buckled with a seat belt. Failure to properly restrain a child can result in a ticket of up to \$250. ■



# 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](http://www.txdot.gov) and search "I-69 Projects Overview".



**Driven by Texans**

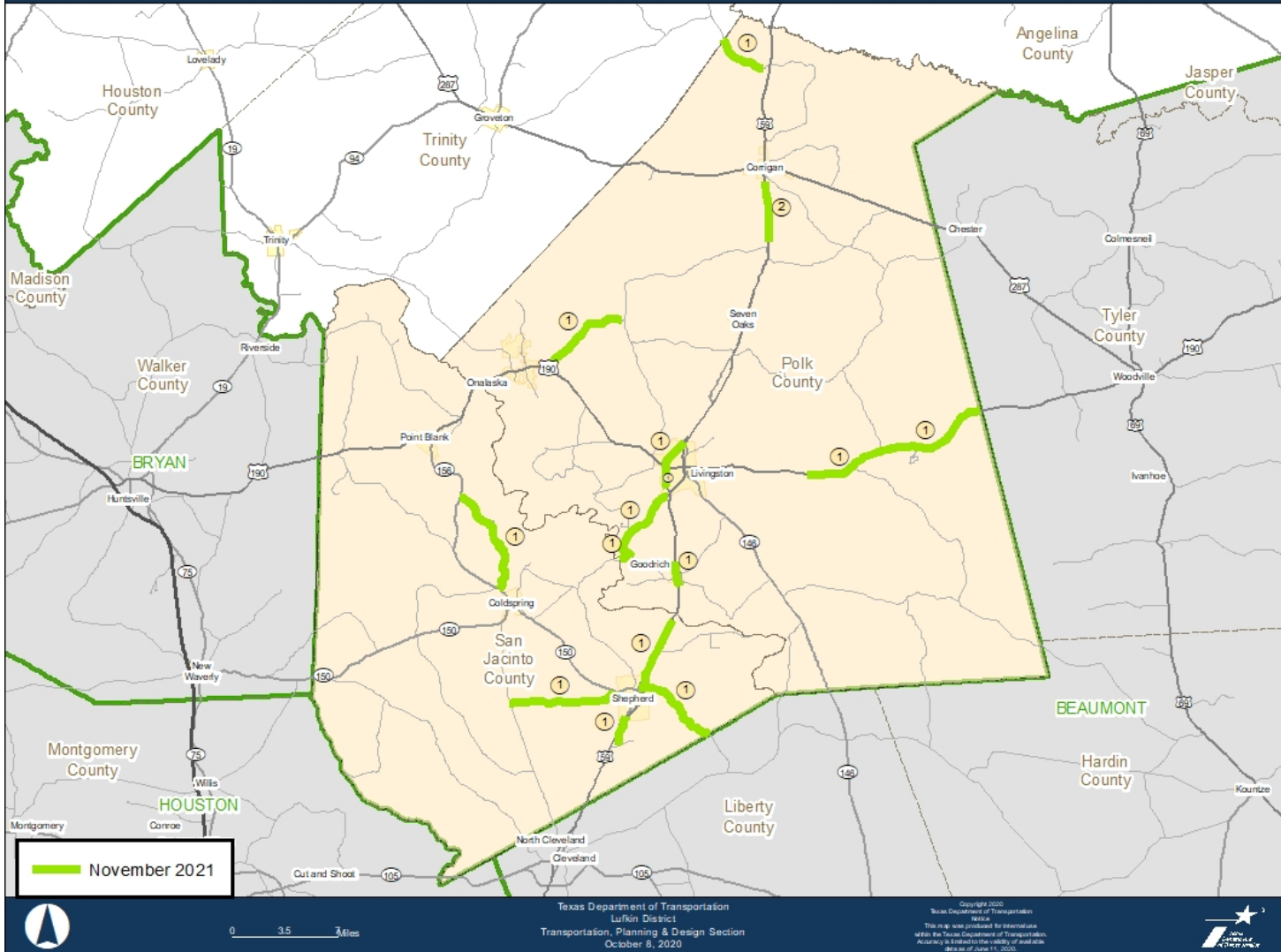
- **US 59/SL 224 South Interchange** – project involves upgrading existing US 59 by constructing new US 59 direct connectors at SL 224(S) and frontage roads along SL 224 between SH 7 and US 59. Utility relocations are currently underway. Construction began in September 2019 and is anticipated to be complete Summer 2023.
- **US 59 Diboll Relief Route** – project involves constructing a new location controlled access roadway east of Diboll. Utility relocations are currently underway. Construction began in Spring 2020 and is anticipated to be complete Fall of 2024.
- **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. Utility relocations are underway. Construction will begin in 2021.
- **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 and demolition are underway. Upon completion of ROW acquisition and demolition, utility relocations will begin. 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. Upon completion of ROW acquisition and demolition, utility relocations will begin. 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 received approval of schematic and environmental studies in August 2019. ROW acquisitions have begun. Upon completion of ROW acquisition and demolition, utility relocations will begin. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2023.
- **COMING SOON – US 59/US 259 NORTH NACOGDOCHES INTERCHANGE** – this project involves upgrading existing US 59/US 259 interchange to meet interstate standards. TxDOT has contracted with a consultant to begin schematic and environmental studies. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2029.
- **COMING SOON – US 59/US 259 NORTH NACOGDOCHES INTERCHANGE** – this project involves upgrading existing US 59 to a controlled access roadway by adding frontage roads to meet interstate standards. TxDOT anticipates beginning schematic and environmental studies in 2021. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2029.





# Livingston Area Office

## LIVINGSTON AREA OFFICE - Polk and San Jacinto Counties

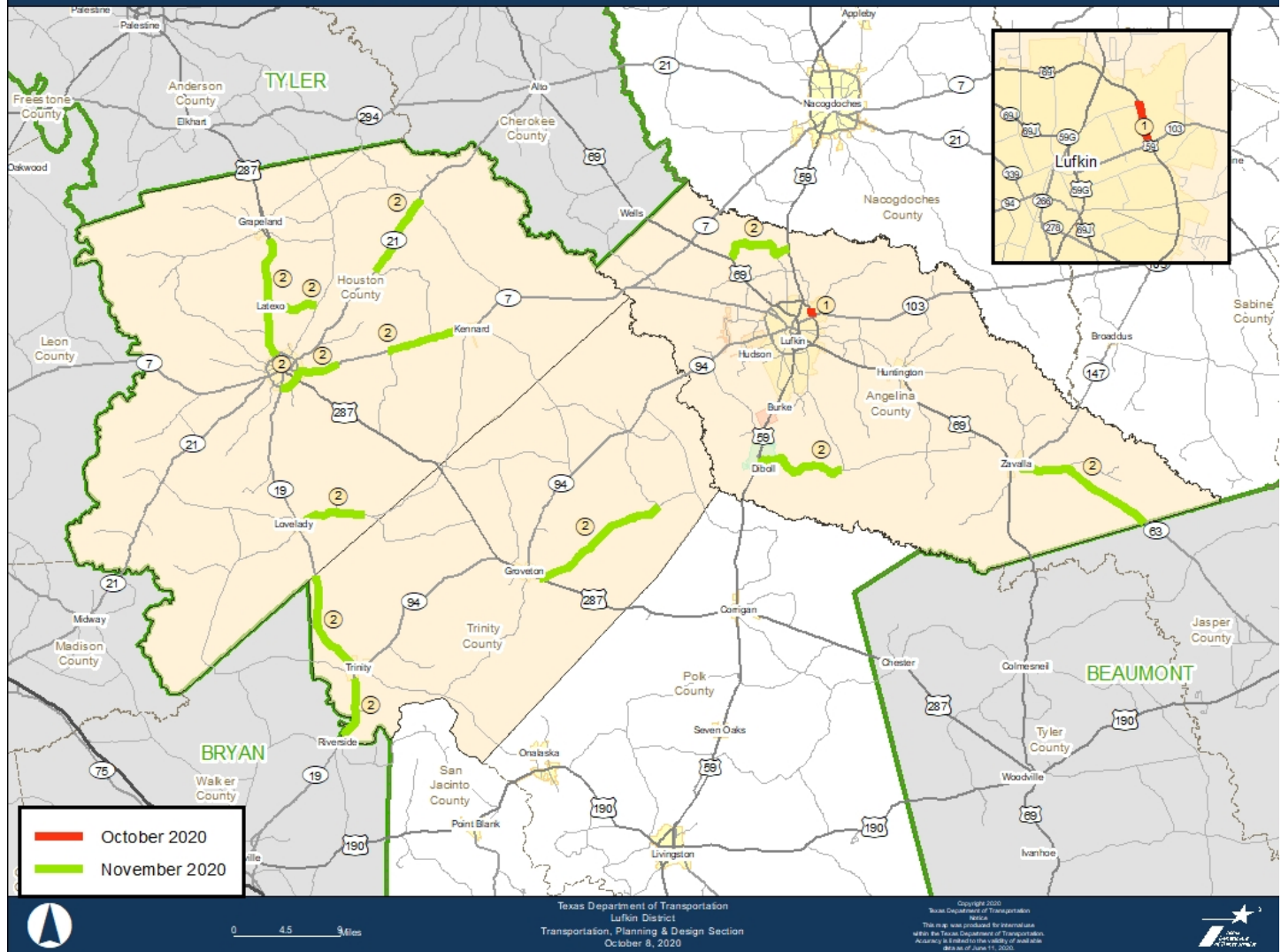


UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS					
Project Number	County	Highway	Description Of Work	Estimated Cost	ID
0109-07-053	San Jacinto	Various	District Wide Seal Coat **	\$3,283,521.11	1
0176-05-197	Polk	US 59	Resurface Roadway (Southbound Lanes Only)	\$2,626,396.65	2

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

# Lufkin Area Office

LUFKIN AREA OFFICE - Angelina, Houston and Trinity Counties



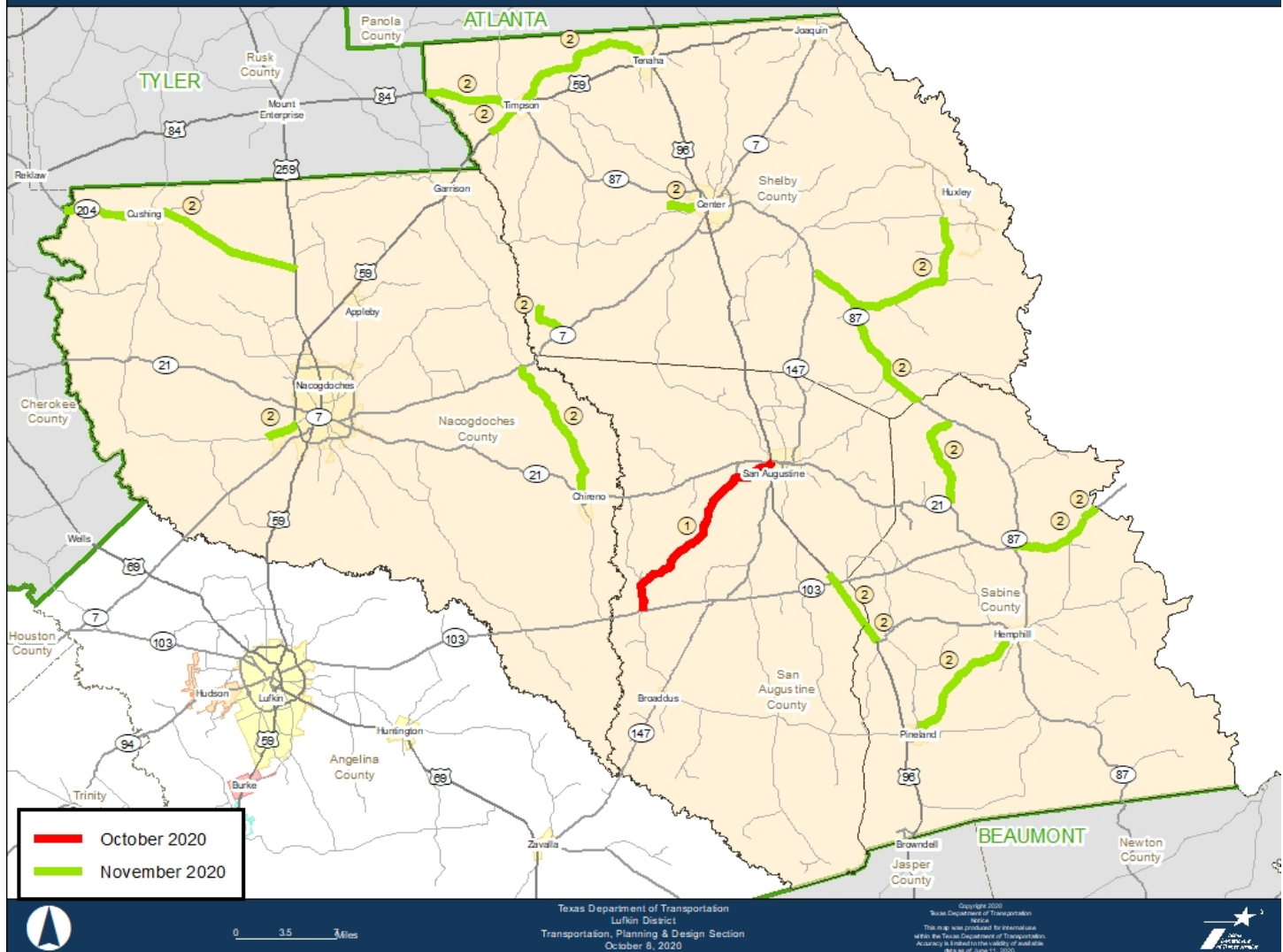
## UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Project Number	County	Highway	Description Of Work	Estimated Cost	ID
2553-01-115	Angelina	US 59	Convert Non-Freeway To Freeway	\$15,921,009.25	1
0109-07-053	Angelina	Various	District Wide Seal Coat	\$5,442,015.35	2

For more information, please visit the Project Tracker page at:  
[txdot.gov/inside-txdot/projects/project-tracker.html](https://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
0597-02-022	San Augustine	FM 1277	Roadway Rehabilitation/ Reconstruction	\$5,813,260.50	1
0109-07-053	Sabine	VA	District Wide Seal Coat	\$5,420,952.00	2

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

# DISTRICT CONTACTS

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**District Public Information Officer:**

Rhonda Oaks

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and Development:**

Ana I. Mijares, P.E.

**Director of Construction**

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**Director of Operations:**

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**I-69 Project Manager:**

Jennifer Adams

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# COUNTY MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR CONTACTS

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