

LUFKIN DISTRICT

NEWS

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San Augustine Maintenance Recognized for Outstanding Safety Record

Tim Monzingo, Public Information Officer

648 million seconds. 10.8 million minutes. 180,912 hours. 7511 days. 20 years.

It's been more than two decades since a San Augustine County Maintenance Office employee was injured on the job. Only four sections across the state can claim similar records, and in April, Texas Transportation Commission Acting Chair Alvin New surprised each of the four sections to celebrate the accomplishment.

Commissioner New provided a barbecue lunch and TxDOT hats for the section. Scott Duffey, the section supervisor, said New's visit was more surprising than learning about the record. "It was a surprise, but when I think about it, it really wasn't," he said. "I know we do everything we can do to go home with no incidents or injuries." Duffey believes it's the relationship between his section's employees that plays the biggest role in achieving a record like San Augustine's.



"It's the guys having the mindset to look out for each other and not being afraid to call a timeout if they see something that looks unsafe," he said. "Trust is key." He encouraged other supervisors to work with and listen to the people they lead, and to build those kinds of trusting, honest relationships.

"Just stress that there's no dumb questions," he said. "Give them all the opportunity they need to succeed."

2025 Transportation Alternatives Call for Projects

Jacee McHenry, Special Projects Coord & Jeremy King, Director of Transportation Ops

The 2025 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Call for Projects began in January 2025 and provides an opportunity for local governments within the Lufkin District to secure funding for Transportation Alternatives projects. These projects include improvements such as sidewalks, bike lanes, and Safe Routes to School plans—each aimed at enhancing safety and accessibility within our communities.

In November 2025, the TxDOT Lufkin District was awarded funding for three projects. The City of Nacogdoches received funding for an Active Transportation Plan, while the Cities of Coldspring and Livingston were awarded sidewalk construction projects. These investments represent meaningful steps toward improving mobility and safety in our local communities. We are excited to see these projects move forward and look forward to continuing our strong partnerships with these cities as these improvements take shape.

Strengthening Partnerships to Improve Traffic Safety

Melissa McKnight, Traffic Safety Specialist

The TxDOT Lufkin District recently hosted a series of Traffic Safety Stakeholder Meetings, bringing together local leaders, law enforcement, schools, and community partners to collaborate on one shared goal—reducing traffic-related injuries and fatalities in East Texas. These meetings served as an important opportunity to strengthen partnerships and create a forum for open discussion on roadway safety challenges and solutions specific to our communities. Participants reviewed the current state of District crash data, including key contributing factors such as speeding, impaired driving, distracted driving, and unrestrained vehicle occupants. Stakeholders also shared valuable insight on local trends and concerns.

A key focus of the meetings was identifying opportunities to work together more effectively. Attendees explored ways to enhance collaboration through enforcement, education, and outreach. One of the most significant outcomes of these meetings was the commitment to ongoing collaboration through the East Texas (ETX) Traffic Safety Coalition quarterly meetings. This approach will allow for continued dialogue, stronger local engagement, and a more consistent exchange of information and resources.

Moving forward, TxDOT and its partners will remain focused on raising awareness of traffic safety issues and encouraging safer driving behaviors. These efforts aim to create safer roadways and stronger communities across East Texas.

District Contractors Receives Sealcoat Award

Tim Monzingo, Public Information Officer

In May, the Lufkin District learned it had received the 2026 Region 5 Contract Sealcoat Award for work performed in 2025.

The Sealcoat Performance Improvement Program will present the district and contractors who performed the work with a plaque at the September Texas Asphalt Pavement Association Conference.



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

Summer is fast approaching and already things are heating up in the Lufkin District.

Seal coat operations are underway in the district. This year, our people will sealcoat more than 142 miles of pavement. It's a big operation, and will mean some traffic delays, but it's vital to maintaining our roads. If you happen to come across one of these work zones, please be sure to slow down and give our guys plenty of room to safely do their jobs. They appreciate it more than you know.

It goes without saying how proud I am at the safety record our San Augustine Maintenance Office was recognized for. Nearly a quarter of a century without an injury is an exceptional achievement. We are grateful for Commissioner New's surprise visit, and the lunch he provided. It's always a good feeling to see people get the recognition they deserve.

I'm pleased to announce big accomplishments from engineering assistants Spencer Branske and Lisa Biscamp. Both successfully passed their Fundamentals of Engineering exams in May. We also welcomed Freddy Briseno Serrano, P.E., as the Lufkin District Maintenance Engineer.

Three Traffic Safety Forums were held in May and provided us with very useful information on the steps we can take to prevent deaths on our roads. Those meetings were just the beginning, and I hope we can have even greater attendance at future meetings.

As you travel this summer, please remind your loved ones to buckle up, stay sober behind the wheel and watch the road. TxDOT's Safety Days of Summer isn't just applicable to our workers and contractors. Make the effort to be safe on the road, and you may just save a life.

Upcoming Local Letting Maintenance Projects

Contract Description	Estimated Value
BPM (South) Letting Date: June 2026	\$800,000
Specialty Pavement Markings Letting Date: July 2026	\$250,000
Crack Seal (North) Letting Date: July 2026	\$865,000
BPM-Clean & Seal Joints Letting Date: July 2026	\$600,000
BPM (North) Letting Date: July 2026	\$800,000
Crack Seal (South) Letting Date: July 2026	\$460,000
Mill & Inlay (South) Site Specific Letting Date: August 2026	\$888,000
MBGF Letting Date: August 2026	\$138,118
Tree & Brush Removal Letting Date: August 2026	\$179,000
Brine (Winter Weather Material) Letting Date: August 2026	\$90,000

Service Awards

April 2026	Years of Service
Gary L. Lovett	5 Years
Jody Duffey	5 Years
Kristopher L. Mettlen	5 Years
Lee Mahan	10 Years
Billy J. Hendry Jr.	20 Years

May 2026	Years of Service
Daniel C. Hampton	5 Years
Victor Shelton	10 Years
Kevin S. Hughes	25 Years
Cody Duffey	20 Years

June 2026	Years of Service
Randal S. Cooper	15 Years
Krista B. Cloonan	20 Years

I-69 Development in the Lufkin District

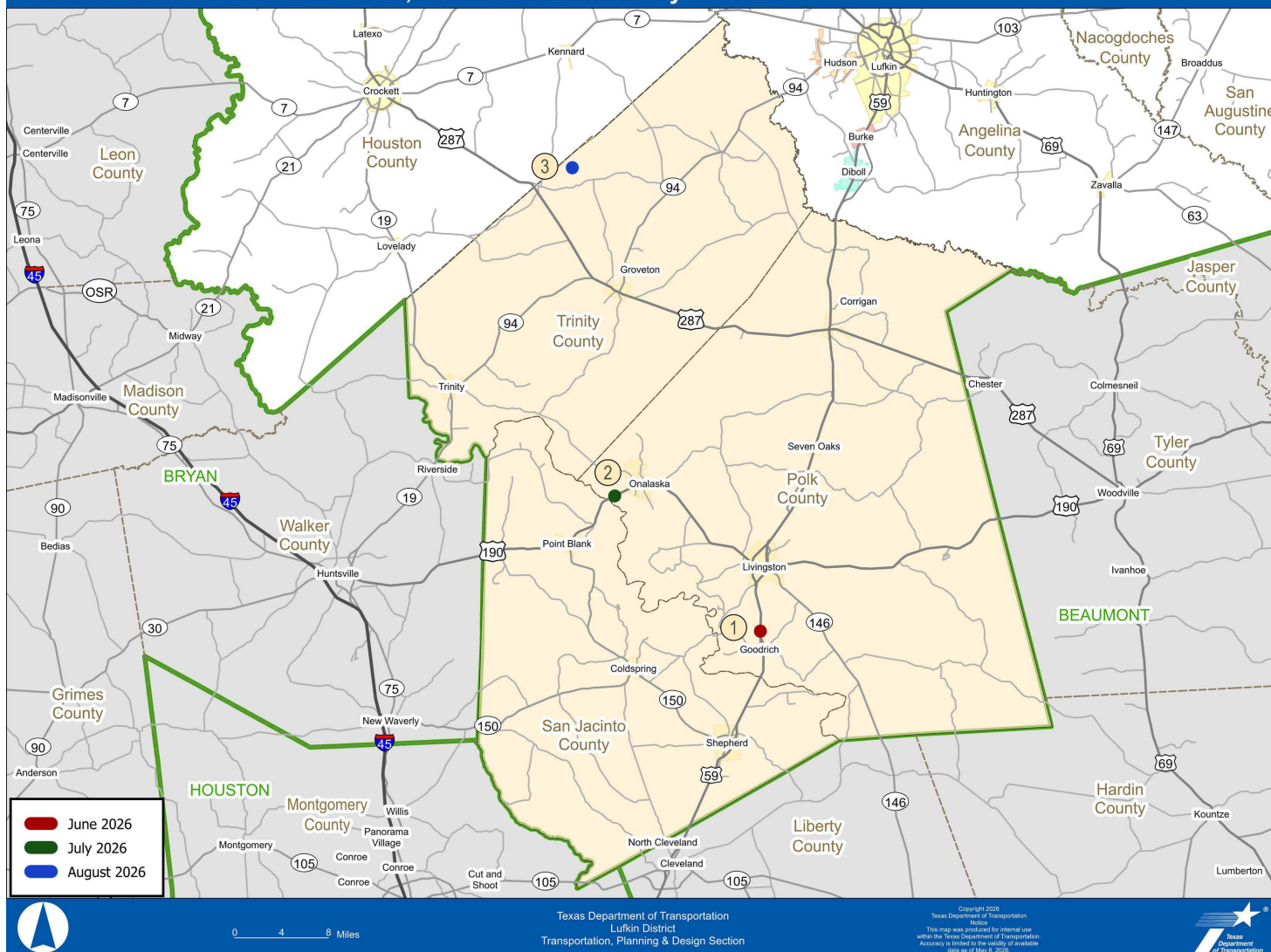
Jennifer Adams, Advance Transportation Planning Director

There are currently ten projects the Lufkin District is actively developing to meet interstate standards. Below is a brief status on each. For more information on I-69 projects development in the district, please visit our webpage **[Lufkin District I-69 Projects Overview](#)**.

- **[US 59/SL 224 South Interchange \(Under Construction\)](#)** - involves 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 fall 2019 and is scheduled for completion in early spring 2027, weather permitting.
- **[US 59 Upgrade Redland \(Under Construction\)](#)** - involves upgrading existing US 59 to a controlled-access roadway by adding frontage roads between SL 287 and FM 2021. Construction began late in 2022 and is scheduled for completion in late fall 2026, weather permitting.
- **[US 59 Corrigan Relief Route \(Under Construction\)](#)** - involves a new location controlled-access roadway, west of Corrigan. Construction began in fall 2022 and is scheduled for completion in winter 2028, weather permitting.
- **[US 59 Upgrade Sheperd to Cleveland \(Under Construction\)](#)** - involves upgrading existing US 59 to a controlled-access roadway by adding frontage roads between FM 2914 and SL 573. Construction began in 2023 and is scheduled for completion in fall 2029.
- **[US 59/US 259 North Nacogdoches Interchange \(Schematic\)](#)** - involves upgrading US 59 to a controlled-access roadway from Stallings Drive/SL 224 to 1.3 miles north of reconstructing the US 59/US 259 interchange and adding new frontage roads. ROW acquisitions are underway. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in winter 2029.
- **[US 59 Upgrade Shepherd to Trinity River \(Schematic\)](#)** - involves upgrading existing US 59 to a controlled-access roadway by adding frontage roads between FM 223 to just north of the Trinity River. ROW acquisitions are underway. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2030.
- **[US 59 Upgrade North Livingston \(Schematic\)](#)** - involves reconstructing the US 59/US 190 interchange and reconstructing US 59 main lanes and frontage roads from just south of US 190 to SL 116. TxDOT is currently working on the development of the schematic. A public meeting is being held on July 21, 2026. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2032.
- **[US 59 Upgrade South Livingston \(Feasibility\)](#)** - involves upgrading US 59 to a controlled-access roadway by reconstructing the US 59/FM 1988 interchange, reconstructing US 59 main lanes and adding frontage roads from just south of US 190 to 0.39 miles south of FM 1988. This project currently does not have construction funding identified.

Livingston Area Office

LIVINGSTON AREA OFFICE - Polk, San Jacinto and Trinity Counties



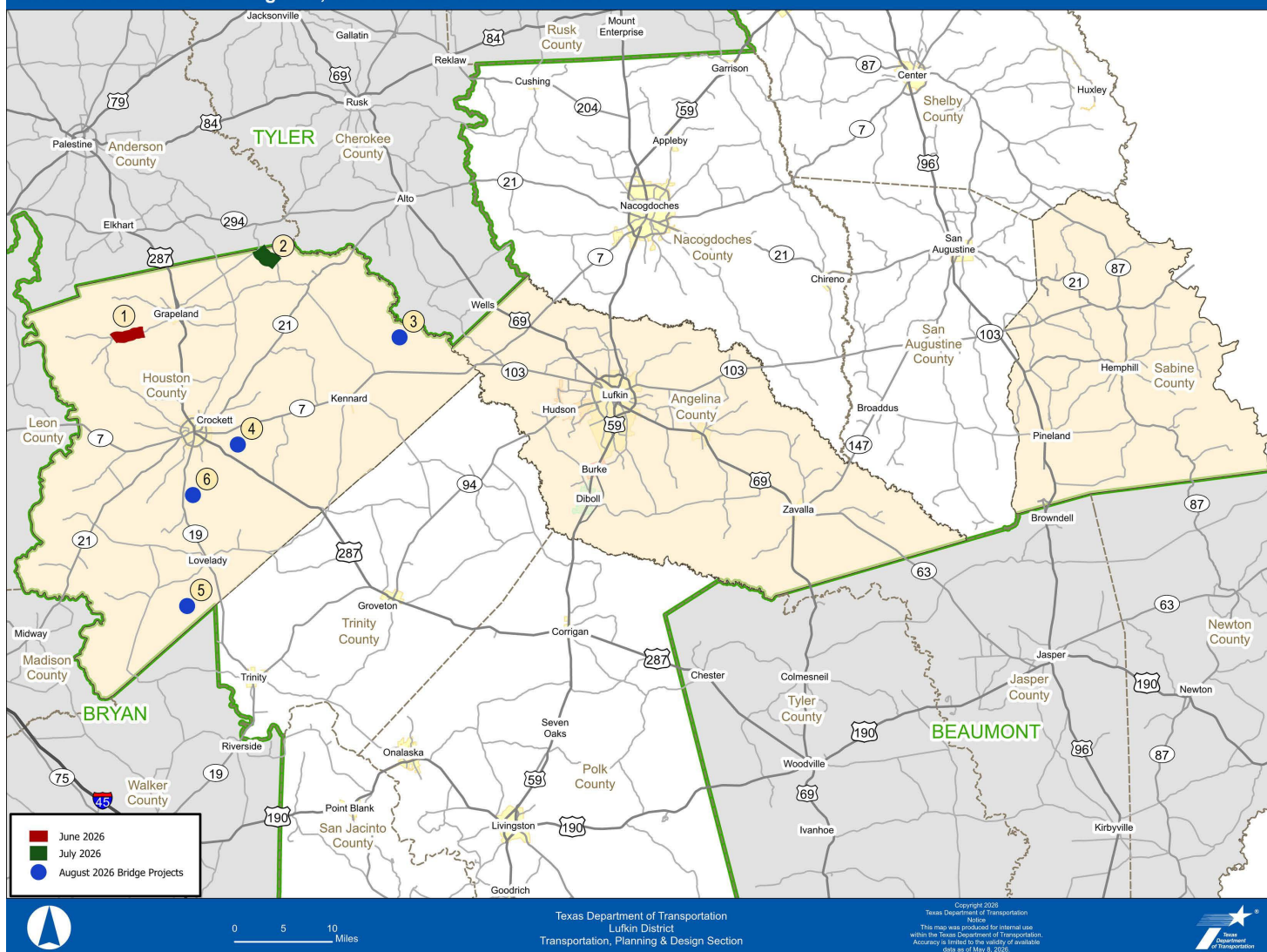
Upcoming Construction Projects

Project Number	County	Highway	Description of Work	Estimated Cost	ID
0177-01-121	Polk	US 59	Concrete repair, Joint repair, and Slope failure repairs - BMP	\$486,283.50	1
0213-03-112	Polk	US 190	Painting the steel members and general bridge maintenance	\$4,166,666.33	2
0911-40-032	Trinity	Reese RD	Replace Bridge and Approaches - HBP	\$444,000.00	3

For more information, please visit our [Project Tracker webpage](#).

Lufkin Area Office

LUFKIN AREA OFFICE - Angelina, Houston and Sabine Counties



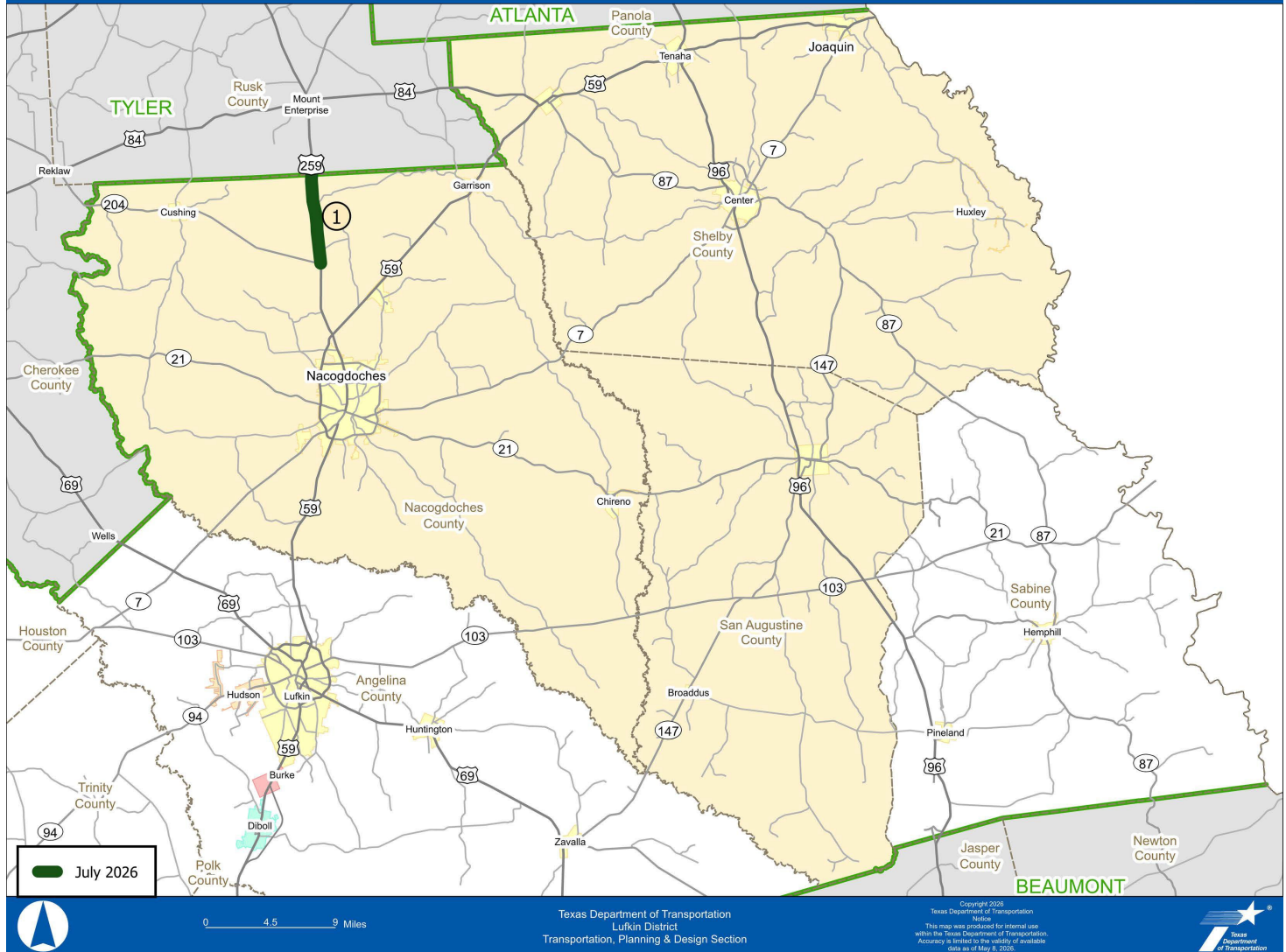
Upcoming Construction Projects

Project Number	County	Highway	Description of Work	Estimated Cost	ID
0937-01-027	Houston	FM 227	Reconstruct Existing Pavement, Safety Treat Fixed Objects, Milled Edgeline Rumble Strips, Provide Additional Paved Surface Width (28'), Milled Centerline Rumble Strips	\$4,825,456.82	1
3110-01-003	Houston	FM 3016	Safety Treat Fixed Objects, Milled Edgeline Rumble Strips, Rehab Existing and Provide Additional Paved Surface Width, Milled Centerline Rumble Strips	\$4,276,526.32	2
0911-28-082	Houston	CR 1170	Replace Bridge and Approaches – HBP	\$668,000.00	3
0911-28-083	Houston	CR 4505	Replace Bridge and Approaches – HBP	\$443,000.00	4
0911-28-085	Houston	CR 3610	Replace Bridge and Approaches – HBP	\$443,000.00	5
0911-28-086	Houston	CR 4030	Replace Bridge and Approaches – HBP	\$488,000.00	6

For more information, please visit our [Project Tracker webpage](#).

Nacogdoches Area Office

NACOGDOCHES AREA OFFICE - Nacogdoches, San Augustine and Shelby Counties



Upcoming Construction Projects

Project Number	County	Highway	Description of Work	Estimated Cost	ID
0138-06-047	Nacogdoches	US 259	Construct Shoulders and Add Center Left Turn Lane	\$71,672,000.00	1

For more information, please visit our [Project Tracker webpage](#).

District Contacts

District Engineer:

Kelly O. Morris, P.E.

Kelly.Morris@txdot.gov

District Public Information Officer:

Timothy Monzingo

Timothy.Monzingo@txdot.gov

Director of Maintenance:

Kevin Buranakitipinyo, P.E.

Kevn.Buranakitipinyo@txdot.gov

Director of Transportation Planning and Development:

Matt Brazil, P.E.

Matt.Brazil@txdot.gov

Advance Transportation Planning Director:

Jennifer Adams

Jennifer.Adams@txdot.gov

Director of Construction:

Shannon Q. Ramos, P.E.

Shannon.Ramos@txdot.gov

Director of Transportation Operations:

Jeremy King, P.E.

Jeremy.King@txdot.gov

Lufkin District Office

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

Jesse.Sisco@txdot.gov

Livingston Area Office:

Clint Jones, P.E.

3161 US 59 N.

Livingston, Tx 77351

936-327-8981

Clint.Jones@txdot.gov

Nacogdoches Area Office:

Randal Cooper, P.E.

918 Industrial Blvd

Nacogdoches, Tx 75961

936-585-7043

Randal.Cooper@txdot.gov

County Maintenance Supervisor Contacts

Angelina:

Steven Harris

936-634-3414

Steven.Harris@txdot.gov

Houston:

Danny Luna

936-544-2264

Danny.Luna@txdot.gov

Nacogdoches:

Milton Kelly

936-598-4113

Milton.Kelly@txdot.gov

Polk:

James Hanagan

936-327-8914

James.Henagan@txdot.gov

Sabine:

William Emmons

936-544-2264

William.Emmons@txdot.gov

San Jacinto:

Chester Dixon

936-628-3328

Chester.Dixon@txdot.gov

San Augustine:

Scott Duffey

936-275-9671

Scott.Duffey@txdot.gov

Shelby:

Drew Higginbotham

936-590-7276

Drew.Higginbotham@txdot.gov

Trinity:

Thomas Smith

936-642-1132

Thomas.V.Smith@txdot.gov

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