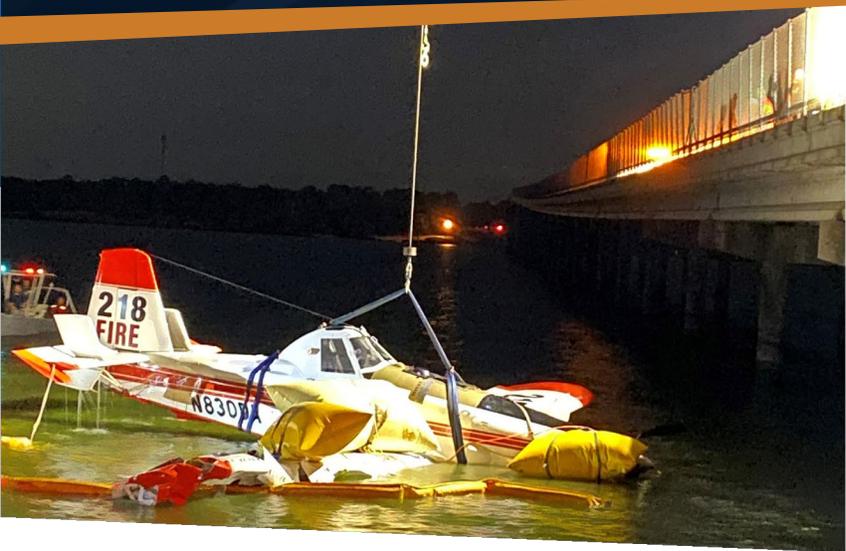


# LUFKIN DISTRICT

NEWS | FALL 2022



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## MULTI-AGENCIES WORK TO RETRIEVE AIRCRAFT

It was all in a day's work as TxDOT crews worked the wee hours of August 12 to assist in the retrieval of a downed aircraft from Lake Livingston near US 190 West.

The Fire Boss single-engine air tanker crashed into the lake while responding to wildfires in Polk County. The pilot was treated and released at the scene, and several agencies came together to begin planning the plane's retrieval.

A complete road closure was set for US 190 that included the Lake Livingston Causeway Bridge. The closure began in early morning hours and lasted until about 6 a.m. As TxDOT crews set barricades and assisted with traffic control, the successful retrieval was completed in coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Transportation Safety Board, Onalaska Police Department, Texas Department of Public Safety, the Polk County and San Jacinto County Sheriff's Departments, and HazMat.

Once the retrieval was completed, a small amount of airplane fuel was lost from the plane's wreckage during transport and required HazMat and TxDOT crews to continue to work to clear the roadway, which was fully opened to traffic by peak travel hours.

Wildfires were a constant concern in several Lufkin District counties through the dry summer months, with several occurring in Polk and Trinity counties. TxDOT was proud to be able to assist and work alongside multiple agencies as they successfully retrieved this specialized aircraft. These types of airplanes are made available to the Texas Forest Service through federal aviation contracts with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

# TRAFFIC SAFETYEVENTS

Join us for the annual #EndTheStreakTX safety campaign press event at the Lufkin District Complex, 1805 N. Timberland Dr., Lufkin, TX at 11 a.m. on Nov. 9, 2022 to learn how you can help end the daily deaths on Texas roadways.



*Teen Academy was held July 19-20, 2022 in Nacogdoches with 55 in attendance for the two-day event. Presentations from the Nacogdoches Police Department, TxDOT, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Watch UR BAC and Child Passenger Safety, Allie's Way, The Coalition, and the Alcohol & Drug Abuse Council helped educate the teens on traffic safety, distracted driving and the effects of drugs.*

## DE CORNER



*Kelly O. Morris, P.E.*

As summer winds down and we look to the fall of 2022, I could not be more excited about the ongoing work and some major projects scheduled to start in the Lufkin District in coming months. Our crews have worked tirelessly through the summer heat and projects have moved forward, all while exhibiting safe practices through the workday and in work zones.

You will want to read about our ongoing projects and see how upgrades to US 59 are bringing it closer to possible I 69 designations. The section maps and I 69 updates will inform you, as well as our upcoming maintenance contracts and construction projects that are either ongoing or scheduled to begin in coming months.

Also, you will want to read about district Traffic Safety events that have been held throughout the summer and those we are planning for fall and winter. Traffic Safety is an important part of what we do and promoting the safety message works as a daily reminder to drivers of the importance of staying safe.

Most of our work is connecting you with where you want to be in a safe, efficient manner. But sometimes, that work calls us outside the lines of what we do each day. Such was the recent event when we were called upon to help state and federal agencies retrieve a downed aircraft from Lake Livingston. The work took most of the night to complete and required a major highway closure. By daylight, the roadway was open, and the aircraft had been successfully removed from lake waters. I am proud of the joint effort our crews made in this multi-agency operation. I know you will want to read about this unusual day's work.

We are also proud to have two (not so new) faces in important roles within the district. Matt Brazil, P.E., has been named as Director of Transportation, Planning and Development. Jennifer Adams has been named Advanced Transportation Planning Director and continues to serve as the I 69 Coordinator. We welcome their experience and knowledge to these important district positions.

Hope you all had a great summer, and we look forward to cooler weather and some happy holidays that are right around the corner. Safe travels!

# DISTRICT NAMES TWO TO KEY POSITIONS



Jennifer Adams

Two familiar faces have recently been named to key positions in the Lufkin District. Jennifer Adams has been named as Advance Transportation Planning Director effective May 24, 2022.

Adams began her TxDOT career in December 1998 at the Lufkin Area Office as an Engineering

Technician. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree from Stephen F. Austin State University, Adams was named Environmental Specialist in 2003 for the Lufkin District.

In 2014, Adams was named I-69 Project Manager and District Planner working to help develop and advance the I-69 corridor projects.

Adams and her husband, Cory, live in Nacogdoches and have been married for 22 years. They have three fur-baby children (Rosie, Lake, and Reese).

When not working, Adams enjoys collecting plants and traveling with her husband.

Matt Brazil, P.E., was named Director of Transportation, Planning and Development effective April 11, 2022.

After earning a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University in December 2007, Brazil worked in the private sector with a geotechnical and materials testing consultant.



Matt Brazil

Brazil began his TxDOT career in July 2010 in the Lufkin Central Design office. In December 2012, he became a licensed professional engineer and served in the Nacogdoches Area Office as project engineer for the US 84 Sabine River Bridge construction project between Joaquin, TX and Logansport, LA. The project required intensive

coordination with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

In July 2015, Brazil was named Assistant Area Engineer for the Nacogdoches Area Office, and was then named Nacogdoches Area Engineer in January 2018. He was responsible for the construction and maintenance in Nacogdoches, Sabine, San Augustine, and Shelby counties.

In January 2022, he was appointed as Lufkin District Design Engineer where was responsible for developing the Lufkin District's portfolio of projects in the Unified Transportation Program.

Brazil and his wife, Lauren, have been married for 13 years and have four daughters, Paige, 11, Claire, 10, Emma, 8, and Lilly, 3.

When not working, Brazil enjoys spending time with his family and watching Texas A&M sports.

# FALL 2022 MAINTENANCE LETTING LIST

RMC#	Counties	Contract Description	Letting	Engineer's Estimate
RMC 6403-05-001	South Counties	BPM (South)	Sep. 2022	\$216,468.00
RMC 6403-03-001	North Counties	BPM (North)	Sep. 2022	\$497,920.00
RMC 6408-26-001	Houston	Tree Removal & Tree Trimming	Sep. 2022	\$250,000.00
RMC 6415-42-001	Angelia	Spot Pavement Markings	Sep. 2022	\$270,880.00
RMC 6415-50-001	Polk	Spot Pavement Markings	Sep. 2022	\$270,880.00
TBD	Shelby	Tree Removal	Oct. 2022	\$220,000.00
RMC 6412-03-001	Angelina	LSSLC TV Road Rehab	Oct. 2022	\$296,324.00
RMC 6386-42-001	Angelina	Conc Pavement and Curb Repair	Nov. 2022	\$220,000.00
TBD	Shelby	Ditch Cleaning	Nov. 2022	\$220,000.00
RMC 6418-29-002	Trinity	Metal Beam Guard Fence Repair	Nov. 2022	\$200,000.00
RMC 6418-11-001	San Jacinto	Metal Beam Guard Fence Repair	Dec. 2022	\$200,000.00

# 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”.

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”.

**1 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 2024.

**2 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 Spring 2025.

**3 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 began in 2021 and scheduled for completion in Spring 2023.

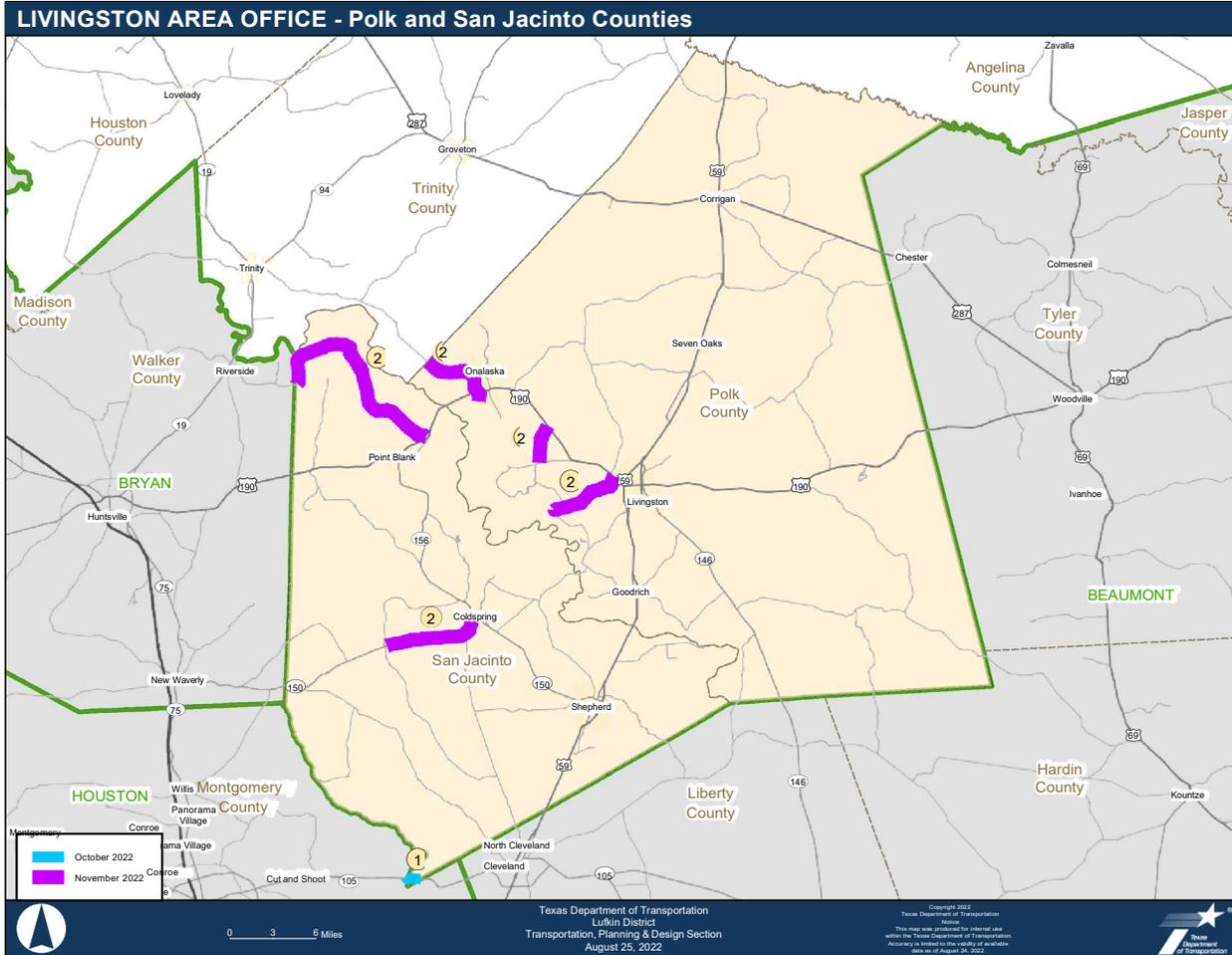
**4 US 59 Upgrade in Redland between SL 287 and FM 2021** – project involves upgrading existing US 59 to a controlled access roadway by adding frontage roads. TxDOT received environmental clearance and completed ROW mapping. ROW acquisitions and demolition are complete. Utility relocations will begin in December. Construction is anticipated to begin in Fall 2022.

**5 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 and demolition are complete. Utility relocations are underway. Construction is anticipated to begin in Winter 2022.

**6 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 and demolition has begun. Upon completion of ROW acquisition and demolition, utility relocations will begin. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in Winter 2023.

**7 US 59/US 259 North Nacogdoches Interchange** – this project involves converting existing US 59 to a four-lane controlled access freeway from FM 343 to just north of the US 59/US 259 interchange. The proposed project would include reconstructing the US 59/US 259 interchange to eliminate the current cloverleaf configuration and adding new frontage roads. TxDOT has hired a consultant who began field surveying in late 2020. This survey data will be used to begin schematic and environmental studies. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2029.

# LIVINGSTON AREA OFFICE



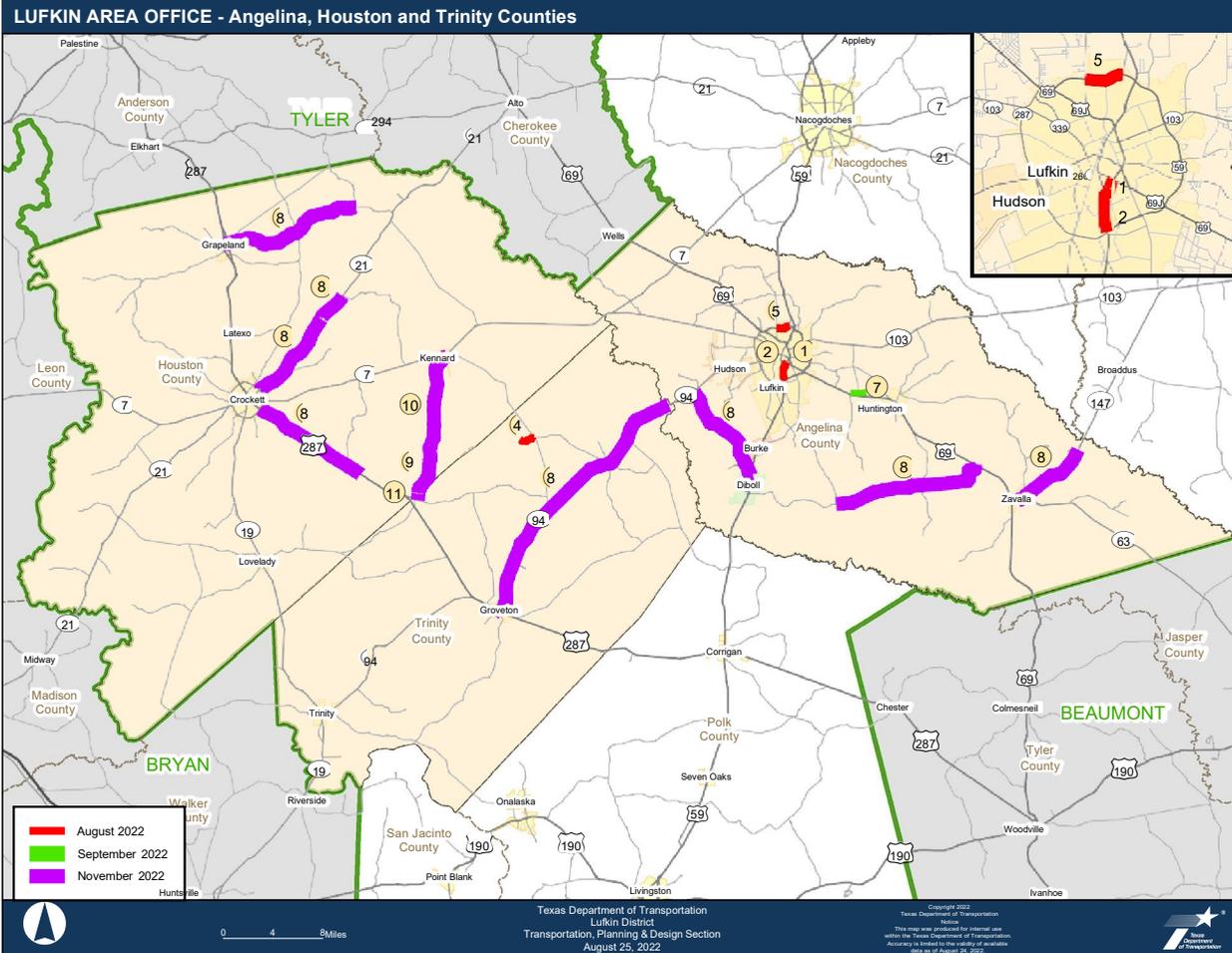
## UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Project Number	County	Highway	Description of work	Estimated Cost	ID
0338-06-011	San Jacinto	SH 105	"Widen from 2 to 4 Lanes Divided HOUSTON DISTRICT"	\$12,478,773.22	1
0064-01-069, etc	Various	VA	Districtwide Seal Coat**	\$1,865,323.64	2

\*\* 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://txdot.gov/inside-txdot/projects/project-tracker.html)

# LUFKIN AREA OFFICE



## UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Project Number	County	Highway	Description of work	Estimated Cost	ID
0176-02-125	Angelina	BU 59G	Install Sidewalk - LFK Road to Zero Project - RTZ	\$288,659.10	1
0176-03-138	Angelina	BU 59G	Install Sidewalk - LFK Road to Zero Project - RTZ	\$1,074,394.65	2
0911-00-124 *	Various	VA	Variety - Traffic Signal Installs, LED Stop Signs, Warning Signs, Illumination, Curve Warning Signs - LFK Road to Zero Project - RTZ	\$729,726.09	3
0931-04-034	Trinity	FS 357	Provide Additional Paved Surface Width to 26', Safety Treat Fixed Objects, Profile Edgeline Markings, Profile Centerline Markings	\$1,648,548.43	4
2553-01-122	Angelina	US 69	Intersection Improvements - LFK Road to Zero Project - RTZ	\$169,766.28	5
0911-00-113 *	Various	VA	Districtwide Bridge Repair Maintenance	\$490,225.00	6
3264-01-010	Angelina	FM 326	Reconstruct and Widen Pavement	\$2,186,829.65	7
0064-01-069, etc	Various	VA	Districtwide Seal Coat **	\$4,453,449.56	8
2707-01-011	Houston	FM 2781	Reconstruct and Widen Pavement	\$3,825,206.00	9
2707-01-014	Houston	FM 2781	Provide Additional Paved Surface Width to 26', Safety Treat Fixed Objects, Profile Edgeline Markings, Profile Centerline Markings	\$8,270,000.00	10
2707-01-014	Houston	FM 2781	Provide Additional Paved Surface Width to 26', Safety Treat Fixed Objects, Profile Edgeline Markings, Profile Centerline Markings	\$8,270,000.00	11
2707-02-008	Trinity	FM 2781	Reconstruct and Widen Pavement	\$571,000.00	12

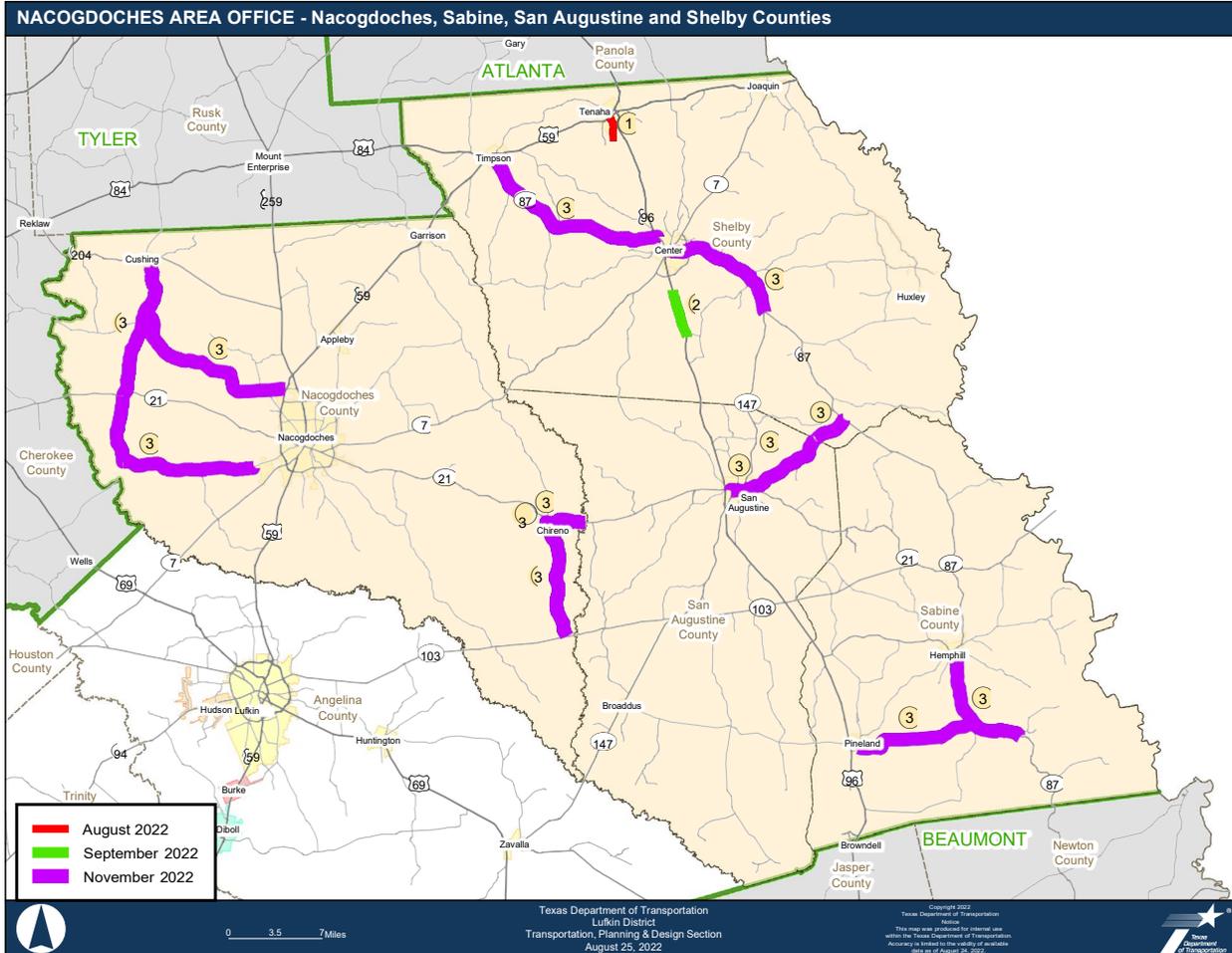
\* Project not mapped

\*\* 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](https://txdot.gov/inside-txdot/projects/project-tracker.html)

# NACOGDOCHES AREA OFFICE



## UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Project Number	County	Highway	Description of work	Estimated Cost	ID
2893-01-018	Shelby	FM 947	Provide Additional Paved Surface Width to 26', Safety Treat Fixed Objects, Profile Edgeline Markings, Profile Centerline Markings	\$2,185,617.71	1
0809-02-070	Shelby	US 96	Add Passing Lanes and Overlay Existing Pavement	\$8,514,545.80	2
0064-01-069, etc	Various	VA	Districtwide Seal Coat**	\$5,660,576.53	3

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

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 (LFK) DISTRICT CONTACTS

**District Engineer**  
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**District Public Information Officer**  
Rhonda Oaks

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Matt Brazil

**Director of Construction**  
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**Director of Operations**  
Kevin Buranakitipinyo, P.E.

**I-69 Project Manager / Advanced Transportation Planning Director**  
Jennifer Adams

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Lufkin, TX 75901  
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## LFK AREA ENGINEERS

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**Nacogdoches Area Office**  
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