

LUFKIN DISTRICT

NEWS



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To learn more about
Lufkin District projects,
visit: 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

Check out TxDOT's 10-year Unified
Transportation Program (UTP) at:
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>

Rising To The Challenge

With these unsettling times and unprecedented working conditions for most of us, TxDOT is rising to new challenges as we construct and maintain Texas roadways. Lufkin District crews are working under challenging conditions, including 'social distancing' on the job site. Many of our employees are working from home, but continue to deliver the same high-quality work and results you expect.

TxDOT.gov works to link you to excellent sources of information where you can find the latest facts on COVID-19, including the link for the Texas Department of State Health Services' coronavirus web page, the best source of COVID-19 health-related information in Texas.

TxDOT's Travel Information Center lobbies are closed until further notice, while the following services continue: Travel counselors are available from 8-5, M-F, to answer calls at (800) 452-9292. Road conditions are available 24/7, seven days a week, at (800) 452-9292 and at www.drivetexas.org. Safety rest areas remain open, although Texans should avoid gathering in groups larger than 10, per government requirements. In-person public meetings and hearings have been postponed and Texas Transportation Commission meetings will be conducted virtually. A list of meeting dates and information is available at txdot.gov.

Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website for additional guidance and recommendations to be informed and stay healthy. You can also dial 2-1-1 and choose option 6 to get information about COVID-19 and related resources. We are all in this together with the goal of rising to the challenge as we work each day with new strategies to keep us all healthy. ■

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)



You can help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses with these actions:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose & mouth.
- Practice social distancing by putting space between yourself & others.
- Wash hands often with soap & water for at least 20 seconds.



cdc.gov/coronavirus

316159-A March 25, 2020 8:00 AM

What Is *Stokesia laevis*?



Lufkin District Environmental Specialist Matt Buckingham recently had his research published in the November edition of *Phytoneuron*, a digital publication in plant biology. The publication specializes in miscellaneous reports on taxonomy, floristics and geographical distribution of vascular plants.

Matt's research included information on *Stokesia laevis* (Asteraceae), a native flora of Texas, located in northern Jasper County. You can read the article in its entirety here: <http://www.phytoneuron.net/2019Phytoneuron/56PhytoN-StokesialaevisTexas.pdf>. Matt co-authored the article with Pete M. Loos, Ecovirons, Inc.; Thomas C. Philipps, United States Forest Service; Eric L. Keith, Raven Environmental Services, Inc.; Jason R. Singhurst, Nongame and Rare Species/Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; and Walter C.

Holmes, Department of Biology, Baylor University. The group was notified by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in Austin that the article was approved for publication.

If not for the research, most of us would not know that the *Stokesia laevis* is reportedly new to the Texas flora. This species can be found near the slopes along the drainageways between sandhill ridges and on banks of small perennial side streams flowing into a spring-fed stream in the Angelina National Forest tucked beneath the long-leaf pines.

While new to Texas forests, the *Stokesia laevis* also makes its home in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and South Carolina. The article acknowledged the U.S. Forest Service for providing access to the plants, managing the landscape through its prescribed burn program and future potential opportunity to continue the study. ■

Lufkin District Receives Award

It was April 24, 2019, when skies grew dark and residents of San Augustine County knew it was not just another thunderstorm.

Two tornadoes touched down and left trails of debris across the county, leaving roads impassable, homes destroyed and residents injured or trapped. Lufkin District crews went to work and continued working through the night and the days to follow to clear roadways so emergency crews could reach those in need. Once the emergency had passed, crews began the task of helping clean and restore the area which took several weeks. Many residents were left with damaged or destroyed homes and downed trees and power lines littered throughout the county.

Lufkin District partnered with local law enforcement and first responders to help residents of San Augustine and the surrounding area. For those efforts, the San Augustine County Chamber of Commerce awarded the Lufkin District the Excellence in Public Service Award January 21st at the Historic Museum Theatre in San Augustine. Nacogdoches Area Engineer Matt Brazil and San Augustine Maintenance Supervisor Kealon Hightower accepted the award on behalf of the district. TxDOT is proud to have been a part of the clean-up and restoration efforts in San Augustine County. ■





D.E. Corner
Cheryl P. Flood, P.E.

I want to preface the introduction to our Spring newsletter by saying how proud I am of our district employees in these unsettling times of dealing with COVID-19. They continue to step up to new work environment challenges and social distancing. We remain committed to building and maintaining roadways so that much-needed supplies can be delivered. We will get through this time and when we can all travel again untethered by any of the pandemic's restraints, our roadways will continue to connect you with Texas and what matters most. I know you will enjoy reading about what TxDOT as an agency is doing to work through the COVID-19 challenges and how our website www.txdot.gov continues to provide current information.

You will also read about Matt Buckingham, TxDOT Biologist, who was recently published in Phytoneuron, a digital publication in plant biology. Matt is a great example of the knowledgeable employees we have working for TxDOT.

We are very proud of the Excellent In Public Service Award presented to us by the San Augustine Chamber of Commerce recently. The district was recognized for our assistance and restoration after tornadoes swept through the area in 2019. We appreciate the recognition from the chamber and city of San Augustine.

I encourage you to read the I 69 update and project pages. These updates are designed to keep you informed of ongoing and planned projects.

Enjoy the weather but please remember - be safe, and stay home as much as possible so we can all stay healthy.



Photo above of US 59/SL 224 South Interchange construction project.

UPCOMING LOCAL LETTING MAINTENANCE PROJECTS	
Contract Description	Estimated Value
Spot texturing: Districtwide Letting date: 4/15/20	\$275,250
Large Sign Maintenance: Districtwide Letting Date: 4/15/20	\$168,250
Specialty Pavement Markings: Districtwide Letting Date: 4/22/20	\$165,070
Traffic Signal Maintenance: Districtwide Letting Date: 4/22/20	\$263,250
Illumination Maintenance: Districtwide Letting Date: 4/29/20	\$253,035
Thermoplastic Striping: Districtwide Letting Date: 4/29/20	\$272,775



Photo above of COVID-19 Screening Station at SH 21 Pendleton Bridge.

I-69 DEVELOPMENT IN THE LUFKIN DISTRICT

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

At this time, there are eight projects the Lufkin District are 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: <https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/projects/studies/lufkin/i-69-projects-overview.html>



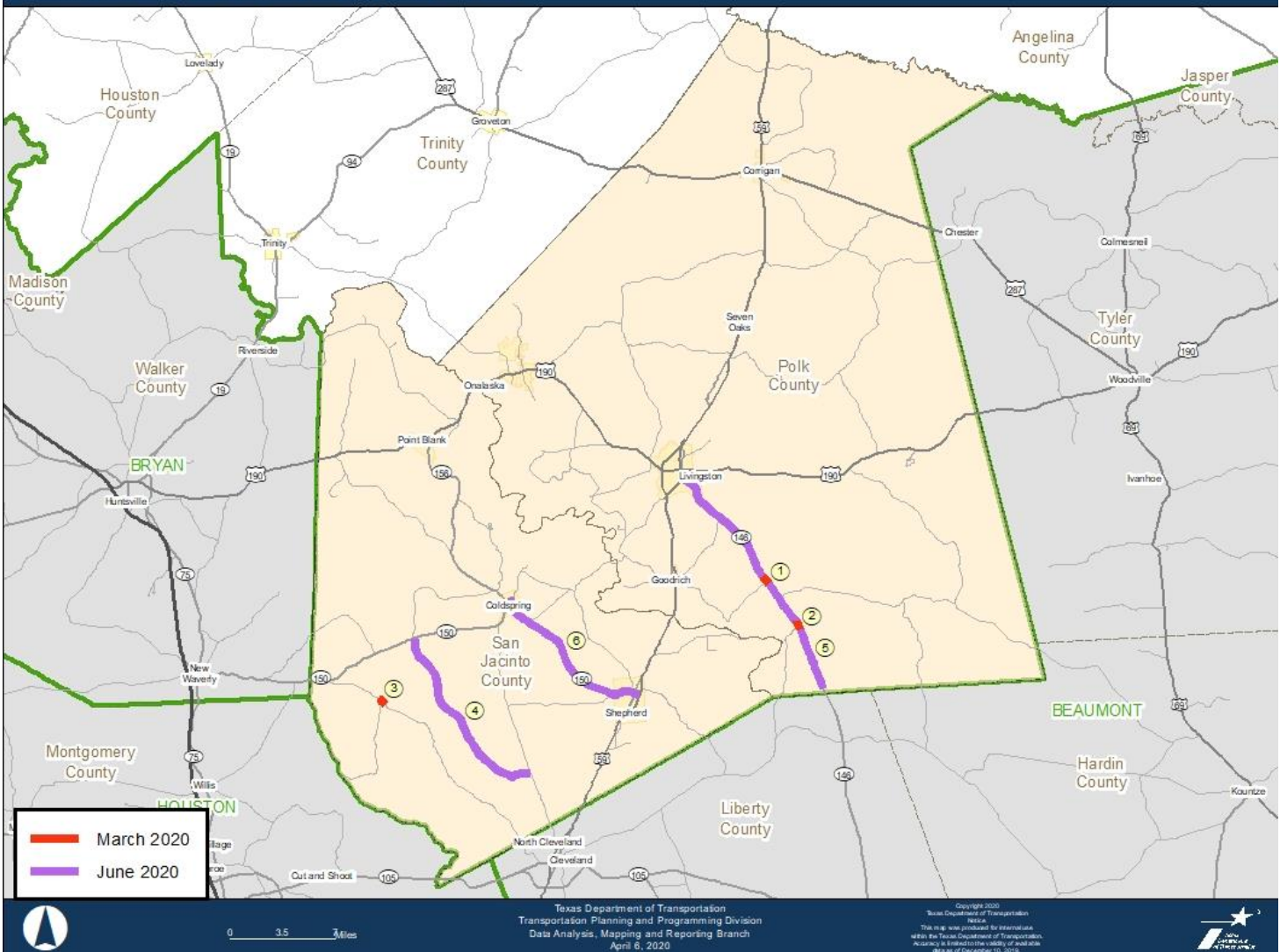
Driven by Texans

- **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 will begin in Spring 2020 and is anticipated to be complete Spring 2025.
- **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. Preparation of engineering plans, right-of-way (ROW) acquisition and demolition are underway. Once the ROW is clear, utility relocations will begin. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2020.
- **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. ROW acquisitions are underway and TxDOT has started preparation of engineering plans. 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. ROW acquisitions have begun. TxDOT has started preparation of engineering plans. 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. ROW acquisitions have begun and TxDOT has started preparing engineering plans. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2023.
- **COMING SOON - US 59/US 259 North Interchange** – having received construction funding in the 2020 United Transportation Program (UTP), this project involves upgrading existing US 59/US 259 interchange to meet interstate standards. Schematic and environmental studies anticipated to begin Fall 2020. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2029.
- **COMING SOON - US 59 Upgrade in San Jacinto between FM 223 and Trinity River** – having received construction funding in the 2020 UTP, this project involves upgrading existing US 59 to a controlled access roadway by adding frontage roads to meet interstate standards. Schematic and environmental studies anticipated to begin early 2021. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2029. ■



Livingston Area Office

LIVINGSTON AREA OFFICE - Polk and San Jacinto Counties



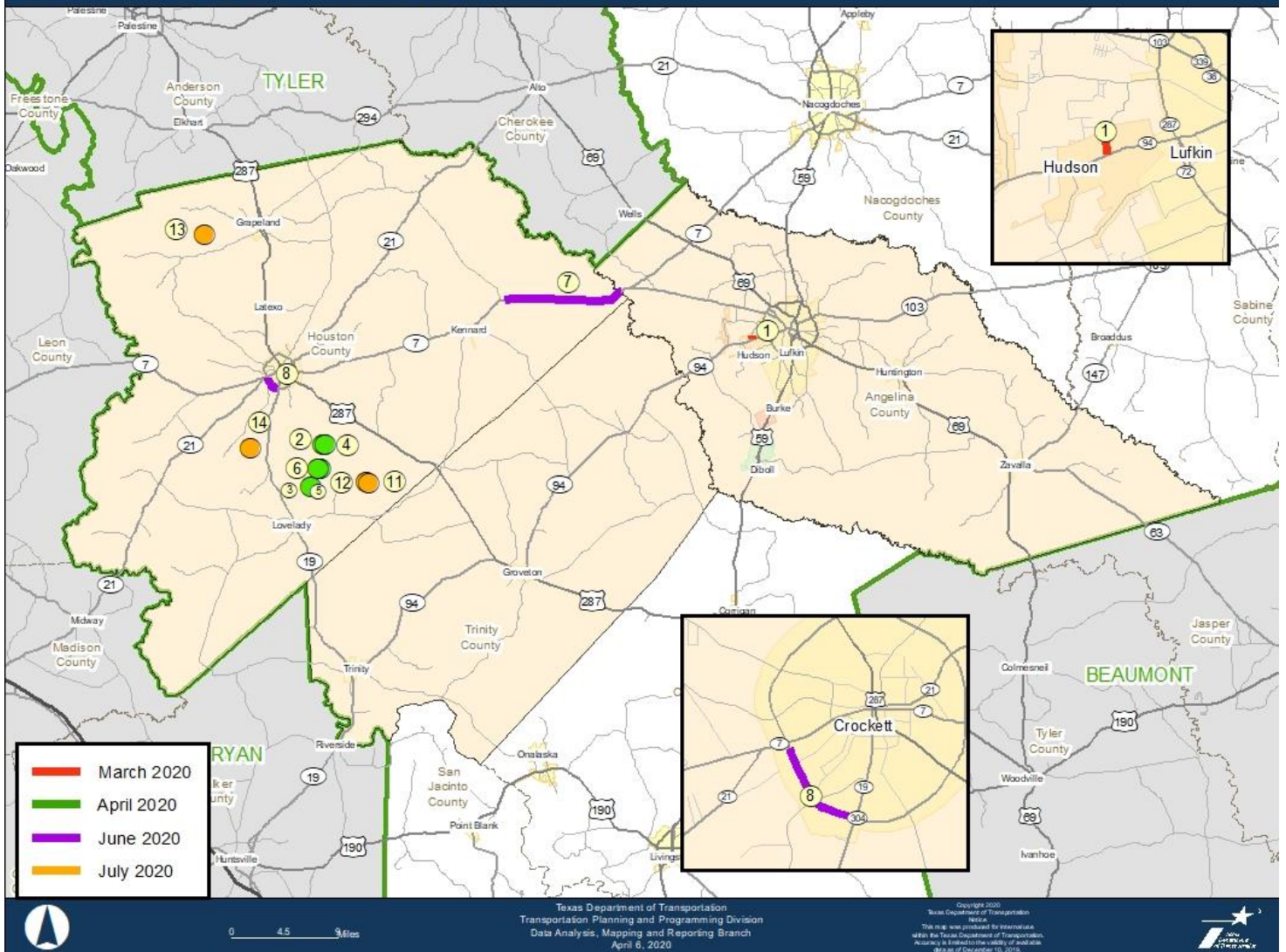
UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Project Number	County	Highway	Description Of Work	Estimated Cost	ID
0388-01-060	Polk	SH 146	Install Flashing Beacon at FM 2665	\$99,953.00	1
0388-01-061	Polk	SH 146	Install Flashing Beacon at FM 2610	\$99,953.00	2
1582-01-028	San Jacinto	FM 1725	Install Flashing Beacon at FM 3081	\$53,821.00	3
0756-05-019	San Jacinto	FM 945	Replace Guardrail	\$241,767.00	4
0388-01-059	Polk	SH 146	Replace Guardrail	\$249,391.00	5
0395-03-046	San Jacinto	SH 150	Replace Guardrail	\$566,075.00	6

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

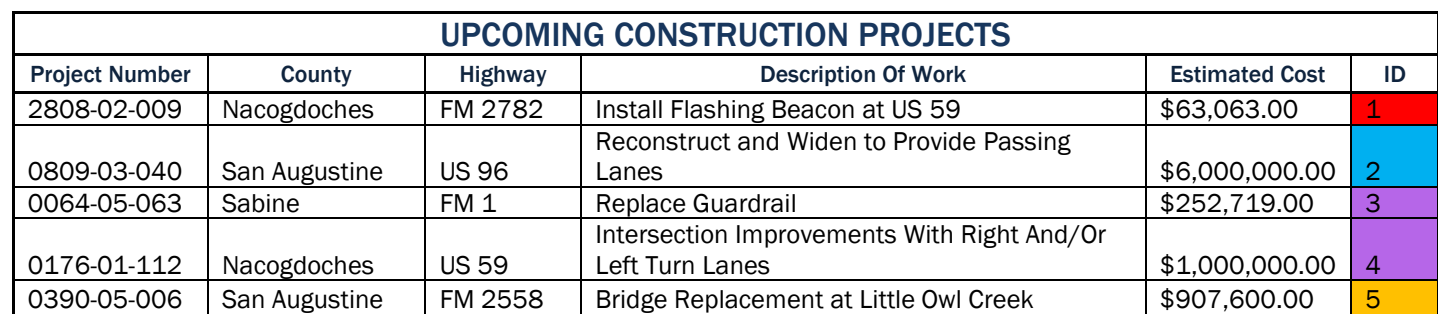


UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Project Number	County	Highway	Description Of Work	Estimated Cost	ID
2960-01-013	Angelina	FM 1194	INSTALL FLASHING BEACON	\$47,484.00	1
0911-28-047	Houston	CR 4025	Bridge Replacement at Gail Creek	\$660,000.00	2
0911-28-050	Houston	CR 4025	Bridge Replacement at Box Creek	\$670,000.00	3
0911-28-057	Houston	CR 4025	Bridge Replacement at Gail Creek	\$600,000.00	4
0911-28-058	Houston	CR 4025	Bridge Replacement at Gail Creek	\$650,000.00	5
0911-28-059	Houston	CR 4025	Bridge Replacement at Tributary of Gail Creek	\$600,000.00	6
0336-02-026	Houston	SH 7	Replace Guardrail	\$426,266.00	7
1854-01-048	Houston	SL 304	Rehab and Widen to Provide Right Turn Lane	\$3,800,000.00	8
0911-00-082	Angelina	VA **	Construct Pedestrian Sidewalks	\$2,500,000.00	9
0911-00-103	Angelina	VA **	Profile Pavement Markings/Milled Rumble Strips	\$3,165,603.84	10
0911-28-039	Houston	CR 4180	Bridge Replacement at White Rock Creek	\$660,000.00	11
0911-28-056	Houston	CR 4180	Bridge Replacement at Tributary to White Rock Creek	\$600,000.00	12
0911-28-043	Houston	CR 2235	Bridge Replacement at Big Elkhart Creek	\$566,000.00	13
0911-28-046	Houston	CR 3365	Bridge Replacement at Tantabogue Creek	\$665,000.00	14
0911-40-029	Trinity	VA **	Construct Pedestrian Sidewalks in Groveton	\$808,538.00	15

**indicates various locations not mapped above

NA COGDOCHES AREA OFFICE - Nacogdoches, Sabine, San Augustine and Shelby Counties



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DISTRICT CONTACTS

District Engineer:

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District Public Information Officer:

Rhonda Oaks

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and Development:**

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Director of Construction

Shannon Q. Ramos, P.E.

Director of Operations:

Kevin Buranakitipinyo, P.E.

I-69 Project Manager:

Jennifer Adams

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Nacogdoches Area Engineer
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