

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)

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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)

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Lufkin Names Two New Area Engineers

The Lufkin District recently named two area engineers to replace open positions in the Nacogdoches Area Office and the Livingston Area Office.



Randal Cooper, P.E. will serve as the Nacogdoches area engineer, effective March 9. Cooper joined the Lufkin District in 2012 as part of the Engineering Assistant Program as he worked to obtain his Professional Engineer (PE) license, which he earned in 2015. He served as assistant area engineer in the Lufkin Area Office where he managed the US 59/FM 2021 grade separation construction project. In 2019, he moved to the Nacogdoches Area Office to serve as assistant area engineer. Cooper will oversee projects in Nacogdoches, Shelby, San Augustine and Sabine counties. He currently manages more than \$145 million in construction projects in those areas. Cooper served in the US Navy from 1999 to 2004 and received a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Lamar University in 2008. He and his wife, Kara, have two children, Hannah, 9, and Emily, 7. He enjoys spending time with family, camping, and playing soccer. His hobbies include repairing guitars and restoring collectible cars.

Clint Jones, P.E. was named Livingston area engineer, effective March 21. Jones began working as a summer hire in the central design section of the Lufkin District in 2013. In 2014, he graduated from the University of Texas at Tyler with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and was hired full time as an engineer in training. He gained experience rotating through various sections including design, advance planning, maintenance and construction. He was named as the Lufkin District bridge engineer in 2018 and moved to the Beaumont District as Jasper area engineer in 2021. Jones will oversee and manage projects in Polk and San Jacinto counties, including the US 59 Corrigan Relief Route construction project estimated at \$147 million, and the US 59 Shepherd upgrade construction project estimated at \$70 million. Jones returns to the Lufkin District with his wife, Jessica, who is also employed by TxDOT Angelina County Maintenance Office. They enjoy traveling, hiking, skiing, and spending time with family and friends.



Raising the Bar in San Jacinto County

Once a year, data is collected across the state to determine the pavement quality of roadways. The data is used to detect surface defects and ride quality that, when combined, provide an overall pavement score ranging from 1 to 100 (the best) per lane mile. In San Jacinto County, Maintenance Section Supervisor Chester Dixon and his 16 employees, have consistently worked to meet high scores on pavement quality. Currently, that score sits at 99.7 for the 534.171 lane miles maintained in that county.

Dixon, a 24-year employee, contributes the high pavement score to dedicated, well-trained employees who can do a great job and who want to do a great job. He also says cross training employees and having a backup for each position is an asset. Weekly checks of all roadways, having a good maintenance plan and inspection of maintenance contracts to make sure they are completed properly all lend to the success and help to prevent problems. He said he believes the guidance, support and leadership of upper management is a vital part of their success in San Jacinto County.

Maintaining a high pavement score is not without its challenges. Dixon said weather, Covid, budget restraints, increased traffic and the need for additional funding and employees are all conditions he must deal with daily. "I honestly feel I have a very competent crew," he said. "They are hard-working, dependable and work together as a team."

Dixon believes in setting high expectations for himself and his crew. Utilizing a four-year plan and prioritizing road conditions with a focused approach while working to meet all safety protocols are at the top of his to-do list each day. In short, he and his crew set the bar high in San Jacinto County and they consistently rise to meet it.



WOW! Award Recognizes District Employee



Transportation Specialist Cathy Loerch has been recognized by the TxDOT Employee Resource Group (ERG) for leadership and sustained excellence in her field. ERG presented Loerch with an Honorable Mention Award as part of their annual WOW! awards. ERG focuses on honoring outstanding women of TxDOT in leadership/sustained excellence; mentoring/empowerment; innovation/creativity; and customer service/safety.

Loerch, who began her TxDOT career in 1988 in the Livingston Area Office, says she worked even part time for the agency during college before that. After working in the private sector from 1999 to 2013, she returned to the Lufkin District as a design tech. She was promoted to central design lead in 2015 and has been with TxDOT for a total of almost 23 years. Loerch said she was speechless and she shed a few happy tears when she received the email that she had been nominated. "To think that others had nominated me for such an award is just amazing," she said. "I couldn't imagine how I would ever compete with all the amazing TxDOT women across the state. My jaw dropped when I heard my name called as an honorable mention."

Loerch is proud to work with other talented colleagues and was grateful for those who nominated her for the award. "I have always thought that I found my niche as a roadway designer at TxDOT," she said. "I am thankful to have found it early in my life. To be recognized as outstanding women at TxDOT puts a smile on my face and a little red on my cheeks. I am honored."



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

There are exciting things happening in the Lufkin District, from major projects that will soon begin to new faces in key positions.

I am pleased to announce our two new Area Engineers Randal Cooper and Clint Jones. Randall will serve as Nacogdoches area engineer. He has been with us since 2012 and has worked through several positions in Lufkin and Nacogdoches. Clint will serve as area engineer in Livingston. Clint is coming back to the district after recently serving as area engineer in the Jasper. Take a minute to read about them on the first page.

I am equally as proud of our maintenance sections and, with this issue, you will see some of their accomplishments. Learn more about San Jacinto County Maintenance Supervisor Chester Dixon, and how he leads his crew to accomplish great things.

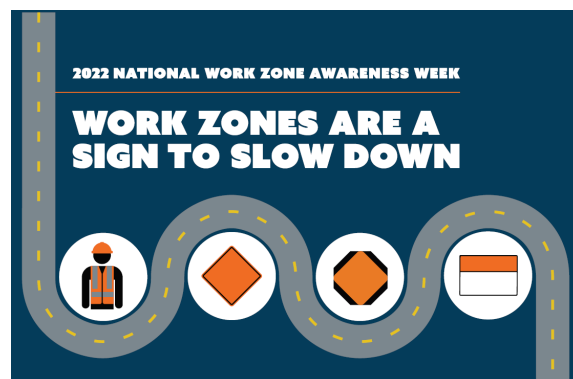
Read about our very own Transportation Specialist Cathy Loerch in the Lufkin District design section. She recently received an honorable mention as part of TxDOT's annual WOW! Awards. This award focuses on honoring outstanding women of TxDOT in leadership/sustained excellence; mentoring/empowerment; innovation/creativity; and customer service/safety.

Of course, I am thrilled to see a couple of major projects beginning and others nearing completion. We also have several traffic safety campaigns coming up that you will be hearing more about in months ahead. Please take part or share in these events on our social media pages. Have a wonderful and safe Spring!

UPCOMING LOCAL LETTING MAINTENANCE PROJECTS	
Contract Description	Estimated Value
Bridge Preventative Maintenance (North) Letting date: June 2022	\$300,000
Bridge Preventative Maintenance (South) Letting date: June 2022	\$300,000
Raised Pavement Markings (Districtwide) Letting date: July 2022	\$250,000
Large Sign Maintenance Letting date: July 2022	\$250,000
Cable Barrier Repair Letting date: July 2022	\$200,000
Traffic Signal Maintenance (Districtwide) Letting Date: April 2022	\$275,000

Traffic Safety Upcoming Events

- April 11-15: Work Zone Awareness Week
- April 15-May 1: Talk Text Crash Safety Campaign
- May 1-15: Look Twice Motorcycle Campaign
- May 2: Presentation at Nacogdoches High School on Motorcycle Safety
- May: Click It Or Ticket



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."



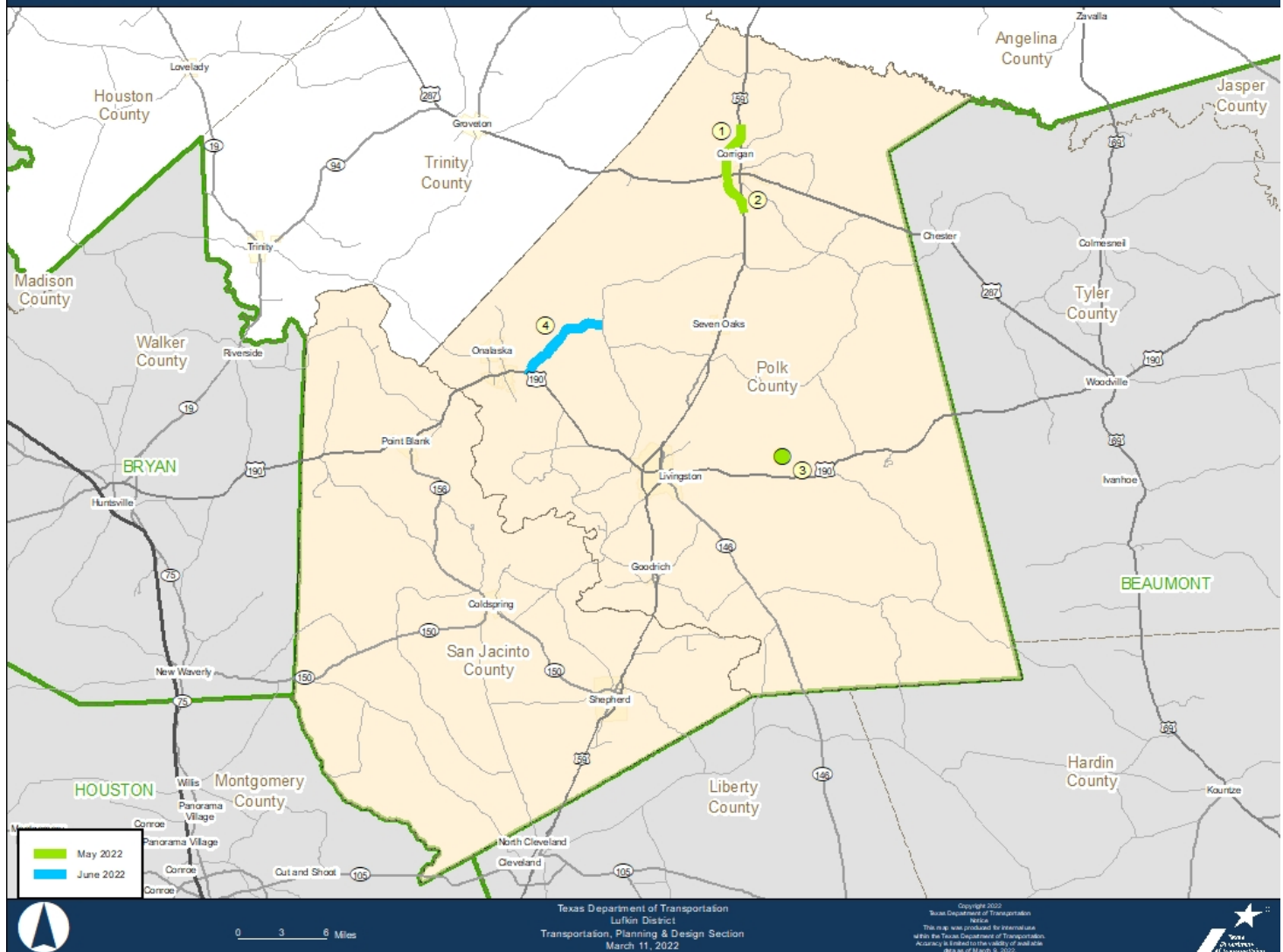
Driven by Texans

- **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. 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 early 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. Utility relocations are underway. Construction began in 2021 and scheduled for completion in spring 2023.
- **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. Right of way (ROW) acquisitions and demolition are complete. Utility relocations have begun and construction will begin in summer 2022.
- **US 59 Corrigan Relief Route** – project involves the construction of a new location-controlled access roadway west of Corrigan. ROW acquisitions and demolition are complete. Utility relocations are underway and construction will begin in fall 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 and demolition has 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** – project involves converting existing US 59 to a four-lane controlled access freeway from FM 343 to one 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 also began field surveying in late 2020. A public meeting will be held May 17, 2022, to gather public feedback on the conceptual design. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2029.
- **COMING SOON - US 59 Upgrade in San Jacinto County between Shepherd and the Trinity River** – project involves upgrading existing US 59 to a controlled access roadway by adding frontage roads. TxDOT executed a contract to begin schematic and environmental studies in early 2022. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2029.



Livingston Area Office

LIVINGSTON AREA OFFICE - Polk and San Jacinto Counties



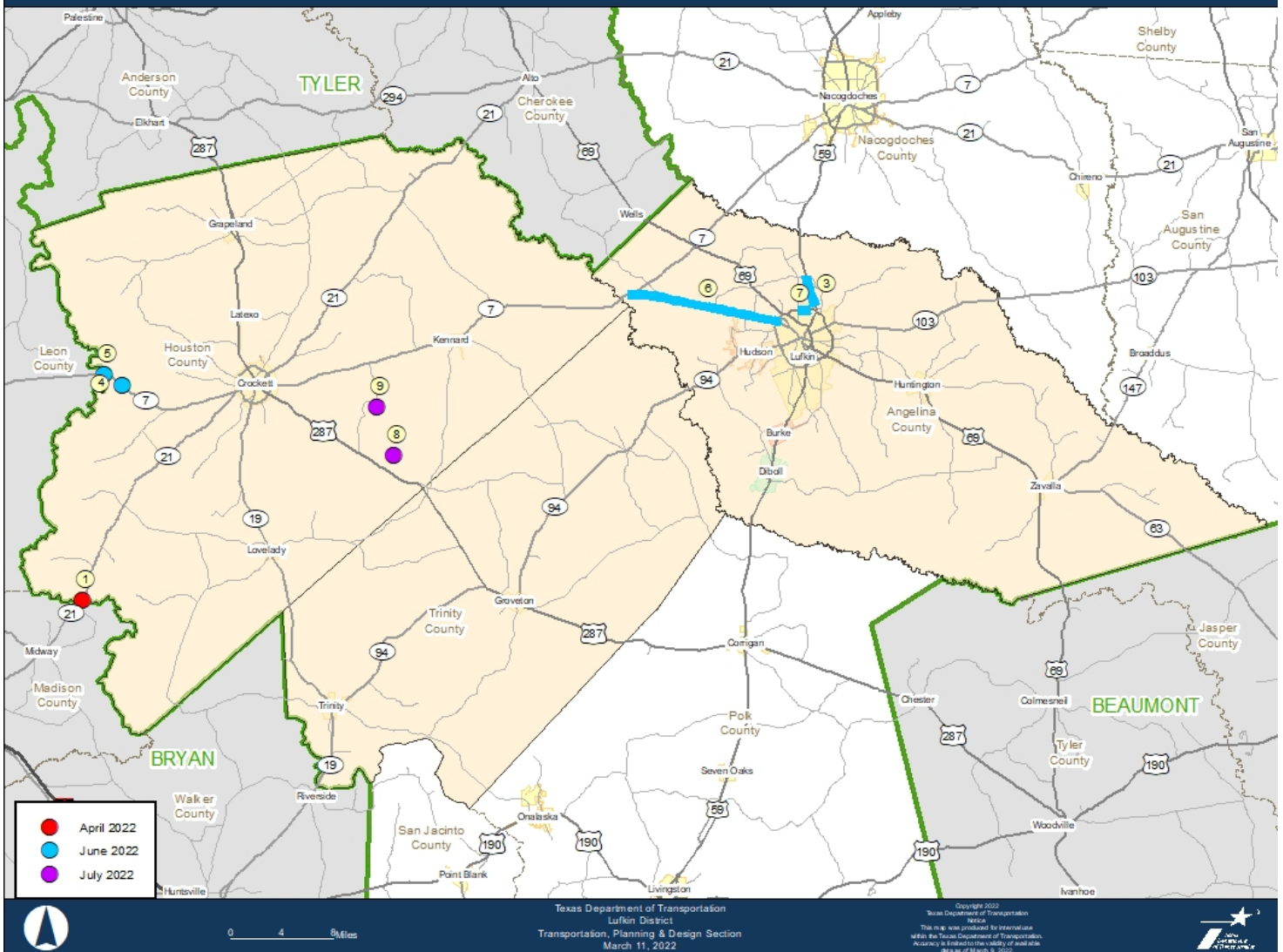
UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Project Number	County	Highway	Description Of Work	Estimated Cost	ID
0176-04-056	Polk	US 59	Construct four-lane freeway on west side of Corrigan (Future I-69) Corrigan Relief Route	\$76,467,816	1
0176-05-104	Polk	US 59	Construct four-lane freeway on west side of Corrigan (Future I-69) Corrigan Relief Route	\$70,764,224	2
0911-04-089	Polk	CR	Replace bridge and approaches	\$436,693	3
3220-01-013	Polk	FM 3152	Safety treat fixed objects	\$1,391,204	4

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



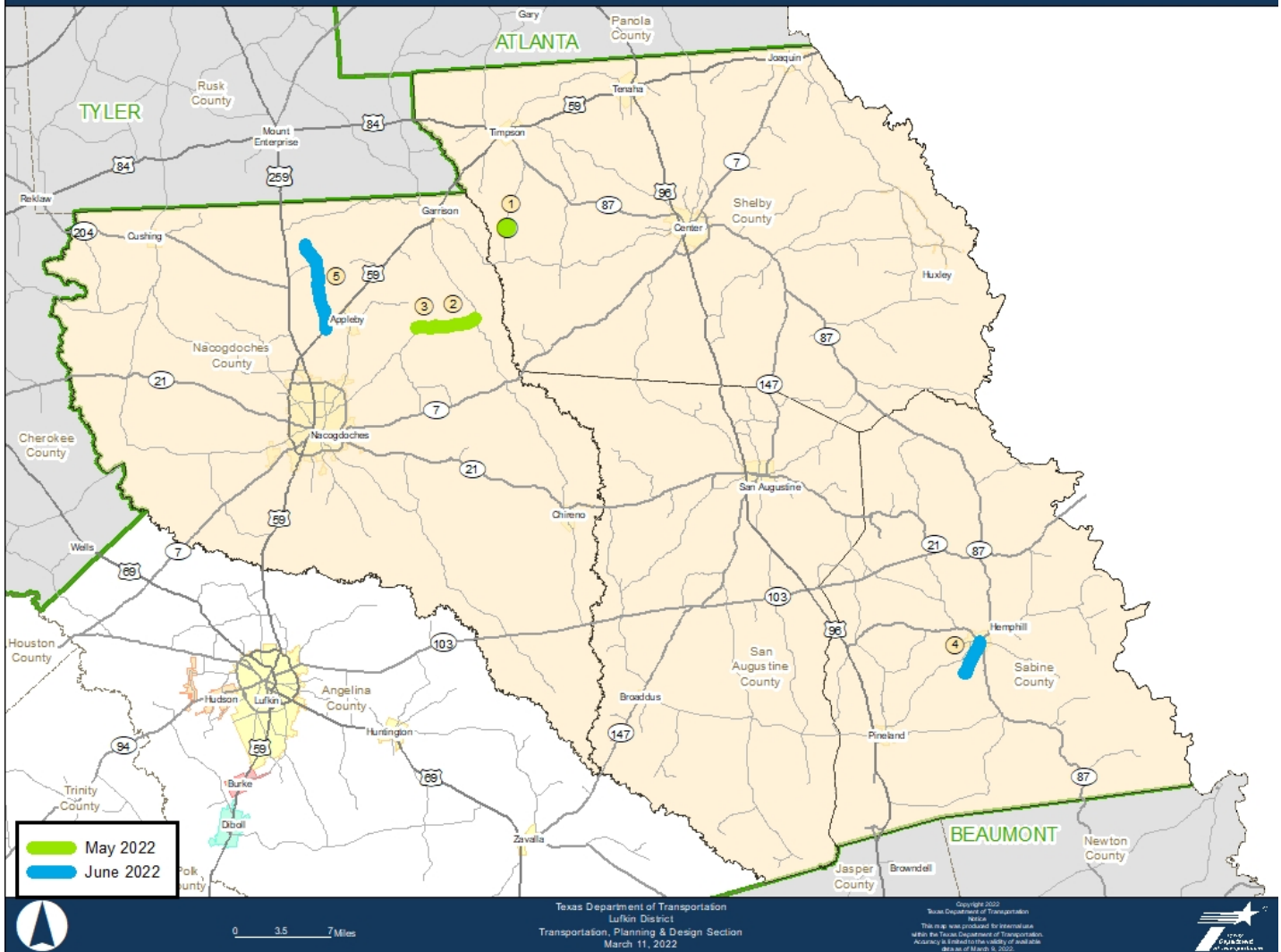
UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Project Number	County	Highway	Description Of Work	Estimated Cost	ID
0117-06-047	Houston	SH 21	Replace bridge and approaches	\$26,824,798	1
0911-00-122	Various	VA*	Bridge repair maintenance - at various bridges in Lufkin District	\$541,190	2
0176-02-118	Angelina	US 59	Convert to four-lane freeway with two-lane northbound and southbound frontage roads (future I-69)	\$48,000,000	3
0335-02-034	Houston	SH 7	Replace bridge and approaches	\$6,500,000	4
0335-02-035	Houston	SH 7	Replace bridge and approaches	\$7,500,000	5
0336-03-072	Angelina	SH 103	Safety treat fixed objects	\$1,519,844	6
2553-01-122	Angelina	US 69	Intersection improvements - Road to Zero Project	\$168,000	7
0911-28-048	Houston	CR 4555	Replace bridge and approaches	\$531,100	8
0911-28-053	Houston	CR 4545	Replace bridge and approaches	\$600,000	9

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
0911-39-063	Shelby	CR 4123	Replace bridge and approaches	\$421,441	1
3248-01-007	Nacogdoches	FM 1878	Reconstruct and widen to 28'	\$2,812,777	2
3248-01-008	Nacogdoches	FM 1878	Provide additional paved surface width to 28', edgeline markings, centerline markings	\$2,367,423	3
1678-02-007	Sabine	FM 2971	Safety treat fixed objects	\$977,587	4
2891-01-018	Nacogdoches	FM 2864	Safety treat fixed objects	\$1,392,124	5

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

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