

LUFKIN DISTRICT

NEWS

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To learn more about Lufkin District projects, visit: txdot.gov/inside-txdot/district/lufkin.html

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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>

View past newsletters at:



Hurricanes, Heat, and Other Highway Hazards

Tim Monzingo, Public Information Officer

While Friday, June 20, was technically the first day of summer, every East Texan knows the heat and humidity doesn't follow the calendar. With the arrival of summer conditions comes some of the most challenging and hazardous conditions for TxDOT workers. The National Weather Service's summer seasonal forecast calls for higher than average temperatures around the Lufkin District, and even the state, with less than average rainfall.

And heat isn't the only concern that shows up this time of year. Already, heavy rainfall and strong storms have put road crews hard at work keeping corridors open and operating, and hurricane season is predicted to be busier than usual. The 2025

hurricane season forecast calls for 13 to 19 named storms, and six to 10 hurricanes – between three and five of which are expected to be major – throughout June to November.

So what does all this mean for the dog days of summer along the pavement in the piney woods? It means staying safe now includes watching for heat exhaustion and heat stroke. As well as restocking emergency supplies and reviewing emergency plans. Since TxDOT crews are essential first responders in emergencies, it also means making these preparations at home and with loved ones. Visit ready.gov for resources on preparing for emergencies of all types.

Of course, it bears remembering that if you don't like the weather in Texas, just wait a few minutes and it'll change.



Safety Division Roundup

Tim Monzingo, Public Information Officer and Melissa McKnight, Traffic Safety

The district's Traffic Safety Division was busy in May, educating area students, and pushing for motorcycle safety in Nacogdoches County.



May 1: Dustin Weeks, Kacee McHenry, Carson McKnight, and Melissa McKnight participated in Career Day at Groveton Elementary School, where they educated students on road construction, pedestrian safety and signal equipment.

May 10 and May 20: TxDOT presented information on motorcycle safety at Lumberjack Harley Davidson on May 10, just 10 days before the City of Nacogdoches signed a proclamation on May 20 recognizing May as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month.

May 13: Joaquin ISD students learned about the safety of seatbelts with the help of the Rollover Convincer and the Kailee Mills Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to seatbelt awareness.



Navy Vet Completes Teacher Externship

Tim Monzingo, Public Information Officer

For 14 years, Rayford Sweats stood at the tip of the spear as a member of the U.S. Navy. He participated in helicopter flight schools, served aboard aircraft carriers, and warships patrolling the Atlantic ocean. "I don't know how y'all do it," Sweats told TxDOT Lufkin leadership while attending New Employee Orientation on Monday, June 2. Sweat said he didn't know if he'd want to face the dangers and challenges of being on a highway crew, but for two weeks, the Corrigan-Camden ISD coach got an in-depth look at how TxDOT workers plan, build, and maintain roadways throughout the Lufkin district.

Sweat, who holds advanced degrees from Waldorf University, was the most recent Texas Workforce Solutions Teacher Externship Program participant. The idea behind the program is to connect classrooms to workplaces and hopefully give them an idea of careers in students' backyards. "Prior to starting the Externship I thought I knew what TxDOT was all about however, I quickly learned that I was immature when it came to their responsibilities," he said. "I will take everything I learned and deliver it to the students and also have TxDOT employees come speak with the students about the organization."



Sweat entered the Lufkin District office Monday sporting a Corrigan-Camden ball cap in bright blue and matching sneakers showing his Bulldog pride. He left the office on Friday, June 13, with his ANSI Class 3 shirt and work boots and a better understanding of what TxDOT is about, he said. "I want to thank everyone at the TxDOT Lufkin District for allowing me to be a part of your team during the week," he said. "I appreciate everything you are doing for the community and the projects you have coming up that will keep the state transportation system looking great."



D.E. Corner

Kelly O. Morris, P.E.

Summer has arrived in Texas, bringing with it a dump-truck load of things to be excited about, from graduations and vacations to wrapping up big projects and starting new ones.

We've been happy to meet our new incoming summer interns and bid farewell to some who are headed on to the next chapters in their lives. We wish them the best in their careers and hope they might make their way back to the Lufkin District in the future. We were also pleased to have several externships this year. These individuals will be essential in recruiting bright new minds into the department in the future.

On a somber note, the district has seen 34 fatal crashes so far this year, resulting in 37 fatalities. Please encourage your loved ones and the people in your life to be safe and take all precautions possible when traveling this summer. Safety is intentional, and that's true for everyone.

In late May, we saw the northbound lanes of the Diboll Relief Route open, with the expectation that it will open fully in the fall.

We have several employees marking big milestones in their time with TxDOT. Together, these individuals have a total of 75 years of experience with this department.

The Signal Section scored 96 out of 100 in their most recent Texas Traffic Assessment Program (TxTAP) analysis. This year's score was another improvement over past years, and the section has consistently scored higher in each assessment, which is something the whole district can be proud of.

Let's have a great summer and continue the great work we've been doing so far this year.

UPCOMING LOCAL LETTING MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

Contract Description	Estimated Value
Illumination Maintenance Letting date: June 2025	\$364,000
Water Base Pavement Markings Letting date: June 2025	\$357,000
Crack Seal Letting date: July 2025	\$425,000
MBGF Letting date: July 2025	\$150,000
Mill & Inlay Letting date: August 2025	\$750,000
Cable Barrier Letting Date: August 2025	\$200,000
Culvert Repair Letting Date: August 2025	\$900,000

Service Awards

April 2025

Jeffery Havard	5 Years
William C. Ethridge	5 Years
Amy S. Jenkins	10 Years
Christopher L. Windsor	10 Years
Raymond E. Duvall	10 Years
Wayne Byers	10 Years
Willis H. Elliott	20 Years

May 2025

Christopher D. Nunnery	5 Years
Robert E. Tucker	10 Years
Charles E. Tuckers Jr	25 Years

June 2025

Michael J. Pyle	10 Years
Chancey Cleaver	15 Years



Jeff Havard
Construction Inspector
5 Years



Chancey Cleaver
Equipment Operator
15 Years



Robert Tucker
Traffic Systems Specialist
10 Years

I-69 DEVELOPMENT IN THE LUFKIN DISTRICT

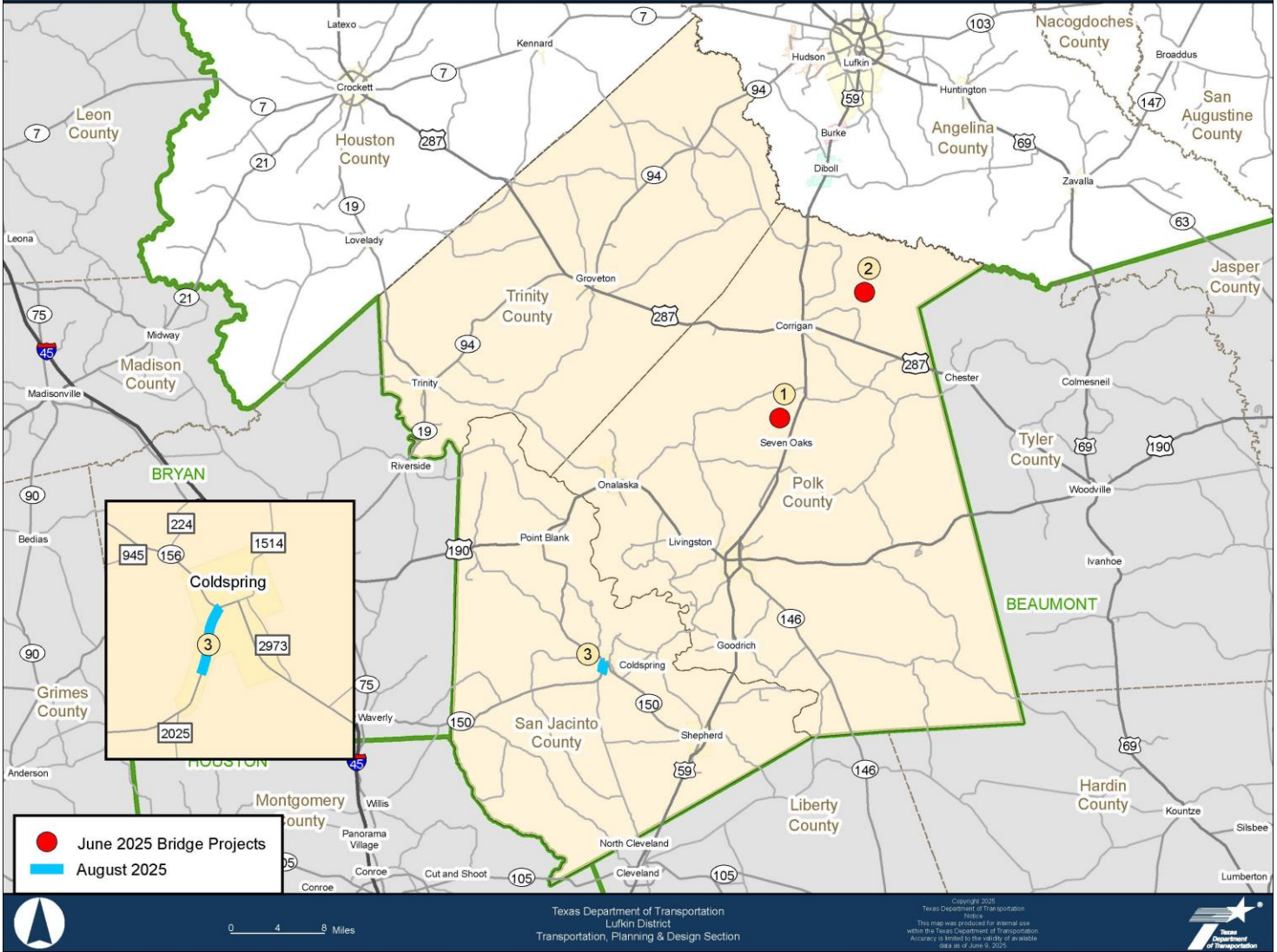
Jennifer Adams, Advance Transportation Planning Director

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 at www.txdot.gov and search "[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 winter 2026, weather permitting.
- **US 59 Diboll Relief Route (Under Construction)** – involves constructing a new location controlled-access roadway east of Diboll. Construction began in spring 2020 and is scheduled for completion in fall 2025, weather permitting.
- **US 59 Upgrade Moffett Rd to SH 103 (Under Construction)** – involves upgrading existing US 59 to a controlled-access roadway by adding frontage roads. Construction began in 2021 and was completed spring 2025.
- **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 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 Shepherd 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 2029.
- **US 59 Upgrade to 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 2029.
- **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. 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



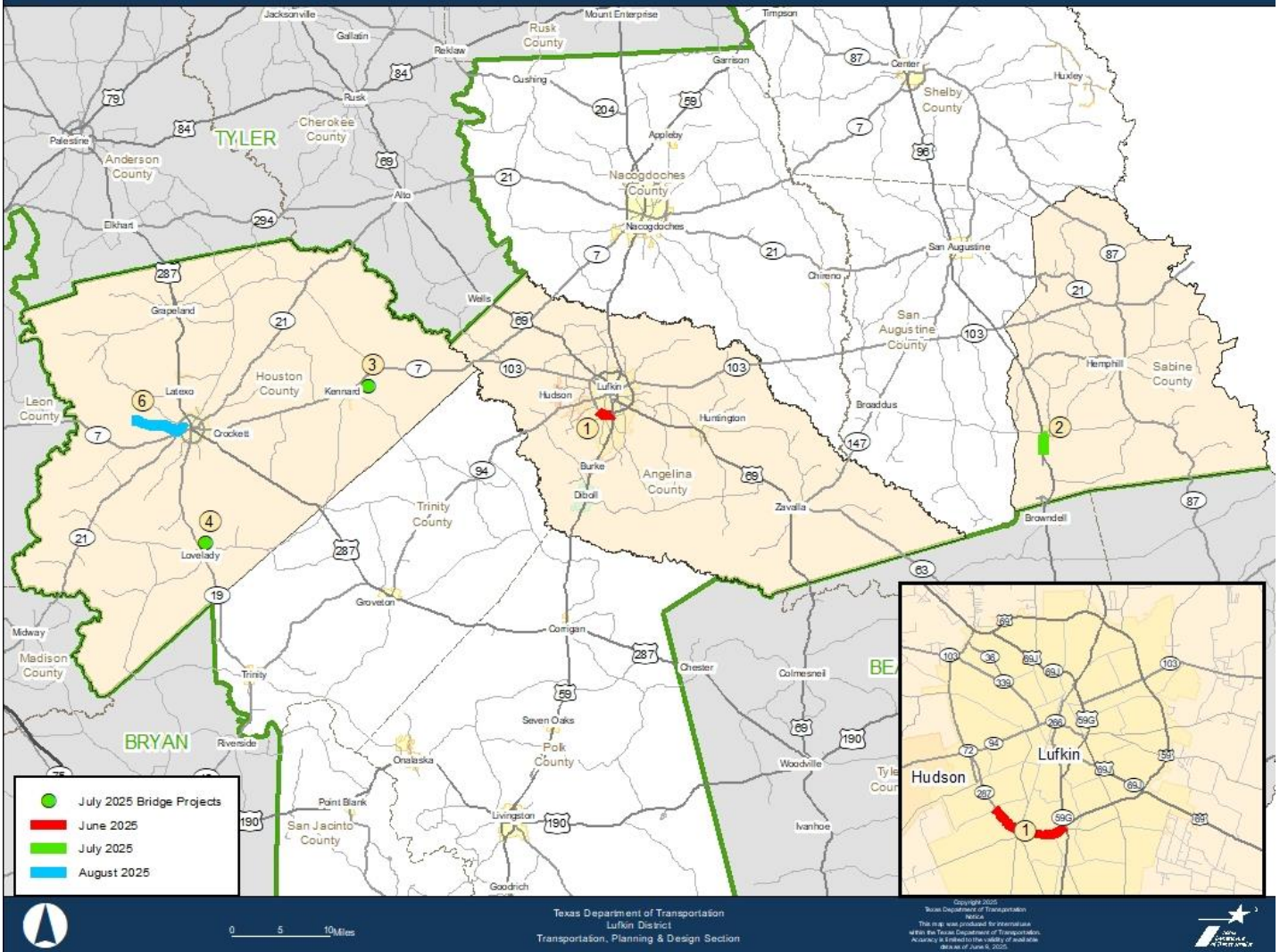
UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Project Number	County	Highway	Description of Work	Estimated Cost	ID
0911-04-098	Polk	Old Berring Rd	Replace Bridge and Approaches	\$1,097,259.65	1
0911-04-099	Polk	Nine Bridge Rd	Replace Bridges and Approaches	\$555,826.80	2
0395-02-049	San Jacinto	SH 150	The project will construct a 6 ft wide sidewalk along SH 150 from SH 156 to the Coldspring-Oakhurst High School campus. The sidewalk will be constructed on the east side of the highway and will connect to an existing sidewalk east of Live Oak Street.	\$1,712,447.00	3

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

Lufkin Area Office

LUFKIN AREA OFFICE - Angelina, Houston and Sabine Counties



UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

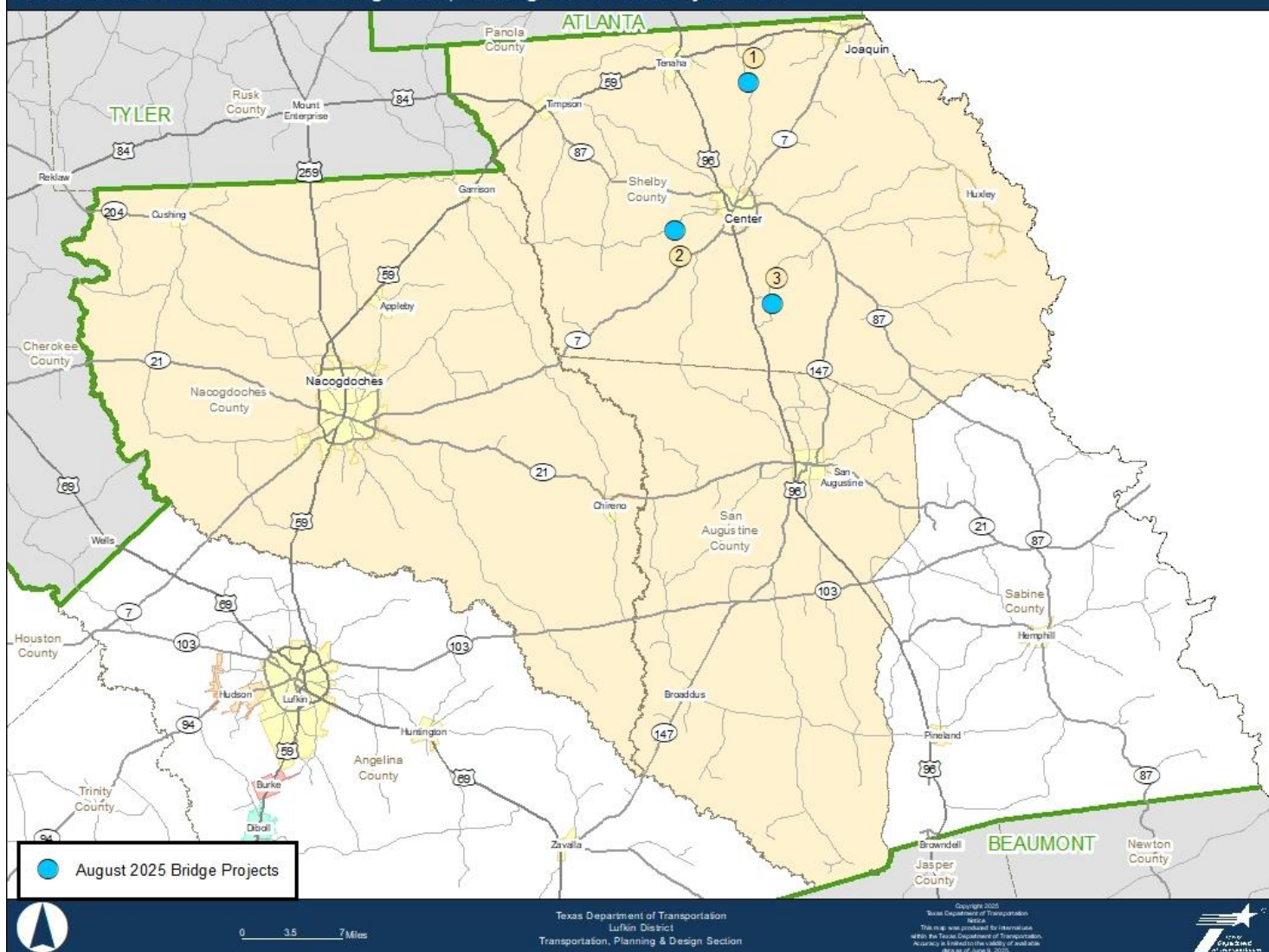
Project Number	County	Highway	Description of Work	Estimated Cost	ID
2553-01-116	Angelina	SL 287	Add Auxiliary Lanes	\$11,124,511.69	1
0064-06-053	Sabine	US 96	Rehabilitate Existing Pavement and Add Passing Lanes; Super 2	\$17,340,994.85	2
0911-28-061	Houston	County Rd 4700	Replace Bridges and Approaches	\$732,383.00	3
0911-25-065	Houston	Cedar Springs	Replace Bridges and Approaches	\$766,179.00	4
0911-00-160	Angelina	Various*	Various Locations Districtwide - FY 25 Green Ribbon Program (Wildflower Seeding)	\$850,792.50	5
2068-01-006	Houston	FM 2076	Restoration and Widen Pavement to 26'	\$11,385,716.50	6

*PROJECT NOT MAPPED

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

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
0911-39-074	Shelby	County Rd 3689	Replace Bridge and Approaches	\$639,995.80	1
0911-39-075	Shelby	County Rd 1440	Replace Bridge and Approaches	\$783,606.95	2
0911-39-076	Shelby	County Rd 1049	Replace Bridges and Approaches	\$739,841.40	3

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

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