

# 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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## US 59 Diboll Relief Route

Texas Transportation Commissioners recently gave final approval for the construction of the \$140.9 million Diboll Relief Route in Angelina County.

The US 59 Diboll Relief Route will extend east of Diboll, TX and Burke, TX from FM 2108 to 1.15 miles south of White Oak Creek. Sacyr Construction USA LLC, Miami FL, will serve as contractor for the project that is set to begin in early 2020 and scheduled to be completed in about five years.

The relief route will meet interstate design standards and will serve as the primary evacuation route for this section of US 59. It will also serve as a relief route for vehicles transporting freight and efficiently move traffic along the US 59 corridor. Resolutions supporting the relief route were approved by Angelina County Commissioners in 2016, the City of Burke and by the City of Diboll in 2017.

The project has been in the planning stages for many years. The first schematics and environmental studies were done in 1999, but were halted due to budgetary constraints. After being identified as a top priority in Angelina County, the development of I-69 was revived in 2013 and several stakeholder meetings and open houses were held for the public to view the approved construction designs.

Schematic designs and the environmental re-evaluation for the Diboll Relief Route were approved in 2016 and right-of-way acquisitions were completed and utility relocations started in early 2019.

This section of US 59 is one of several projects designed to upgrade the roadway to I-69 standards located in Angelina, Nacogdoches, Polk and San Jacinto counties. I-69 is a proposed national interstate that extends from Mexico to Michigan.

Federal legislation authorized the development of the I-69 system in Texas along specified US routes. Within the Lufkin District those specified routes include US 59 between Shepherd and Tenaha and US 84 between Tenaha and Joaquin totaling 150 miles. ■

# Remembering Heroes

Nacogdoches County recently honored three fallen peace officers after the Lufkin District placed signs designating portions of the roadway in their memory.

The Texas Transportation Commission approved the renaming sections of US 59, SH 21 and US 259 in honor of Constable Darrell Lunsford Sr., Sgt. Tom Sitton and Deputy Brad Jimmerson. Nacogdoches County Sheriff Jason Bridges and other city leaders spoke as the signs were unveiled at separate events on Nov. 20, 2019.

A crowd of family, city and county leaders, law enforcement and former colleagues gathered at each unveiling. The Lufkin District was proud to be a part of the events that will forever include these fallen heroes in the Texas Highway System.

A portion of US 59, just south of the Garrison city limits was renamed in honor of Constable Darrell Lunsford Sr. who was killed in 1991 after stopping a vehicle with three occupants hauling drugs. Little did the criminals know, Lunsford had one of the first recording devices to be installed in a patrol vehicle. His recorded death led to the capture of his killers and continues to be used in law enforcement academies around the country.

A portion of SH 21, just west of the city of Nacogdoches, was renamed in honor of Sgt. Tom Sitton. Sitton was killed in 1996 while attempting to serve an arrest warrant at a nearby residence. Sitton enjoyed being a public servant and worked daily near where he grew up on SH 21.

A portion of US 259 was renamed in honor of Deputy Brad Jimmerson who died on a foggy morning on October 2018. Jimmerson died attempting to remove debris from the roadway in order to keep motorists safe during their morning commute. Deputy Jimmerson was well known in the area and Nacogdoches was his home.

The new highway signs were financed through private donations and were also approved by Nacogdoches County Commissioners and the Texas State Legislature.







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

As the new year begins, the district has some major construction projects underway in various areas and we have some exciting news to share in this edition of our quarterly newsletter.

I know you will be excited to read about the \$140.9 million US 59 Diboll Relief Route. This project has been in the planning stages for many years and with the project's approval in December by the Texas Transportation Commission, we have plans to begin construction by early spring of 2020.

In addition, you will see and read about the memorial sign unveilings that TxDOT was proud to be a part of in November 2019, in Nacogdoches County. Sections of three roadways were renamed after fallen law enforcement officers and the district was proud to set those new signs and honor these heroes at the events.

We also want to remind the public that TxDOT is working to End The Streak. You will find information on what you can do to help us reach our goal of zero fatalities on Texas roadways by 2050.

Don't forget to look at our plans, maps and projects including construction details and maintenance work throughout the nine-county Lufkin District.

With spring right around the corner, it won't be long until the dreary days of winter are over. That will be a perfect time for you to take a drive to your favorite East Texas destination, enjoy the scenery and no doubt, travel through one of our work zones along the way. Drive safely.

UPCOMING LOCAL LETTING MAINTENANCE PROJECTS	
Contract Description	Estimated Value
Guardfence Repairs in Nacogdoches County Letting date: 1/15/20	\$269,560
Guardfence Repairs in Polk County Letting Date: 1/15/20	\$279,580
Mowing ROW in Trinity County Letting Date: 1/15/20	\$130,045
Mowing ROW in Sabine County Letting Date: 1/22/20	\$207,553
Mowing ROW in Angelina County Letting Date: 1/22/20	\$284,237
Mowing ROW in Shelby County Letting Date: 1/22/20	\$200,954
Mowing ROW in Nacogdoches County Letting Date: 1/29/20	\$219,734
Joint Repairs in Polk County Letting Date: 1/29/20	\$97,810
Ditch and culvert cleaning in Angelina County Letting Date: 2/12/20	\$175,000
Tree & Brush Removal and Trimming in Polk Co. Letting Date: 2/12/20	\$220,000
Mowing of ROW in Houston County Letting Date: 3/11/20	\$170,000

## End The Streak

Nov. 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on Texas roadways. Since then 19 years have passed and at least one person has died every single day. The Texas Transportation Commission, TxDOT and the Lufkin District support the #EndTheStreakTx campaign in hopes that together, we can stop the daily deaths on Texas roadways. In May 2019, commissioners approved a goal to end all fatalities on Texas roads by 2050, with an interim goal to reduce them by half by 2035. You play a major role. Wear a seatbelt, drive the speed limit, put away the phone and never drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs. We all have the power to End The Streak. ■



# I-69 DEVELOPMENT IN THE LUFKIN DISTRICT

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

At this time, there are six 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: <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. TxDOT completed the engineering plans and purchasing right-of-way (ROW). 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. TxDOT acquired the necessary environmental permits and ROW for the project. 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, 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. TxDOT received environmental clearance and completed ROW mapping. 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. TxDOT received approval of the schematic and environmental studies in March 2018. 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. TxDOT received approval of schematic and environmental studies in August 2019. ROW acquisitions have begun and TxDOT will soon prepare engineering plans. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2023. ■



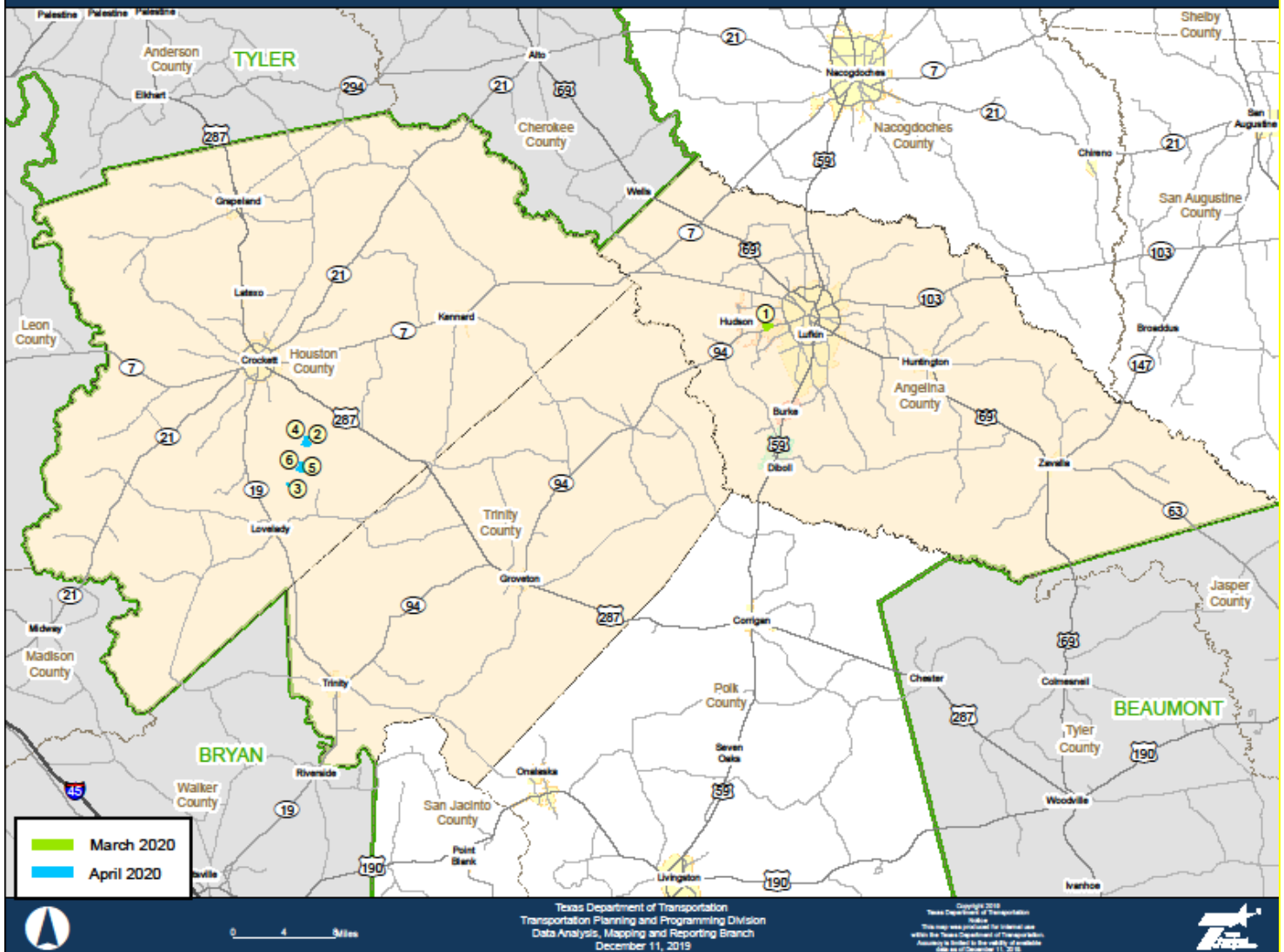
LIVINGSTON AREA OFFICE - Polk and San Jacinto Counties



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# Lufkin Area Office

LUFKIN AREA OFFICE - Angelina, Houston and Trinity Counties



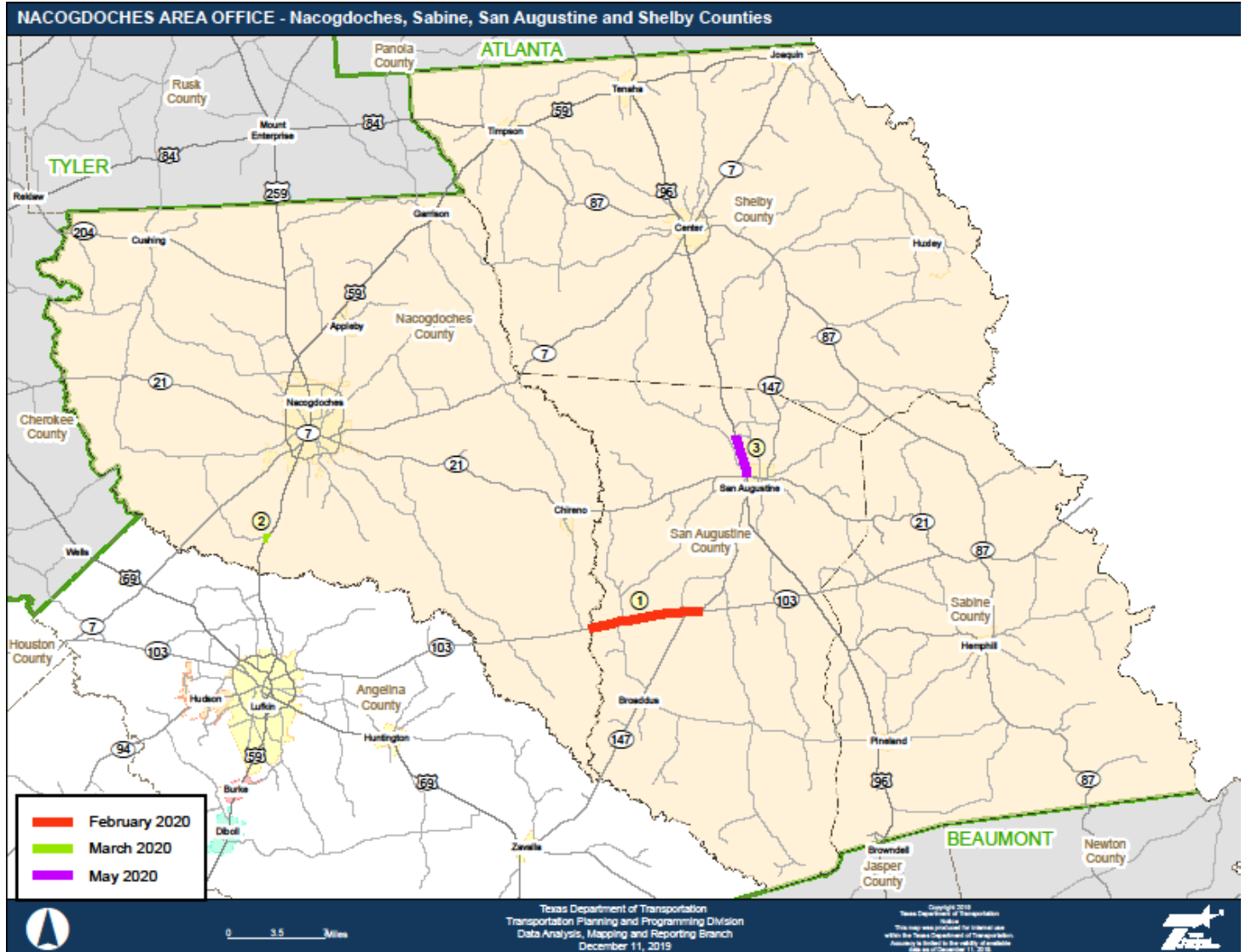
## UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Project Number	County	Highway	Description Of Work	Estimated Cost	ID
2960-01-013	Angelina	FM 1194	Install Flashing Beacon at SH 94	\$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

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
0336-07-071	San Augustine	SH 103	Rehabilitate Existing Roadway	\$8,700,000.00	1
2808-02-009	Nacogdoches	FM 2782	Install Flashing Beacon at US 59	\$63,063.00	2
0809-03-040	San Augustine	US 96	Reconstruct and add passing lanes	\$6,000,000.00	3

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

# DISTRICT CONTACTS

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**District Engineer:**

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**District Public Information Officer:**

Rhonda Oaks

**Director of Transportation Planning  
and Development:**

Kelly O. Morris, P.E.

**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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Lufkin, TX 75901  
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# AREA OFFICE CONTACTS

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# COUNTY MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR CONTACTS

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