

LUFKIN DISTRICT

NEWS

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Public Hearing Answers Many Questions

By Rhonda Oaks, Public Information Officer



A recent public hearing presenting information on a proposed construction project in Nacogdoches drew plenty of questions, all of which were answered by engineers, project planners, and right of way agents.

The meeting was held on Aug. 1st in the Nacogdoches Exposition and Civic Center. There were maps available and project information on SH 7 at Lanana Creek Bridge replacement project. The proposed project will consist of replacing the existing structure with a 4-lane

bridge, with two 12-foot lanes in either direction, 5-foot shoulders, and 6-foot sidewalks on either side of the road.

The proposed project, subject to final design considerations, will require additional right of way from seven businesses. With right-of-way agents on hand, they were able to explain the process of acquiring the additional right-of-way and the TxDOT compensation program.

Other attendees were interested in the flooding issues at the bridge location that have occurred in the past. The explanation from engineers and project planners explained the bridge will be raised to allow water and debris to flow beneath the Lanana Creek Bridge more easily.

For pedestrians, the Lanana Creek Trail is a favorite. The project will also be more accommodating for them by increasing the clearance beneath the bridge and the addition of sidewalks along the roadway. For motorists, the wider travel lanes and the addition of shoulders will improve safety. Decorative bridge railing will also be added to enhance the beauty of the area.



The project is being designed to meet current design standards. Construction on the project is expected to begin in Summer, 2026.

Hurricane Beryl Response

By Rhonda Oaks, Public Information Officer

When Hurricane Beryl loomed in the Gulf of Mexico, not yet sure where it would make landfall, the Lufkin District was already preparing. District leaders began storm preps, meetings and planning for what could be a major hurricane through East Texas. Beryl brought plenty of wind and flooding issues that were compounded in areas already prone to flooding. Part of that was due to the good preparations by the district's nine-county maintenance sections.

The hurricane packed a punch with 80 mph winds that impacted the Lufkin District with hundreds of downed trees and left the Houston District needing help. The district's Emergency Operations Center opened ahead of the storm and all maintenance sections, the signal shop and other district leaders worked 12-hour shifts for several weeks. Days ahead of the storm, crews began clearing ditches and debris, anticipating the flooding that has occurred with other storms. Beryl brought strong winds, and it was evident early on that East Texas was going to see many downed trees. More than 1,200 trees fell in a two-day period in the nine-county Lufkin District which caused crews to work around the clock to remove them from the roadways.

While local crews responded to downed trees day and night, our friends in the Houston District lost many signals and saw more flooding. The Lufkin District responded with 14 employees who were dispatched to the Sugarland base camp to assist in signal and sign repairs. Lufkin crews helped the Houston District restore more than 4,000 signs and 737 traffic signals that were damaged.

Being prepared as a district was key to managing storm issues caused by Beryl, and preparing ahead for safety, whether it is for a dangerous storm or planning a day's work, is the number one goal of the Lufkin District.

Child Passenger Safety Week Approaching

By Melissa McKnight, Traffic Safety and Rhonda Oaks, Public Information Officer

Keeping children safe while traveling is a top priority for parents and caregivers. The week of Sept. 15-21 is designated as National Child Passenger Safety Week. The goal is to raise awareness and educate parents and caregivers on subjects from purchasing the correct car seat, proper installation of a car seat, and when to move a child to the next type/size of car seat.

Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death among children. While most parents believe their children are restrained properly, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration points out that 46-percent of all car seats are not used correctly. The best way to keep children safe in a vehicle is to make sure they are properly secured in a car seat. That means you must select a car seat that is appropriate for a child's age, size, and install it correctly. That's where TxDOT can help.



TxDOT offers a free safety seat inspection throughout the year. To schedule a car seat check-up, visit SaveMeWithaSeat.org and enter your ZIP code. The site offers information about how to keep your child safe, how to determine whether you need a rear or forward-facing car seat, booster seat, and other safety tips.



Texas law requires that all children younger than 8 years old, unless they are taller than 4-feet 9-inches, to be secured in a child safety seat in a vehicle. Older children who have outgrown a booster seat must be restrained with a seat belt. Failure to properly restrain a child can result in fines up to \$250.



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

While our summers are always busy at TxDOT, it is this time of year that hurricane season is in full swing. We were recently reminded of that when Hurricane Beryl impacted our district as well as those to the south that needed our help. I hope you will read about how our crews responded. I am proud of their dedication to excellence and safety.

Also in this issue, you will read about a recent Public Hearing that was held in Nacogdoches for a future project. You will want to stay informed about the project, the timeline, and those who had a big part in making the public meeting successful. We always anticipate answering many questions from the public at TxDOT meetings and we are glad to be able to do it for this future project.

There are many exciting things going on here in the Lufkin District. Read about our upcoming maintenance and construction projects and locations. As these projects begin and continue through many areas, you can keep up with alerts and announcements on our social media pages on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

I am immensely proud of our service award recipients in this issue. The people of TxDOT devote years to their careers and I am proud of the work they do each day for the state of Texas and for you. Their commitments to excellence and safety make our lives better as we maneuver through our daily activities.

Our safety message details what we do as a district to help get the traffic safety message to the public each month, and we hope you take part when there is an event in your area.

So, though the end of the summer is upon us, and we look forward to fall, cooler weather, and the coming holidays, I hope you have had a safe summer. I sincerely hope when you see our crews working in the heat, you will give them a wave and a smile. They are working for you.

UPCOMING LOCAL LETTING MAINTENANCE PROJECTS	
Contract Description	Estimated Value
Metal Beam Guardfence Letting date: September 2024	\$165,000
Spot Paint & Bead Striping Letting date: September 2024	\$900,000
On-Call Traffic Control Services Letting date: September 2024	\$761,000
Debris Removal Letting date: October 2024	\$1,000,000
Metal Beam Guardfence Letting date: October 2024	\$273,000
Bridge Preventative Maintenance Letting Date: October 2024	\$1,000,000
Tree Trimming & Brush Removal Letting Date: November 2024	\$300,000

Service Awards

July 2024	
Earnest Minor Jr	25 Years
Jeremy D King	20 Years
Jessica M. Jones	5 Years
James L. Norriss	5 Years
Terri N. Salmon	5 Years
August 2024	
Sam A. Hankla	30 Years
Joshua A. Bobbitt	20 Years
Dennis Wooten	20 Years
Andrew W. Corbett	10 Years
Jodi M. Bass	5 Years
Joseph Watson	5 Years
September 2024	
Catherine D. Loerch	25 Years
James C. Henagan	10 Years
Clifford D. Havard	5 Years
Richard L. Hughes	5 Years



Josh Bobbitt,
 District Maintenance Admin,
 Lufkin
 20 Years of Service



Andrew Corbett,
 Transportation Specialist,
 Lufkin
 10 Years of Service



Jessica Jones,
 Special Projects Coordinator,
 Lufkin
 5 Years of Service

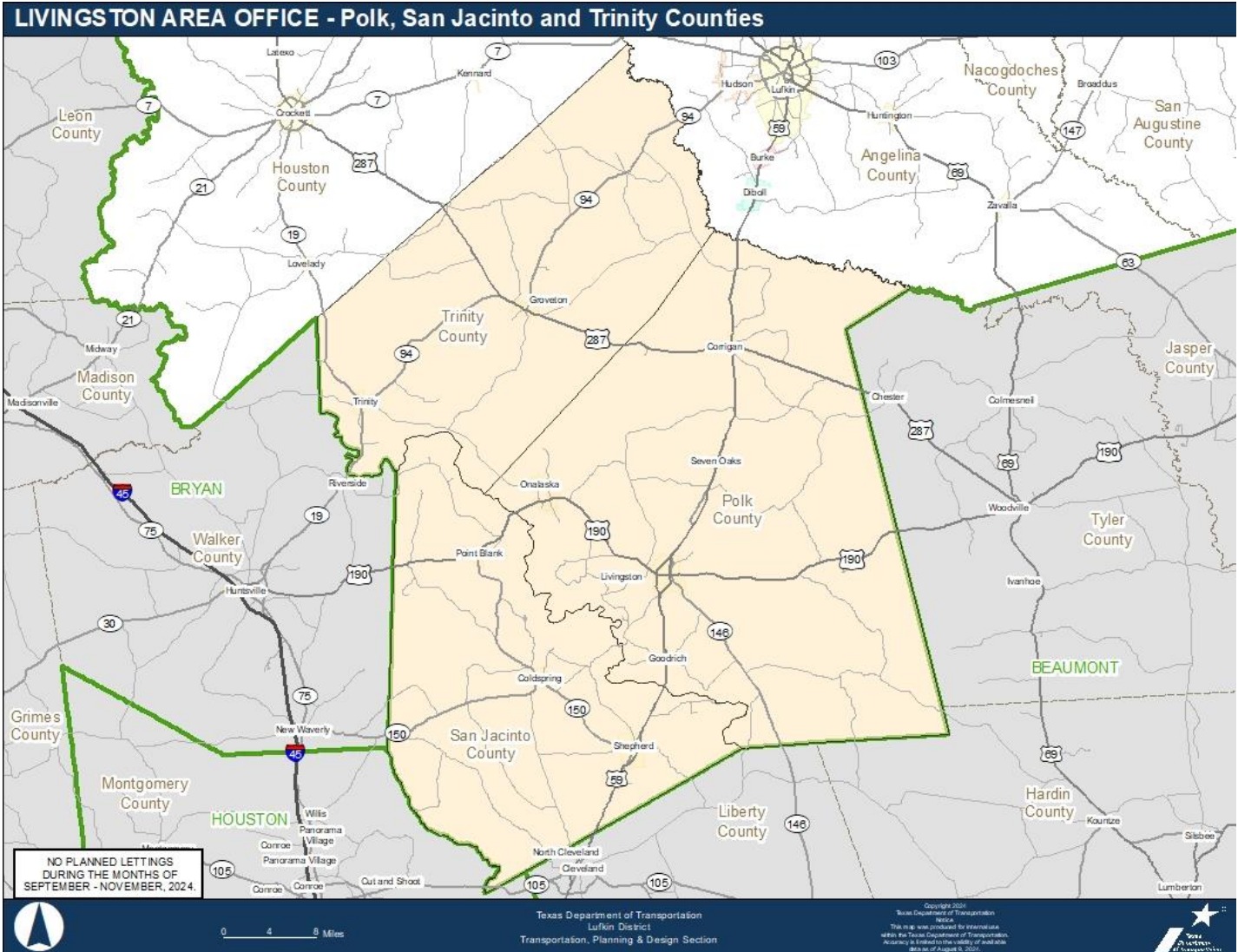
I-69 DEVELOPMENT IN THE LUFKIN DISTRICT

Jennifer Adams, Advance Transportation Planning Director

There are currently ten projects that the Lufkin District is actively developing to meet interstate standards. These projects are in varying stages of development from schematic to construction. 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](#) – 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. Construction began in September 2019 and is scheduled for completion in fall 2026, weather permitting.
- [US 59 Diboll Relief Route](#) – project involves constructing a new location controlled-access roadway east of Diboll. Construction began in Spring 2020 and is scheduled for completion in summer 2025, weather permitting.
- [US 59 Upgrade Moffett Rd to SH 103](#) – this project in Lufkin involves upgrading existing US 59 to a controlled access roadway by adding frontage roads. Construction began in 2021 and is scheduled for completion in winter 2024, weather permitting.
- [US 59 Upgrade Redland](#) – project involves upgrading existing US 59 to a controlled access roadway by adding frontage roads between SL 287 and FM 2021. Construction began in late 2022 and is scheduled for completion in fall 2025, weather permitting.
- [US 59 Corrigan Relief Route](#) – project involves the construction of 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 \(future I-69\)](#) – project involves upgrading existing US 59 to a controlled-access roadway by adding frontage roads between FM 2914 and SL 573. Construction began in winter 2023 and is scheduled for completion in fall 2029.
- [US 59/US 259 North Nacogdoches Interchange](#) – this project involves upgrading US 59 to a controlled-access roadway from Stallings Drive/SL 224 to 1.3 miles north of US 259 by reconstructing the US 59/US 259 interchange and adding new frontage roads. A public hearing was held on September 5, 2024. ROW mapping is underway and acquisitions will begin fall 2024. Utility relocations, detailed engineering plans, and necessary permitting are anticipated to be complete in late 2028. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2029.
- [US 59 Upgrade Shepherd to Trinity River](#) – project involves upgrading existing US 59 to a controlled-access roadway by adding frontage roads between FM 223 (Church Street) to just north of the Trinity River. TxDOT plans to hold a public hearing in early 2025. Row mapping has begun and acquisitions are anticipated to begin in early 2025. Utility relocations, detailed engineering plans, and necessary permitting are anticipated to be complete in late 2028. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2029.
- [US 59 Upgrade North Livingston](#) – project involves upgrading US 59 to a controlled-access roadway by reconstructing the US 59/US 190 interchange, reconstructing US 59 main lanes and frontage roads from just south of US 190 to SL 116. TxDOT is currently working with a consultant on the development of the schematic. A public meeting is tentatively scheduled in early 2025. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2032.
- [US 59 Upgrade South Livingston](#) – project 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. TxDOT is currently working with a consultant on the development of the schematic. A public meeting is tentatively scheduled in early 2025. This project currently does not have construction funding identified.

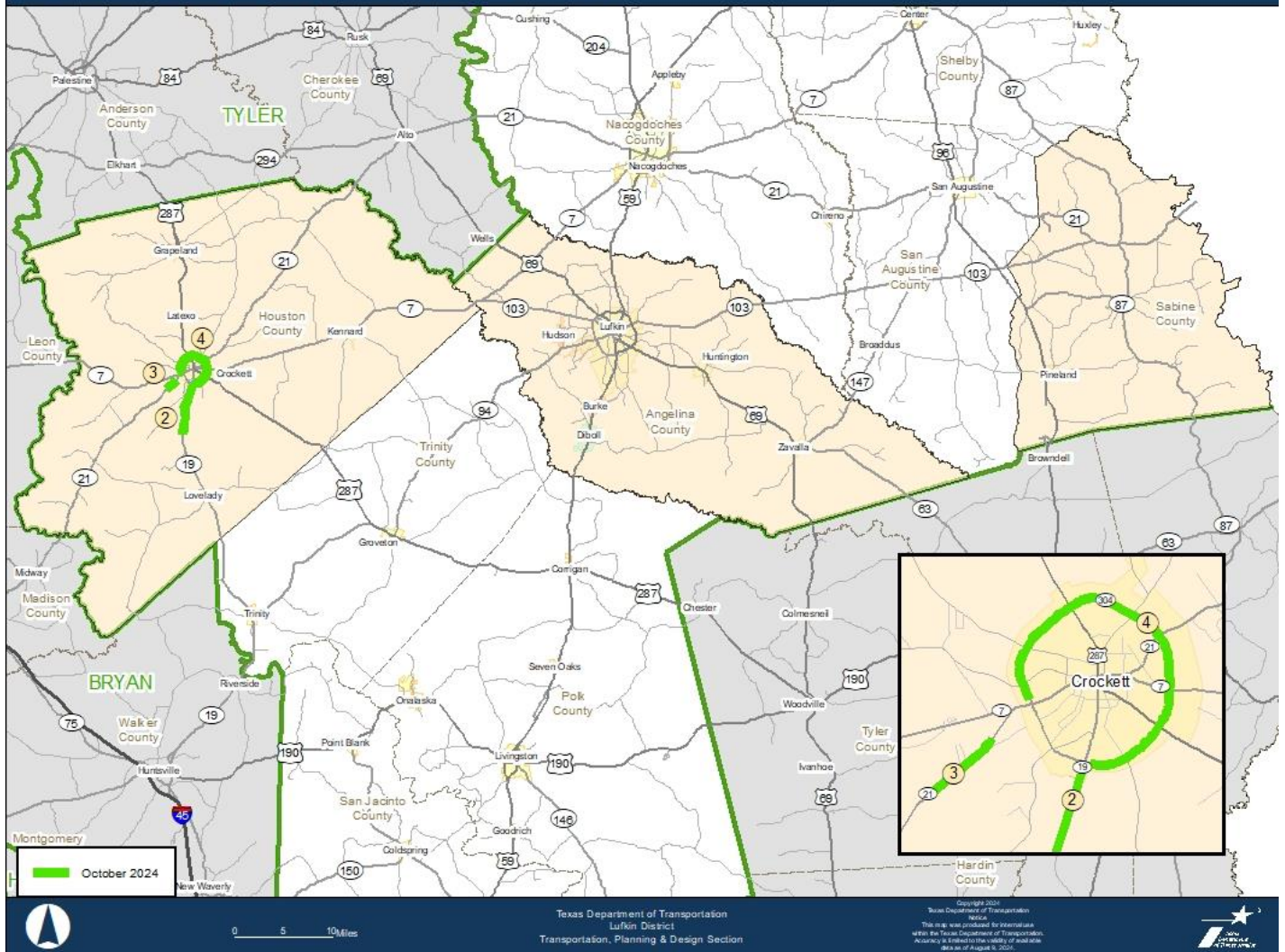
Livingston Area Office



UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS					
Project Number	County	Highway	Description Of Work	Estimated Cost	ID
No projects to be bid, September through November for Livingston AO.					

Lufkin Area Office

LUFKIN AREA OFFICE - Angelina, Houston and Sabine Counties



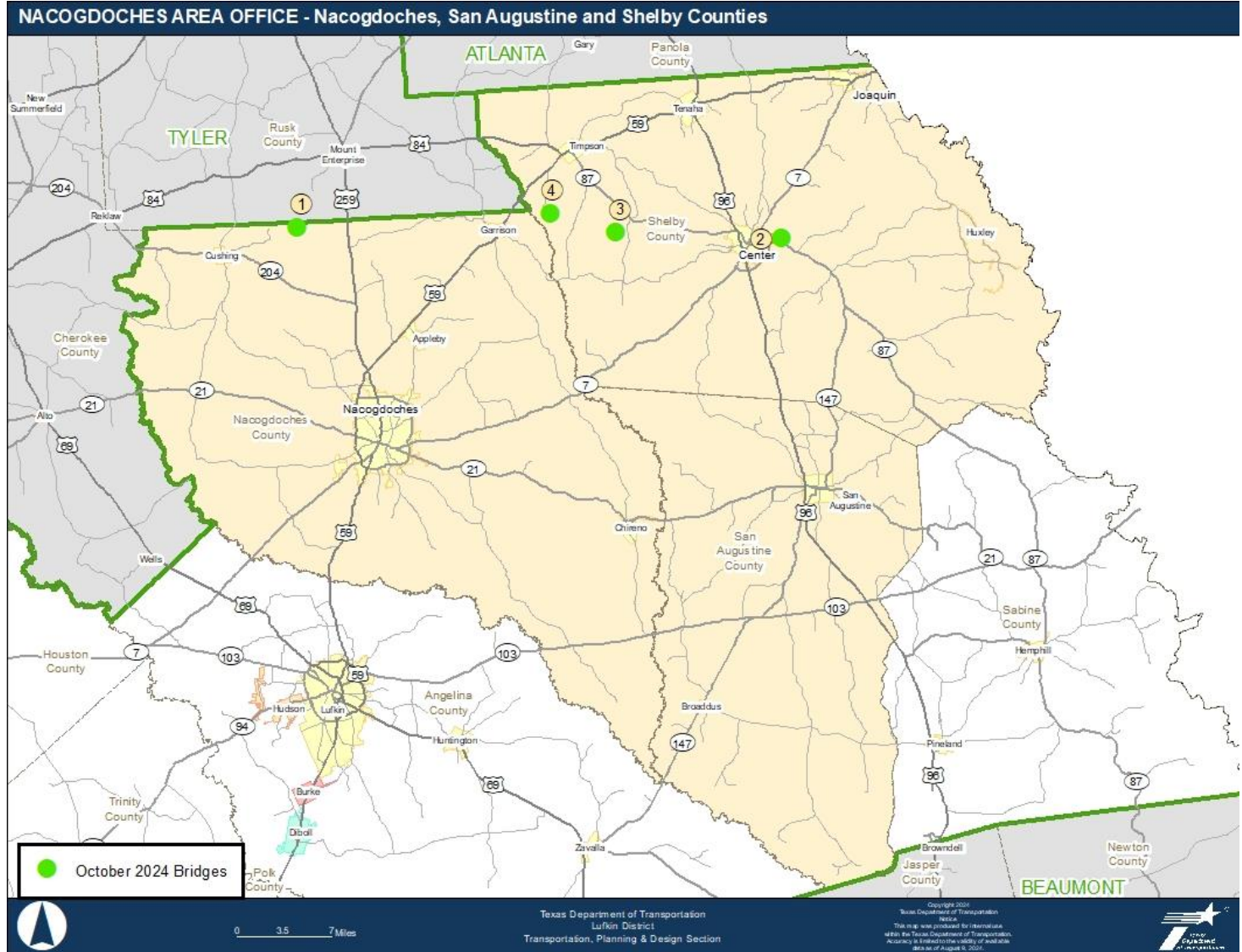
UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Project Number	County	Highway	Description Of Work	Estimated Cost	ID
0911-38-077	Angelina	Various*	This plan will evaluate new bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in the City of Huntington including sidewalks, signalized intersections in multiple locations, and other traffic calming measures.	\$113,500.00	1
0109-05-043	Houston	SH 19	Resurface Roadway - overlay	\$3,567,195.84	2
0117-07-044	Houston	SH 21	Resurface Roadway – Mill/Inlay (westbound outside lane only)	\$349,163.88	3
1854-01-051	Houston	SL 304	Resurface Roadway – HMA overlay	\$11,328,465.93	4

* PROJECT NOT MAPPED

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

Nacogdoches Area Office



UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Project Number	County	Highway	Description Of Work	Estimated Cost	ID
0911-08-052	Nacogdoches	County Road 950	Replace Bridge and Approaches	\$830,000.00	1
0911-39-070	Shelby	County Road 3012	Replace Bridge and Approaches	\$420,000.00	2
0911-39-071	Shelby	County Road 4054	Replace Bridge and Approaches	\$460,000.00	3
0911-39-072	Shelby	County Road 4098	Replace Bridge and Approaches	\$600,000.00	4

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

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