

29:05-March 2004

TRANSPORTATION NEWS

February - March 2004

Volume 29 Number 5

TEXAS STATE DOCUMENT
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PAN AMERICAN
EDINBURG, TEXAS 78539-2999

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Annual Summary profiles TxDOT

Highlights, pages 2-4

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN



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On the cover:

This highway scene from West Texas is how many drivers like to envision traffic congestion — there is none. Efforts to improve mobility and reduce traffic congestion are highlights of the 2003 TxDOT Annual Summary, now available online through the TxDOT homepage (www.dot.state.tx.us).

TxDOT photo by Griff Smith

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Transportation News is published by the TxDOT Public Information Office
125 E. 11th St., Austin, TX 78701-2483
Phone: (512) 463-8588
PIO-TransportationNews@dot.state.tx.us
Circulation: 18,531

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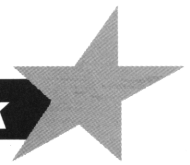
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Printed on recycled paper
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TNews Online (TxDOT computers only):
<http://crossroads.org/pio/tnol.htm>

Straight Talk



Annual Summary highlights your work

by Mike Behrens

Executive Director

TxDOT has just produced its annual summary highlighting achievements of 2003. Check it out — that's because it's about what you did to help TxDOT succeed last year. It also outlines the challenges we face in the year ahead.

Because of its size, we are making TxDOT's annual summary of 2003 available to you through our intranet and the department's homepage on the Internet.

With passage of House Bill 3588 during the 78th session of the Texas Legislature last year, we have within our grasp a great opportunity to improve our transportation infrastructure.

More options now exist to help Texas cities, counties and state agencies work together to solve our worst transportation problems.

TxDOT and local governments can begin building now — years sooner than in times past — because we have additional funding tools we can use to improve mobility for all of Texas.

A great state needs great transportation. TxDOT will lead the way to ensure that transportation improvements enhance the quality of life for Texans. The annual summary highlights some of the many things we are doing to help make that happen. Check it out. ★

Letter from the editor



Just about everyone likes a good story, whether it's an amusing anecdote, a page-turner of a novel or a compelling made-for-TV movie.

TxDOT also has a great story to tell. It's a story of getting things done for the people of Texas, from our traditional role of building and maintaining good highways to an archaeological dig to rescuing motorists from rising flood waters.

Unlike a good book or a movie, enjoying this story won't even cost you anything. It's right there on our Web site — www.dot.state.tx.us. If you haven't already seen it, we invite you to take a look at the 36 pages of TxDOT's 2003 Annual Summary.

We won't give away the suspenseful ending (just kidding), but we have included in this issue of TNews a couple of pages of interesting tidbits taken from the full report.

★ ★ ★

Progress continues on the Trans-Texas Corridor. During February, TxDOT conducted public hearings in every one of our state's 254 counties. A few meetings also were added in March. A public-outreach effort on this scale is unprecedented in recent memory — and possibly unique in the department's history.

★ ★ ★

Finally, as alert readers probably have noticed, this is a combination February-March issue. We're pondering some changes in how often we publish TNews and have been busy planning. Speaking of schedules, be sure to take some time this spring to enjoy the wildflowers along our Texas highways.

— Mike Cox

2003 ANNUAL SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

- ✦ Implemented voter-approved financing tools to help build roads sooner and provide congestion relief faster
- ✦ Set a record \$4 billion in contract letting for highway construction
- ✦ Began the planning and public-involvement process for the Trans-Texas Corridor, a statewide transportation network that will improve mobility, safety and quality of life
- ✦ Approved the state's first two regional mobility authorities, giving local governments a greater ability to improve mobility and traffic safety
- ✦ Started construction on the 65-mile, \$2.9 billion Central Texas Turnpike Project
- ✦ Continued project development for major corridor improvements such as I-35, I-69 and Ports-to-Plains
- ✦ Worked to speed completion of critical highway projects by requiring the consideration of accelerated construction provisions on all projects disrupting traffic
- ✦ Repaved more than 14 percent of the 79,000-plus mile state highway system
- ✦ Carried out vital safety programs such as *Safe Routes to School* and AMBER Alert
- ✦ Through a *Click It or Ticket* public-education campaign, helped raise safety belt use in the state's urban areas to nearly 90 percent, the highest level since safety belt laws went on the books in 1985
- ✦ Continued to upgrade the state's 96 aging safety rest areas to provide safe and attractive locations for weary motorists to take a break from driving
- ✦ Launched the *Drive Clean Across Texas* campaign, the nation's first statewide public outreach and education program designed to improve air quality
- ✦ Continued as a leader in the use of alternative-fuel vehicles and spearheaded the effort to bring ultra-low sulfur diesel to Texas
- ✦ Simplified and condensed many department documents and processes
- ✦ Coordinated \$22 million in transportation research, making this program one of the largest in the country
- ✦ Began a process to respond to new public transportation responsibilities related to health and human services
- ✦ Said goodbye to 680 TxDOT employees who took advantage of a legislative retirement incentive

Texas transportation — by the numbers

215.9 billion	Vehicle-miles traveled, total of all systems
9.9 billion	\$ Value of TxDOT construction projects under contract
5.4 billion	\$ TxDOT budget
363.8 million	\$ Value of TxDOT maintenance projects under contract
222.8 million	Vehicle miles traveled by public transportation
18.6 million	Motor vehicles registered in Texas
3.2 million	Travel Information Center customers
433,843	Cubic yards of compost used in roadway construction
301,797	Total miles (streets, roads, highways)
49,366	Trees and shrubs planted, landscaping projects
48,944	Number of Texas pilots
48,528	Bridges, total (on state system and off state system)
40,990	Farm-to-market roads, centerline miles
32,239	Bridges, on state system
16,309	Tons of recycled crumb rubber used in construction
16,289	Bridges, off state system
16,183	State highways, centerline miles
14,814	TxDOT employees (March 1, 2004)
12,109	U.S. highways, centerline miles
7,617	Miles adopted, Adopt-a-Highway program
3,233	Interstate highways, centerline miles
1,701	Maintenance projects under contract
1,163	Construction projects under contract
740	Picnic areas
300	Airports in the Texas Airport System
270	Tons of paper recycled
142	Toll roads, centerline miles
102	Safety rest areas
32	Auto-theft prevention grants awarded
1	Texas

■ Source: TxDOT 2003 Annual Summary, based on TxDOT Pocket Facts. ■ The latest issue of Pocket Facts is available at the TxDOT Web site: www.dot.state.tx.us ■ On-line directions: TxDOT home page: About TxDOT: Other Information: Pocket Facts

Alarm helps secure Queen Isabella bridge

by **Bill Powell**

Public Information Office

Peace of mind and security mean a lot to the average person. That's why, when the TxDOT-designed collapse-detection alarm system was ready for service on the Queen Isabella Memorial Bridge in early March, many of the one million residents of the area and the two million tourists who visit South Padre Island every year had less reason to worry.

Formerly called the Queen Isabella Causeway, the bridge was re-named after the tragedy of Sept. 15, 2001, when two barges collided with the bridge's support columns.

The collision caused a gap in the roadway when a segment of the bridge collapsed. Eight people in vehicles on that suddenly opened road — unaware of looming disaster — rode to their deaths in the waters of Laguna Madre.

Since then, TxDOT has worked to create a system to safeguard the bridge from such accidents. Besides the alarm, the safety system includes concrete barriers called "dolphins." These are positioned in the water to protect the bridge supports and to divert any off-course boats or barges.

The alarm, the only one operational in Texas, will warn bridge users if a collapse occurs.

The new system, at a cost of \$900,000, has transportation agencies from other states calling it innovative. They're asking about possible uses in their jurisdictions.

As part of the alarm system, fiber-optic cable stretches 2.5 miles along the bridge's north side. The cable runs through mechanisms that can sever the cable and activate the

alarm if a bridge segment moves out of place.

If this occurs, the system would begin events to stop traffic on the bridge.

The bridge, equipped with gates that can block traffic at each end, also has electronic message boards that flash the urgent message, "Stop, Bridge Closed."

Red lights along both sides of the bridge flash their warning to motorists.

Signs in English and Spanish along the bridge warn motorists to stop immediately if the red lights are flashing.

"We got the brightest red digital lights we could and focused them directly at the roadway for maximum visibility," said Mark Bloschock, a special-projects engineer with TxDOT's Bridge Division.

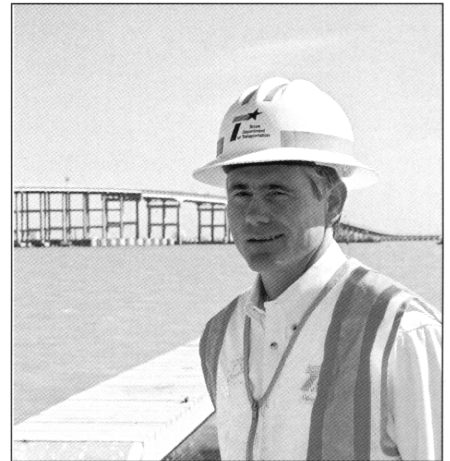
He added, "We decided to have the lights flash in unison because the synchronized flash across the bridge denotes urgency, which is what we want if lives are in danger."

The system also alerts authorities such as the U.S. Coast Guard, law enforcement, and TxDOT.

Pharr District Engineer Mario Jorge underscores the danger in such a situation. He advises, "Stop if you see the red lights flashing. Turn emergency flashers on and stay in your vehicle until authorities come and tell you how to proceed."

Final tests in February determined the warning system was ready for use.

Alice Gray, a tourist from Louisiana, had to cancel a vacation to Padre Island planned in October 2001. "I knew where the bridge fell, so even after it was fixed I was a lit-



TxDOT photo by Amy Rodriguez

Jody Ellington, Pharr District's bridge engineer, played a key role in designing the alarm system now in place on the Queen Isabella Memorial Bridge (in background). He credits many others in TxDOT: "Designing the system was a challenge, but we had a great staff working on the design. We were able to come up with a system that enhances the bridge's safety."

tle nervous crossing that area of the bridge," she says. She adds, "I think the alarm is a good idea."

Louis Dalhart helps manage a Padre Island motel. He uses the bridge almost daily commuting to his job. "I have friends who used to worry about another accident," he says, "so the new alarm makes them feel safer." He adds, "I haven't even minded having to stop on my way to work while the bridge was closed for testing."

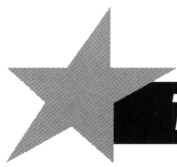
Last year, Pharr District supervised the \$5.8 million installation of the concrete dolphins that protect the bridge supports.

This year, TxDOT will oversee installation of 20 more dolphins, costing another \$5.8 million, to protect supports on the bridge's north side. ☆



TxDOT's Wildflower Hotline — where Texas blossoms

800-452-9292



PROGRAM TRANSFERS TO TxDOT

TxDOT on March 1 took over the state's Medical Transportation Program. Formerly administered by the Texas Department of Health, the \$29.4 million program and its staff of 169 positions became part of TxDOT. Last year, the program served nearly 132,000 Medicaid clients. For such clients, the program arranges transportation to and from health-care services.

Legislation passed last session mandated the transfer as a way to reduce overlapping services, to cut costs and to increase efficiencies.

Texans who rely on this program will see no interruption or change of service because of the transfer.

Eligible recipients must have a current Medicaid identification card, be eligible for the Children with Special Health Care Needs or Transportation for Indigent Cancer Patients programs, and must have no other means of transportation.

KEENER LEADS CHILDRESS

Terry L. Keener was appointed Childress district engineer in mid-February. He oversees TxDOT operations in the 13-county district. He had served as the district's director of operations, a position he held since 1997.

Keener began his TxDOT career in 1971 as an engineering assistant in the Childress District. Since then, he held a variety of posts in the district including director of administration (1987) and interim district engineer (1997).

He received a graduate degree in civil engineering in 1971 from Texas A&M University. In 1998 he received the Gib Gilchrist Award, presented by the Texas Transportation Institute. The Childress Rotary Club last year honored him as its Rotarian of the year.

NELSON PLANS TO RETIRE

Joe H. Nelson III, who has been the Wichita Falls district engineer since November 1998, has

announced his retirement, effective March 31.

He joined TxDOT in 1966 as a summer hire in Corsicana's engineering office. He began full time with the department as an engineering assistant in the Design Division in 1970 and became a design engineer in 1974. He held a variety of posts since then, including a brief stint in the private sector. He also had served as deputy district engineer of the Waco District, being named to the post in 1993.

SURVEY SAMPLES EMPLOYEES

TxDOT again is taking part in the University of Texas Survey of Organizational Excellence with 20 percent of the department's employees being invited to respond.

Sponsored by the university's School of Social Work, the survey is designed to find out what employees think about their organization.

TxDOT Executive Director Mike Behrens, in a February memo, said the survey results would be distributed to districts, divisions and offices this spring. He said the survey will help the department plan ways to improve services for employees and for the public.

LAREDO'S NEW TRAFFIC SYSTEM

During a ceremony Feb. 4, the TxDOT Laredo District "turned on" the South Texas Regional Advanced Transportation Information System, also known as STRATIS. Costing \$1.7 million, the system includes special equipment and a traffic-management center to monitor video and other sensors. With the system, the district can better respond to highway incidents and provide information on traffic conditions to motorists.

TEAM WINS LEAD AWARD

Recipients of the 2003 Motor Carrier Division's LEAD Award have been named. For the first time, the award is going to a team — staff members of the division's former

Compliance and Enforcement Branch.

Recognized are Robert Beck (retired), Pat Biddle, Michael Dewbre, Terence Donovan, Stephanie Early, Mike Ellis, Mark Fetzer, Bobby Margo, Bill Moorhouse, Richard Norwood, Phil Pettit, Larry Simcox, Doug Simmons, Marcelo Perez, Chasity Vasquez, Homer Vasquez, Raul Vela and Susie Ward. Perez is the first in the division to win the award a second time.

Since 1998 the award has recognized division employees and district permit coordinators who exemplify the qualities of leadership, enthusiasm, attitude and determination — thus, LEAD Award.

Recipients this year showed commitment to these qualities as they worked to reduce the backlog of motor-carrier applications from 30 days to 11 days.

AWARDS SPOTLIGHT SAFETY

The American Advertising Federation, through its local ADDY awards, has recognized TxDOT's traffic-safety program in the Austin area. Two gold, one silver and two bronze awards were presented for TxDOT-sponsored traffic-safety campaigns created by Sherry Matthews Advocacy Marketing in Austin. The campaigns now are eligible for regional, then national recognition.

BLOOD DONORS DRAW PRAISE

The Central Texas Blood and Tissue Center in Austin reports that TxDOT was first among other state agencies in the Capitol area with the most employees who gave blood in 2003 — 263 units.

TxDOT administrators credited individual donors and members of the department's Employee Advisory Committee who volunteer to work the blood drives. Volunteers also include the 31 TxDOT coordinators in Austin who help round up donors for blood drives. ★



ATLANTA DISTRICT

From: Jill & Tom Chinn
Longview, Texas

We had a flat tire in Atlanta. It was late, we were tired and we needed help. We heard the flat as we pulled into a gas station and your employee, **Jason Waters**, was there. He helped us get the tire changed and would not take any money. He said that he worked for the Texas Department of Transportation and that he was just doing his job. What a blessing he was to us! I just wanted you to know what a fine man you have representing you. And again — many thanks, Jason.

Jason Waters is a maintenance technician with the Atlanta District's New Boston maintenance section.



CHILDRESS DISTRICT

From: Virginia and Luther Cox
New York

Just a note to tell you what a “treasure” you have with an employee named **Barry Atkinson**. My husband and I had a flat tire on our drive to Dallas; Barry stopped his truck, kept his “blinking” lights on, and proceeded to help my husband change the tire. Barry was friendly, courteous, and professional — a credit to your department. He was a pleasure to meet.

Barry Atkinson is a maintenance technician in Dickens County.



YOAKUM DISTRICT

From: Bobby Jones
Southern Towing Co.
Memphis, Tenn.

I would like to commend **Ed Price** for the assistance he gave recently to our employee **Troy**

Gammill, mate on our motor vessel **Mary Elizabeth**. Mr. Gammill's mother had passed away that day and Mr. Price was very helpful in offering his assistance to secure transportation to the airport for Mr. Gammill. Mr. Price went above and beyond the call of duty. On behalf of Mr. Gammill, the captain and crew of the M/V **Mary Elizabeth**, and myself, we would like to extend our sincere appreciation for the assistance Mr. Price offered in this situation.

Ed Price has been employed with TxDOT in the Yoakum District for the past 19 years as a bridge tender at the Sargent swing bridge in Matagorda County.



LUBBOCK DISTRICT

From: Ralph Dennis
Big Spring, Texas

My wife and I were driving north on Highway 87, just north of **Tahoka** and within 100 yards of the Texas Department of Transportation maintenance facility, when our vehicle suffered a flat, which destroyed the tire.

After surveying the problem, I undertook to change the tire. Within a very few minutes, two men in two pickups came along on the access road and stopped to render aid. They just took over the task, and within a few minutes it was completed, and we were able to continue our trip to **Lubbock**.

I know that one of the men is a DOT employee, because he was driving one of your pickups. I am under the impression that the other is also, for they seemed to know each other. I foolishly failed to get their names, and I am sure they are not aware of the magnitude of the service they performed — to them it was only a tire change. Following are some facts they do not know.

SAN ANTONIO DISTRICT

From: Edwin Plowman
Boerne, Texas

Your courtesy patrol provided me with assistance. As an individual with a handicap, this service was extremely helpful. The side of Interstate 10 during rush hour is a dangerous place. The courtesy patrol not only got me back on the road much quicker than I could have, but greatly reduced the rubberneck effect that is so common.

In their rush, the TxDOT employees put their efforts into solving my problem instead of explaining who they were or why they were helping. It was only afterward that they explained the courtesy patrol. I offered a gratuity for their efforts, but they politely refused — just happy to help.

All I can say is Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

Robert Pena and Ronald Johanningsmeir assisted this motorist. They work with the courtesy patrol section at Transguide, the intelligent transportation system in the San Antonio District.

I am 69 years old. Approximately two years ago, due to cardiovascular disease, I had to undergo triple-bypass surgery, and will live the rest of my life with a heart that is not “as good as new.” As a very small child I had an accident which left me with a permanent walking disability. As a result of the long-term consequences that injury caused, I now have a collapsed disk in my lower back, and if I attempt to stand or be active on my feet more than a few minutes I am in incredible pain. In addition,

■ See Mail Drop, Page 8



Mail Drop

Continued from Page 7

I was still weak from a recent severe encounter with the flu virus. Those two angels of mercy saved my life — possibly literally.

A very grateful “thank you” to these two men, and to the Texas Department of Transportation. From now on, when I see TxDOT personnel and equipment on our roads and highways I will salute, and offer a prayer of thanksgiving.

Francisco Aguillar, who works in the Lubbock District, is one of the two men to help this grateful motorist. The second man mentioned in this letter is with the Tahoka Police Department.



LUFKIN DISTRICT

From: Joe Evelyn Cook
Jasper, Texas

I was traveling through construction about five miles south of Milam. Something sharp tore a large gash in one of my tires. A highway employee took the tire off and put the “doughnut” tire on for me. Another employee told me he would walk back to see what ruined my tire so that this would not happen to another driver. Because of the employees, I was able to travel the 12 miles to Hemphill to get a new tire. I do appreciate this kind assistance.

Ronnie McClelland and Zachary Mott, both from the Sabine County maintenance office in TxDOT’s Lufkin District, provided help to this motorist.



ODESSA DISTRICT

From: Liz and Paul Hassall
Warminster, Pa.

In early January, I had a problem with my travel trailer on Interstate 10 at the 297-mile marker. That is in the middle of nowhere with the

wind blowing at about 25 miles per hour and the temperature at about 20. Lying under my rig was cold — to say the least.

After about 15 minutes, one of your TxDOT workers stopped by and helped, which was greatly appreciated. His name is **Sam Jackson**.

After we made the repairs, I tried to offer him some money, which he refused! Wow! — was I surprised.

He saved our bacon. Our thanks to Sam and TxDOT for all the help and hospitality.

Samuel F. Jackson is a maintenance technician in the Odessa District’s Iraan Maintenance Section.



EL PASO DISTRICT

From: Margaret Benson
Kerrville, Texas

My husband and I were returning home after a visit to Big Bend National Park. We were on Highway 385 between Marathon and Fort Stockton when we realized that the car caddy, behind our RV, had a tire blow out.

Fortunately it was daylight, conditions were good, and we were in a relatively flat area in which to take care of this situation. As we are familiar with this stretch of the highway, and knowing help may not be close by, we were pleased to see that a TxDOT crew was out working in the area at that time. Your men graciously came by to check on us and offer us their assistance, but we appreciatively declined, feeling that we had the situation under control.

Unfortunately, we discovered soon after that taking the tire off would be a much slower process than we had anticipated. My husband certainly needed a better and stronger helper than me at this moment.

As luck would have it, one of your employees, a very helpful young man named **Abel Galindo**, circled back by to check on us. Without batting an eye, Abel jumped out of his truck and came over and helped my husband take the ruined tire off the trailer in a flash.

When we asked where we might find a replacement tire, as we had none with us, he recommended a couple of businesses in Fort Stockton.

So, it is with gratitude that I am writing to commend this fine young man. He came to our aid willingly and helpfully. We don’t find ourselves in this predicament very often, but how nice it is to have help available when you need it.

Abel Galindo works in the Alpine Maintenance Section in the El Paso District.



MOTOR CARRIER DIVISION

From: Mike Stevenson
Detroit Edison
Detroit, Mich.

I just want to take the time to thank **Curtis Wagner** and his team on a great job with assisting Detroit Edison and Mammoet on a permit issue for the movement of a transformer in Brownsville, Texas.

All team members were professional and very helpful to assist with the permit process.

The unit will be returning from Mexico to Brownsville one more time in April. Your assistance on the return will be needed. Again, Detroit Edison appreciates the teamwork of TxDOT and Curtis Wagner.

This letter first was sent to Mike Behrens, TxDOT’s executive director. Curtis Wagner is permit branch manager with the Motor Carrier Division in Austin. ★



OCTOBER 2003

20 years

Marilyn Tuley – Traffic Operations Division

FEBRUARY 2004

40 years

Jesus Montes – Laredo

35 years

Thomas W. Wilson – Austin
Joseph L. Grimes Jr. – Dallas
Robert W. Gray Jr. – Houston

30 years

Tyree Jones – Abilene
Lloyd S. Eveland – Construction
Francisco H. Ruiz – El Paso
Janelle H. Gbur – Houston
Albert M. McCarty – Houston
Rodolfo V. Moreno – Lubbock
Fred D. Hunter – Paris
Juan Billalobos Jr. – San Antonio
Patrick L. Irwin – San Antonio
Pamela M. Arnold – Vehicle Titles and Registration
Ruth H. Howard – Vehicle Titles and Registration

25 years

Robert Almanza – Abilene
Charles B. Freshcoln – Corpus Christi
Reynaldo M. Galvan – Corpus Christi
Calvin S. Townes Jr. – Finance
Timothy W. White – Fort Worth
Judy D. Brzymialkiewicz – Houston
Teresa S. Chambers – Odessa
Billy L. Cotton – Odessa
Demetrio Pineda – Odessa
Roberto Flores Jr. – Pharr
Roberto P. Hernandez – Pharr
Deborah S. Skelton – Pharr
Jesse L. Williams – San Angelo
Joann G. Kirkland – Traffic
Diane E. Counts – Vehicle Titles and Registration
Mary H. Davenport – Vehicle Titles and Registration
Darrell L. Jones – Waco
Bobby A. Pollard – Waco
Michael R. Sellers – Waco
Stephen J. Werner – Yoakum

20 years

Howard K. Middleton – Abilene
Harvey D. Davis – Amarillo
Dacio Marin III – Bridge
Billy W. Johnson – Bryan
Elizabeth S. Boswell – Construction
Maria G. Hernandez – Corpus Christi
Tommy J. Raymond – Dallas
Aurora Meza – Design
Belinda N. Carter – Fort Worth
Anthony E. Hoots – Fort Worth
Silvio J. Romero – General Services
Carolyn A. Bednar-Wood – Houston
Deborah H. Chapa – Houston
Cecil R. Davis – Houston
Melvin M. Duhon – Houston
Ronald E. Fielder – Houston
Douglas G. Stephens – Houston
Betsy T. McCasland – Lubbock
Jose L. Ramirez – Lubbock
Jerry L. Williams – Lubbock
Deborah J. Denton – Paris
Bobby G. Littlefield Jr. – Paris
Clint P. Rodriguez – San Antonio
Bernard H. Copeland – Tyler
John C. Daugherty – Tyler
John J. Kalalau – Tyler
Douglas L. Fleming – Waco
Guy M. Wardlow – Waco
Ronnie L. Montgomery – Wichita Falls
Jimmy C. Thomas – Wichita Falls
Frederick R. Lerma – Yoakum

15 years

Gary R. Keel – Atlanta
Mcartis Price Jr. – Atlanta

Russell L. Davenport – Austin
Phillip E. Morris – Austin
Paul A. Warden – Bryan
Jose Gaytan Jr. – Corpus Christi
Charles W. Gunn Jr. – Corpus Christi
Richard A. Carrier – Dallas
Michael D. Hainline – Dallas
David L. Boswell – Design
Allison D. Perez – El Paso
Ricardo Romero – El Paso
Michael B. Szurgot – Fort Worth
Ronald C. Tate – Fort Worth
Carlton J. Allen – Houston
David M. Eng – Houston
Roberto Mascardo – Houston
Aide E. Morrow – Houston
Amir H. Mosaffa – Houston
Richard R. Murr – Houston
Jo Ellen* Stokes – Houston
Marilyn L. Barrows – Information Systems
Armando Leyva – Information Systems
Allan J. Tucker – Information Systems
Wesley G. Carter – Lubbock
Gary E. McLendon – Lubbock
Alice S. Carmona – Motor Vehicle
Winfred H. McQueen – Paris
Samuel Ballesteros – Pharr
David Garcia Jr. – Pharr
Martin M. Hernandez – Pharr
Joe F. Mendez – Pharr
Robert W. Briggs – Right of Way
Melvin T. Farrow – San Antonio
Marvin S. Wright – Traffic Operations
Lois D. Johnson – Travel
Jeffery A. Russell – Tyler

10 years

Kenneth E. Bearden – Atlanta
Lisa G. Hughes – Atlanta
Tony R. Johnson – Atlanta
Jo E. Norwood – Atlanta
Cody R. Chambliss – Austin
John A. Delgado – Austin
Logan L. Ketron – Austin
Jerry L. Lawrence – Austin
Michael A. McNabb – Austin
Edward A. Till – Austin
Jack O. Tucker – Austin
David A. Wiemers – Austin
Barbara S. Young – Beaumont
Kent W. Steger – Bridge
Wesley G. Baxter – Brownwood
Kristi E. Behler – Brownwood
James M. Moss – Brownwood
Michael K. Poe – Brownwood
Harold Brown – Childress
Gregory L. Urbanczyk – Childress
James E. Love – Construction
Ronald B. Stuckey – Corpus Christi
Raquel S. Vos – Dallas
Javier Cordova – El Paso
Roberto Hernandez – El Paso
Antonio B. Loya – El Paso
Raphael C. Thorn – Finance
Stephen D. Bone – Fort Worth
Ronald B. Nodine – Fort Worth
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Bryan C. Whittiker – General Services
Dallas W. Champion – Houston
Cody L. McKenney – Houston
Nnamdi R. Ogonna – Houston
James M. Rippard – Houston
Keith L. Davis – Information Services
Coby C. Chase – Legislative Affairs
Charles A. Dunn – Lubbock
Lester C. Fennell – Lubbock
Alvin T. Gladden – Lubbock
Feliciano B. Villarreal Jr. – Lubbock
Dreux C. Land – Lufkin
Jerry L. McCloud – Lufkin
Joel D. Thompson – Motor Carrier
John L. Barajas – Motor Vehicle
Juan F. Barbosa – Motor Vehicle

Deryl S. Creekmur – Occupational Safety
John A. Darter – Paris
Tausha B. Davis – Paris
Wilbert L. Owens Jr. – Paris
Raul E. Lopez – Pharr
Cecil Saldana – Pharr
David Valdez – Traffic Operations
James W. Applegate – Tyler
Robert W. Bobbitt – Tyler
Vicky L. Brubaker – Tyler
Edward L. Jimenez – Tyler
Deborah W. Burleson – Waco
Moses Gonzales – Wichita Falls
Shirley J. Hrabovsky – Yoakum
Francis L. Klekar – Yoakum
Donna M. Steffek – Yoakum

5 years

Christopher L. McDaniel – Abilene
Phillip A. Bergt – Atlanta
Christopher G. Caddell – Austin
David Caldera – Austin
Sheran L. Campbell – Austin
Harry A. Lorton – Aviation
Mark J. Dionne – Beaumont
Bradley J. Rosetta – Beaumont
John G. Delphia – Bridge
Lee C. Ellison – Bryan
Willie F. McAdams – Bryan
Johnny R. Moffett – Bryan
Ronald T. Gilbert Jr. – Childress
Brenda F. Rowland – Childress
John W. Johnson – Commission
Keith D. Burgin – Construction
Robert G. Isassi – Corpus Christi
Dennis J. Myers – Corpus Christi
Maria M. Sugarek – Corpus Christi
Jimmie L. Allen – Dallas
Wendy G. Dalton – Dallas
Sherrelle R. Diggs – Dallas
Camille Thomason – Design
Alfredo Gonzalez – El Paso
John C. Cannady – Fort Worth
Kimberly G. Dow – Fort Worth
Joanna Gentry – Fort Worth
Billy W. Landry – Fort Worth
Curtis E. Myers – Fort Worth
Lewis L. Seales – Fort Worth
Andrew O. Wasson – Fort Worth
Kenneth A. Stewart – General Counsel
Virginia C. Conol – Houston
Mark J. Kosclskey – Houston
Jo Anne Otten – Houston
Patricia A. Richardson – Houston
Curtis L. Talley – Houston
Zhi Qiang Lu – Information Systems
Dwight H. Miles – Information Systems
Hector Canales – Laredo
Patricia A. Fulghum – Laredo
Alejandro Morales – Laredo
Juan Ramirez – Laredo
Fernando J. Salazar – Laredo
Thomas V. Smith – Lufkin
Francisco J. Cruz – Lubbock
Stacey Young – Lubbock
A.D. Bell – Paris
Toby L. Godfrey – Paris
Anthony L. McGovern – Paris
Rocky L. Young – Paris
Robert J. MacHeska – Pharr
John D. Bryant – San Antonio
Tracey M. Keeney – San Antonio
Juan A. Lopez – San Antonio
Jesse G. Ollerbidez – San Antonio
Gina M. Salazar – San Antonio
Cheryl D. Erskine – Trans. Planning & Programming
Betty Hohensee – Trans. Planning & Programming
John E. Windlow – Traffic Operations
Gloria V. Galvan – Vehicle Titles and Registration
Glenn J. Kalina – Yoakum
Allen D. Polonsky Jr. – Yoakum
Harold N. Pyatt Jr. – Yoakum

■ See Service Awards, Page 10



Service Awards

Continued from Page 9

MARCH 2004

40 years

James D. Russell – Waco

35 years

Dearl E. Walters – Beaumont
Phyllis C. Bates – Odessa

30 years

Burl E. Holmes – Houston
Charles H. Parr – Information Services
Joe B. Barnard – Motor Carrier
Tommy E. Cox – Paris
William D. Shaffer – Trans. Planning & Programming
Charles D. Snider – Waco

25 years

Lynne A. Jones – Amarillo
Tommy F. Treadaway – Brownwood
Kenneth D. Fowler – Childress
Jose D. Corvalan – Houston
Isaac P. Lucio – Houston
David W. Kinser – Lubbock
Arnoldo Cortez – Pharr
Dennis W. Wilde – San Angelo
Mary W. Kee – Tyler
William W. Walker – Waco
Maxine C. Brugger – Yoakum
Junius R. Johnson II – Yoakum

20 years

Nick W. Durfey – Amarillo
Bobby J. Pulliam – Amarillo
Michael W. Taylor – Amarillo
Robert E. Lansdale – Atlanta
Paula M. Bishir – Audit
Janet Miley – Austin
John L. Whitney – Brownwood
Arturo Morin – Corpus Christi
Adelmira S. Garcia – Design
Arturo Gutierrez – El Paso
Deborah G. Bodiford – Fort Worth
James N. Whitehead – Fort Worth
Craig S. Mason – General Services
Curtis W. Reinert – General Services
Lloyd E. Dumont Jr. – Houston
Edgar Harris – Houston
Alan K. Hohle – Houston
Alfred L. Jones – Houston
Charles P. McLachlan – Houston
George R. Nichols – Houston
Kelly J. Petru – Houston
Paula H. Nichols – Information Services
Bennie C. Pridgon – Information Services
Carlos Flores – Lubbock
Tommy M. Stevens – Lubbock
Ruben G. Molina – Odessa
Delbert L. Gann – Paris
Roy Harper Jr. – Paris
Bobby G. Littlefield Jr. – Paris
James E. Meals Jr. – Paris
Juan C. Ramirez – Pharr
Rickey L. Hanks – San Antonio
Darren B. Marty – San Antonio
John E. Spencer Jr. – San Antonio
Karen S. Gibson – Traffic Operations
John C. Lowry – Travel
Tonji B. Rudd – Travel
Diana B. Caskey – Vehicle Titles & Registration
David L. Bitner – Waco
Kristi L. Kubitz – Waco

15 years

John W. Bowen – Austin
Jacqueline A. Magill – Austin
Don E. Watson – Austin
John F. Greer – Aviation
Edie M. Stimach – Aviation
Elton L. Brown Jr. – Bridge
Marcus J. Galvan – Bridge
Richard L. Cook – Brownwood
Donna K. Garrison – Childress
Kenneth J. Warren – Childress

Robert L. Sarcinella – Construction
Edward Bernal – Corpus Christi
Lester W. Caraway – Corpus Christi
Horacio Fernandez – El Paso
Jack H. Hobson – Fort Worth
Don R. Singleton – Fort Worth
Chad O. Burks – Houston
Dwayne D. Gajewski – Houston
Juanita L. Gilbert – Houston
Pamela C. Hasker – Houston
Leslie S. Howard – Houston
Michael S. McCoy – Houston
Matthew K. Nguyen – Houston
Kenneth B. Paradowski – Houston
Olivia Williams Smart – Houston
Madjid Benchouia – Information Services
David L. Harper – Lubbock
Regan T. McNeely – Lubbock
James W. Burton – Odessa
Javier B. Guevara – Odessa
David L. Prather – Odessa
Jolita S. Norris – Paris
John F. Reed – Right of Way
Kyle M. Abbott – San Angelo
Sara F. Gilbert – San Angelo
Arthur D. Welborn – San Angelo
William A. Chancellor – San Antonio
Victoria L. Lessing – San Antonio
Jan M. Autry – Travel
Robert E. Small – Traffic Operations
Frances M. Dehaven – Vehicle Titles & Registration
Bruce A. Stewart – Waco

10 years

Ty W. Fraser – Abilene
John T. Matthies – Abilene
Steve M. Roth – Abilene
Ellen R. Ball – Atlanta
Aubrey G. Hill – Atlanta
Amy M. Russell – Atlanta
Christopher G. Vaughn – Austin
Sheri D. Quinlan – Aviation
Diana L. Evans – Beaumont
David M. Blume – Bridge
Kent W. Steger – Bridge
Stephanie E. Williams – Bridge
David E. Brooks – Brownwood
Louis A. Coronado – Brownwood
Thomas S. Greer – Brownwood
Jerry L. Allison – Childress
Billy S. Elliott – Childress
Carlos R. Carrillo – Corpus Christi
Paula Ditzinger – Corpus Christi
Ignacio Guajardo Jr. – Corpus Christi
James E. Jennings – Corpus Christi
Martha J. Ondrej – Corpus Christi
Brian D. Skinner – Corpus Christi
Martin D. Brookhart – Dallas
Ghassan A. Khankarli – Dallas
William R. Laird – Dallas
Roy A. Vargas – Dallas
Gloria C. Carbajal – El Paso
Rebecca S. Puckett – El Paso
Wallace E. Rennels – Fort Worth
Carlos Vasquez Jr. – Fort Worth
Samuel J. Reyes – General Services
Margie L. Edwards – Houston
Debra D. Francis – Houston
Debbi K. Cooke – HRD
Clifford G. Bell – Lufkin
Eldon T. Hockensmith – Lufkin
Harvey E. Horace – Lufkin
Richard S. Howell – Lufkin
Johnny K. Johnson Jr. – Lufkin
Timothy E. Shown – Lufkin
Anthony Bustos – Odessa
Jesus I. Garcia – Odessa
Elton E. Haynes – Odessa
Todd S. Prestien – Paris
Joel Garcia – Pharr
Maria I. Mata – Pharr
Eduardo Ramirez – Pharr
Filiberto Valderas Jr. – Pharr
Armando Zamarripa – Pharr
Waylan L. Ensor – San Angelo
Walter J. Alexander – San Antonio

Randall C. Grones – San Antonio
Troy A. Magers – San Antonio
Barrylynn J. West Jr. – San Antonio
Orlando V. Jamandre Jr. – Traffic Operations
David A. Messineo – Trans. Planning & Programming
Robert E. Wellauer – Trans. Planning & Programming
Nola P. McKey – Travel
Brenda A. Moun – Travel
Jose X. Paz – Travel
Paula K. Lancaster – Vehicle Titles & Registration
Susan F. Sampson – Vehicle Titles & Registration
Robert W. Tanner – Vehicle Titles & Registration
Bradley J. Nors – Waco
Thomas E. Polansky – Waco
Billy H. Pendergrass – Wichita Falls
Jose M. Villastrigo – Wichita Falls

5 years

Max W. Blau – Amarillo
Dwayne A. Gidden – Amarillo
Ryan T. Milakovich – Amarillo
Jerry E. Eaves – Atlanta
Lonnie R. Spunagle – Atlanta
David A. Ray – Austin
Michael D. Adams – Beaumont
Rawetts T. Baaheth – Beaumont
Chris L. Maas – Beaumont
Kenneth W. Prejean Jr. – Beaumont
Sean W. Parker – Bryan
Robert A. Reagan – Bryan
Natividad R. Olvera – Construction
Cedric A. Franco – Corpus Christi
Christopher P. Bond – Dallas
Tim E. Bridgeman – Dallas
Miles E. Hicks – Dallas
Jennifer L. Book – Design
Luping Yi – Design
Adan Avila – El Paso
Susan M. McClenahan – Environmental Affairs
Alireza Momenzadeh – Fort Worth
Michael A. Ploeger – General Services
Raquel M. Carter – General Services
Antonio O. Hernandez – General Services
Melba A. Alfred – Houston
Muhammad K. Ali – Houston
Kenneth N. Chism – Houston
Richard W. Gerber – Houston
Eric S. Hill – Houston
Georgina Hoopo – Houston
Clay E. McCullough III – Houston
Indra Pannila – Houston
Lena A. Polott – Houston
Tabitha A. Rowe – Houston
Cecil E. Sullivan – Houston
Veronica Acevedo – Human Resources
Juan D. Moreno – Laredo
Alberto R. Sosa – Laredo
Larry Alvarado – Lubbock
Bobby G. Campbell – Lubbock
Brad R. Grisham – Lubbock
Roland C. Marshall – Lufkin
Francisco X. Monroy – Lufkin
Roseanne Graham – Motor Carrier
Olivia N. Thompson – Motor Vehicle
Rosa C. Gonzales – Odessa
John D. Nichols – Paris
Ellen E. Perry – Paris
Lloyd D. Slagle – Paris
David Quiroga – Pharr
David F. Aguirre – San Angelo
Daniel Martinez – San Angelo
Robert P. Huron – San Antonio
Jose C. Mendez – San Antonio
Juan O. Trejo – San Antonio
Gregory S. Usavage – San Antonio
Daniel L. Mullis – Travel
Troy W. Hargrove – Tyler
Linda L. Friar – Vehicle Titles & Registration
John A. Stansell – Vehicle Titles & Registration
Roger E. Kaska – Waco
Michael A. Janssen – Yoakum
Alvin A. Vasek Jr. – Yoakum

Retirements

DECEMBER 2003

Atlanta District
Dorothy O. Williams
25 years

Bryan District
Steve M. Simecek
23 years

Information Systems Division
Caye L. Cox
22 years

Motor Vehicle Division
Wanda K. Anderson
19 years

Pharr District
Frank Miller Jr.
37 years

Research and Technology Implementation
Saralind H. Mings
5 years

San Antonio District
David S. Sauer
16 years

Margie N. Wall
22 years

Kenneth H. Wilson
26 years

Transportation Planning and Programming
Virginia G. Anderson
30 years

Waco District
Linzie B. Wheat Jr.
18 years

Wichita Falls District
Jerry D. Morgan
17 years

Yoakum District
Johnny J. Luna
27 years

Pearlie A. Bushong
24 years

JANUARY 2004
Abilene District
Heriberto Sarinana
19 years

Austin District
Jimmy C. Gibson
21 years

Myron L. McKelvey
30 years

Beaumont District
Robert C. Carter
8 years

Dallas District
Kenneth Barger
19 years

Fort Worth District
Gary L. Spelce
21 years

Houston District
Louis R. Leblanc
33 years

Laredo District
Pedro Mosqueda
9 years

San Antonio District
Arnulfo T. Garcia
30 years

Margaret G. Smith
30 years

Oscar H. Resendez
7 years

Traffic Operations
Janie P. Light
27 years

Transportation Planning and Programming
Susan A. Miller
27 years

In Memoriam

Brownwood District
Doralene Montague
died December 4, 2003

Paris District
Billy M. Palmer
Engineering Technician
retired March 1995
died December 3, 2003

James Lawrence
Hunt County Maintenance Crew
Chief
retired September 1998
died January 5, 2004

Bessie McCoin
DE Secretary
retired May 1987
died January 19, 2004

Ben Casey
retired November 2003
died December 27, 2003

Jerry N. Norris
died February 12, 2004

San Angelo District
Juanita Townley
District Design
retired December 1978
died September 22, 2003

Domingo Pina
Sonora Maintenance
retired July 1976
died October 13, 2003

Carlton Massie
Junction residency
retired August 1977
died October 18, 2003

Saul Moya
Robert Lee Maintenance
retired September 1990
died October 30, 2003

Fort Worth District
Arthur Blackwell
Maintenance Technician
retired 1991
died February 2, 2004

Traffic Division
Harold Christian Hempel
died January 23, 2004

Yoakum District
Larry D. Rutherford
Engineer Technician
retired August 2003
died November 2, 2003

Bryan District
Kendal L. Mosley
Maintenance Sec. Supervisor
hired June 1993
died October 16, 2003

District unknown
Mary E. Shepard
died December 12, 2003

Woodrow C. Gibbs
died November 14, 2003

Jessie J. West
died November 6, 2003

Melba H. West
died October 29, 2003

Charles T. Hall
died October 13, 2003

Leonel Perez
Transportation Maintenance
Specialist
hired January 1995
died January 25, 2004

Calendar

2004

MARCH

25 Commission Meeting, Austin
29-31 2004 Construction & Pavement Conference, San Antonio, CST
31 Cesar Chavez Day (optional holiday)

APRIL

3 Don't Mess with Texas Trash-off, Statewide, TRV
7-8 Bid Letting, Austin, CST
9 Good Friday (optional holiday)
14-16 Texas Aviation Conference, Austin, AVN
21 San Jacinto Day (skeleton crew holiday)
27-28 Statewide Maintenance & Traffic Operations Conference, Waco, MNT/TRF
29 Commission Meeting, Waco

MAY

11-12 Bid Letting, Austin, CST
27 Commission Meeting, Austin
31 Memorial Day (holiday)

JUNE

1-4 Transportation Planning Conference, Houston, TPP
7-10 Research Management Committee Meeting, Austin, RTI
8-9 Bid Letting, Austin, CST
14-17 2004 Design & Bridge Conference, Houston, DES/BRG
24 Commission Meeting, Austin

JULY

8-9 Bid Letting, Austin, CST
14 Research Oversight Committee Meeting, Austin, RTI
29 Commission Meeting, Childress

AUGUST

10-11 Bid Letting, Austin, CST
26 Commission Meeting, Austin
27 LBJ's Birthday (skeleton crew holiday)

SEPTEMBER

6 Labor Day (holiday)
9-10 Bid Letting, Austin, CST
16 Rosh Hashanah (optional holiday)
17 Rosh Hashanah (optional holiday)
30 Commission Meeting, Austin

OCTOBER

14-15 Bid Letting, Austin, CST
28 Commission Meeting, Austin

The complete TxDOT Calendar is on the intranet at <http://crossroads.org/pio/articles/calendar.htm>

backtracks



It's hard to know if this wingless aircraft was stopped to fill its fuel tanks or just to draw a crowd. Also unknown for this month's **backtracks** is where and when the photo was taken. Given the age of the

cars, it was probably sometime before 1950. We're sure it's in Texas. If you have more information about this picture, contact Anne Cook at (512) 486-5838, or by e-mail at acook@dot.state.tx.us.

Donna Swope, General Services Division, was the first to identify that Operation Longhorn took place between Lometa and Lampasas in 1952. Additional information from **Howard Holland**, Brownwood director of operations, expanded on the TxDOT connection:

"... the photo on U.S. 183 is on the north side of Lampasas looking north. The TxDOT area and maintenance section is just out of the picture on the left side.

The troop movements were called Operation Longhorn and were in March and April 1952. They involved 115,000 troops and the longest convoy was reported as 50 miles in length. A historical marker is being constructed to be placed in Lometa city park. I identified the location and then **Mike Kopchick**, Lampasas maintenance supervisor, was able to identify the time and activity." 🌟



T RANSPORTATION NEWS

 Texas Department of Transportation

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