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Corridor plan advances with choice of consortium

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Focus on excellence

2004

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History-making change

by Mike Behrens
Executive Director

A new Texas Department of Transportation emerged in 2004 as the department began spreading the word about how things must change — and how they are already being transformed — as we continue moving forward to meet the state's growing transportation needs. Two of those changes occurred in December, representing major milestones in the department's history.

The commission announced the selection of Cintra-Zachry, an international engineering, construction and financial firm, as providing the best long-term value in developing the Oklahoma-to-Mexico portion of the Trans-Texas Corridor (TTC-35). Cintra-Zachry will invest $6 billion of its own money in new roads that roughly parallel I-35 and will give the state $1.2 billion for additional transportation improvements along TTC-35.

Another first occurred in December when the commission announced the largest single roadway-safety program in its history. More than $600 million will be spent on 644 safety projects across the state, projects that could save 90 lives and prevent nearly 1,100 injuries each year. The program will focus on widening narrow roads, adding left-turn lanes, erecting barriers in the medians of divided highways, and building new overpasses. Money for the safety improvements will come from the sale of bonds.

Both those projects are possible because of legislation passed in 2003, giving TxDOT new tools to deliver transportation improvements faster than ever before through some fairly cutting-edge methods.

But one thing will never change at TxDOT, nor do we want it to. We have always relied on the professionalism, hard work and dedication of our employees as the foundation of everything that we do and how we do it.✪

Letter from the editor

by Mike Cox

Having a good reputation is pretty important for most folks. But reputation doesn't just apply to people. An organization can have a good reputation or a bad reputation. Fortunately, TxDOT has a fine reputation — in Texas and across the nation.

With this issue, we focus on the secret to TxDOT's success: You. You won many prestigious awards last year. We don't have the space to mention every recognition of quality performance that came TxDOT's way in 2004, but we have included the more significant honors in this issue.✪

TxDOT photo / Tim Cunningham

TxDOT photo / Michael Amador

Photo left: Journalists ask questions on Dec. 16 during a news conference at TxDot's Greer Building in Austin.
Photo right: They heard from representatives of the Cintra-Zachry consortium, including David S. Zachry, left, president and chief operating officer of Zachry Construction, and Jose Lopez, right, Cintra's director in the United States.

TxDOT keeps Texas moving

Corridor advances with selection of 'best-value' proposal

Cintra-Zachry — an international group of engineering, construction and financial firms — has been selected by the Transportation Commission as the best value for the state in developing the Oklahoma-to-Mexico portion of the Trans-Texas Corridor (TTC-35).

"People will remember that what we did on the 16th of December 2004 was every bit as impactful as the interstate highway system was more than a half-century ago," Gov. Rick Perry said shortly after the commission vote. "I think we have just seen the future today, and it's stunning. Believe it. It's here."

Cintra-Zachry proposes to invest $6 billion in a toll road between Dallas and San Antonio by 2010, to give the state $1.2 billion for additional transportation improvements between Oklahoma and Mexico, and to extend the corridor into the Lower Rio Grande Valley to Mexico.

"This is an historic change in the way major transportation assets are built and paid for in Texas," said commission Chairman Ric Williamson. "Private investment, not taxpayer dollars, will be where we look first for funding."

To address the state's need for immediate congestion relief on Interstate 35, the first phase of Cintra-Zachry's proposal calls for developing $6 billion in new roadways roughly paralleling the interstate by 2010. This includes building 316 miles of new four-lane divided highway from Dallas to San Antonio. According to the proposal, pending environmental clearance and the public-involvement process, construction could begin immediately after right of way has been acquired.

Cintra-Zachry's package also includes funding options for a route connecting southeast San Antonio to State Highway 130 and for relocating — to the east — the existing Union Pacific rail line between San Antonio and Austin.

Future projects envisioned by Cintra-Zachry include separate lanes for cars and trucks on SH 130, a relief route around the west side of Fort Worth, a TTC-35 route from San Antonio to the Rio Grande Valley, and rail between Dallas and San Antonio.

Cintra-Zachry is one of three groups to submit detailed proposals on how to develop the Oklahoma to Mexico element of the Trans-Texas Corridor. TxDOT had been studying the proposals since last August.

Principals of the Cintra-Zachry consortium include Cintra, a Spanish toll-road operator with worldwide operations, and Zachry Construction, based in San Antonio. TxDOT staff determined that the group's proposal provides the best long-term value to the state.

In return for building the new transportation corridor and giving

■ See Page 4

Meetings on environment slated for proposed routes

As part of the federal process for environmental review, a series of public meetings on one of the proposed routes of the Trans-Texas Corridor has been scheduled. Two environmental studies are currently in progress: the Oklahoma-to-Mexico/Gulf Coast (TTC-35) element and the Northeast Texas-to-Mexico (I-69/TTC) element. The initial work in identifying potential corridor routes began in early 2004. The latest round of public meetings for TTC-35 is set for Feb. 7-March 31, with 48 meetings scheduled throughout the study area. More information is available at www.keeptexasmoving.org ✪

Safety projects gain with funding

Highway improvements to reduce traffic crashes and save lives

TxDOT gave Texans something to celebrate just before the start of the new year — the largest single roadway safety program it has ever undertaken. At just over $600 million, it will include 644 safety projects all across the state.

Transportation planners say the highway improvements could save as many as 90 lives and prevent nearly 1,100 injuries every year.

Bonds authorized by voters last year will be used to pay for widening narrow two-lane roadways, installing barriers in the medians of divided highways, adding left-turn lanes at highway intersections, and building new overpasses around the state.

Work on many of the projects is expected to be under way as early as next year.

"Thanks to the voters, we are about to make safety improvements to more than 2,300 miles of state highways," said Gov. Rick Perry. "That's more than the length of a road stretching all the way from Austin to New York City."

The bond program will pay for projects that safety experts say have the most potential for reducing the number of traffic crashes on state-maintained highways. TxDOT will spend $295 million to widen narrow, two-lane roads in 90 Texas counties. This will cut the number of head-on collisions and crashes involving vehicles that run off the road. New concrete or cable barriers in the medians of heavily traveled divided highways also are expected to decrease head-on collisions.

Ten new highway overpasses will improve traffic flow and reduce the number and severity of crashes. TxDOT will also install left-turn lanes at 171 sites to reduce the number of rear-end crashes.

In 2003, voters gave the Texas Transportation Commission authority to issue up to $3 billion in bonds to pay for projects improving state highways. The safety projects announced in Austin in late December are the first to be funded under the new financing option.

Each year, more than 3,500 people are killed and more than 340,000 are injured in motor-vehicle crashes in Texas. The Texas Transportation Institute's Center for Transportation Safety estimates the annual economic cost of crashes in the state exceeds $19.7 billion.✪

Selection of consortium advances project

■ **Continued From Page 3**

it to the state — plus paying the state $1.2 billion to invest in the corridor — Cintra-Zachry proposes to negotiate for a 50-year contract to maintain and operate the new highway as a toll road. Those talks were ongoing during January.

"The private sector is willing and able to invest in transportation improvements to reduce congestion, improve safety, provide economic development, and protect our quality of life," said Williamson. "There are many details to be worked out and separate environmental studies must be completed. Without a doubt, the private sector is knocking at our door with a nearly incredible opportunity for Texas."

"In Texas, we're breaking new ground," Commissioner Robert Nichols said. "By far, this will be one of the largest private-sector investments in transportation in U.S. history."

Commissioner Hope Andrade pointed to the proposal's economic impact. "This is an enormously important crossroad for Texas," she said. "This project will mean jobs and opportunities for the people of this state for generations to come."

Commissioner John W. Johnson sees the proposal as a major stepping-stone toward the development of I-69 as well. "It amounts to a blueprint for building I-69," he said.

"All of us on the commission appreciate the vision of Gov. Perry in proposing the Trans-Texas Corridor, which has now become a reality," Commissioner Ted Houghton said.✪

Progress seen in timeline for TTC

January 2002: Gov. Rick Perry outlines his vision for the Trans-Texas Corridor and asks TxDOT to develop an action plan.

June 2002: TxDOT outlines action steps to implement the Trans-Texas Corridor in the report, "The Crossroads of the Americas."

November 2002: TxDOT receives unsolicited proposal for TTC-35 from Fluor Enterprises Inc.

July 25, 2003: **TXDOT** issues a request for competing proposals and qualifications for the element of the Trans-Texas Corridor stretching from Oklahoma to Mexico and the Gulf Coast.

Sept. 9, 2003: Competing proposals are received from two groups: Cintra-Zachry and Trans Texas Express LLC. With the Fluor proposal, three conceptual proposals are submitted to TxDOT.

Oct. 29, 2003: TxDOT decides to invite all three groups to submit detailed proposals.

April 29, 2004: All three groups submit detailed proposals.

Fall 2004: TxDOT evaluates proposals.

Dec. 16, 2004: The Texas Transportation Commission announces selection of a long-term strategic partner (Cintra-Zachry) to develop the Oklahoma-Mexico/Gulf Coast element of the Trans-Texas Corridor.

Winter 2005: TxDOT negotiates a comprehensive development agreement with Cintra. The agreement, limited to $3.5 million, is for development of a master plan for financing and implementation of the Trans-Texas Corridor.

Honors at 2004 Short Course hail five

The most prestigious transportation-related awards in Texas were presented during the 2004 Transportation Short Course in mid-October at Texas A&M University. These awards, sponsored through the Texas Transportation Institute, recognize the best within TxDOT and its public supporters.

Greer Award

Rawson

Carol T. Rawson, P.E., deputy director of the Traffic Operations Division, is known for strong management expertise, extensive engineering knowledge, and a proven record of accomplishments.

Born in Austin during Dewitt C. Greer's term as the department's chief executive, she remained in the capital city to earn a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Texas. Nearly two decades ago, she started with the department reviewing plans, specifications and estimates.

Career highlights include important roles in development of intelligent transportation systems in Texas, particularly the Freeway Traffic Management System and the High-Occupancy Vehicle System. Selected by Commissioner Johnson to participate in the Texas Transportation Partnership project, Rawson served on two of the project's working groups and made significant contributions to the final report. That document set the department's goals regarding reliable mobility, improved safety, system preservation, accelerated project delivery, and economic vitality.

Rawson is deeply involved with crash-record reporting in Texas as a way to enhance safety across the state. This project — called the Crash Records Information System (CRIS for short) — will use computers and the Internet to help the Department of Public Safety process data on highway crashes with minimum delay. It also will reduce a backlog of reports waiting to be processed. The faster that data can be analyzed, the faster improvements can be made in the design and construction of highway projects.

Rawson was hailed at the presentation as "the person whose work assures that transportation in Texas today is safer than yesterday — and will be even safer for tomorrow's travelers." ■

Gilchrist Award

Smith

San Antonio-native Clay R. Smith, P.E., is the director of transportation planning and development in the San Antonio District. He is seen as a leader who has made significant contributions in the areas of transportation planning, design, construction and maintenance.

With a public-sector career spanning 25 years and many different jobs for TxDOT, he helped put Texas at the leading edge of transportation innovation. Having earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Texas A&M University, Smith has come a long way since his first job with TxDOT as an engineering assistant back in 1978. Known for taking a long-range view in planning, Smith has emphasized the importance of actively involving local elected officials in transportation issues. He has spearheaded a planning process that incorporates public outreach, especially to those affected by projects in rural counties.

Smith also played a key role in developing the

■ See Page 6

district's Rural Mobility Plan, again focusing on the long-range needs of the district by establishing priority transportation corridors. He is known for applying access-management principles as a way to squeeze every bit of mobility from existing roadways. Taking advantage of the new tools provided by the legislature to accelerate transportation improvements, he has been instrumental in establishing one of the state's earliest regional-mobility authorities. He used the tools to advance a major interchange project in the district — decreasing the project's cost by $9 million — while minimizing the impact on motorists during construction. He also played a key role in the district's letting a record $260 million in fiscal year 2004. ■

DeBerry Award

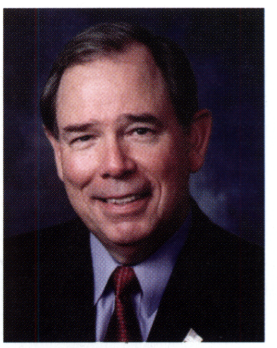
Badiozzamani

Behrooz Badiozzamani, P.E., deputy district engineer of the Pharr District, has a well-deserved reputation as a quick and eager learner driven by a strong work ethic and a commitment to solve challenges.

A graduate of the University of Texas with a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering, he has attained nearly 25 years of professional experience with TxDOT, beginning as an engineering assistant in 1980. Other job titles have included district design engineer and area engineer. He has been a deputy district engineer for more than a decade.

Ensuring that TxDOT has qualified individuals to lead it for generations to come is a priority for him. He makes it part of everyday business to ensure that fellow employees are familiar with all aspects of the department's business. He has overseen a multi-million dollar construction and design program and three maintenance sections. He has developed project-tracking systems to ensure that all aspects of project development are followed in a timely manner. He has modified the department's standard right-of-way agreements to fit project needs and he has helped create the first bridge section in the district. Through his efforts, the district has gone from a letting volume of $27.8 million a decade ago to present-day projects under contract valued at $600 million. He has led the district's efforts coordinating and expediting projects throughout several areas with the Economically Disadvantaged County Program. Further, he had a key role in negotiating and developing contract and design documents to expedite reconstruction of the Queen Isabella Memorial Causeway at South Padre Island. He is among those credited with the restoration of traffic to South Padre Island in record time. ■

Perry Award


Thompson

Livingston resident and Polk County Judge John P. Thompson knows the importance of transportation — past, present and future. He understands the importance of transportation in building a community's prosperity and advancing its economic future. This understanding of the power of transportation is longstanding. For decades, he has advocated good roads in Texas. He was recognized in 2000 by TxDOT with the department's Road Hand Award.

He is distinguished in every aspect of a professional life that has included leadership roles in business and government, as well as in organizations promoting civic and economic growth. Whether before a community group in his home county, or in testimony to a legislative or congressional committee, he speaks to the issues of transportation needs and how those needs can best be met.

Thompson's voice is as strong for rural counties and their need for improved transportation to preserve their economies as it is in pointing to the positive impact of Interstate 69 connecting Canada and Mexico with the United States. He has embraced the Trans-Texas Corridor, making many public presentations in its support. His many friends see him as a visionary who grasps the present and future needs of transportation in Texas. ■

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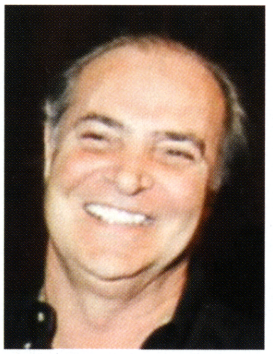
Stotzer Award



Bertrand

Carl B. Bertrand Jr. is an engineering specialist in the Materials and Pavements Section of the Construction Division. He has a reputation for drive, dedication and inventiveness. He has a history of collaboration and involvement, serving on a multitude of committees to ensure achievement of technical standards and longevity for system infrastructure.

Among his peers, he is recognized as expert in the use of lasers and computers used to collect data "where the rubber meets the road." The result is enhanced reliability of highways. His expertise has led to several ways to save TxDOT and the state's taxpayers millions of dollars each year. He would be first to say that saving $200,000 here, and $219,000 there, and more than $1.6 million over there adds up to real money.

Employees around the state know him as their best source of information when they have a technical question dealing with collecting data about pavement. Using laser and digital technology, he designed an automated pavement-measurement vehicle that replaced subjective ratings with repeatable, objective measurements. Based on information he provided, the Federal Communications Commission granted TxDOT a waiver to continue the use of ground-penetrating radar, a practice halted in the wake of the Sept. 11 terror attacks. Holding a degree in industrial technology from Southwest Texas State University, he started as an engineering specialist. ✪

Greats in Texas transportation are names behind top awards

The Texas Transportation Institute presents five awards during the annual Transportation Short Course at Texas A&M University:

■ Dewitt C. Greer
The Greer Award recognizes and encourages the skill, dedication, civic-mindedness, innovation, and performance excellence of TxDOT engineers. It is named for one of the legends of the department, a man whose career spanned from 1927 to 1981.

■ Gibb Gilchrist
The Gilchrist Award honors the performance of an outstanding TxDOT engineer and is named for the man who served two terms as state highway engineer in the 1920s and 1930s. He left the department to become dean of engineering at Texas A&M and later served as president of the university. In 1944, he became the first chancellor of the Texas A&M System.

■ Luther DeBerry
The DeBerry Award is presented for outstanding contributions to the state of Texas in the field of transportation. It is named for the man who served as the department's state highway engineer from 1973 to 1980.

■ Russell H. Perry
The Perry Award recognizes leadership in creating public awareness of the need for adequate transportation facilities in the state. It is named for the Dallas attorney, businessman and philanthropist.

■ Raymond E. Stotzer Jr.
The Stotzer Award is presented to a non-engineer who displays outstanding leadership, dedication and service to the department. It is named for the man who served as TxDOT's engineer-director from 1986 to 1989.

TxDOT photos / Geoff Appold

El Paso District: Mario A. Pando, Hector R. Granado, Rolando E. Hernandez, Raul R. Melendez, Auden Natividad, Eduardo A. Martin
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TxDOT's heroes go 'Extra Mile'

ABILENE DISTRICT

Jesse Camacho
Ray Ramos

Camacho

Ramos

■ Rescued two-year-old boy missing from home for hours and safely found on wild ranch land in Shackelford County, Jan. 13, 2004.

Anyone who has raised a child knows the second year of life is not called the "Terrible Twos" for nothing. Two-year-olds, new to life and to walking, like to strike out on their own, usually to the dismay of their parents. But sometimes, a child's instinctive quest to explore his or her world can turn tragic, especially when a youngster wanders off in rugged country.

When Shackelford County maintenance supervisor Tommy Brown heard on his radio that the sheriff's office needed help in searching for a lost child, he dispatched maintenance technicians Jesse Camacho and Ray Ramos to a staging area set up on the 64,000-acre Nail Ranch.

The two TxDOT workers learned that little J.W. Eppler had disappeared from the family's ranch house several hours before. In one direction from the ranch house was a deep stock tank. In the other direction lay a rugged canyon. Soon, both maintenance workers set out on foot to join other searchers. An hour later, the two men were just about to head back to the ranch house. They had not found any tracks, items of clothing, nor any other sign of the missing toddler. Then, walking along a brush-filled draw that fed into a creek, the two TxDOT men heard noises coming from a clump of brush. Moving in to investigate, they saw a couple of kittens. Then they saw a

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by Mike Cox, editor, and Tim Cunningham, associate editor

The TxDOT Extra Mile Award recognizes individual employees who have shown extraordinary courage. They have put their own lives in danger acting to prevent injury or to save the life of another. As part of the opening ceremonies at the 2004 Transportation Short Course in mid-October, TxDOT honored 17 employees with the Extra Mile Award.

flash of blond hair. Under a canopy of mesquite, invisible to the airplane circling above, J.W. sat happily playing in the dirt. Camacho ran to scoop up the boy while Ramos waved his hat to signal the airplane. J.W. had a few thorns in his clothes, but otherwise proved no worse for wear. Camacho and Ramos, on the other hand, each got a pretty good walk in that afternoon. They not only went the Extra Mile, they went several miles.

BRYAN DISTRICT

Walter Luckett

Luckett

■ Saved the life of a co-worker who had fallen into a collapsing hole on the embankment along FM 39 in Leon County on May 13, 2004.

When Bryan District maintenance tech Walter Luckett and crew chief Chad Clossin got out of their state truck on FM 39 in Anderson County, they had a problem to solve. They soon faced another problem, one entirely unexpected. It had rained hard the day before, and the rain had been continuing off and on that morning of May 13. A corrugated metal pipe used to extend an old concrete arch bridge on the farm-to-market road had collapsed, causing water to back up against the bridge. That was the first problem. Worried that the ponding would send water into some mobile homes in the area, Luckett and Clossin hoped to do something to prevent the mobile homes from flooding. Unknown to these two maintenance workers, the situation had become even more serious. Surging storm runoff had undermined the roadway near the bridge.

As the two men walked toward the bridge, Clossin fell through a soft spot in the pavement caused by the rapidly eroding base. With the hole continuing to widen, Clossin began sinking as if he had stepped into quicksand. In a matter of seconds, only Clossin's head, chest and arms remained free as the water-saturated road base continued to give way. Thinking quickly and without regard for his safety, Luckett grabbed his boss's arm and managed to pull him back onto the pavement. Then, as both men looked on, the 35-foot embankment collapsed. The incident left Clossin with a hurting back, but a medical exam revealed no serious injury. Had Luckett not pulled him out when he did, Clossin could have been buried under an avalanche of fill material.

DALLAS DISTRICT

Sandra R. Williams

Williams

■ Aided a disabled driver involved in a collision in Dallas along Interstate 30 and alerted emergency responders on Sept. 10, 2003.

For many commuters, the daily drive to work is a routine, if sometimes frustrating, part of life. But not always. Dallas District legal assistant Sandra R. Williams was on her way to her office when she saw a vehicle moving erratically through rush hour traffic on I-30. It seemed way too early for a drunk driver to be out, but something was clearly wrong.

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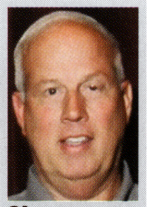
As she continued to watch, the vehicle left the roadway, ran over several signs, crashed into a larger, lighted sign and spun around. Williams immediately pulled onto the shoulder and ran to the smoking vehicle, afraid it might burst into flames any second. She saw that the driver had suffered an epileptic seizure. Disoriented, the man was trying to get his car started. When he couldn't do that, he tried to leave the vehicle. Williams succeeded in calming him and preventing him from staggering out in traffic. She ran back to her vehicle, used her cell phone to call 911, and then went back to continue comforting the man until help arrived.

DALLAS DISTRICT

Larry Gipson
Victor Songer


Gipson

Songer

■ Aided four men injured by a careening truck that crashed through work-zone barriers on Interstate 35 in Ellis County on April 29, 2004.

In a very short bit of time, Dallas District inspectors Larry Gipson and Victor Songer found themselves on both sides of a life-or-death situation. Checking a job on I-35 East, nine miles south of Waxahachie in Ellis County, the two came close to dying when an auto-transport truck accidentally entered a closed lane in the work zone and barreled straight toward them. Both men jumped over a guardrail to avoid being struck by the fast-moving 18-wheeler. Neither TxDOT employee suffered injuries, but others at the job site were not so fortunate. Four contract workers were hurt, two seriously. Gipson and Songer immediately made sure help was on the way, and then began helping the injured workers. Using first-aid kits retrieved from the TxDOT vehicles, the two inspectors teamed up with a nurse who had stopped and volunteered her services to help the two men injured most seriously. After paramedics arrived, Gipson and Songer helped control traffic.

Later in the day, as if they had not already done enough, these two pitched in and assisted the contract workers in completing the day's task so the lanes could be reopened on schedule.

EL PASO DISTRICT

Hector R. Granado
Rolando E. Hernandez
Eduardo A. Martin
Raul R. Melendez
Auden Natividad
Mario A. Pando

■ Rescued a mother and child from a vehicle washed off RM 170 in Presidio County during a flood on July 28, 2004.

Ranch Road 170, which hugs the Rio Grande from Candelaria to Lajitas out in Big Bend country, is one of the prettiest stretches of pavement in Texas. But for a New Mexico woman and her daughter, the drive turned into a nightmare.

About midnight on July 27, Angel Trillo drove down 170 in her pickup with her daughter Akalia. It had been raining that night, but Trillo gave that little thought. She and her daughters were on their way to visit relatives in Mexico.

About seven miles from Presidio, Trillo came to a creek crossing. Her headlights showed an inch or two of water running over the road, but she did not think it would be any trouble to drive through. "I looked at my daughter to ask her something," Trillo later recalled, "and I could see a huge wall of water like you see in the movies. I punched the gas as hard as I could but the water caught our back end and spun us."

A flash-flood crest carried the pickup 50 feet downstream, lodging it in a sandbar. Surrounded by swirling water, mother and daughter wisely stayed in the vehicle.

Desperately trying to get help, Trillo honked her horn until her vehicle's battery died. Then she and her daughter began praying.

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When the cab of the truck began filling with water, she opened the pickup's doors, hoping that would keep the vehicle stable. The truck stayed put, but the water continued to rise. Eventually, the woman and her daughter had to crawl out of the cab and stand in the bed of the pickup. At 4:30 a.m., a passerby saw the truck in the water. The Border Patrol and Presidio County sheriff's deputies soon arrived, but the water ran too fast and deep for officers to reach the stranded woman and her terrified daughter. Until a helicopter could reach the scene, the best the officers could do was position agents downstream to make a last-ditch effort to get to the pair if the floodwaters swept them away from their truck.

By now, her legs braced against the submerged pickup's cab, Trillo stood holding her daughter. Their heads were barely above water. That's when Raul Melendez got involved. A TxDOT worker who is a volunteer firefighter and Presidio city council member, he did not think the floodwater was strong enough to move a big bulldozer. With help from Hector R. Granado and Mario A. Pando, Melendez got the heavy equipment trucked in from a nearby maintenance project. Soon, Rolando Hernandez, Auden Natividad and Eduardo Martin went out into the water on the bulldozer. The three men managed to get mother and daughter safely aboard and carried them to safety. The rescued pair were cold and wet, but uninjured.

EL PASO DISTRICT

Art Gutierrez

Gutierrez

■ Pulled a motorist from a burning vehicle and cared for the stranger in need along Interstate 10 in Hudspeth County on July 6, 2004.

The young man from Mesa, Ariz., must have been having a bad day. But if it hadn't been for El Paso District lab inspector Art Gutierrez, it might have been the man's last day, bad or good. On his way from El Paso to Sierra Blanca for a meeting, at mile marker 68 on I-10 Gutierrez saw dust coming up off the right shoulder. On the other side of the dust, Gutierrez could see a rental truck had crashed into the brush off the side of the roadway. The TxDOT employee stopped to see what had happened.

Approaching the vehicle, he saw a young man sitting in the truck, still holding the steering wheel. That seemed strange, because the man did not look injured.

Then Gutierrez saw smoke and realized the vehicle had caught fire.

Gutierrez yelled for the man to get out of the truck, but he did not respond. Running around to the passenger side, he jerked the door open and said, "Get out of there or you'll burn." At that, the man said, "Oh, just leave me alone."

"Do you want to die out here?" Gutierrez asked. Yes, the man said, he wanted to die.

But Gutierrez didn't think that was his choice to make. Seeing a wad of money stuck between the seats of the truck and empty beer cans scattered on the floor, Gutierrez had an idea. "Hey, get your money and I'll give you a ride to the store so you can buy more beer."

"Sure," the man replied, "let's get out of here." He grabbed the money and a carton of cigarettes and followed Gutierrez to his state truck.

Just as Gutierrez was about to leave, a concrete truck pulled up. Gutierrez asked the driver to call for help and told him he was taking the driver of the now-blazing rental truck to Fort Hancock, about three miles away.

Gutierrez tried to talk to the young man, but about all he would say was that he was from Mesa, Ariz., and headed "east." Dropping the man off at a motel and suggesting that he get some rest, Gutierrez returned to the scene where he briefed a sheriff's deputy and a DPS trooper.

The trooper went to Fort Hancock to question the man about all the money and the beer.

The young man who had been driving the rented vehicle may have ended up with some legal issues to resolve, but in going the extra mile, Gutierrez gave him a chance for a fresh start on life.

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Extra Mile awards

HOUSTON DISTRICT

Charles W. Neuman

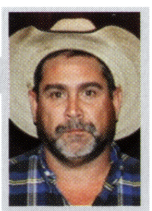
Neuman

■ Pulled an injured driver from an overturned tandem-trailer truck that crashed on FM 363 in Waller County on Aug. 27, 2004

As a Houston District maintenance worker since 1993, Charles W. Neuman has seen his share of roadway crashes, but nothing like what he witnessed on Aug. 27. Driving his state vehicle on FM 362 in Waller County, Neuman saw a tandem trailer truck about 300 yards in front of him. The driver of the truck signaled a left turn. Seconds later, Neuman saw dust fly as the massive truck became airborne. In what seemed like slow motion, the truck twisted in mid-air and began breaking apart. Neuman drove up to the crash as the dust continued to settle, fully expecting to find the driver dead. To his astonishment, the man not only was still alive, but not even seriously injured. However, the driver was pinned in the wreckage. Using his pocketknife, Neuman cut a tangle of wiring from around the man and pulled him from the cab of the truck. "This was one lucky dude," Neuman said of the driver, who suffered a broken leg.

HOUSTON DISTRICT

Gary W. Skolaut


Skolaut

■ Pulled a trapped motorist from a vehicle overturned into a ditch of rising water during a rainy downpour along Interstate 45 in Montgomery County on May 13, 2004.

Gary Skolaut, by his own account, happened to be in the right place at the right time — but TxDOT only accidentally found out about it. Kathy Baker, area engineer in Conroe, sat checking her e-mail one day last spring when she heard several maintenance workers talking outside her office. Nothing's out of the ordinary about TxDOT employees visiting with each other when they pass in the hall, but this conversation soon got Baker's undivided attention. Houston District maintenance technician Gary W. Skolaut, a TxDOT employee since 1993, was saying something about an upside-down SUV in rising floodwater with a woman trapped inside. Having heard enough to pique her interest, Baker got up from her desk to learn more. But that wasn't easy. "I had to drag the details out," Baker recalls. Skolaut didn't think he had done anything extraordinary. "He's not boastful," Baker said. "He's just a hard worker." This is the story Baker and others finally put together:

Skolaut said something about an upside-down SUV with a woman trapped inside.

As periodically happens in Southeast Texas, the skies opened up over Montgomery County on May 13. Before the deluge ended, 17 inches of rain had fallen. When it rains that hard, maintenance workers routinely hit the roadways to start checking for ponding. Skolaut and all other available maintenance personnel headed out into the storm.

Finding an area where water had begun to build up, Skolaut parked his TxDOT vehicle on the side of I-45 North and turned on his overhead lights to slow traffic.

About 2 p.m., as he sat in his truck watching traffic, he saw a silver SUV skid out of control and crash into the concrete barrier separating the north and southbound lanes of the interstate.

The vehicle rolled on impact, landing upside down in the water-filled median. Skolaut jumped from his truck and ran to the SUV. He could see the driver hanging from her safety belt, her head barely above the water.

If the water rose any higher, Skolaut realized, the woman could drown. Acting quickly, he smashed out the back window of the SUV and crawled inside. He slashed the woman's safety belt and pulled her from the vehicle to safety.

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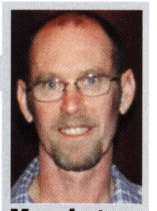
Extra Mile awards

SAN ANGELO DISTRICT

Frank Munsinger


Munsinger

■ Rescued a mother and child from a vehicle washed into the Frio river in Real County during a flood on April 6, 2004.

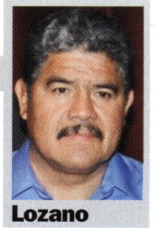
When heavy rain began falling in Real County last April 5, San Angelo District maintenance mechanic Frank Munsinger and his colleagues went to work closing roads and low-water crossings in anticipation of the high water they knew would come. About 4 a.m. on April 6, watching a crossing on the west fork of the Frio River, Munsinger saw a van bypass a barricade and enter the crossing. Seeing that the rising water had already reached the two-foot mark on the crossing's flood gauge, Munsinger flipped the switch on his truck's flashing lights to warn the driver. Seeing the lights, the driver of the van began backing up, but by then it was too late. The vehicle began floating in the fast-moving water.

Without regard to his safety, Munsinger drove his truck into the water in an attempt to get to the van before it swept downstream. Reaching the still-buoyant van, Munsinger got out of the state truck, and climbed up on the vehicle's fuel tank as the water continued to rise. From there, he succeeded in pulling Shawna Romo and her 13-year-old daughter from their bobbing van and getting them inside the cab of his truck. Just as the front of his truck started to float, Munsinger backed out of the water. Two days later, the woman's van was found well down stream, still partly under water.

Munsinger is the department's second two-time winner of the Extra Mile Award, having received the recognition the first time in 1998 for a similar incident.

SAN ANTONIO DISTRICT

David Lozano


Lozano

■ Rescued an unconscious motorist and attended to traffic safety on Interstate 10 in San Antonio on July 23, 2004.

Thirty-year TxDOT maintenance tech David Lozano was on his way to the San Antonio district office to pick up mail on July 23 when he noticed the woman driving ahead of him on I-10 waving frantically to get his attention.

Once she realized he had seen her, she began pointing to the vehicle in front of her. Lozano sped up to get a better view, seeing that the vehicle was swerving from lane to lane. Clearly, something was wrong.

Realizing he had to do something to prevent a high-speed accident on a busy freeway, he managed to pass the errant vehicle and get in front of it. Then he slowed down until his rear bumper practically touched the front of the vehicle. Carefully, he rode his brakes, slowing and finally stopping the car behind him.

Lozano got out of his car and ran to the driver's side. The woman behind the wheel did not respond when he asked her what was wrong. Still getting no reply, he hurried back to his truck and radioed his office to call 911.

When EMS arrived, paramedics determined that the woman had suffered a diabetic reaction and passed out behind the wheel.

In stopping the car, Lozano likely prevented a serious traffic crash and possibly saved the woman's life. While emergency personnel treated the driver, Lozano began directing traffic around the two vehicles.✪

Something extra about Extra Mile awards

Year awards established: 1983

Number of awards presented in 21 years: 150

Most awards presented in a single year (1993): 27

Two-time Extra Mile Award winners:

Stuart Callison, Atlanta District (1987, 1991)

Frank Munsinger, San Angelo District (1998, 2004)

Project awards laud TxDOT

TxDOT recognized department projects whose participants demonstrated exceptional cooperation in completing a complex task. Project awards, presented at an Austin luncheon sponsored by Associated General Contractors in September, singled out those who have excelled in project construction and design.

Design Awards recognize those key people who have designed a major project with only minor construction problems.

Construction Awards single out those who have gone "above and beyond" in terms of cooperation and partnership to do a quality job.

■ DESIGN AWARDS

BRYAN DISTRICT

On Dec. 12, 2003, the district saw completion of a $4.7 million project — the Highway Star Bridge — to reconstruct an interchange overpass in the middle of downtown Huntsville. The new bridge spans a four-lane, divided interstate highway. Gridlock at the old bridge was common. Nowadays, the project at the city's busiest intersection is known locally for its beauty, for reducing traffic congestion, and for re-connecting a divided community. TxDOT's **Paul Warden**, design project coordinator, and **Maurice Jacob**, landscape architect, each had roles bringing the project to completion.

SAN ANGELO DISTRICT

This project called for repair to a flood-damaged low-water crossing on FM 1120 in Real County. It presented more than a few design challenges, although on a scale smaller than seen on many TxDOT projects. While the scale was small at $1.3 million, successful completion of the project was very important to nearby businesses and residents along the Frio River. Income from vacationers who come to enjoy the river is vital to the county's economy. Through effective design, fewer trees than normal were removed and seven cypress trees at the site were saved. Soon after the crossing was completed, the area experienced heavy rains; then came a flood. However, the new crossing held. The sod remained in place, no soil eroded in the construction area, and sediment was properly filtered. **Darren Crenwelge**, assistant area engineer for TxDOT, oversaw this project.

■ CONSTRUCTION AWARDS

AMARILLO DISTRICT

Work began in July 2001 to upgrade the concrete roadway along 12.6 miles of Interstate 40 in Carson County. The $16 million project saw several change orders, some owing to special conditions created by winter weather and heavy loads carried by truck traffic. Even so, work was completed five months ahead of schedule. Further, the project used recycled materials in many ways. Chief among them was old concrete that was crushed and used for 30 percent of the coarse aggregate. Recycled asphalt pavement from the overlay was used in the bondbreaker. TxDOT representative: **Gerald Britten**.

ATLANTA DISTRICT

This is a $54 million project in Bowie County to construct a South Loop around Texarkana. The work began in October 1999 and encountered problems from the start. But the problems didn't stay problems for long. That's because of the willingness of the contractor and TxDOT to fix problems when and where they found them. There were at least 60 change orders on this project. Were it not for the diligence and hard work of everyone involved, the number and costs of these change orders would have been much greater. TxDOT representative: **Jere Williams**.

AUSTIN DISTRICT

Work on the $57 million project for three miles of freeway on U.S. 183 in Williamson County began in November 1999. Much of the work was performed at night. Nearly one million cubic yards of embankment were hauled and placed at night. This minimized interference with day traffic on this main commuter route on the northwest side of Austin. Because this route needs to be ready for the future State Highway 45 project, nearly $7 million worth of changes and inclusions were added to the project. These changes were designed to yield even greater savings in the future. TxDOT representative: **Michael Miller**.

BRYAN DISTRICT

Widening U.S. 79 in Milam County presented many challenges. Several obstacles included utility interferences for this $9.5 million project. But these were handled with diligence and care, and with great teamwork. More urgent, though, were the two 200-year storms that hit the city of Rockdale in two days over May 6-7, 2001. The first storm dropped

■ See Page 15

four inches of rain in 30 minutes and flooded businesses and homes near the project. Because of their quick thinking overnight, and swift action the next day, the contractor and TxDOT saw to it that businesses and homes were not flooded a second time. TxDOT representative: **Connie Flickinger**.

EL PASO DISTRICT

Success in construction projects is founded on communication, communication, communication. The contractor and TxDOT did a lot of communicating with all stakeholders affected by the $13.7 million project. The first step was to demolish the existing Cotton Street Bridge in El Paso, then replace it by building a new bridge. At the center of the new bridge, a new "bridge on-ramp" was built to provide access to Interstate 10, improving the flow of traffic. The bridge was in service five months ahead of schedule in January 2003. TxDOT representative: **Daniel Avila, P.E.**

ODESSA DISTRICT

Folks in Odessa still talk about the newly built roadway that was almost washed away in the summer of 2003. It happened on a street said to carry more daily traffic than any stretch of roadway in the Permian Basin. Back then two of the city's 50-year-old water mains burst right from under the final two miles of an eight-mile project on State Highway 191 through Odessa. Scrambling to make the required repairs, and working together and with the community to overcome this final obstacle, the contractor and TxDOT still brought this $3.3 million project to completion 10 days ahead of schedule. TxDOT representative: **Agustin Aguirre**.

PHARR DISTRICT

Sept. 15, 2001, was a day of disaster in Texas just four days after the terror attacks of 9/11. No terrorist caused the collapse of the Queen Isabella Causeway on that day. It was a four-barge towboat, veering off course, which did the damage. The span, now called the Queen Isabella Memorial Bridge, was quickly rebuilt to the relief of everyone with a stake in the local economy near the bridge. The project is a $5.9 million effort to protect the new bridge from any future collisions.

Work crews fought shifting tides and currents, amid continual vehicle traffic on the very busy bridge and below it on the Intracoastal Waterway. Their job: install a much-needed pier-protection system of concrete barriers called "dolphins" on either side of the bridge's supports. These "dolphins" keep vessels from again ramming the supports. TxDOT representative: **Agustin Ramirez**.

SAN ANTONIO DISTRICT

When things go right on a construction project, big savings and high value result. This $10.9 million project in southwest San Antonio widened nearly three miles of Pearsall Road (FM 2536) from a two-lane undivided road (with shoulders) to a four-lane divided urban roadway with medians and bike lanes.

Project supervisors faced the usual mix of challenges and they eliminated or minimized them before they had a chance to cause any possible conflicts or delays. This project, starting in July 2001, was completed 10 months ahead of schedule in October 2003.

Time saved is value delivered to everyone who uses the roadway today. TxDOT representative: **Rolando Escamilla**.

SAN ANTONIO DISTRICT

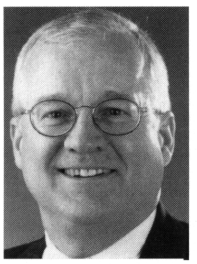
To achieve completion in February 2004, this project took about 42 months, almost $19 million, and expertise in highway construction of the highest order. It involved a 1.4-mile segment of Interstate 410 in northwest San Antonio where the average daily traffic count was 225,000 — that's 2.6 cars every second, and it's more today. Workers removed and replaced the Babcock Road overpass, widened the Callaghan Road Bridge, and reconstructed 1.1 miles of roadway, all while dealing with split grades of nearly three feet between eastbound and westbound lanes, and while handling the complexities of traffic control where exit ramps and entrance ramps were proximate. TxDOT representative: **Annie Dadien-Williams**.

WICHITA FALLS DISTRICT

Several ways exist to measure success in highway construction or rehabilitation. One measure is the level of satisfaction expressed by the people who use the roads. Another measure is the International Roughness Index. It's a key number used to describe the quality of ride that users experience. The lower the number, the smoother the ride. The people who use this project's 13.4 miles of U.S. 287 feel the $3.3 million was an "overwhelming success." One section measured for roughness of ride was rated 150. After rehab, the number had dropped to 40 which qualified the project for a bonus. On this project, the contractor and TxDOT faced several adjustments but showed it's possible to improve ride quality through building a quality road. TxDOT representative: **Michael Clements.**✪

TxDOT Roundup

Dike heads AAMVA board

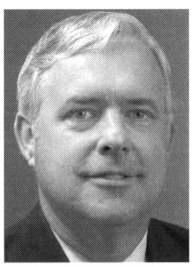

Dike

The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA), during its 70th Annual International Conference in Bismarck, N.D., in August elected Jerry Dike, director of TxDOT's Vehicle Titles and Registration, Division to chair its International Board of Directors.

Dike has more than 30 years with TxDOT where he administers motor-vehicle registration and titling, the international registration plan, salvage yards, and automobile theft-prevention activities.

As chairman, Dike will represent AAMVA at various venues throughout North America. His term ends at the August 2005 conference in Fort Worth.

Marek heads Design Division

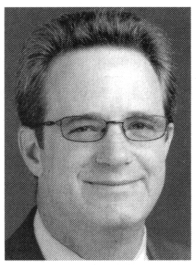

Marek

Mark Marek was appointed director of the TxDOT Design Division, effective July 1. He fills the position held by Ken Bohuslav, who retired.

Marek had served as the division's deputy director since September 2002. Among his many achievements, he co-authored the 1990, 1994 and 2001 editions of the AASHTO Green Book. Marek received the 1994 AASHTO Region IV Subcommittee on Design Award and the 2002 AASHTO National Subcommittee on Design Award. In 1992, he received the Texas Transportation Institute's Gibb Gilchrist Award.

Marek began his TxDOT career as an engineering assistant in the Highway Design Division in 1981. He received his bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from the University of Texas at Austin in 1981 and his master's degree in business administration from Southwest Texas State University in 1986.

Cox tapped for Bridge post


Cox

William R. (Randy) Cox was appointed director of the TxDOT Bridge Division in September. He had served as the division's director of field operations since February 2000. He fills the position held by Mary Lou Ralls, who retired.

Cox began his TxDOT career as an engineering assistant in the Bridge Division in 1981. He received his bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from the University of Texas at Austin in 1981. He received the Texas Transportation Institute's Gibb Gilchrist Award in 2002.

Leadership Texas taps four

Four women with ties to TxDOT have been selected to the 2005 Leadership Texas program. Those selected are Paula Bishir, Audit Office; Tonia Ramirez, Legislative Affairs Office; Janice Jackson, Waco District; and Penny Mason, Lubbock District.

Ralls retires from Bridge

Ralls

Mary Lou Ralls, director of TxDOT's Bridge Division since December 1999, retired from the department Sept. 30. William R. (Randy) Cox, long-time division veteran, was appointed her successor.

Having begun her TxDOT career in the Division of Bridges and Structures in 1984, she moved in 1997 to the structural group of the Materials and Tests Division and then managed the cement and concrete labs in the Construction Division. In early 1999, she became the department's structural research engineer and manager of the research implementation program and technology transfer before becoming division director later that year.

Ralls led the development of the Texas pre-stressed concrete U-beam, the state's use of high-performance concrete in bridges, and the current initiative promoting use of pre-fabricated bridges. She received the 1994 DeWitt C. Greer Award from the Texas Transportation Institute and the 2003 Dr. L. I. Hewes Award from the Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

Williams bids TxDOT farewell

Williams

Cathy J. Williams, TxDOT's assistant executive director for support operations, announced her retirement effective Dec. 31 with 26 years of service as a state employee.

Williams began her TxDOT career in 1973 in the Paris District as a switchboard operator. Most recently, she was appointed in 1998 to the high-ranking post within the department's administration. In the interim she advanced through a variety of jobs including budget analyst and director of the department's Human Resources Division.

Mike Behrens, TxDOT executive director, hailed Williams' service: "She has been instrumental in establishing and promoting a spirit of customer service throughout the department and has been a staunch supporter of TxDOT employees and retirees by testifying" on numerous occasions before legislative committees."

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AASHTO honors TxDOT

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Organizations (AASHTO) honored TxDOT with several awards over the summer:

■ **President's Award**

Aviation category: for the Routine Airport Maintenance Program (RAMP) that leverages state money with grant money for improvements to eligible general aviation airports in Texas. The program began in 1996; communities benefit economically and it supports the statewide system of airports in Texas.

Traffic Safety category: for the Traffic Safety Section's "Don't Drink and Drive" campaign, an effort to reduce teenage drinking and driving crashes by increasing public awareness. The campaign, which includes TV and radio spots, posters, and a Web site, tells the story of Jacqui Saburido who was burned beyond recognition in an alcohol-related crash. The team expanded the project to include an educational package for high school junior and seniors across the country.

Research category: for TxDOT's Ride Team which improved the way ride quality in Texas is measured. The team was involved in the research and development of pavement ride-quality standards at both the state and national level, and helped design the Ride Certification Center at the Texas Transportation Institute, which uses a test track to evaluate and certify road-profiling equipment and operators in the department.

Water category: for the Port Aransas ferry system connecting Mustang Island and the city of Port Aransas with the mainland; it provides transportation service seven days a week, 24 hours a day. The system experienced delays and required extensive maintenance. TxDOT joined with the Texas Department of Public Safety, the city, and the U.S. Coast Guard to improve the ferry service through better maintenance, a park-and-ride initiative, and improved crew training. Also, the wait time for the ferry has decreased by 50 percent, and it is safer too, with accident claims down 99 percent.

■ AASHTO's Standing Committee on Quality recognized outstanding team efforts in state and federal transportation organizations. All teams applying for recognition receive feedback to assist them in improving their performance in future years. Recognitions: **Exemplary Partner Award** to the Odessa District Designer Core Group, **Pathfinder Award** to TxDOT's Facilities Management Section, **Trailblazer Award** to TxDOT's Video Network Project Team, and **Honorable Mention** to TxDOT's Question/Answer Database Process Improvement Team.

■ TxDOT and Robert Hollingsworth, of the Amarillo District maintenance office, received the **Francis B. Francois Award** for Innovation for development of the motor grader lay-down blade and skid box to aid roadway maintenance.

Road deaths decline

Fewer people died in Texas traffic crashes in 2003, the latest year for which records are available. The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) said Texas reported 3,675 persons killed in motor-vehicle traffi crashes, second only to California with 4,215 fatalities last. California, Texas and Florida had the most highway fatalities. Of the three, only Texas showed a decline — 3.9 percent.

Compared to figures from 2002, Texas saw 148 fewer highway fatalities, the largest decrease among all states. Nationwide, 42,643 people died, and 2.89 million were injured in highway crashes during 2003.

Texas sets building pace

Transportation commissioners in August awarded contracts totaling $650 million for 125 projects, bringing the fiscal year 2004 total to $4 billion in transportation construction contracts. That's more than any other state. Texas invested almost a billion more in transportation projects than California and $2.9 billion more than New York for fiscal year 2004. This construction pace was made possible with new financing tools the legislature gave TxDOT and that voters approved in constitutional amendments in 2001 and 2003.

Plans spur mobility gains

Construction of 88 percent of the mobility projects planned for the next 12 years in the state's eight largest metropolitan areas can begin in half the time, based on plans submitted by local officials to TxDOT. Requested by Gov. Rick Perry in March 2003, the Texas Metropolitan Mobility Plan summarizes how each of the state's metropolitan areas intends to take advantage of innovative financing tools provided by the legislature. Putting the plan into action accelerates mobility improvements and adds $12 billion to the anticipated $68 billion in funding available for the next 25 years to reduce congestion of urban traffic.✪

Commission boosts aid to colonias

Colonia residents near the Texas-Mexico border will continue to see roadway improvements come their way with the approval in late December by the Texas Transportation Commission for projects in the region.

The commission approved $50 million to fund projects that will improve roadways in these areas.

The action follows Gov. Rick Perry's request in July to the Texas Public Finance Authority to issue bonds that will fund the construction projects. TxDOT began accepting project proposals immediately after that. "We will continue to fulfill our role in helping to improve transportation for those living in areas where better roadways are desperately needed," said Jim Randall, TxDOT's director of transportation planning and programming.

Unpaved and deteriorated roads in many of the state's colonias cause transportation and drainage problems. In 2001, Texas voters approved a $175 million bond package to support the road improvement program.

The Texas Transportation Commission approved the first $50 million round of projects in 2002. To date, 274 projects have been funded in 21 counties.

Accomplishments multiply in 2004

A review of activities and outcomes occurring in 2004 shows that TxDOT accomplished much for the state and its people. Here's a brief survey, taken from the department's annual summary, of some of TxDOT's high points in the past year:

SAFETY — By identifying the most crucial needs statewide, TxDOT began a $600 million program set up through State Highway Fund revenue bonds to improve safety on Texas roadways.

CONSTRUCTION — Let a record $4.1 billion in highway construction contracts for the second consecutive year, adding congestion-reducing capacity and improving safety to the state's transportation system.

MAINTENANCE — Resurfaced 13 percent of the more than 79,000-mile state highway system, investing in improvements to lengthen the life of Texas roads.

FUNDING — Approved $9 billion in funds over the next four years to preserve the state's existing transportation system and $21.5 billion to improve mobility statewide.

AUTHORITIES — Bringing to five the number of areas in Texas empowered to determine their own transportation priorities through regional mobility authorities (RMAs), the commission approved three RMAs in Gregg/Smith counties, Grayson and Cameron counties.

NEW TOOLS — Authorized negotiations for the state's first three pass-through toll agreements, which give communities tools to accelerate projects, with Montgomery and Grayson counties and the city of Weatherford.

CITIZENS — Continued to solicit the public's views on the Trans-Texas Corridor in all 254 Texas counties, assuring citizen input on the location of this multi-modal transportation corridor.

INPUT — Began environmental studies on the I-69 and TTC-35 elements of the Trans-Texas Corridor and held 70 public meetings to get citizen input.

CONSORTIUM — Selected the consortium (Cintra-Zachry) that will plan, design, build and operate the Oklahoma-Mexico element of the Trans-Texas Corridor.

SH 45 — Authorized the state's second comprehensive development agreement for SH 45SE in Travis County

EFFICIENCY — Assumed the duties of the Medical Transportation Program from the Department of Health and Human Services, to reduce overlapping service, cut costs, increase efficient service to 130,000 clients.

LANDOWNERS — Began new right-of-way program that pays willing landowners to delay development of any of their land that is identified as a possible future road route, saving time and taxpayer money.

PURCHASE — Purchased the department's first toll road, the Camino Columbia in Laredo, providing a critical link to the only international bridge to the Mexican state of Nuevo Leon.

STICKERS — Made vehicle registration stickers available for distribution at the point of sale, reducing the risk of sticker fraud, theft.

CONVENIENCE — Installed wireless Internet (WiFi) among seven safety-rest areas and travel-info centers for the traveling public, with plans to offer WiFi at all 102 sites in 2005.

COMMISSION — Welcomed two new members to the transportation commission as the result of legislation increasing the commission from three to five members.

Bryan District

From: Kathy Byrd
Gladewater, Texas

My family and I wish to express our appreciation to a TxDOT employee, Mark Huff. I am sure he was anxious to get home after a long day at work just like everyone else usually is, but he took the time to stop and help five stranded people to get back on the road again before dark. Not only that, he made sure our tire was ready for a safe journey.

My in-laws, my twin four-year-old grandchildren, and I had a flat on our truck. We were stranded on a lonely stretch of Highway 79, which is a two-lane with a wide shoulder and very heavy truck traffic.

As my 84-year-old father-in-law was about to try and help the assistance person pull the spare out from under the truck, a TxDOT truck stopped, put on his warning flashers, and offered his assistance.

The flashers slowed the traffic, which had whizzed by as though we were not even sitting there. Mark had the tire out and on the truck in minutes.

Thanks again for Mark's help and attention to detail. I shudder to think of what could have happened had it not been for Mark's empathy to stop in the first place.

Mark Huff is a TxDOT construction inspector and has been with the department 23 years.

Beaumont District

From: L.C. Lamd
Devers, Texas

A word of thanks to TxDOT for a job well done. We live a few miles south of Devers on Highway 61. The road was in bad disrepair due to traffic and weather conditions. I contacted the Beaumont office which, in turn, connected me to Liberty and I talked to Bryan Brossard. He looked at my complaint and assured me the problem would be repaired, which it was — and in a timely manner. It is a very good job. So, I send my thanks to Mr. Brossard and his crew.

Corpus Christi District

From: Vernon Haik

My wife and I were driving north on Highway 77 when the wind caught our awning and blew it up on the roof of the motor home.

We pulled into the maintenance yard to try and get it back into shape. We had just come to a stop when Richard Padilla and Mario Ybarra came to our assistance. They were on their lunch break but still spent 20 minutes helping us get back on the road. We are sending this note to let you know that we really appreciate the use of your yard and the assistance of your employees.

Richard Padilla is a transportation maintenance crew chief and Mario Ybarra is a transportation maintenance technician, both in the Corpus Christi District. This letter was sent to TxDOT's Joel Longoria in Robstown.

Dallas District

From: Roland & Ann Kelley
Colleyville, Texas

We were driving south on Interstate 45 while on vacation and had a tire blow out. Several very nice young men stopped to help, but all the jacks were too small. Then appeared one of your Texas Department of Transportation trucks, and Robert Arteaga proceeded to change the tire. We were ready to go within minutes.

To thank Mr. Arteaga, we attempted to give him a $20 bill, but he refused any payment. His reply was, "This is my job to help motorists and I am paid to do this." What honesty.

Childress District

From: Theresa & Clark Melancon
Chalmette, Louisiana

We were leaving Childress and we stopped to fill up with gas. Much to my dismay, the pump refused my credit card. The scanner inside the station also rejected my card. I paid for the gas and we left. While leaving Childress, I attempted to use my cell phone to contact the card vendor.

To further complicate the problem, my cell phone was inoperative. This really pushed my panic button in that I had fears that someone was using my card and had maxed it out. We drove until we reached Wichita Falls looking for someone to check our cell phone. It is then we saw the travel-information center. This is when we met Lisa Vian.

We explained our problems and she immediately phoned the number on my credit card and put me in touch with the card company, which told me they were making a security check since I had made so many purchases in so many different states. The card was immediately put back in service.

The cell phone was the other problem. Lisa started to scan the website for a Cingular cell-phone store. Unable to get any information, she was advised to have us call the location where we purchased the phone. This was in Slidell, La. She placed the call and we were able to clear our cell phone. Lisa solved both problems.

We are quick to criticize when service is shabby, but hesitant when service is excellent. My wife and I will not soon forget what she did for us. Thank you Lisa!

Paris District

From: H.C. George
Howe, Texas

I know that this may not seem to be of any importance to you, but it meant a great deal to me. During the last big rains we had here, water backed up ad went under my house.

I am 69 years old, blind, in a wheelchair and am on kidney dialysis. I called the Department of Transportation (maintenance section) for Grayson County and talked to a man who was very courteous and polite.

I didn't get his name, although I wish I had. In just a few days, equipment came and cleaned the ditch in front of my house to eliminate the problem I had.

If possible, please forward my thanks and appreciation to the appropriate department in Austin that oversees the TxDOT maintenance office in Sherman. They did a great, efficient and timely job. Thanks.

■ See Page 20

Mail Drop

Fort Worth District
From: Jo Ann Hoffman
Fort Worth, Texas

On the morning my van was stopped on Interstate 20, I was using my cell phone trying to find someone to come and help me. That's when the Courtesy Patrol truck appeared at the back of my van. I had been at the spot about 10 or 15 minutes before Mr. Roy Bailey came to my rescue.

My son — who had been driving the van and failed to tell me until I got it fixed — said that the fuel indicator could not fall under the halfway mark or it would shut down and would not go.

Mr. Bailey put gas in my van and it started up again. He also followed me for a few miles to see if everything was OK.

The service definitely helped me, and I highly recommend that it be continued. No one knows until they have experienced it how it feels to be sitting in a car on a highway and cars going by at seemingly 100 mph.

Tell Mr. Bailey thanks, and I hope I never have to see him again under those circumstances. If I do, I know I will be in good hands.

Roy Bailey is a highway emergency response operator in the Fort Worth District.

San Antonio District
From: Kelly De Los Santos
Del Rio, Texas

I was traveling from Del Rio to San Antonio when my vehicle suffered a flat tire just west of Hondo. I had just broken the lug nuts loose when Jerry Lopez arrived. He was extremely friendly and courteous and — without a hint of imposition — insisted on completing the tire change for me. He then gave me information on where I might be able to get the tire repaired. Before he left, he told me that he was going to make a quick drive to the west but would return in my direction to make sure that I made it into Hondo without further problems.

In today's world, it is rare to find someone so willing to provide such assistance and to do so in such a pleasant manner.

I very much appreciate his assistance and want to be sure you are aware of the asset you have in him.

Atlanta District
From: David Williams
Harleton, Texas

I want to acknowledge outstanding customer focus and people skills, timely response, and workmanship of a job welldone to Mike Sharp and his staff — Jerry Best, Robert Smith, Tony Johnson, Fred Pattison, and Todd Green.

I am new to the area and needed a driveway permit at my newly purchased property on FM 3001. Mike introduced me to Robert and provided mobile contact information for setting up a meeting with him.

I met with Robert at the property to get the permit approved. While there, he noticed the ditch in need of cleaning and repairs. He scheduled the crew to begin work the following Monday.

Jerry and crew showed up early Monday morning and completed the cleanout by noon.

I then was able to get my contractor in to install my culverts and construct my road into the property.

I met Tony on Friday as he and Mike were putting the finishing touches matching the ditch grade with the existing road. Tony indicated they would be seeding for new grass in the spring.

The whole job was very professionally done and the grass is now starting to pop up. I appreciate the friendly and hard-working staff you have at the Jefferson office.

This note was received via e-mail in the Atlanta District. Johnson, Pattison and Green are maintenance technicians. Best and Smith are crew chiefs, and Sharp supervises the maintenance section.

Waco District
From: Jim & Jackie Saton
Shreveport, LA

My wife and I came from Shreveport, La., to Hillsboro with my two antique pulling tractors for a tractor pull. We unloaded the tractors and trailer and headed up 35W to Fort Worth to spend the night with my daughter.

About 10 miles north of Hillsboro on 35W, my right front tire blew out. I worked for an hour trying to get the spare down. Then I called 911, which dispatched Jim Alsaugh and Rodney Gatlin to my assistance.

I have never in my life been treated to such courteous help that also included Jerry Handy and Eric Paterson.

If it were not for the extra effort of these people I frankly don't know what we would have done.

My wife and I, from the bottom of our hearts, wish to thank these guys.

Beaumont District
From: Janice B. Williamson
Beaumont, Texas

While enroute to Fredericksburg on vacation, my family stopped at the rest stop on Interstate 10 just west of Columbus. It was there that I noticed we had a flat tire on our motor home.

Upon trying to find someone to assist us, my husband spoke with one of the men from TxDOT. He advised us on whom we should contact, but because it was a holiday, most of the places were closed or so busy that they could not send road service to the rest area.

He then had your service truck come to the rest area to air the tire up, but it would not hold air due to the valve stem being cut.

At this point the two men changed our tire and we were able to continue on our way and did not have any other problems. (The tire was defective and almost literally fell apart. We had to buy a new tire in Fredericksburg.)

The men mentioned above are Ricky Canik and Kenneth Wicks. We do appreciate what they did very much. Being an employee of the State of Texas, I know that praises sometimes are far and few between. Because of these men, we got to our destination safely and did not have to spend the night at the rest stop.✪

July 2004

35 years
Tommy J. Higgins, Abilene
Stanley M. Wade, Maintenance
Sergio I. Aguilar, El Paso
James K. Baker, Paris

30 years
Patrick D. McKennon, Abilene
David B. McHugh, Austin
William R. Crosby, Dallas
Elvia R. Gonzalez, Enviro. Affairs
Charles L. Carethers, Houston
Matthew H. Askew Jr, Lubbock
Mercedes L. Estrada, Lubbock
Charles W. Crossland, Paris
Leopoldo Guerrero, Laredo
James M. Tippins, Yoakum

25 years
Theodoro M. Garza Jr., Corpus Christi
Luis A. Chapa, Odessa
Ruben F. Rodriguez, Odessa
Stacey L. Huber, San Angelo
Vivian A. Powers, Waco
Karen K. Fuchs, Yoakum
Fred Lerma III, Yoakum

20 years
Charles A. Dalbert, Abilene
Miguel Santos, Abilene
Victor D. Chandler, Amarillo
Wesley N. Hopson, Amarillo
Allen R. Stallings, Atlanta
Merle K. Williamson, Audit
Steven O. Sylvester, Austin
John Wepryk Jr., Aviation
Peter H. Bustamante, El Paso
Lloyd Clifton, Corpus Christi
Raul Valdez Jr., Corpus Christi
Bobby L. Bland, Dallas
James L. Jarrett Jr., General Services
Margaret A. Moore, Houston
Fawn M. Snyder, Houston
David B. Dennis, Fort Worth
Samuel Gomez, Fort Worth
Tama G. Keahey, Fort Worth
Thelma D. Patterson, Fort Worth
Joseph M. Bradford, Info. Systems
Juan J. Espinosa, Laredo
Roberto P. Sepulveda, Laredo
Juan D. Alvarado, Lubbock
William E. Smith, Lubbock
Jose A. Diaz, Odessa
Victor M. Martinez, Odessa
Alfredo R. Martinez, Odessa
David M. George, Paris
Othol K. Long, San Angelo
Fernando B. Sanchez, San Angelo
Thomas J. Hill, San Antonio
Joe P. Valadez, San Antonio
Mary E. Ulrich Jackson, Travel
Melissa M. Vian, Travel
Lonnie J. Gregorcyk, Yoakum
William G. Hundl, Yoakum

15 years
Kenneth W. Corse, Amarillo
Michael C. Fowler, Amarillo
Albert L. Fulcher, Amarillo
Harold R. Lafitte, Aviation
Joseph E. Owen, Bridge
Sigifredo Bustos Jr., Brownwood
Michael G. Ray, Brownwood
Luis S. Flores, Corpus Christi
Abelardo R. Solis Jr., Corpus Christi
Leticia Cruz, Finance
James R. Neely, Fort Worth
Kenneth J. Winkler, General Services
James C. Bryant, Houston
Stephen L. Leffingwell, Houston
Maria Toybina, Houston
Khoi T. Tran, Houston
Timothy R. Kalich, Info. Systems
Gary M. Popp, Info. Systems
James T. Wilder Jr., Info. Systems
Charles S. Renfro, Lubbock
Douglas K. Mark, Lufkin
Ricardo A. Garcia, Odessa
Diana J. Ortiz, Odessa
Darren S. Crenwelge, San Angelo
Irene C. Ugarte, San Antonio
Cheryl L. Heflin, Trans. Planning & Program
Martha L. Martin, Travel
Nancy Naysmith, Veh. Titles & Reg.

10 years
Bruce A. Myrick, Beaumont
Catherine A. Ramsey, Beaumont
Michelle N. Minjarez, Bridge
Edwin L. Smith, Brownwood
Connie J. Flickinger, Bryan
Kerry D. Jones, Bryan
David Polk III, Bryan
Otis J. Franks, Childress
Hazel B. Jones, Childress
Terry L. Manuel, Childress
Keith R. Milhoan, Childress
Roy A. Contreras, Construction
Christina L. Monaghan, Construction
Eduardo Rodriguez Jr., Corpus Christi
Larry H. Wenger Jr. , Corpus Christi
Zelda D. Carlson, Dallas
Douglas D. Cathcart, Dallas
Micheal D. Culton, Dallas
Alice F. Engledow, Dallas
Sara T. McFadin, Dallas
Georgie C. Reeder, Dallas
Benny W. Scarfone, Dallas
Maria R. Chavez, El Paso
Domingo V. Hernandez, El Paso
Magdalena Leal, El Paso
Rose Ann Juarez, Finance
Baldemar Galindo, Fort Worth
Ross D. Johnson, Fort Worth
Patrick G. Quarles Jr., Fort Worth
Mikel J. Riley, Fort Worth
Rakesh Tripathi, Houston
Debra A. Williams, Houston
Sandra J. Kissman, Human Resources
Yolanda A. Castillo, Laredo
Elia Hernandez, Laredo
Guy R. Sledge, Lubbock
Gregory N. Cole, Maintenance
Joe W. Bumpus, Odessa
Herman D. Andrus, Paris
Joe B. Casas, Pharr
Cruz E. Garcia, Pharr
Maria C. Gwynn, Pharr
Jesus M. Hernandez, Pharr
Aurora B. Morales, Pharr
Roel Silva, Pharr
Graciela G. Soto, Pharr
Bill C. Taitague, Pharr
Paul S. Moon, Public Trans.
David C. Hortness, San Angelo
James F. Palacio, San Angelo
Luis P. Ramirez, San Angelo
Martha F. Villarreal, San Angelo
John C. Ferguson Jr., San Antonio
Philip T. Horne, San Antonio
William Koerner, San Antonio
Tony S. Martinez, San Antonio
Michael J. Shelton, San Antonio
Nancy L. Tarbox, San Antonio
Christine E. Johnson, Traffic Operations
Marlin L. Gallender, Tyler
Ernesto C. Garcia, Waco
Raymond Roddy Jr., Waco
Michael D. Beaver, Wichita Falls
Angelia D. Thomason, Wichita Falls
Anthony J. Walser, Wichita Falls

5 years
Joel C. Law, Amarillo
Mark L. Wilhelm, Amarillo
Matthew C. Davis, Atlanta
Keith J. Johnson, Atlanta
Gregory S. Watson, Austin
Walter J. Breaux, Beaumont
Alura L. Davies, Brownwood
David R. Baroi, Bryan
Jennifer R. Manning, Bryan
David E. Maresh, Bryan
Wesley B. Reeder, Bryan
Michael E. Leritz, Civil Rights
Kristine N. Figueroa, Construction
Michael T. Olsze, Construction
Leonel Escobar, Corpus Christi
Patrick J. Kraus, Corpus Christi
Joe M. Perez, Corpus Christi
James C. Baxter, Dallas
Daniel Garcia, Dallas
Jason B. Hyde, Dallas
Brady B. Lumpkin, Dallas
Stanley E. Mathews, Dallas
Monty A. Morgan, Dallas
Brenda M. Taylor, Dallas
Margarita Montes-Palomino, El Paso
Whendlyn J. Cross, Fort Worth
Jason D. Fite, Fort Worth
Scotty L. Peevey, Fort Worth
Paul D. Schneider, Fort Worth
Anthony E. White, Fort Worth
David O. Dean, General Services
Chad A. Glenn, General Services
Toby W. Rackley, General Services
Theresa A. Anderson, Houston
Laura E. Finner, Houston
Kimberly I. Janca, Houston
Ba Trinh, Houston
Berhane T. Wasse, Houston
Deryl W. Overcash, Info. Systems
Ana A. Trevino, Laredo
Earnest Minor Jr., Lufkin
John F. Mason Jr., Maintenance
Shelagh Chapman, Motor Carrier
Denise C. Pate, Motor Carrier
Sharon E. Gordon, Motor Veh.
Suzanna C. Kaatz, Motor Veh.
Daniel Aguirre, Odessa
Kory D. Baker, Odessa
John C. Wallis, Odessa
Bob A. Allison, Paris
Michael A. Jaco, Paris
Robert R. Juarez Jr., Pharr
Arnulfo Rodriguez, Pharr
David P. Harrah, Right of Way
Jessica B. Castiglione, San Antonio
Logan C. Green, San Antonio
Ronald R. Hultz, San Antonio
Julian Ramirez, San Antonio
Robbie L. Dudley, Travel
Steven B. Gandy, Tyler
Kathy J. Morrison, Tyler
John T. Russell, Tyler
Kenneth R. Smith, Tyler
Billy R. Taylor, Tyler
Melanie G. Churchill, Veh. Titles & Reg.
Gabriel C. Garcia, Waco
John M. Morrow, Waco
Danny L. Evans, Wichita Falls
Jimmy R. Sanderson, Wichita Falls
Glenda M. Shepherd, Wichita Falls
Lewis G. Thomas, Wichita Falls

Service awards

August 2004

40 years
Jerry P. Sharp, Atlanta
Rubin A. Schultz Jr., Corpus Christi

35 years
Diane D. Burkett, Administration
Tommie D. Jones, Atlanta
Lawrence M. Rosenbach, Fort Worth
Francisco J. Cobarrubias Jr., Pharr
Carlos Guerra, San Antonio
Roy W. Proctor, Wichita Falls

30 years
Troy G. Miller, Amarillo
Larry D. Treadway, Dallas
Jacky W. Rutledge, Fort Worth
Lois M. Young, General Services
Carolyn S. Flores, General Services
Simon Aguirre, Jr., Laredo
Johnny L. Mills, Lufkin
Judith H. Mangum, Pharr
Joe H. Maclas, San Antonio
Cathie B. Williams, San Antonio
Deborah R. Foust, Veh. Titles & Reg.

25 years
Eugene R. Hinds, Amarillo
Dennis M. Beckham, Atlanta
Robert Salas, Austin
Clinton R. Brown, Brownwood
Paul J. Hightower, Bryan
James C. Lawson Jr., Bryan
Reyes S. Reyes, Corpus Christi
Judy C. Anderson, Dallas
Lewis T. Session Jr., Dallas
Floyd E. Wingrove, Jr., Dallas
Jesus J. Gonzalez, Jr., El Paso
Beverly G. Petrusek, Finance
Shiraz H. Dhanani, Fort Worth
Tesfaye Mesfin, Houston
Joe E. Oliver, Lufkin
Karen L. Oliver, Lufkin
Delia Parras, Odessa
Mike Alvarado, San Antonio
Mary S. Deleon, San Antonio
Anthony J. Novak, San Antonio
Armando S. Placencia, San Antonio
Lee J. Taylor, San Antonio
Raymond P. Jaap, Tyler
Linda R. Butler, Veh. Titles & Reg.
Maria G. Chouinard, Waco
Billy S. Pigg, Waco
Kenneth M. Pollard, Wichita Falls
Jesse J. Kovar, Yoakum

20 years
Roger B. Wells, Amarillo
Christopher W. Chidester, Austin
James H. Delony, Austin
Charles E. Walker, Bridge
Charles E. Heath Jr., Bryan
Betty H. Kolkhorst, Bryan
Billy K. Trosper, Childress
Karl W. Franks, Dallas
Robert Island, Jr., Dallas
Chris A. Johnson, Dallas
Darwin J. Myers, Dallas
Johnny Smith, Dallas
Jan T. Filla, Finance
Ross A. Isom, Fort Worth
Alphonso W. Marullo Jr., Houston
Denise K. Schott, Houston
Elizabeth G. Uhas, Houston
Linda R. Fabre, Info. Systems
Joyce K. Probst, Lubbock
Thomas G. Hunter III, Lufkin
John R. Salcido, Odessa
Roy M. Wooldridge, Odessa
Hilda P. Correa, Right of Way
Jerry B. Mize, Tyler
Cathleen G. Adams, Veh. Titles & Reg.
Richard F. Kinsey, Waco
Gary L. Proctor, Waco
Matthew W. Smith, Wichita Falls
Robert J. Waqner, Yoakum

15 years
Jerry W. Florence, Abilene
Jimmy D. Moses, Abilene
Joe M. Armstrong, Amarillo
Dennis W. Berryhill, Atlanta
Tracy S. Bryan, Aviation
Robert A. Cagle, Beaumont
Preston Cooper, Beaumont
Michael A. McCray, Beaumont
Anthony K. Whaley, Bridge
Michael A. Jedlicka, Bryan
Karl W. Josey, Construction
Gertrude A. Hubbard, Corpus Christi
Juan N. Velasco, Corpus Christ
Terry L. Carter, Dallas
Joe W. Davidson, Dallas
Paul D. Hurt, Dallas
James R. Pate, Dallas
Nancy L. Herrera, El Paso
Loretta H. Charpiot, Houston
Wanda J. Davis, Houston
Sheila M. Gaden, Houston
Jeana P. Glasgow, Houston
Frank D. Mayfield, Houston
Carol W. Nixon, Houston
Levan Richardson, Houston
Glen A. Scantlan, Houston
Sondra C. Lelle, Info. Systems
Reynaldo R. Muniz, Info. Systems
Tricia G. Ramirez, Info. Systems
Larry E. Smallridge, Info. Systems
Dimas Hernandez, Laredo
Charles D. Modisette, Lufkin
Sandra G. Powell, Lufkin
Richard G. Harper, Paris
Jose M. Ibarra Jr., San Antonio
Fitzgerald G. Sanchez, San Antonio
Marion P. Burleson, Tyler
James R. Cantwell, Wichita Falls
Judy L. Broomas, Yoakum

10 years
Jere W. Cowan, Abilene
Della E. Tucker, Amarillo
Bobby L. Jones, Atlanta
Faisal G. Abdel-Gader, Austin
Sean A. Hayes, Austin
William B. Gunn, Aviation
Robert G. Lund, Brownwood
Emma Windham, Brownwood
Richard L. Garcia, Corpus Christi
Christina M. Brookhart, Dallas
James C. Hancock, Dallas
James R. Hollingsworth, Dallas
Denise D. Treese, Dallas
Jeffrey A. Vanderaa, Dallas
Genaro Flores, El Paso
Nestor Gomez, El Paso
Janice L. Aslin, Fort Worth
Donald R. Freeman, Fort Worth
Mark A. Gallagher, Fort Worth
Jake A. Roysdon, Fort Worth
Tom P. Thomson, Fort Worth
Juan Vasquez, Fort Worth
Pamela D. Hinton, General Services
John C. Guice, Jr., Houston
Darrell W. Halik, Houston
Vincent D. Hubbert, Houston
Julie K. Frost, Info. Systems
James M. Deliganis, Jr., Laredo
Maria D. Kerksieck, Laredo
Sabino S. Salinas, Laredo
Rene Soto, Laredo
Jeanette B. Herndon, Lufkin
Daviette A. Gilbert, Maintenance
Karen S. Schoen, Maintenance
Yolanda Garcia, Motor Carrier
Grace M. Johnson, Motor Carrier
Pedro R. Alvarez, Pharr
Rachel M. Jessen, Right of Way
Karen H. Wilson, San Angelo
James A. Kratz, Traffic Operations
Deloris O. Lohmeier, Travel
Leticia M. Ramirez, Travel
Yolanda L. Brijalba, Veh. Titles & Reg.
Duane M. Pufpaff, Veh. Titles & Reg.
Michael D. Clements, Wichita Falls
Dennis Cano, Yoakum
Frank J. Deanda, Amarillo
Randall L. Davidson, Atlanta
Tim A. Guyer, Atlanta
Randy L. McVicar, Atlanta
Dusty A. Rudel, Atlanta
Alton R. Young, Aviation
Jeremy L. Duke, Beaumont
Michael D. Flaming, Bridge
Agata J. Larue, Bridge
Jana M. Phillips, Bridge
Monty G. Coleman, Brownwood
Kevin R. Seider, Brownwood
Jerry E. Dvorak, Bryan
Mark A. Poage, Bryan
Robert A. Schwartz, Bryan
Charles R. Smith, Bryan
Heather E. Gilmer, Construction
Monica R. Guerrero, Construction
Freeman E. Bland, Jr., Corpus Christi
Juan M. Constante, Corpus Christi
Lou A. Garcia, Corpus Christi
Joel Garcia, Corpus Christi
Roy K. Jarbeaux, Corpus Christi
Gary D. Stolte, Corpus Christi
Joe T. Fortenberry, Dallas
Isaac J. Green, Dallas
Harold G. Hall, Dallas
Susan W. Jones, Dallas
Robert F. King Jr., Dallas
Ronald S. Ledbetter, Dallas
John A. Lewis Sr., Dallas
Steven J. Suggs, Dallas
Jeff A. Taylor, Dallas
Mary M. Johnson, Design
Hector Garcia, El Paso
Brenda W. Watkins, Finance
Johnathon L. Cooper, Fort Worth
Dwayne T. Faglie, Fort Worth
Michael D. Peters, Fort Worth
Karen A. Price, Fort Worth
Magdy F. Kozman, Houston
Kellie L. Simas, Houston
Wenona D. Landry, Human Resources
Steve P. Niemietz, Info. Systems
Nancy L. Cordero, Laredo
Laura M. Lerma, Laredo
Javier J. Murillo, Laredo
Araceli Sanchez, Laredo
Aaron C. Kocian, Legislative Affairs
Troy D. Daniel, Lubbock
David L. Pyle, Lufkin
Hui Shen, Lufkin
Edith L. Goetz, Maintenance
Jill M. Schorlemmer III, Maintenance
Terry J. Johnson, Motor Veh.
Stephanie R. Rogers, Motor Veh.
Esther M. Colvin, Occupational Safety
Joe A. Rodriguez, Odessa
Ajay Shakyaver, Odessa
Jose L. Garcia, Pharr
Frances T. Merecka, San Antonio
Shawn G. Devereaux, Trans. Planning & Programming
Norman H. Gendron II, Travel

William K. Ellis, Tyler
Richard D. Perkins, Tyler
Ronald S. Keister Jr., Veh. Titles & Reg.
Donald Centers, Waco
Jaime Saucedo, Waco
Albert J. Stermer, Waco
Lee W. Adams, Wichita Falls
Terry D. Reis, Wichita Falls
Mary B. Slayden, Wichita Falls
Robert J. Cruz, Yoakum
Phillip E. Garcia, Yoakum
Julie V. Mask, Yoakum

September 2004

45 years
James B. Hutchison Jr., Paris

40 years
Raymundo V. Lopez, El Paso

35 years
Donald G. Rhyne, Atlanta
James N. Thackerson, Fort Worth

30 years
William F. Harvey, Amarillo
Gary G. Barnett, Atlanta
Jerry G. Turner, Atlanta
Stanley P. Markowski, Bryan
John M. Jacobs, Corpus Christi
Ruben D. Salazar, Corpus Christi
Gary L:. Sexton, Dallas
David G. Lozano, San Antonio
Debora B. Waits, Veh. Titles & Reg.
Cynthia R. Meza, Yoakum

25 years
John Sanchez, Abilene
Alvin D. Kabetzke, Amarillo
Russell C. Luther, Amarillo
Mickey L. Skidmore, Amarillo
Linda P. White, Amarillo
Robert H. Ratcliff, Atlanta
Wesley M. Burford III, Austin
Shou-fang Yang, Bridge
Judy C. Broussard, Construction
Dennis R. Foerster, Dallas
Steven C. Connell, Fort Worth
James L. Elliott, Houston
Gabriel Y. Johnson, Houston
Maria B. Gutierrez, Laredo
Norman T. Moore, Lubbock
Beverly J. Yates, Paris
Alberto F. Estrada, San Angleo
Fernando C. Abrego, San Antonio
Gerald L. Feriend, San Antonio
Henry R. Richardson Jr., Waco
Ronnie B. Wiley, Waco
Wanda Carter Dyer, Yoakum

20 years
Kenneth R. Brewer, Austin
Joe T. Garza, Austin
Ralph A. Browne, Bridge
Michael D. Sorley, Brownwood
Sandra K. Bryant, Childress
Martin Vela, Corpus Christi
David L. Hensley, Dallas
Billy R. Hosch, Dallas
David C. Montelongo Sr., Dallas
Maria G. Viramontes, El Paso
Tony V. Henson, Fort Worth
Carolyn E. Fink, Houston
Jeanne C. Javadi, Houston
John F. Sissons, Houston
Dean E. Aaron, Info. Systems
Steven E. Clark, Lufkin
Brian D. Orr, Paris
Charles G. Grote, Right of Way
Urbano L. Martinez Jr., San Antonio
Leslie L. Lempa, Veh. Titles & Reg.
Beverly M. Wayts, Veh. Titles & Reg.
Timothy L. Hillard, Waco
Larry W. Hogg, Waco
Teresa T. James, Waco
John D. Sidener, Waco
Ricky D. Sutton, Waco
Thomas W. Dreyer, Yoakum

15 years
Dianna G. Sandefur, Abilene
William C. Burgoon, Amarillo
Daniel L. Kelley, Corpus Christi
Andre L. Willie, Corpus Christi
Martha A. Compton, Dallas
Gregory P. Foerster, Dallas
Timothy W. Moody, Dallas
Edward J. Wainwright III, General Services
Pablo C. Garcia, Houston
James M. Geesing, Houston
Darryl D. Hall, Houston
Katie S. Kelly, Houston
Richard L. Miller, Houston
Christopher A. Patterson, Houston
Dane E. Raines, Houston
Johnny L. Smith, Houston
Ted W. Wilson, Info. Systems
Francis A. Schell, Laredo
Robert A. Bullard, Lubbock
Roy M. Lloyd, Lubbock
Richard G. Harper, Paris
Gregory A. Rakay, Pharr
Karen C. Dunlap, Public Trans.
Susan C. Atkins, San Antonio
Ray H. Fontenot Jr., San Antonio
Virginia E. Hovermale, San Antonio
Gregory S. Rohmer, San Antonio
Linda A. Schwarziose, San Antonio
Teresa G. Tschirhart, San Antonio
Jill B. Lawless, Travel
Tyrone Alexander, Tyler
John R. Jasek, Waco

10 years
Leonard O. Grant, Atlanta
Aristeo S. Hernandez, Atlanta
Jason S. Overmyer, Atlanta
Clinton S. Anderson, Austin
Bonnie C. Longley, Austin
Donald C. Wilkerson Jr., Beaumont
Luther D. Knight, Brownwood
Allen D. Schulze, Bryan
Nancy H. Walden, Bryan
Aida J. Guzman, Construction
Rodney W. Nance, Corpus Christi
Phillip P. Brown II, Dallas
James M. Distin, Dallas
Kok Huei D. Gan, Dallas
Frederick K. Melton, Dallas
Timothy P. Purdy, Dallas
Ray Ruiz, Dallas
Alfredo Sanchez, El Paso
Linda A. Hisbrook, Finance
Kelly S. Kirkland, Finance
Elisa A. Flores, Fort Worth
Felicia F. McDonald, Fort Worth
Ted Guzman, General Services
Charles U. Airiohuodion, Houston
Dennis A. Johnson, Houston
Deborah K. Moore, Human Resources
Enrique Cano Jr., Info. Systems
Hector A. Cantu, Laredo
Jorge N. Rodriguez, Laredo
Jamshid Tashi, Laredo
Cynthia D. Pittard, Legislative Affairs
Rhonda A. Alexander, Motor Carrier
William K. Herring, Motor Veh.
William G. Boytim, Occupational Safety
Jorge D. Estrella, Odessa
Garry W. Brown, Paris
Sylvia B. Rodgers, Paris
John C. Shinn III, San Angelo
Michael a. Chacon, Traffic Operations
Wilda E. Won, Trans. Planning & Programming
Thurber A. Defreece, Tyler
Shanna L. House, Tyler
Michael E. Stone, Tyler
Gerald T. Frey, Veh. Titles & Reg.
Carmen S. Chau, Waco
Julie M. Lowack, Wichita Falls
Mark A. Smith, Wichita Falls

5 years
Roy E. Addison, Abilene
Chad M. Barnett, Amarillo
Max A. Crow, Amarillo
Oliver D. Roberts, Amarillo
Gonzalo Balanza, Austin
Edward A. Sanders, Austin
Walter O. Evans Jr., Beaumont
Monica B. Marek, Bryan
Lisa A. Roese, Bryan
James A. Balbas, Childress
Carmino L. Gonzales, Construction
Mohammad N. Mereih, Construction
Dion R. Allicock, Dallas
Gary R. Laurer, Dallas
Vincent G. Lewis, Dallas
Barbara E. Prda, Dallas
Amir M. Shammet, Dallas
Wanda Stafford-Carter, Dallas
Marcella M. Saenz, Design
Karen M. Caswell, El Paso
Robert D. Villalobos, El Paso
James G. Villanueva, El Paso
Carlos E. Garcia, General Services
Virgil L. Gillenwater Jr., General Services
Kenneth M. Fontenot, General Services
Antonio A. Tijerina Jr., General Services
Hulen B. Spurrier, Fort Worth
Rosendo Garcia III, Houston
Scott G. Hiser, Houston
Enrique Quiroga, Houston
William S. Reaves, Houston
Sergio Rodriguez, Houston
Christopher C. Wilson, Houston
Marshall A. Ruzicka, Info. Systems
Alma L. Fermin, Laredo
Samuel Salazar, Laredo
Rugelio Altamirano, Lubbock
James M. Klemme, Lubbock
Harold W. Rodgers, Lubbock
James C. Cathell, Maintenance
Bert W. Walters, Maintenance
Karen J. Cox, Motor Veh.
Rosendo Garcia III, Pharr
Bruce Gutierrez, Pharr
Teresa M. Muehlberger, Pharr
Xavier R. Pruneda, Pharr
Robert L. Rybka, Pharr
Johnny B. Rodriguez, San Angelo
Joshua J. Schexnider, San Angelo
Francisco A. Ynojosa, San Angelo
Benjamin O. Engelhardt, San Antonio
Charles D. French, San Antonio
David J. Pilus, San Antonio
Robert G. Salazar, San Antonio
William C. Brantley, Tyler
Ronald L. Nutt, Tyler
Vernon J. Boyett, Veh. Titles & Reg.
Larry K. Crawford, Waco
David W. Jayroe, Waco
Craig A. Walker, Waco

Service awards

Tommie Abbott III, Yoakum
Wally E. Houston, Yoakum
Dwayne A. Malatek, Yoakum
Ronda L. Robertson, Yoakum

October 2004

40 years
Mark G. Anthony, Houston
Otto J. Maresh, Houston
Jerry D. McGuairt, Odessa

35 years
Willie G. Gamez, Houston
Dan C. Wyly, Info. Systems
Norman B. Reed Jr., Lubbock

30 years
Steven J. Graham, Abilene
Alfred L. Osborn, Amarillo
Alonso M. Gomez, Atlanta
James E. Kyle, Atlanta
Juanita Corley, Beaumont
Leonidez G. Abreo, El Paso
Felipe Sanchez, Houston
Ricky L. Walker, Lubbock
Gilbert D. Martinez, San Antonio
Eugene J. Rodriguez, San Antonio
Tony D. Singer Jr., San Antonio
Jimmy M. Flanagan, Tyler
Larry E. West, Tyler
Keith E. Miller, Waco

25 years
Hector A. Aguirre, Abilene
Elvin J. Brooks Jr., Abilene
Larry W. Gutzler, Austin
Ricky L. Gandy, Beaumont
Pedro B. Garcia Jr., Corpus Christi
Gregory A. Pechacek, Dallas
Herbert K. Wilcox, Dallas
Severo Rodriquez, Fort Worth
Matthew R. Adams, Houston
Minnie H. Kaatz, Houston
John R. Shaw, Houston
Mario De Hoyos, Laredo
Juan A. Hernandez, Laredo
Victor Longoria, Laredo
Hollis G. Caldwell, Lufkin
Carl W. Lundgren, Maintenance
Guadalupe C. Saenz, Maintenance
Karl J. Bednarz, San Angelo
Enes V. Leija, San Antonio
Melanie Cruse, Traffic Operations
Betty G. Knight, Waco
Anita C. Sanders, Wichita Falls

20 years
Paz Elizondo Jr., Abilene
James K. Barron Jr., Atlanta
John R. Ellis, Atlanta
James D. Bartsch, Austin
Esther B. Gottwald, Austin
James W. Duhon, Beaumont
Harold B. Harbour, Beaumont
Joel B. Rose, Bridge
Randy C. Bloyd, Brownwood
John B. Raschke, Brownwood
James E. Marak, Bryan
Phyllis A. Mills, Childress
Leonard E. Lancaster, Dallas
Randi G. Kattner, Design
Deeann B. Henderson, Finance
Merrilynn R. Higgs, Finance
Billie C. Reed, Finance
Isom Davis III, Fort Worth
Katherine P. Clough, Houston
Rogelio M. Gonzalez, Houston
Pamela L. Hall, Houston
John O. Hanohano Jr., Houston
Alton Hargett Jr., Houston
Shelly D. Mars, Houston
Oscar C. Medrano, Houston
Manuel Mendoza, Houston
Michelle T. Nguyen, Houston
Douglas W. Quinn, Houston
Juan Vasquez, Houston
Bobby Y. Chen, Info. Systems
Janet D. McDaniel, Lubbock
John D. McKee, Lufkin
Stephen G. Smith, Odessa
Raymond K. Robinson, Paris
Ernest L. Teague Jr., Paris
Leticia Z. Perez, Pharr
Laura Y. Harper, San Angelo
David B. Casteel, San Antonio
Scott E. Finch, San Antonio
Eileen W. Heye, San Antonio
Angie M. Ortegon, San Angelo
Hilario Rodarte, San Angelo
Bennett K. Downs, Yoakum
Glenn D. Kitson Jr., Tyler
Rodney E. Baugh, Waco
Cheryl L. Dye, Waco
Edgar G. Howard, Waco
Cindy Parks, Waco
Samuel D. Groves, Wichita Falls

15 years
Jere A. Williams, Atlanta
Gregory L. Stark, Austin
Donald C. Toner Jr., Austin
Michelle Hannah, Aviation
Anna M. Saldana, Aviation
Samantha B. Naylor, Beaumont
Tommy D. Singleton, Brownwood
Monty E. Rowland, Childress
Daniel R. Geary, Construction
Charles E. Coleman, Corpus Christi
Linda N. Koonce, Corpus Christi
Mateo A. Rios Jr., Dallas
Pamela K. Spivey, Fort Worth
Jerry R. Allen, Houston
Eric S. Bednarsky, Houston
Fred E. Ham, Houston
Andrew E. Lamberth, Houston
Alexine Stittiams-Ward, Houston
Harry B. Tull, Houston
Joseph G. Poeppelmeyer, Info. Systems
Donald W. Chrismer, Motor Veh.
Theresa L. Bassham, Paris
Tracy L. Lettrell, Paris
Saturnino Flores Jr., Pharr
Gussie E. Knight, San Angleo
Richard B. Haass, San Antonio
Jonathan B. Blackburn, Tyler
Vicki D. Allbright, Veh. Titles & Reg.
Rose M. Guillen, Veh. Titles & Reg.

10 years
Pedro Cerda Jr., Abilene
Steven C. Mitchell, Abilene
Tonya D. Detten, Amarillo
David L. Vitela, Amarillo
William E. Braesicke, Atlanta
Heron Garcia, Atlanta
Darlean L. Sterling, Beaumont
Dingyi Yang, Bridge
Keith A. Dunmire, Construction
Joseph D. Caruso, Corpus Christi
Jimmy J. Castro, Corpus Christi
Stephen L. Ndima, Corpus Christi
Vijaykumar G. Deolapure, Dallas
James J. Mercier, Design
Karen J. Murski, Design
Robert C. Teal, Design
Roland E. Limon, Enviro. Affairs
Peter N. Acho, Houston
Bruce Rychlik, Houston
Duc P. Tran, Houston
M.T. Bomberger, Human Resources
Ruben R. Cabrera, Info. Systems
Raymond R. Rowehl, Info. Systems
Armando Sanchez, Laredo
William S. Abernathy, Lufkin
Granville D. Waller, Lufkin
Michael R. Hannusch, Mainatenance
Ronnie Hawkins, Maintenance
Janice S. Gregg, Motor Carrier
Juan Moreno Jr., Pharr
James H. Bourg, San Antonio
Nora M. Baldwin, Travel
Jane W. Knapp, Travel
Helen A. Ramirez, Veh. Titles & Reg.
James H. Neeley, Waco

5 years
David G. Clarady, Abilene
Kristy K. Fincher, Atlanta
Shelly L. Feazell-Zapp, Austin
Vera E. Hamilton, Austin
Joe L. Holland, Austin
Ronnie L. Martinez, Austin
Danny W. Allen, Beaumont
Stacy L. Carter, Beaumont
Ricky J. Eakin, Beaumont
Steven H. Singleton, Beaumont
Sharon K. Welch, Beaumont
Wallace D. Dobbins, Brownwood
James H. Mcintosh, Childress
Juan C. Cardenas, Corpus Christi
Justin B. Castillo, Corpus Christi
Amelia Olivarez, Corpus Christi
Autumn L. Harrison, Construction
Paul D. Blevins II, Dallas
Sherry L. Franks, Dallas
Rodney D. Leonard, Dallas
Jennifer A. Lugger, Dallas
Michael W. Peavy, Dallas
Sean D. Perry, Dallas
Carol L. Pezet, Dallas
Kristen D. Rodriguez, Dallas
Alberto Buhaya, El Paso
Francisco Marez Jr., El Paso
Norman J. King, Enviro. Affairs
Javier Pena, Finance
Denise L. Bauer, Fort Worth
Joseph W. Bryan, Fort Worth
Junaid Akhtar, Houston
Bradley K. Holik, Houston
David P. Rabius, Houston
Emmanuel C. Samson, Houston
Brian P. Sandifer, Houston
Farshad Shafipour, Houston
Derrick L. Whitehurst, Houston
Jack K. Zaro, Houston
Jerry L. Frampton, Human Resources
Keith C. Handrick, Info. Systems
Jose L. Rivera, Lubbock
Phyllis G. Jeffcoat, Lufkin
Jack D. Lovett, Lufkin
Melissa K. Lowe, Lufkin
Charles E. Tucker Jr., Lufkin
David N. Warner, Lufkin
Ghias U. Dean, Maintenance
Jesus Anchondo, Odessa
Mikel W. Bridge, Odessa
Karen P. Short, Odessa
Kenlea R. Bolton, Paris
Jiovanna Canales, Pharr
Manuel Rodriguez, Pharr
Daphne A. Frey, San Antonio
Kurt E. Kunze, San Antonio
Arturo Ramirez III, San Antonio
Michael B. Wiley, San Antonio

Manuel Rodriguez, Pharr
Daphne A. Frey, San Antonio
Kurt E. Kunze, San Antonio
Arturo Ramirez III, San Antonio
Michael B. Wiley, San Antonio
Mary J. Burns, Trans. Planning & Program
Drew S. Laverents, Tyler
Randy Murray, Tyler
Lloyd G. Rice, Tyler
Miguel A. Pabon, Veh. Titles & Reg.
Timothy S. Massingill, Waco
Christopher S. MacHacek, Yoakum
Ronald P. Wilson, Yoakum

November 2004

40 years
Aneta R. Ratliff, Brownwood

35 years
Larry J. Wood, Bridge

30 years
Marilyn T. Clawson, Amarillo
Billy R. Clopton Sr., Beaumont
Baltazar Rodriguez, Construction
Jose A. Lopez, Corpus Christi
Pedro C. Fernandez, Lubbock
Shelby S. Peoples, Lubbock
Jesse G. Gutierrez Jr, Odessa
Jerry G. Lopez, San Antonio

25 years
Mary N. Mathes, Amarillo
Steven C. Juneau, Atlanta
Dennis L. Massey, Atlanta
Marlin L. Horn, Beaumont
Judy L. Ramsey, El Paso
Matthew F. Hendricks Jr., Fort Worth
Lois A. Jones, Fort Worth
Piedad M. Rodriguez, Fort Worth
Wanda G. Guthrie, Houston
George E. Henry, Houston
Tedd O. Carter, Lubbock
Sandra D. Bentley, Lufkin
Sylvia L. Subia, Motor Carrier
Deborah S. Menefee, Right of Way
Charles W. Cook, San Angelo
Debra A. Rogers, San Antonio
Lanita J. McAfee, Veh. Titles & Reg.
Terry L. Guenat, Waco

20 years
Larry P. Williams, Abilene
Donnie C. Osbourne, Amarillo
Maurice Fifer, Austin
Steven B. Singleton, Brownwood
Raymond L. Kroll, Bryan
Lamar G. Ondrasek, Bryan
Bobby L. Wells, Bryan
William E. Harris Jr., Childress
David W. Debo, Construction
John R. Ibarra, Construction
Paula M. Cantu, Corpus Christi
Felix C. Trevino II, Corpus Christi
Michael E. Bardin, Dallas
Sheldon R. Clagg, Dallas
John A. Debner, Dallas
David A. Hall, Dallas
Marian C. Sherrill, Dallas
Rhonda A. Simmelink, Dallas
Gary W. Whitton, Dallas
Juan M. Flores, Forth Worth
Gregory s. Lane, Fort Worth
Patrick D. MacKey, Fort Worth
Sandra Y. Moehlman, General Counsel
Lee B. Whitten Jr., General Services
William C. Baker, Houston
Ricky L. McInvale, Houston
Lavonne W. Rust, Houston
Tommy L. Spain, Houston
George L. Torres, Houston
Brian D. Vogler, Houston
Stanley F. Yin, Houston
Michael E. Meinecke, Info. Systems
Randall L. Woods, Lubbock
Ruperto O. Perez, Odessa
Juan J. Barrera, San Angelo
Hoyt B. Adami, San Antonio
David A. Eardley, San Antonio
Reginald M. Qualls, San Antonio
Allen J. Schneider, San Antonio
Russell J. Soike, San Antonio
David A. Vrana, San Antonio
Judy H. Griffith, Veh. Titles & Reg.
Howard G. Callis, Jr., Yoakum
Edwin L. Price, Yoakum

15 years
Pamela J. Crumley, Austin
Kerry K. Fulton, Austin
Theresa V. Belew, Beaumont
Deanne Droddy, Beaumont
Lori T. Boer, Bryan
Jaime Sanchez, Bridge
Kenneth J. Boehme, Construction
Amparo A. Havemann, Corpus Christi
David A. Gachot, Dallas
Wandra A. Hilliard, Dallas
Barbara J. Hickman, Enviro. Affairs
Herlinda A. Hickman, Finance
Alan J. Easterling, Fort Worth
Thomas J. Selbach, Houston
Kenneth R. Walker, Houston
Gerald B. Colter, Lufkin
Melissa A. Bennett, Motor Carrier
Leonel Guerra, Pharr
Terri A. Meacham, San Angleo
Jeffrey L. Dickinson, San Antonio
Rudolph H. Manka Jr., San Antonio
Alan M. Grohman, Trans. Planning & Programming
Billy W. Terry Jr., Tyler
John W. Cook, Waco

10 years
Jesus D. Martinez Jr., Abilene
Johnny J. Guerrero, Amarillo
Houman Hemati, Austin
Vivian S. Bagwell, Beaumont
Thomas A. Strother, Beaumont
Celeste T. Johnson, Brownwood
Robert L. Sitton, Brownwood
Kayvon Jahedkar, Bryan
Jeffery L. Mears, Bryan
Melissa A. Daniels, Construction
Rochelle C. Jones, Construction
Hisham S. Makkouk, Construction
David Zuniga Sr., Corpus Christi
Eleanor S. Hubbell, Dallas
Patrick R. Nugent, Dallas
Vicki E. Rodriguez, Dallas
Robbie L. Wilhoite, Dallas
Mustafa A. Yafai, Dallas
Virendra Nath, Design
Sandee E. Davis, Fort Worth
Marvin G. Masten, Fort Worth
Pamela S. Rogers, Fort Worth
Eliza L. Fanuel, General Services
Ruperto S. Arismendez, Houston
Kenneth E. Kuykendall, Houston
Robert A. Eason, Jr., Human Resources
Kathy G. McMullen, Info. Systems
Juan L. Garza, Laredo
Miguel Hernandez, Laredo
Jana J. Field, Lubbock
Judy W. Powe, Lubbock
Oscar Martinez, Odessa
Cliff J. Watts, Paris
Joe A. Lara, San Angelo
Ronald L. Piri, San Angelo
Samuel Saiz, San Angleo
Carlos G. Ramirez, San Antonio
Pedro M. Valdez Jr., San Antonio
Albert W. Vega, San Antonio
Sherly A. Allen, Tyler
Kathy A. Hidalgo, Tyler
Richard H. Hudson Jr., Tyler
Michael Q. Parker, Tyler
William J. Willeford, Tyler
Michael G. Cuellar, Veh. Titles & Reg.
Harry C. Morgan, Veh. Titles & Reg.
James A. Williams, Veh. Titles & Reg.
Randy J. Haas, Yoakum

5 years
Demetrica S. Bland, Abilene
Ofelia Garbalena, Amarillo
Melvin J. Hammer, Amarillo
Tracy L. Gardner, Austin
Sarah M. Halbarkier, Austin
Thomas J. Krawitz, Austin
Charles M. Lewis Jr., Austin
Clara Mucciacciaro, Austin
Lora E. Burris, Aviation
Robert L. Kolls, Brownwood
Ben D. Shackelford, Brownwood
Larry D. Walker, Brownwood
Roberto F. Cortez, Bryan
Bradley N. Peikert, Bryan
Danny C. Cox Jr., Corpus Christi
Michael W. Hahnert, Corpus Christi
Steve T. Orchard, Corpus Christi
Roy A. Payne, Corpus Christi
Maria D. Samudio, Corpus Christi
Chris D. Asbill, Dallas
Larry D. Chapman, Dallas
Nona R. King, Dallas
Lindy A. Marchi, Dallas
Allen P. Monden, Dallas
Sammy R. Moser, Dallas
Brian W. Smith, Dallas
Victor R. Songer, Dallas
Boon K. Thian, Dallas
Billy J. Weaver, Dallas
Patricia E. Young, Dallas
Josephine Jarrell, Enviro. Affairs
Shyrel D. Calles, Finance
Munaver M. Yusufali, Finance
Jimmy R. Ellis, Fort Worth
Tara R. Lockhart, Fort Worth
Adolph Hernandez, General Services
Bradley T. Luckie, General Services
Cherry C. Brown, Houston
Nicholas W. Horiszny, Houston
Ray S. Javadi, Houston
James A. Johnson, Houston
Charlene R. Shirley, Houston
Jason H. Hoke, Info. Systems
Angela M. Jackson, Info. Systems
Ana G. Ramirez, Info. Systems
Stephen M. Wyman, Info. Systems
Patricia D. Ybarra, Info. Systems
Jose A. Guevara, Laredo
Reynaldo Lopez, Laredo
Juan D. Martinez Jr., Lubbock
Lenora S. Blakes, Motor Carrier
Richard V. Morrisey, Motor Veh.
Jaime E. Benavides Sr., Odessa
Miguel B. Matta, Odessa
Ramiro G. Ramos, Odessa
Juan Alcazar, Pharr
Homero A. Soto, Pharr
Jon M. Ripley, Right of Way
Katherine E. Wilson, Right of Way

Exit Ramp

( ) = service years/month of retirement

DISTRICTS

Abilene
Humberto C. Ruiz (25/SEPT)
Steve R. Beasley (27/AUG)
Emily M. Lambert (19/AUG)
Loyd R. Walker (27/JUL)
Allen R. Morgan, Jr. (26/MAR)
Guadalupe R. Garcia (31/FEB)

Amarillo
Jackie L. Bailey (28/OCT)
Gerald D. Britten (27/OCT)
Garry L. Cathey (30/SEPT)
Judy H. Jones (26/JUL)
Eugene R. Hinds (25/JUN)

Atlanta
Troy L. Johnson (27/SEPT)
Gary G. Barnett (30/AUG)
Jesse M. Procella (10/JUN)
James E. Garner (32/MAY)
Gordon E. Haynes (27/APR)
Sandra E. Burden (25/FEB)

Austin
Larry R. Cavaness (38/AUG)
Thomas W. Wilson (36/AUG)
Floyd C. Karstetter (26/AUG)
Roma R. Wright (20/AUG)
Aubrey E. Grumbles (30/JUL)
Samuel M. Cox (8/JUL)
Jefferson D. Logan Jr. (33/JUN)
Elisa G. Garcia (16/JUN)
Ronald L. Ullmann (32/MAY)
James W. Wilkerson (24/MAY)
Clyde R. Wheat (14/MAR)

Beaumont
Dearl E. Walters (36/AUG)
Mathew L. Butler (26/JUL)
Hugh V. Fuller (10/JUN)
Fred A. Fowler (35/MAY)
Marilyn T. Crouch (29/MAY)
Herbert O. Burrell (23/APR)
Lawrence R. Dirden (22/APR)

Brownwood
Noah G. Gutierrez (30/AUG)
Leonard E. Spivey (24/AUG)

Bryan
Ervin Lewis (18/OCT)
Robert M. Vanvolkenburg (31/MAY)

Childress
Maurice Farris (36/OCT)
Charlie D. Whitten (31/AUG)
Allan J. Magouirk (28/AUG)
Bedford R. Hudson (23AUG)
Walter R. Floyd (21/JUL)

Corpus Christi
Richard W. Swartz (16/OCT)
Bernabe M. Elizondo (17/SEPT)
Norman Zamzow (33/AUG)
Wilbert L. Pawelek (31/AUG)
Jose A. Lopez (30/AUG)
Juan L. Flores (25/JUL)
Maximino H. Perez (34/JUN)
Maria G. Hernandez (20/JUN)
Nancy P. Cooper (32/FEB)
Lupe O. Tijerina (29/FEB)
Reynaldo S. Villegas (16/FEB)
Charles B. Freshcoln (25/MAR)

Dallas
Lee R. Richardson (21/OCT)
Ray Ruiz (10/OCT)
Robert P. McCormick (38/AUG)
Phillip E. Simons (32/AUG)
Natividad F. Vargas (31/AUG)
Martin G. Kuykendall (27/AUG)
Larry L. Ferguson (21/AUG)
James D. McKinney (20/AUG)
Roy A. Vargas (11/AUG)
Ernest D. McFarland (6/JUL)
John A. Lewis, Sr. (5/JUL)
Paul A. Haas (19/JUN)
William R. Goodell (25/MAY)
James E. Harris (20/MAY)
Arnold P. Breeden (30/FEB)
Joyce A. Lathan (26/MAR)

El Paso
Lionel B. Flores (27/OCT)
Roberto M. Hernandez (11/SEPT)
John W. Riley (18/AUG)
Alberto L. Molinar (29/AUG)
Patricia L. Molina (31/JUL)
Francisco H. Ruiz (30/JUN)
Robert G. Herrera (10/JUN)

Fort Worth
Glenda B. Gregory (22/SEPT)
William L. Wimberley (35/AUG)
Sam O. Glover Jr. (32/AUG)
Jacky W. Rutledge (30/AUG)
Bobby J. Etheredge (17/AUG)
Charles R. Bilby (28/JUL)
Lois A. Jones (25/JUL)
Timothy R. Tuggle (28/JUN)
James A. Ward (26/JUN)
Sandra s. Harris (11/JUN)
Zach Sessions (36/MAY)
Allan D. Farquhar (31/MAY)
Timothy R. Mann (26/MAR)
Henry R. King (18/MAR)

Houston
William R. Gillaspy, III (41/OCT)
Robert E. Weedman (24/OCT)
Nancy R. Robuck (26/SEPT)
Robert F. Cotrone (25/SEPT)
Kay S. Derry (38/AUG)
Sonja W. Trojan (36/AUG)
Janis K. Roane (35/AUG)
Andrew F. House (35/AUG)
Willie S. Cross (35/AUG)
Charles L. Carethers (30/AUG)
Tommie A. Bosley (28/AUG)
George A. Cifranic (24/AUG)
Shivinderp S. Randhawa (22/AUG)
Glenda M. Blackburn (22/AUG)
Mohammed Omas (20/AUG)
Fred E. Ham (15/AUG)
Lavonne W. Rust (20/JUL)
Richard A. Torres (18/MAY)
Keri L. Smith (6/MAY)
Dwight K. Eggert (36/APR)
Raymond Ramirez, Jr. (30/APR)
Marion Noski (23/APR)
Agapito S. Montalvo (22/APR)
Leslie S. Howard (15/APR)
Eugene F. Roberts (18/FEB)
Freddie L. Franklin (13/FEB)
Lena A. Polott (5/FEB)
Harry V. Thompson (24/MAR)

Laredo
Olivia Garza Gongora (7/OCT)
Jorge M. Medina (18/SEPT)
Juan M. Garza (14/MAY)

Lubbock
Pedro C. Fernandez (30/AUG)
Charles A. Lankford (30/AUG)
Jimmie D. Howell (19/AUG)
Michael L. Anderson (31/JUL)
Wayne N. Christian (28/MAY)
Edward N. Alvarado Jr. (10/MAY)
David W. Kinser (25/APR)
Alred R. Moore (20/APR)
Robert G. Langehennig (28/FEB)
Gregory O. Moorhead (25/FEB)
Marvin R. Tullos (25/FEB)

Lufkin
Eddie Watson, Jr. (25/OCT)
Betty G. Peavy (22/SEPT)
Charles W. Cook (26/AUG)
Karen L. Oliver (25/JUL)
Sean D. Permenter (22/APR)

Odessa
Luis A. Chapa (25/AUG)
Delia F. Parras (25/AUG)
Aurelia P. Galvan (26/JUN)
Elpidio S. Baeza (22/JUN)
Pamela T. Pickens (18/JUN)
Charles E. Martin (10/JUN)
Mario B. Lujan (27/MAR)

Paris
Marsha L. Scholl (24/AUG)
Larry F. Roberts (27/APR)

Pharr
Raul A. Lozano (18/JUN)
Steven A. Whybrew (22/MAY)

San Angelo
Kermit C. Schkade (34/AUG)
James A. Bates (23/AUG)
Ronald H. Stringer (29/APR)

San Antonio
David A. Eardley (20/OCT)
Urbano L. Martinez, Jr. (20/SEPT)
Nancy J. Davis (16/SEPT)
Michael G. Wood (11/SEPT)
Robert P. Haley Jr., (38/AUG)
Willie M. Sassenhagen Jr. (21/JUL)
Gordon R. McClanahan (34/MAY)
Ramon Lara Jr. (25/MAY)
Harold J. Stevens (23/MAY)
Leslie V. Tomasini (23/FEB)

Tyler
Cathy L. McCurley (27/AUG)
Mary W. Kee (26/AUG)
Rita K. Sitton (25/AUG)
Lynn E. Simmons (23/AUG)
Jerry D. Carpenter (9/MAY)
Manuel M. Escueta (23/FEB)
John Ash (36/MAR)

Waco
Charles R. Cunningham (22/OCT)
Jerry L. Kindred (28/AUG)
Richard F. Kinsey (20/AUG)
Jesus M. Martinez, Jr. (22/FEB)
Clovis S. Sutton (11/MAR)

Wichita Falls
Helen V. Thompson (34/AUG)
Donald E. Thompson (28/AUG)
Raymond M. McGuire (24/AUG)
Larry N. Woolf (38/JUL)
James W. Curry (32/JUN)
Phillip A. Kincy (35/APR)
Joe H. Nelson, III (34/MAR)
Larry L. Farthing (7/MAR)

Yoakum
Anthony L. Kresta (32/SEPT)
James M. Tippins (30/AUG)
William D. Barthels (23/JUN)
Roy J. Buenger (23/MAY)
Peggy R. Koliba (15/APR)
Cuba J. Burleson (38/FEB)
Fernando Cerrillo, Jr. (37/FEB)
Carl W. Ramert (29/MAR)

DIVISIONS

Aviation
Yolanda S. Alvarez (34/MAY)

Bridge
Mary Lou F. Ralls (20/SEPT)
George H. Odom (27/MAY)
Don D. Allen (24/MAY)

Construction
Richard G. Kubitza (27/AUG)

Design
George F. Gold, Jr. (28/JUL)
Kenneth C. Bohuslav (32/JUN)

Environmental Affairs
William F. Hood (19/JUN)

Finance
Cynthia D. Hilt (22/MAY)

General Services
Mary R. Rendon (26/SEPT)
Silvo J. Romero (21/JUL)
Lois M. Young (30/JUN)
Wayne L. Carter (24/JUN)
Lawrence G. Bloom (16/MAY)

Human Resources
Doris N. Flowers (31/AUG)

Information Systems
Murray D. Edwards (38/JUL)
Armando G. Flores (27/JUL)
Deryl W. Overcash (5/JUN)
Linda K. Hart (27/MAY)
Benny C. Ridge (29/APR)
Kenneth L. Clark (7/APR)
Mary I. Ramirez (5/APR)
Otto H. Ludwig, III (27/FEB)
Howard A. Wolfson (11/MAR)

Maintenance
Rudy R. Garcia (30/SEPT)
Jerry D. Thigpen (26/JUL
Pascual N. Hernandez (23/MAR)

Motor Carrier
Curtis M. Wagner (31/AUG)
Lee M. Carter (18/MAR)

Occupational Safety
Mary A. Parker

Planning & Programming
Judith B. Hajek (30/AUG)
Carolyn A. Markert (15/AUG)

Public Transportation
Gloria F. Macias (31/AUG)
George V. Vera (13/AUG)

Traffic Operations
Karen S. Gibson (21/OCT)
Alfred M. Giles (15/AUG)

Travel
William D. Blanton (17/JUN)
Alberto G. Rubio (24/MAY)
Matildy V. Samaripa, Jr. (24/FEB)

Vehicle Titles & Registration
Joann C. Reynolds (6/OCT)
Dixie A. Parker (33/SEPT)
Judy E. Gibson (20/SEPT)
Rebecca P. Beck (34/AUG)
Rexanne G. Meaux (31/JUL)
Pamela M. Arnold (30/APR)
Ruth H. Howard (30/APR)
Mary H. Davenport (25/MAR)

OFFICES

Civil Rights
Victor M. Garcia (28/AUG)

General Counsel
Michael J. McAndrew (24/MAY)

Public Information
Cheryl M. Williams (24/MAR)

In Memoriam

Atlanta District
E. Gaylon Childress
Director of Maintenance
died June 27, 2004

Beaumont District
Gilbert E. Gore
Engineering Tech II
died August 31, 2004

Dallas District
Lloyd I. Alexander
Transportation Maintenance
Crew Chief I
died May 30, 2004

Manuel (Mike) Henry Arnold
retired (date not available)
died August 26, 2004

Cristobal A. Garza
Engineering Tech IV
died June 24, 2004

Deborrah A. Jones
Administrative Assistant IV
died July 14, 2004

Godwin E. Mowete
Engineer Assistant III
died July 23, 2004

El Paso District
David F. Engle
General Services Technician
retired 1993
died July 19, 2004

Frank M. Giardino
Construction Records Auditor II
retired 1994
died September 12, 2004

Ricardo Lugo
Engineering Tech II
died December 12, 2004

Francisco M. Parras
Maintenance Technician
retired 1983
died October 14, 2004

General Services Division
Mark A. Van Hoozer
System Support Spec. IV
died November 29, 2004

Fort Worth District
Wallace E. Ewell
Director of Operations
died June 11, 2004

Houston District
Lawrence Johnson
retired (date not available)
died June 26, 2004

Frank Reece
Engineering Tech I
died August 28, 2004

Odessa District
Mills Scales Jr.
retired 1997
died December 12, 2004

Paris District
Kenneth Bethel
Asst. Foreman Maint. Office
retired 1983
died November 28, 2004

Leo Oliver
Maintenance Tech III
retired May 31, 1987
died August 9, 2004

Pharr District
Gilbert Trevino
Contract Specialist I
died July 4, 2004

San Angelo District
Basiliso L. Ramirez, Jr.
Maintenance Section
retired 1976
died August 27, 2004

Evers C. Schmidt
retired 1992
died August 3, 2004

James W. Shipman
Maintenance Section
retired 1997
died August 26, 2004

Tyler District
Jack D. Bryan
Engineering Tech IV
died September 23, 2004

Roland P. Garrett
retired (date not available)
Longview Area Office
died December 15, 2004

Thomas E. Jones
died August 26, 2004

Dalton Melton
Canton Maintenance Section
retired 1986
died December 1, 2004

Freddie Phleps
South Tyler Maintenance
died December 6, 2004

Yoakum District
Louis Luna
Maintenance Section
died August 27, 2004

Staten Cecil O'Neal
Maintenance Tech II
died July 17, 2004

NOTICE TO READERS

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TxDOT Heritage

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Calendar

2005

FEBRUARY
15-16 Maintenance/Traffic Operations Conference, Waco, MNT
21 Presidents' Day (holiday*)
24 Commission Meeting, Austin

MARCH
2 Texas Independence Day (holiday**)
15-17 Construction, Pavements, and Materials Conference, Dallas, CST
22-24 Texas Aviation Conference, Austin, AVN
25 Good Friday (holiday***)
29-30 TxDOT Annual Surveyors Conference, Austin, ISD
31 Commission Meeting, Austin
31 Cesar Chavez Day (holiday***)

APRIL
21 San Jacinto Day (holiday**)
28 Commission Meeting, Austin

MAY
26 Commission Meeting, Austin
30 Memorial Day (holiday*)

JUNE
6-9 Research Management Committee Meeting, Austin, RTI
30 Commission Meeting, Austin

JULY
4 Independence Day (holiday*)
6-8 Texas Ports and Waterways Conference, CC, TPP
19-22 Value Engineering Conference, San Antonio, DES
21 Research Oversight Committee Meeting, Austin, RTI
28 Commission Meeting, Brownwood

AUGUST
16-18 Design and Bridge Conference, Dallas, DES/BRG
25 Commission Meeting, Austin

SEPTEMBER
12-14 Save a Life-Safety Belts & Sober Drivers, Austin, TRF
29 Commission Meeting, Austin

OCTOBER
11-12 Transportation Short Course, College Station
27 Commission Meeting, Corpus Christi

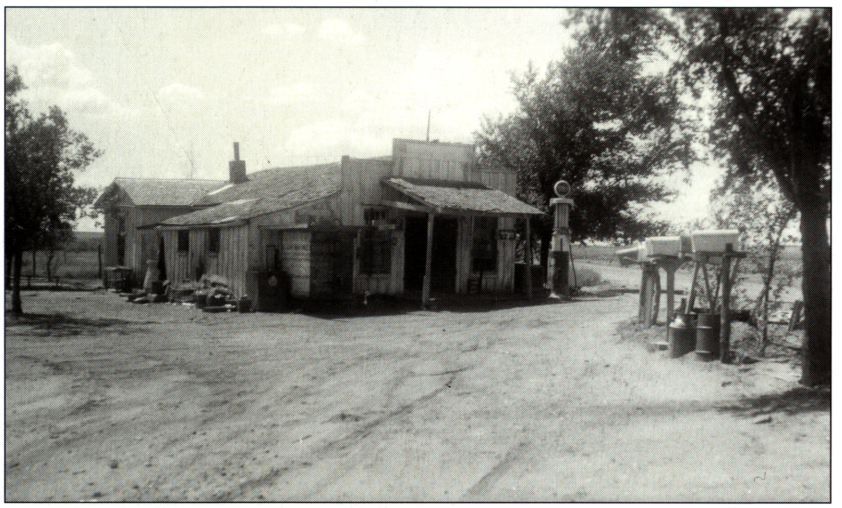
NOVEMBER
7-10 Research Management Committee Meeting, CC, RTI
17 Commission Meeting, Austin

DECEMBER
7 Research Oversight Committee Meeting, Austin, RTI
15 Commission Meeting, Austin

* = all agencies closed
** = skeleton crew holiday
*** = optional holiday (in lieu of any state holiday where a skeleton crew is required)

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

backtracks



Ethyl or regular — Remember when a service station actually meant service with a smile? Another question is where this early day "station" was. 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.

The **backtracks** photo in the February-March 2004 issue was taken in Navasota on LaSalle (Business 6) just south of Washington Avenue. The answer came from Bryan District employees. **Derrol Herzog** with Brenham Maintenance called with the location. **Carl Schroeder** with Navasota Maintence even supplied a more recent photo of the same location. ✪

Texas Department of Transportation

TRANSPORTATION NEWS

125 E. 11th St.
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