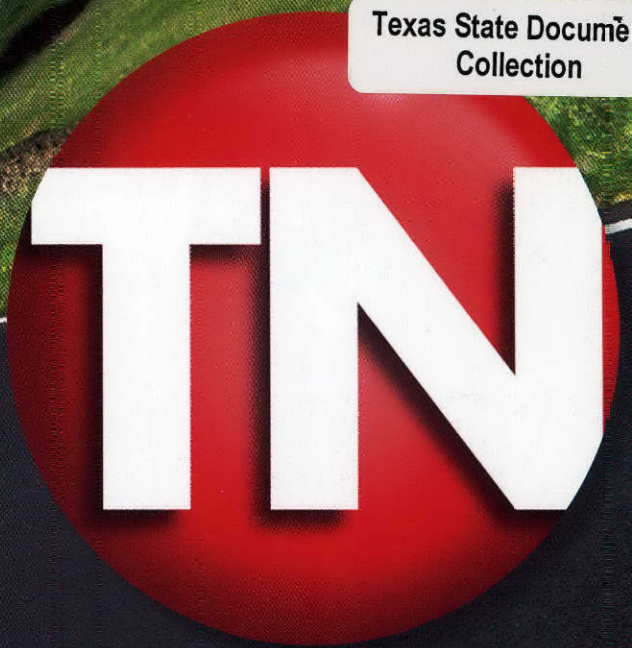




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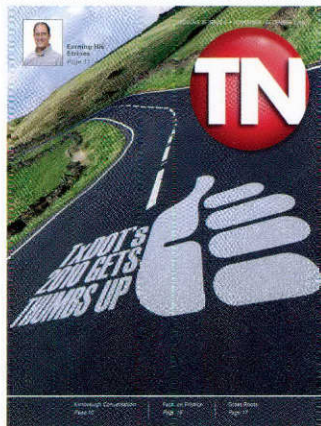
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**TXDOT'S
2010 GETS
THUMBS UP**

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Issue Interests



Cover Story

TxDOT earned many wins in 2010. Read all about TN's top-pick success stories that deserve a thumbs up.

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More 2010 operations "scores" by TxDOT employees.

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FIVE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW RIGHT NOW

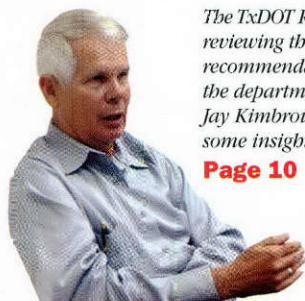
1 State Rep. Eddie Rodriguez, vice chair of the House Select Committee on Transportation Funding, recently directed the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) to respond to questions about the state's transportation funding challenges. TTI reported that current spending levels would result in 288,000 lost jobs by 2035 from deteriorating mobility. Also by 2035, delays will cause the average commuter nearly 140 hours in traffic, compared to 38 hours in 2010. You can get the report and watch the Oct. 19 episode of "The Road Show with Amadeo Saenz" at www.TxDOT.gov.

2 The TxDOT Restructure Council (TRC) has sorted through all past agency recommendations and catalogued them in one place. The Recommendations Tracking Database, available at www.TxDOT.gov/about_us/organizational_review.htm, includes 600+ recommendations from the Sunset Advisory Commission, State Auditor's Office, Grant Thornton Report and other sources.

3 The new Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan (SLRTP) 2035 is ready for public comment. This plan meets federal requirements and will serve as the state's 24-year "blueprint" for tackling aging infrastructure, urban densification and a growing population. The public can comment on the draft SLRTP at www.TxDOT.gov/public_involvement/transportation_plan_report.htm.

4 TxDOT has launched a new system making it easier and faster for Texans to report highway maintenance issues. The "Report a Pothole" initiative is available online at www.TxDOT.gov and toll-free at (888) 885-8248.

5 A new report from TRIP examining the smoothness of urban roads includes rankings of top metropolitan areas with the highest percentage of pavements in poor condition. San Antonio ranked #16 and DFW ranked #20. View more report findings at <http://tripnet.org/>.



The TxDOT Restructure Council is reviewing the many improvement recommendations made to the department in the last year. Jay Kimbrough provides some insights on the process.

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Benji Morrison sets his sights on Texas highway stripes.

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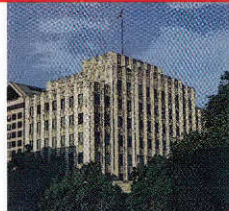
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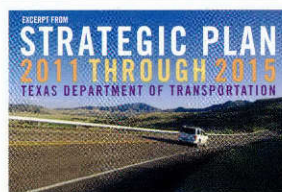
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SAENZ SAYS

It's the end of the year, a time when many take stock of the past 12 months. And for some, the year only amounts to a string of events, random episodes that happened. I'm not one to believe in coincidence. I think things happen for specific reasons, during specific seasons—and since I lean more to the “glass half full” philosophy, I think of every event as another play in the game, another advance of the ball, another opportunity to win.

So when I think of all the changes we made and the challenges we've endured over the past year—implementing the Sunset recommendations, regionalization, preparing for the Grant Thornton audit—I don't see actions that correct failures or flaws. I don't just see more work when we're already busy. I see possibility: a game plan for improvement, opportunities to learn more, plan smarter, to be better.

And the truth is we are already pretty darn good at what we do. Just look at some of the things we've accomplished this past year:

- *We obligated more than \$2.3 billion in federal stimulus money for highway, bridge, rural transit and general aviation projects across the state. That's more than 640 contracts executed in just over a year.*
- *We made significant progress using the \$2 billion in Proposition 12 funding the Legislature appropriated. That money is helping us make headway on widening Interstate 35 through the Waco area, one of the heaviest traveled segments of interstate in the state.*
- *We let 300 more projects than had been planned, with more than \$4 billion going to contract.*
- *We set record lows for our department safety program, with fewer employees injured and losing time at work from those injuries.*

And that's above our other day-to-day responsibilities. All in all, we've had a pretty good year. And while I can't be sure what 2011 will bring, it's a safe bet it will mean more adjustments. But if the present is an indication of the future, we will live up to the challenges. We will look for the opportunity in every situation—and we will do what we do best—deliver the finest transportation in the country.

Thank you for all your hard work this year.

Amadeo Saenz Jr., P.E.

*Executive Director
Texas Department of Transportation*

Watch Mr. Saenz's videos to employees by clicking here: <http://crossroads/videos/index.asp>.





2010 YEAR IN REVIEW

For TxDOT, 2010 has been a banner year of challenges, transformation and countless successes. We produced more top quality work than ever with fewer employees and dollars, cut overhead, set safety records, retired our short-term debt, reduced highway fatalities, enhanced our communication tools, developed long-range plans and so much more. It was a true OneDOT year. Let's take a look back at some of our 2010 milestones:



ONEDOT – A NEW FOCAL POINT FOR TxDOT

The OneDOT concept took shape in 2010 as a new focal point for the agency. Executive Director Amadeo Saenz promoted OneDOT not as a new program, but as a new way of accomplishing TxDOT's mission and goals – a new state of mind that affects all operations at every level. With a focus on teamwork and efficiency at a time when the agency has growing needs and limited resources, the agency began looking for opportunities to share best practices, identify weaknesses and maximize resources.



SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS REDUCE FATALITIES

As reported at a news conference on August 29, there were 388 fewer fatalities on Texas highways in 2009, a 1 percent decrease from the previous year and the lowest rate in 75 years of measuring crashes. In the last five years, TxDOT has dedicated \$1.2 billion from the Texas Safety Bond Program toward highway projects that have the greatest potential for reducing traffic crashes.



LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The department developed the Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan (SLRTP), which is the foundation for many planning efforts under way at TxDOT. The plan includes the efforts of local, regional and federal transportation partners. The plan will provide a framework for developing and implementing a multimodal transportation system through 2035, including highways, rail, water ports, airports, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, pipelines and intelligent transportation systems.

VIEW

TxDOT's THUMBS UP



CRAFT – TRACKING CUSTOMER FEEDBACK

On October 1, TxDOT began using the new CRAFT (Customer Relationship and Feedback Tracking) system to track and report customer inquiries and correspondence. The Web-based computer application allows TxDOT to document customer feedback from receipt to resolution. The new system also helps determine how many complaints each division and district receives, what they are about and how long it takes to respond to customers.



GRANT THORNTON REPORT

The independent audit firm Grant Thornton, LLP delivered its top-down management and organizational review of TxDOT to the Texas Transportation Commission on May 26. The Commission had directed Grant Thornton to perform this review per a recommendation from the Legislature in 2009. The Commission formed the TxDOT Restructure Council (TRC) – made up of outside experts Howard Wolf, Jay Kimbrough and David Laney – to advise the Commission as they consider implementing Grant Thornton recommendations.



NEW COMMUNICATION TOOLS

In an ongoing effort to demonstrate its commitment to transparency, the department introduced new venues for communicating with the public and employees in 2010. On August 31, *TxDOT Update*, a new bimonthly e-mail newsletter, was launched and sent to approximately 40,000 stakeholders, including Congressional and state legislative audiences. On May 17, "The Road Show" webcast, hosted by Executive Director Amadeo Saenz, debuted. Saenz also initiated a series of six live video teleconferences (VTCs) with employees beginning in March.



PROPOSITION 12 BONDS

In January, the Texas Transportation Commission approved highway improvement projects to be funded with \$1 million from Proposition 12 bond proceeds. Among the projects approved is a 94-mile expansion of the I-35 corridor through Bell, McLennan and Hill counties. The bonds are payable from the state's general revenues, rather than from State Highway Fund revenues.



RAIL DIVISION

The Rail Division published the draft Texas Rail Plan for public review in 2010. The comprehensive plan, which addresses future and existing passenger and freight rail service throughout the state, was posted on the department website and presented at 10 public meetings for input in several major Texas cities in August. With public feedback, the draft evolved several times and will be presented to the Texas Transportation Commission for approval in November.



PROJECT TRACKER, TxDOT TRACKER GO LIVE

Project Tracker and TxDOT Tracker, major milestones in becoming a more transparent agency, went live on www.TxDOT.gov March 26. Project Tracker had been held static since October 2009, while the Interim P6 Management Team implemented Primavera® P6 Web software to upgrade the database. Project Tracker is a comprehensive database that follows the progress of TxDOT construction projects. TxDOT Tracker is the agency's first online performance reporting and management tool.



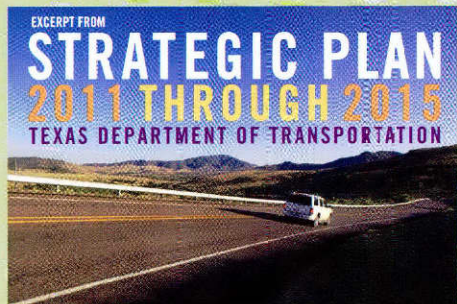
STIMULUS FUNDS OBLIGATED

On February 25, just one week removed from the one-year anniversary of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), TxDOT had obligated all of the \$2.25 billion Texas received for transportation projects. All ARRA funding had to be obligated by March 1. TxDOT obligated the funding for highways, bridges, rail and transportation enhancement projects.




TRANS-TEXAS CORRIDOR 35 OFFICIALLY ENDS

The Federal Highway Administration (FHA) issued a decision of no action on the Trans -Texas Corridor 35 (TTC-35) on July 20, formally ending any further advancement of the project. A citizen-driven planning process is under way to improve the I-35 corridor in single segments.



STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Office of Strategic Policy and Performance Management (SPPM) developed TxDOT's 2011-2015 Strategic Plan, a roadmap for the future of transportation in Texas. SPPM worked with TxDOT regions, divisions, districts and offices and the public to draft objectives, strategies and performance measures to support the strategic direction statements. 

**Don't drive if you're
tipsy, buzzed or Blitzen.**

Get a sober ride or call a cab.



 **Save a Life**
Texas Department of Transportation



MORE NEWS IS GOOD NEWS IN 2010

TxDOT invested more than \$100 million in clean-up, repairs and improvements after Hurricane Ike devastated the Texas coast near Galveston.

SETTING SAFETY RECORDS

The department met all four goals and set all time lows for all-injury, lost-time, lost-production and vehicle incident rates. The Odessa, Houston and Corpus Christi Districts met all four department safety goals. The Pharr, Laredo and Brownwood districts recorded zero lost-time incidents.

PAVEMENT SCORES UP

The fiscal 2010 Pavement Management Information System Report shows 86.97 percent of Texas pavements are in good or better condition, up from 85.94 percent in fiscal 2009. This is the first improvement in pavement condition in the last three years and the third highest in pavement condition since fiscal 2002.

COSTS DOWN, LETTINGS UP

The department had planned to let around 1,000 projects for \$3.9 billion in fiscal 2010. But because of cost under runs and Proposition 12 bond proceeds, the department was able to let 1,350 projects for \$4.2 billion.

HURRICANE IKE CLEANUP

Hurricane Ike cleanup continued into April, with TxDOT spending more than \$65 million for off-system debris removal and \$26 million for on-system debris removal. Almost \$60 million was spent on various other damage repairs to the ferry system, roads, signs and signals.

WINTER STORMS

TxDOT spent more than \$22 million clearing roads of ice and snow during the winter of 2009-10, compared to the average \$11.8 million per season. The Wichita Falls area recorded up to 13 inches of snow on Christmas Eve, as TxDOT personnel worked for days trying to keep roadways opened.



TxDOT photo

SHORT-TERM DEBT RETIRED

At its highest point in early 2008, the department had \$413 million borrowed in short-term debt. By the end of fiscal

2010, TxDOT had none. Good cash management practices also allowed the department to finish the fiscal year with a healthy balance. TxDOT was also able to add an estimated \$160 million to 2011 letting.

CHANGE ORDER RATES DOWN

The department reduced change order rates for projects completed in fiscal 2010 by more than 50 percent, as compared to the average rate for fiscal 2002 to fiscal 2007. The savings of \$57.7 million was used to fund additional projects.

BRYAN DISTRICT COMPLETES SH 6 PROJECT

In August, the Bryan District completed the nine-mile SH 6 widening project from FM 159 to the Navasota River. The \$100 million project was the largest dollar amount project ever taken on by the Bryan District.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION RIDERSHIP UP

Public transportation statewide ridership for TxDOT-funded transit agencies was up 8.8 percent to 27.2 million in fiscal 2010, and the agencies received 342 out of 409 ARRA-funded public transportation vehicles.



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

The department's Safe Routes to School Program awarded \$54 million to local communities for educational programs and infrastructure improvements that make it safer for Texas children to walk and bike to school.

CLICK IT OR TICKET CAMPAIGN SUCCESS

Texas safety belt usage rate hit a record 93.8 percent in 2010. Before the "Click It or Ticket" enforcement and public education campaign began in 2002, only 76.1 percent of Texans buckled up.

NORTH TARRANT EXPRESS WORK TO BEGIN

Construction on the \$2 billion North Tarrant Express (NTE) was scheduled to begin in October. The NTE project will rebuild many of Tarrant County's most congested highways by 2015 and is being financed via a comprehensive development agreement between TxDOT and the NTE Mobility Partners.

MOST BRIDGES IN GOOD OR BETTER CONDITION

As of September, 80.3 percent of Texas bridges were in good or better condition, compared to 70 percent in 2001.

DFW CONNECTOR CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

Construction on the \$1 billion DFW Connector began in February. The eight-mile project, slated for completion in 2014, will rebuild portions of four highways, two interchanges and five bridges.

TRAVEL IVR LAUNCHED

TxDOT in August introduced its new interactive voice response interface for the Texas Travel Information Line, which provides both road conditions and travel information 24 hours a day at 1-800-452-9292.

Older kids need a boost, too.

Use a Booster Seat.




FREE TRAFFIC SAFETY EVENTS

Various Travel Information Centers (TICs) across the state partnered with the traffic safety district offices to host free events at the TICs designed to inform people about the importance of safety on and off the road.

REDUCED PRELIMINARY COSTS

The preliminary engineering costs for all construction projects let in fiscal 2010 dropped to 3.9 percent of the total cost, compared to 5.4 percent of the total cost in fiscal 2008.

SH 161 WORK COMPLETED EARLY

Segments 2 and 3 of the SH 161 construction project in Dallas were completed in September, five months ahead of schedule. The project, which is owned by the North Texas Tollway Authority, is an extension of the President George Bush Turnpike. 



A Minute With ... Fred Underwood Texas Transportation Commissioner

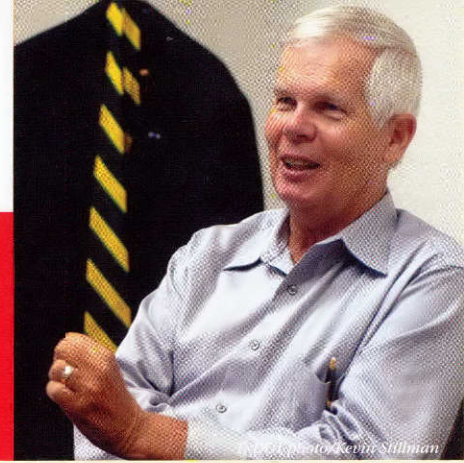
Since we are approaching the end of the year, I think it is a good time for everyone in the TxDOT family to take a moment and reflect upon the events of 2010. What lessons have we learned, and what actions have we taken to improve the quality and safety of the lives of our families, friends and neighbors? As we move forward during the next year, and in this time of change at the department, please join me in applying the lessons learned from the long successful history of the department to the new and improved department of the future. Thank you for all you do. I am proud to be a small part of your family.

TxDOT

RESTRUCTURE COUNCIL

Q&A

With Jay Kimbrough



EDITOR'S NOTE: Following the release of the Grant Thornton organizational review earlier this year, the Texas Transportation Commission selected Jay Kimbrough, Howard Wolf and former Commissioner David Laney to review the report (and other previous reviews and audits of the agency) and make recommendations to the Commission on ways to improve TxDOT operations. This effort is called the TxDOT Restructure Council, and you can see the work completed to date by going to http://www.TxDOT.gov/about_us/organizational_review.htm. Mr. Kimbrough, who has led several state agencies during his career, sat down with TN recently to talk about his role on the Council and what he sees for TxDOT's future. You can read more about Mr. Kimbrough by clicking here: http://www.TxDOT.gov/about_us/administration/kimbrough.htm.

TN: Mr. Kimbrough, thank you for taking time to talk with us. What interested you in being part of the Restructure Council?

Jay Kimbrough: I've had a lot of different missions in state government, but few strike me as critical to the future of Texas as dealing with statewide transportation issues. I saw this as a mission in which I could contribute positively to the future of our state. I've been just about everywhere in Texas, so I understand just how important transportation is here.

TN: Many employees don't really understand the charge of the Restructure Council. Can you summarize what the Texas Transportation Commission has tasked the Council to do?

JK: Our primary focus is reviewing the Grant Thornton report. Additionally, we are reviewing it along with the Sunset report and all other audits conducted over the past few years, including the pre-Sunset audits and the 2030 Committee report. We're quantifying and cataloging all of these recommendations to determine what has, and has not, been implemented to date. We have collected all of these recommendations in a database, which is available on the TxDOT website, and we're seeking input from our employees and our transportation partners on things that should be implemented. We want input on these; just because a recommendation has been made in one of these reports, it doesn't mean it's a good one.

TN: So far, what has been the Council's biggest challenge during this project?

JK: The biggest challenge has been the sheer volume of reports and recommendations we've had to go through, which add up to about 647 recommendations in all. While we've been putting all those together, we've also created a process so these recommendations can be viewed, tracked and monitored on the TxDOT website. It's been a giant challenge, especially for a state the size of Texas.

TN: What has surprised you about TxDOT during this project?

JK: Nothing really, and I mean that positively. I was in county government in South Texas some years ago, and I worked very closely with TxDOT back then. So I was already knowledgeable about how the agency worked. While I haven't been surprised, I have been very impressed by the level of employees' cooperation during this process. I know it's a tough job, but it's obvious that people here are dedicated and committed to their jobs and this agency.

TN: Employees have heard the Commission say this project will make a good agency even better. Would you elaborate on that statement?

JK: The concept of improving any state agency is fundamental. I'm happy to say that although I don't have all the answers, I do know the basic question in this process, which is, "Where do we go from here?" In my experience of working with state agencies, I can

confidently say that there's not a single state agency that cannot be improved on. Unlike some state agency situations I've been involved with previously, however, there is not a catastrophic problem here at TxDOT. This is already a very good agency, and this process should be viewed as an opportunity to truly improve our operations.


TN: The Commission has also indicated that the Council will bring recommendations for modernizing the agency later this year. When do you see that happening?

JK: Our goal is to have a formal presentation at the Commission's December meeting, when we'll formally submit our recommendations on how to improve the agency.

TN: Once the Council completes its duties, what is your hope for TxDOT's future as a result of this process?

JK: I hope that TxDOT becomes more efficient and, subsequently, even more effective. As we go forward with advances in technology, budget realities and a growing state population, we have no choice but to look for other ways to enhance the effectiveness of the agency. By becoming more efficient and effective, we'll become more transparent as well, and that is a fundamental component of this process.

TN: What would you like to share with all TxDOT employees?

JK: I'd like to thank employees for their continued hard work. I'm a field person, so I know first-hand what they do out there. So, I just want to tell them how much I appreciate what they do for this agency every day. 



I AM A...

Striping Inspector

In nearly five years with TxDOT, Tyler District Striping Inspector Benji Morrison has already inspected millions of feet of roadway striping, everything from centerlines to stop bars to turn lanes. The son of retired Athens Regional Warehouse Supervisor Donny Morrison and Athens Maintenance Office Manager Kathy Morrison, Benji spent two summers learning about road work in high school before pursuing a career as a pharmacy technician. But when an opportunity presented itself to come to work for TxDOT, Morrison said he made a bee line for a chance to work outdoors.

What does a striping inspector do?

I get teased a lot about getting paid to watch paint dry, but it's really about making sure the roadway stripes are visible in all conditions and that they convey the correct messages to the traveling public. Roadway striping tells us when it's OK to pass, where we need to turn and where we need to stop.


Why are proper road stripes so critical?

Stripes are what people look at the most when they're driving, even over signs and lights, because people are trained to look at the road. We learned in kindergarten that it pays to stay between the lines, and that's certainly true on the highway. That's most apparent when the lines are faded, obliterated or otherwise obscured because traffic slows down and trends to the edge of the road. They'll drive bumper to bumper at 100 mph if they can see the stripes, but without stripes, drivers are much more cautious.

What all is involved in striping inspection?

Lots of coordination, both within TxDOT and with contractors. I drive every road in the district at least twice each year, once in daylight and once at night, to make sure the stripes are visible in both conditions. Roads where the stripe isn't up to standard are added to a working list for the next striping contract. I also work closely with the maintenance supervisors and area engineers across the district to determine what projects are planned for roads, since you don't want to stripe a road, only to have it torn up or sealed over.

What daily challenges do you see in your job?

The Tyler District has hundreds of miles of winding, narrow roads. If the stripe is even a few inches off from the center of the road, that's a few inches a motorist wouldn't have as a margin for error since they're artificially being pushed closer to the pavement edge. Striping is very difficult to remove from a roadway, so it's critical that the stripe is placed correctly from the start. 



Benji Morrison



Keeping a Tight Schedule

Project Management Office Formed

The new Project Management Office (PMO) was established on September 1, to oversee the integration of Primavera® 6 (P6) software and project management practices into all TxDOT operations.


The PMO is responsible for developing a departmental project scheduling policy that includes clear goals and objectives and logical timelines for implementation. The timelines will include reasonable intermediate milestones and criteria for performance measures, including benchmarks for delivering projects on time and on budget.

Objectives of the department's P6 implementation are:

- Provide an accurate status of the work on the department's portfolio of projects.
- Manage department resources more effectively.
- Ensure that most resources are allocated a fairly even share of the work.
- Determine the cost of developing projects accurately.
- Assess the sharing of resources across districts.
- Conduct "what if?" analyses using P6 data.


Maureen Wakeland is the PMO interim director. Wakeland, who has more than 20 years experience with TxDOT, recently served as PMO interim co-director and provided leadership in planning and integrating the P6 scheduling and management tool statewide for TxDOT's project development business activities.

Travis Hajek and Ruben Anchondo provide P6 administrative and technical support for the new office. Hajek has been a transportation engineer with the Design Division for seven years. Anchondo has been a transportation engineer with the Design Division for eight years. Both served on the PMO interim team as P6 co-administrators.

Jesse Mendoza is the new statewide design resource coordinator for the office, and Mark Rogerson heads up executive reporting. Mendoza has been a transportation engineer with the department for more than 16 years, serving in numerous design and construction roles. Rogerson, a programmer and system analyst, is a 28-year veteran of TxDOT and has served in various department roles, including traffic signal design and programming. 

Great Ideas Get Going

The Human Resources Division recently received some great ideas through the Employees' Advisory Committee. One suggestion requested that HRD provide applicants with updates on the status of job postings. In response, HRD added functionality to the Careers page of Crossroads and the TxDOT Internet site to quickly view the status of job postings. Applicants can now see if positions are closed or filled without signing in to the external system. Also, employees who submit a paper application instead of applying electronically can go online (instead of calling or e-mailing) to check on the status of a job.

Another submission asked HRD to develop guidelines to reduce distractions for employees working in or near cubicles. To achieve this, a stand-alone cubicle etiquette course is in development, and HRD will incorporate guidelines in i-Way for NEO participants that describe solutions to common distractions associated with working in a cubicle environment. These course changes will be ready by the end of the year. 



A Minute With ... Owen Whitworth

Director, Audit Office

Twenty nine years and four months, but who's counting?! Improvements keep being implemented at an ever-increasing rate. When will it slow down? Never. That is why TxDOT is a great place to work. The continuing efforts to improve, and the dedicated people who care about each other, make TxDOT a great place to work. Better than I could have ever hoped!



Operation Ghostbuster in Greer Building

Stories of paranormal activity in the historic Dewitt C. Greer Building in downtown Austin abound. Over the years, the TxDOT headquarters has been the subject of alleged ghost sightings, spooky voices and mysterious noises – all reported by employees when the building was supposed to be empty. Could these reports be signs of overactive imaginations or clues of a haunting?

Only an unbiased investigation would separate fact from fiction. Enter the Texas Paranormal Research Organization (TPRO). The group uses a skeptical approach to investigating reports of scary activities and attempts to debunk all simple explanations before considering paranormal as the answer. Their services are free, and they don't claim to be able to rid sites of ghosts.

Four TPRO members studied the building's interior for any ghostly presence from 9 p.m. September 11 to 4 a.m. September 12. Armed with night vision video cameras, infrared motion detectors, electro magnetic field (EMF) readers, digital audio recorders and other technical equipment, the team focused their attentions on the second and third floors, where TxDOT employees have reported recent chilling experiences they couldn't explain.

"There's usually a logical explanation for the sensations being felt or heard. Moaning sounds could be a barking dog next door," said team member Tim Stevens. "We go in with an open mind, and we may run into a ghost."

“There’s usually a logical explanation for the sensations being felt or heard. Moaning sounds could be a barking dog next door.”

—Tim Stevens

Stevens had heard about reports of unusual phenomena at Greer from longtime friend Wayne Dennis, TxDOT deputy director of the Transportation Planning and Programming Division, who escorted the team on their visit to the building. One of the more intriguing accounts occurred around 3 a.m. on

December 21, 2007, while a contract security guard was making her rounds on the third floor. She reported hearing a door rattling and a voice telling her to get out of the building. She left and never returned.

Also, employees on the second floor, where the executive offices are located, have reported hearing the sound of jingling keys or coins when they were working late and alone. This is a point of interest because the late Dewitt C. Greer, who served as TxDOT executive director from 1940 to 1968, had the habit of jingling change in his pants pockets while he walked around the offices.


Before TPRO members investigate a site, they dig into its history. The Greer Building at the corner of 11th and Brazos streets was completed in June 1933. It is believed to be standing on the site of the old Travis County Jail built in 1876, complete with a gallows where countless convicted criminals were hanged.

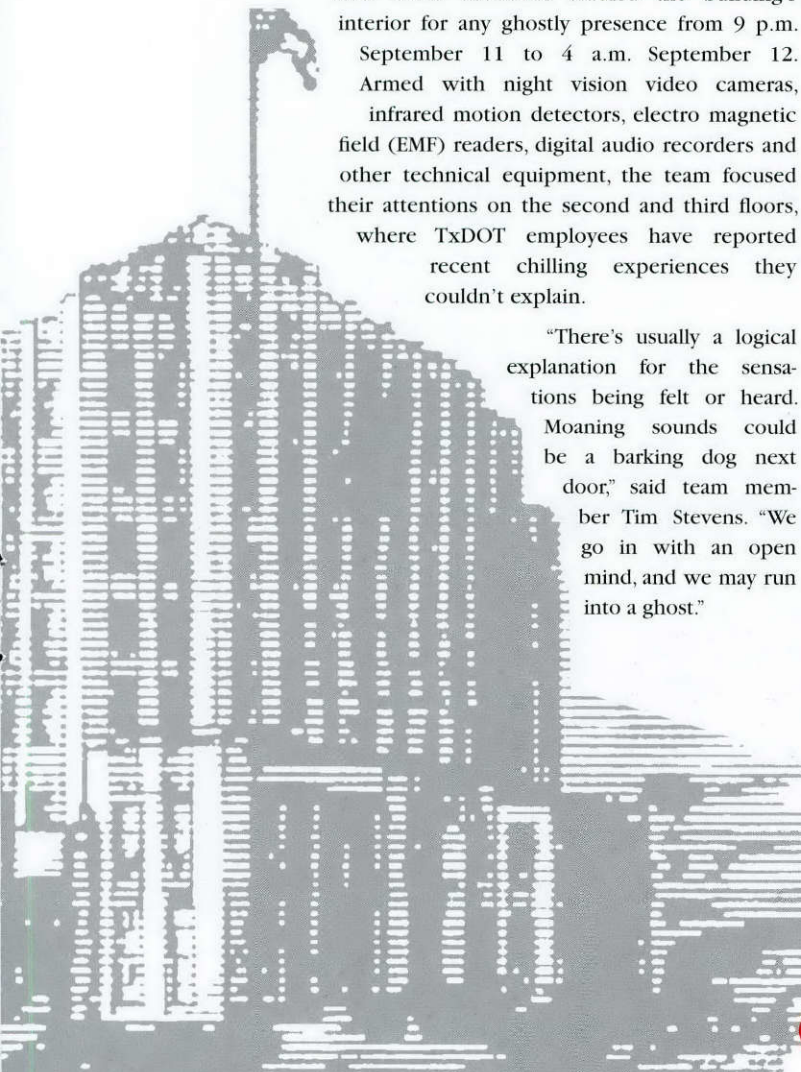
"Historical information about the building helps us better understand the reported paranormal events there," said team member Jeff Draper. "The old gallows plays into the lore of the building."

During their seven hours in the building, team members had a few creepy encounters of their own. They heard a woman chuckling on the second floor, but there was no woman in the building.

An alarm clock went off at midnight on the third floor. And while the entire team was on the second floor, they heard the sound of a heavy-set person walking above on the third floor.

"On the third floor, I saw something shoot out of a cubicle. It was a flash of light that appeared to be in the shape of a person. We weren't able to isolate the cause of that one," Stevens said. "All of this is intriguing stuff, but doesn't tell us anything conclusive."

At press time, the investigation was ongoing. The team was still analyzing their data and planning a second visit to Greer. 






Tyler Bridge Emergency Finds Friend in Facebook

TxDOT recently received praise for fast reaction, outstanding work and great communication after temporarily shutting down a bridge for emergency repairs.

On September 15, TxDOT closed a SH 334 bridge in the Tyler District, which spans a northern portion of Cedar Creek Lake, located between Seven Points and Gun Barrel City in northwest Henderson County. An underwater inspection team determined damage to a sheared bridge column, located just above the waterline, was likely caused by a heavy boat or barge. When the public learned of the closure, they turned to TxDOT's Facebook page for regular updates.

The Tyler District and GPA immediately jumped into action by creating a bridge closure hotline number, provid-

ing information about detours and posting two short videos of the bridge damage, which attracted 1,500 views between Thursday evening and Friday morning, with an average of one view every 17 seconds. The Facebook videos featured the bridge inspection process and close-ups of the damage of a column cracked nearly all the way through.

TxDOT continued to update the public as the bridge was inspected, repaired and reopened on September 21. In the process, the Facebook page gained 157 new fans, many of whom left positive comments as the barricades were removed. This online engagement through social media helped the public know they have a voice and proved TxDOT is listening and cares. 

Texas Transportation Forum is right around the corner!

The Sixth Annual Texas Transportation Forum will take place Jan. 3-5 at the Austin Hilton. The theme of the Forum, "Yeah, I can do modern," emphasizes how we are modernizing our agency to meet forecasted demands on our state's transportation system.

One of this year's keynote speakers is best-selling author and award-winning journalist Ben Sherwood. In Sherwood's most recent book, *The Survivors Club*, he explores the secrets and science of those who survive and thrive in the face of adversity. You will also hear from several state and federal leaders, who will provide insight into what to expect from the next legislative session.

These are exciting times for TxDOT and everyone in the transportation industry. We need your input, so join us at the Sixth Annual Texas Transportation Forum to share your ideas on how we can deliver a top-notch, modern transportation system to facilitate Texas' needs now and into the future. To register online or for more information, visit www.texastransportationforum.com. 

We hope to see you there!

Proposition 12 Bonds Issued

TxDOT issued the first \$1 billion of bonds from the Proposition 12 Bond Program in September. The bonds are backed by the state's general revenues and not by motor fuel tax revenues.

In January 2010, the Texas Transportation Commission approved highway improvement projects to be funded with the bond proceeds. These projects are designed to increase safety, rehabilitate pavement, expand highway corridors of statewide significance and reduce traffic congestion in communities across the state. Among the projects approved is a 94-mile expansion of the I-35 corridor through Bell, McLennan and Hill counties.

The Texas Legislature appropriated \$1 billion in the 2010-11 biennium to begin making payments on approximately \$2 billion worth of projects. In addition, \$1 billion was appropriated to the State Infrastructure Bank to make loans to local entities for highway projects. Texas voters approved the bonds by a 63-percent margin in November 2007.

To follow the progress of Proposition 12 projects go to: http://www.TxDOT.gov/project_information/prop12.htm 



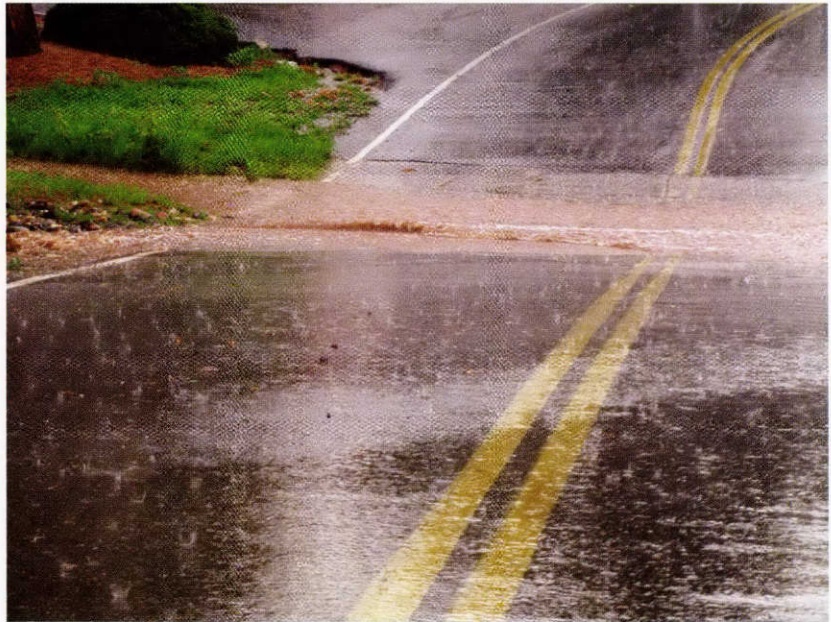


TxDOT Finds New Facts on Friction

Water on a road can cause large puddles, but water that moves through special, tiny holes in a road can not only ensure a smoother ride, but benefit the environment too. That's the finding of TxDOT's Austin District and Research Project Director Gary Lantrip, who has garnered data confirming substantial improvement to the quality of storm water by using Permeable Friction Course (PFC), a porous surface mixture.

New PFC mix designs with improved drainage and structural capabilities can enhance driver safety and eliminate the thin film of water that occurs on conventional pavements. PFC provides better skid resistance, reduces the potential for hydroplaning and eliminates the splash and spray that can hinder driver's vision. Also, research and design improvements have unveiled some surprising benefits.

In environmentally sensitive parts of Texas (e.g., over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone), the Austin and San Antonio districts must comply with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) water quality requirements and reduce the discharge of Total Suspended Solids by 80 percent. But the Austin District has proven PFC removes up to 90 percent of pollutants in highway runoff, allowing TxDOT to meet all water quality requirements from TCEQ without stormwater treatment controls. Since



the pavement is widely used specifically for the safety benefits, the water quality improvement comes as a cost-free benefit.

Recently, TCEQ officially approved the Austin District PFC design as an accepted stormwater treatment. Lantrip has proven that reduction of roadway contaminants can be achieved within the pavement itself, eliminating the need for other mitigation structures such as structural traps, ponds and filters beyond the pavement. Recent projects with PFC saved 10 percent of the total project cost by avoiding additional right-of-way,

detention basins and additional hydraulic design. It also streamlines the regulatory approval process, which always has the potential to delay project delivery.

The Austin District began expanding its use of PFC in 2004. Implementation has increased from about 6.3 percent of the asphalt pavements in 2007 to approximately 8.1 percent in 2010. And although PFC is more expensive than conventional pavement, it can substantially reduce the total cost of highway expansion projects when a water sensitive issues must be addressed. **TN**



A Minute With ... Mario R. Jorge, P.E. Pharr District Engineer

After wrapping up the 2010 fiscal year, I am proud of our district having its best safety year ever and, at the same time, improving our pavement conditions significantly. As we start a new FY, it brings new challenges for every district and this year is no different. We will continue to emphasize safety at work, maximizing resources on the pavement, and continue implementing a staffing plan that protects our employees and improves our efficiency. I have been fortunate to participate with every district in developing our Four-Year Pavement Plans and performing Peer Reviews. I am proud of the leadership and effort all districts have put forth in assuring our plans are consistent and accountable.

EXCERPT FROM
STRATEGIC PLAN
2011 THROUGH 2015
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The 2011-2015 TxDOT Strategic Plan went into effect on September 1, 2010.


The strategic plan is the result of more than a year of planning, including more stakeholder and employee involvement than ever before. In adopting the plan, the Texas Transportation Commission established new vision and mission statements for the department. The plan also includes a set of values statements that represent our commitment to core principles guiding our day-to-day work at TxDOT.

The strategic plan presents information on the factors shaping transportation, including population growth, funding challenges and the department's human resources and technology resources planning efforts. The plan also provides a set of performance measures and targets to hold the agency accountable.

"The strategic plan is TxDOT's 'roadmap' for accomplishing our goals for the next few years," Strategic Policy and Performance Management Office Director Mary Meyland said. "Every TxDOT employee has a role in helping us achieve our goals, and our success matters to every Texan."

To increase transparency, as well as the public's understanding, SPPM distilled the most important elements of the full strategic plan into a 35-page excerpt.

"We believe that a document this important needs to be approachable in order to be useful," Meyland said. The excerpt also features an "at-a-glance" page that summarizes TxDOT's mission, vision, goals and values.

The Strategic Plan is available at http://www.TxDot.gov/about_us/strategic_plan.htm. 



A Minute With ... John P. Campbell, P.E., SRWA, MBA
Director, Right of Way Division

With diverse roles and responsibilities, TxDOT people in the Right of Way Division face a special challenge. In service to our fellow Texans, we acquire and manage property for the state's transportation system even as we protect and preserve the rights of private-property owners. The state's exercise of eminent-domain powers affects individual citizens. With the right of just compensation guaranteed by the Texas and United States constitutions, these landowners provide the property needed for a necessary public purpose. Texans insist on and value these rights and their protection. We value these same rights. In doing so, we take pride in our complex and important work of helping TxDOT balance citizen rights with our "OneDOT" mission of providing effective and timely delivery of transportation improvements.



A Real Grass Roots Story for Texas Habitat Restoration

TxDOT has joined forces with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Cesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, and many private ranches and concerned citizens to form the South Texas Native Plant Restoration Project.



The goal of the project is to develop native seed sources to aid in restoration of native plant habitats. As urbanization, gas and oil exploration, and transportation infrastructure increase and expand, more habitat is disturbed.



If the land is not restored upon completion of these activities, the native habitat and the wildlife it supports may be lost entirely. The South Texas Natives project aims to stop that loss.

TxDOT was a natural partner to take on the challenge. The typically disturbed soil of our highway right of way is the perfect site to reclaim habitat. After construction, our goal is to stabilize soil quickly with grasses and native plants that germinate fast, spread well and hold the soil in place effectively. This helps protect our roadways and preserve the value of our transportation assets. With more than one million acres of right of way statewide, TxDOT is one of the primary consumers of native seed,

making it critical that we partner in this important research.

Despite the name, the South Texas Natives Plant Restoration Project is expanding to include Central and West Texas, where the same need for native seeds exist. Dennis Markwardt, vegetation manager for the Maintenance Division, says district vegetation managers are very knowledgeable about the natural vegetation in their districts.



“We know what works and what doesn’t,” Markwardt states. “Through the work of this project, TxDOT is proving to be a ‘Good Neighbor,’ while finding solutions to vegetative problems and creating biodiversity.” TxDOT has achieved the goals of this project in South Texas. Now let’s try Central and West Texas.



UPCOMING TxDOT EVENTS



- Nov. 10-12** ITS Texas Conference (Fort Worth)
- Nov. 11** Veterans Day Holiday (Agency closed)
- Nov. 11-12** 3rd Annual Americas 2020 Summit (Dallas)
- Nov. 18** Texas Transportation Commission Meeting (Austin)
- Nov. 25-26** Thanksgiving holidays (Agency closed)
- Dec. 14** “The Road Show with Amadeo Saenz” Webcast
- Dec. 16** Texas Transportation Commission Meeting (Austin)
- Dec. 24** Christmas Eve Holiday (Agency closed)



MILESTONES

SERVICE AWARDS - SEPTEMBER 2010

Districts:

Abilene

- 35** Raymond C. Molina
- 25** Paul J. Hoelscher
- 10** Jacqueline A. Bosley;
Jackie S. Wornack
- 5** Melissa L. Hinckley

Amarillo

- 25** David J. Reihm
- 10** Joel Cenicerros; Gary R. Morris;
Ismael C. Navarrete
- 5** William L. Allen; Joshua R. Flores;
Thomas C. Knox; Susan L. Simpson

Atlanta

- 30** John C. Brittigan
- 25** Terry R. Carson
- 15** Ivan E. Coussan
- 10** Clay H. Davidson

Austin

- 25** Susan A. Douglas
- 20** Gordon W. Jenke;
Randy M. Stockbridge;
Glen M. Straube
- 15** Thomas W. Reed
- 10** David A. Browning;
Jaime E. Villena-Morales
- 5** Darrell W. Gray; William E. Lantz II

Beaumont

- 15** Michael L. Smith
- 10** Leo D. Rigsby

Brownwood

- 15** Andy B. Skiles

Bryan

- 25** Martin D. Dyer; Catherine W. Hejl;
Joe Rodriguez
- 10** William D. Salters
- 5** Jason J. Bell; Norman M. Maurer;
Larry D. Mitchell; Gary A. Skrabanek;
David S. Thompson

Childress

- 5** Michael W. Moore

Corpus Christi

- 25** Anthony Villarreal
- 20** Lori A. Register
- 10** Hipolito A. Gonzalez
- 5** Rodolfo Chapa; Daniel D. Deleon;
Mark E. Monroe

Dallas

- 25** Sylvia A. Eder; Scott T. Morrow;
Michael K. Ricks; Theandrea L. Thomas
- 20** Micheal R. Ashley; Nasser Askari;
Virginia Balderas; James L. Hood;
Tony B. Payberah; Gregory L. Perkins;
Sophie A. Piggott; Norman B. Robertson;
Harry J. Rogers III; Renee G. Walker
- 10** James C. Busch; Jason L. Davis;
Oscar A. Faz; John T. Knott III;
Billy R. Taylor
- 5** Kirk M. Johnson; Refugio Ortiz;
Paula E. Renfro; Jesse B. Wade

El Paso

- 25** Mary K. Telles-Goins

- 20** George T. Powers IV

- 10** Richard W. Baird; Angelica C. Gonzalez;
Raul R. Melendez; Jorge A. Nevarez
- 5** Luis R. Ortega, Jr.

Fort Worth

- 30** Stephen L. Cagle
- 25** Randall L. Bowers; John D. Gore;
Gregory L. Panzino
- 15** Sherman L. Edwards; Dean C. Martin;
Joel A. Carrizales; Alfonso B. Flores, Jr.;
- 5** Jerry D. Stout

Houston

- 30** Roosevelt N. Mack, Jr.
- 25** Patricia E. Adams; Alice K. Kaspar;
Nga T. Nguyen; Michael O. Partridge;
Mark L. Rodriguez
- 10** Ryan S. Gibson; Joseph A. Liggio;
Isidro Rodriguez; Ronnie E. Scott
- 5** James D. Brinkman; Bryan D. Henken;
Jason C. McAnally; Scott E. McPherson;
Frank V. Petronella, Jr.;
- 5** Tracey A. Spencer;
Hop-Ming Tang; Hamid Youssefi

Laredo

- 20** Jorge L. Cienega
- 10** Omar Cantu; Richard Deleon;
Clarissa Sanchez
- 5** Rafael Guzman; Gilberto G. Soto;
Rodrigo Torres; James D. Winsett

Lubbock

- 20** Carlton R. Jolly; Ruben M. Ramirez
- 10** Simeon J. Larkins III
- 5** Thomas R. Young

Lufkin

- 40** Verron W. Shepherd
- 25** William M. Sloan
- 15** Kathleen M. Howell
- 5** Antonio R. Bondad

Odessa

- 25** Ralaine N. Greene
- 20** Deborah A. Trimble
- 10** Jose G. Rodriguez
- 5** Susan L. Willhelm

Paris

- 20** Rebecca L. Bailey; Michael R. Johnson
- 15** Elton W. Allison
- 5** Patty D. Dykes

Pharr

- 25** Jesus S. Leal
- 20** Eloy Guajardo, Jr.
- 10** Ronald N. Reyes; Ramon Sanchez
- 5** Armando Gonzales; Jorge A. Manriquez

San Angelo

- 25** Jane E. Hughey
- 5** Cruz T. Garza; Thomas L. Warden

San Antonio

- 30** Emil F. Noll, Jr.; Richard F. Zertuche
- 25** Paul W. Barnette; Gary C. Mendoza;
Todd D. Sandidge
- 15** Azalia S. Villarreal
- 10** Edmundo Gonzalez; Kevin W. Long;
Steven G. Malcolm
- 5** William G. Hornung; Marti Salazar

Tyler

- 20** Kenneth A. Bryan; James C. Byrnes
- 15** Stanley F. Haynes
- 10** Steven B. Gandy; Antonio Lopez
- 5** Zachary T. Moore

Waco

- 35** Glenn E. Psencik
- 25** James D. Barron; David G. Stimmel
- 5** Dale E. Sommerfeld; Jose G. Torres

Wichita Falls

- 30** James A. Woods
- 15** Monty F. Brown; Kenneth E. Lacy
- 10** Travis J. Herrell

Yoakum

- 20** Randall L. Bena
- 15** Woodrow W. Jasek, Jr.;
- 5** Kathryn C. Marek
- 10** Desmond E. Earls; Amanda A. Fling
- 5** Richard L. Earls

Divisions/Offices/Regions:

Aviation

- 10** Allison L. Martin

Bridge

- 5** Armen Miskarov

Construction

- 30** Daniel E. Garcia, Jr.
- 25** Donald W. Davis;
Thomas C. Jennings, Jr.
- 10** Scott L. Starkjohann
- 5** John W. Henley;
Richard E. Knowles;
Justin W. Schneider;
Thomas R. Schwerdt; Philip J. Vahalik

East Regional Support Center

- 20** David M. Ware
- 15** Stephanie L. Custer
- 10** Maria L. Felan; Peter C. Sissons
- 5** Jerry A. McKnight

Environmental Affairs

- 20** Graham R. Price
- 10** Allen C. Bettis, Jr.
- 5** Lindsey V. Kimmitt

Finance

- 30** Norma R. Lopez
- 25** Deeann B. Henderson

General Services

- 30** Don D. Flowers; Glenn R. Hagler
- 15** Leonard E. Gonzales
- 10** Jerry D. Hulion
- 5** Mark R. Dye; Marina U. Young

Government & Public Affairs

- 10** William T. Powell, Jr.
- 5** Donna C. Habersaat

Maintenance

- 20** Bahman Seyvani

Motor Carrier

- 5** Maureen C. Willis;
Michael S. Zalaznick



MILESTONES

SERVICE AWARDS - SEPTEMBER 2010

Divisions/Offices/Regions:

North Regional Support Center

- 25** Juan F. Leal
- 20** Jerry M. Norris
- 15** Vicki S. Dickerson;
Carlitha L. Womack
- 10** John C. Costner

Public Transportation

- 5** Bolivar C. Bolanos

Rail

- 10** Christina M. Beltran

- 5** Randy C. Caldwell; Leonard E. Gray;
Carolyn M. Leal; Eugene P. Montalbo;
Larry D. Wright; Harry C. Zachau

Right Of Way

- 15** Manuel M. Segura
- 5** Anthony Molina

South Regional Support Center

- 20** Concepcion Salinas
- 5** Denise M. Lynch

Technology Services

- 10** Veronica K. Davis; Charles R. Harris
- 5** Jamal A. Abdulkader;
Jordan L. Cockerham;
Laura L. Poldrack; Melissa A. Ruemke

Texas Turnpike Authority

- 10** Erica M. Ramirez

Transportation Planning & Programming

- 30** Terrilyn D. Peters; Barry E. Walker
- 20** Ann W. Chidester
- 10** Michael V. Chamberlain;
Eric S. Oeding

Travel Information

- 35** Betty M. Reynolds

SERVICE AWARDS - OCTOBER 2010

Districts:

Abilene

- 15** Michael E. Merrick; Richard Montanez;
Bradley J. Pylant
- 10** Jerry V. Colyer, Jr.; James R. Graves;
Ronnie W. Jeffrey

Amarillo

- 25** Melvin L. Lowe
- 10** Raymond A. Andrews; Dolan H. Dean
- 5** David L. Castellon

Atlanta

- 35** Derral R. Ward
- 25** Carlos Ibarra
- 15** Ivan E. Coussan
- 10** Rebecca L. Wells
- 5** Darrell T. Lagrone

Austin

- 25** Bruce E. Rohe
- 20** William C. Bozeman; Eddie W. Cooper;
Barbara J. Russell; Richard G. Sanders;
Dennis D. Simon
- 15** Walter B. Gay, Jr.; Mark F. Herber
- 10** John D. Gold; Carol S. Hunter;
Jesse Serna
- 5** Stanley C. Hopfe

Beaumont

- 25** Cheryl J. Horn; Cecil D. Raiford;
Gerald W. Tynes
- 15** Rosa N. Padilla
- 5** Debbie L. Hallam; Heath A. McKey

Brownwood

- 25** Russell K. Slone
- 10** John W. Reagan

Bryan

- 25** Ricky E. Fischer
- 10** Louis De La Cruz, Jr.
- 5** Rodney E. Ewing

Childress

- 25** Jay R. Hurt; Justin W. Rose
- 10** Wilbern L. Brendle; Jerry R. Jones
- 5** Sandra D. Keys

Corpus Christi

- 25** Maricela Guerra
- 15** Dolores H. Gonzalez
- 10** Cecilia K. Amthor
- 5** Howard G. McNutt; Brian L. Sloan

Dallas

- 25** Charles D. Boykin; Gary D. Charlton;
Scott L. Deason; Robert L. Johnson;
Oscar O. Ruiz
- 20** Hubert B. Braden III;
Edward L. Henderson;
Sherry L. Perkins
- 15** Mohsen R. Sokhanvar
- 10** Raymond R. Faraizl, Sr.;
Antonino A. Fernandez;
Larry E. Jeffers; John W. Roddy, Jr.
- 5** Arvell R. Crawford; Eyad Fanous;
James W. Hall; Jonathan D. Kelsey;
Bedford J. Mathis; Floyd A. Russell;
Dewon Wesby

El Paso

- 10** Jonathan J. Concha; Ruben Florez, Jr.;
Ramon J. Hartnett; Rosezina M. Leal;
Elva I. Rascon
- 5** Adrian Casillas; Ramon Gonzalez;
Ernesto Guadian

Fort Worth

- 30** Alan B. Donaldson
- 20** Kathryn S. Neely; Henry B. Rowan, Jr.
- 10** Leo T. Lewis
- 5** Robert J. Blickensderfer;
Steven R. Fosmire; Amy J. James;
Michael W. Jones; Vernon C. Wells

Houston

- 30** Bennie J. Smith II
- 25** Jackie L. Bertolino;
Clifford W. Halvorsen;
Trang T. Le; Ned A. Long, Jr.;
James A. Paradowski;
Michael P. Schaefer
- 20** Godfried M. Duodu
- 15** Samuel E. Ainabe;
Herracl S. Montalvo, Jr.

- 10** Walter D. Hand; Lance B. Olenius;
Robert D. Segura; Jesse L. Spells;
Pete P. Tapado
- 5** David R. Burke; James G. Crisler;
Alejandro Rodriguez;
Sylvia C. Wright

Laredo

- 25** Joann E. Garcia
- 10** Lee J. Canty
- 5** Juan C. Gomez; Ana L. Rodriguez;
Pablo Rubio

Lubbock

- 25** Bobby D. Howell; Jose L. Trevino
- 20** Heath C. Bozeman
- 5** Douglas W. Ausbern

Lufkin

- 10** Gregory C. Korn

Odessa

- 20** Gay D. Brooks
- 10** Rebecca L. Serna
- 5** Robert Alaniz

Paris

- 30** Stevie J. Evans
- 15** Mark E. Miller; Michael K. Taylor
- 5** George S. Waldrop

Pharr

- 5** Osbaldo Cabrieles; Elias Casares;
Juan D. Cepeda

San Angelo

- 5** Karen A. Threlkeld

San Antonio

- 25** Timothy J. Carroll; Alvin D. Egnaw;
Albert Thompson
- 10** Bryan K. Elbel; Johnny Pina;
Loyd L. Thompson
- 5** Ashlee B. Kirby; Jesse S. Sanchez;
Armando Torres, Jr.

Tyler

- 15** Jerry D. Williams
- 10** Dennis W. Gilliam; Michael L. Norman



MILESTONES

SERVICE AWARDS - OCTOBER 2010

Waco

- 25** Steven G. Roseberry
- 15** Theresa S. Dudik; Jon H. Plumlee
- 5** Thomas D. Brizendine; Keslie D. Koether; Tony T. Nguyen

Wichita Falls

- 30** Scotty L. Cox
- 20** Allan R. Moore
- 10** Lisa J. Johnson; Larry Woods
- 5** Randy J. Jenkins

Yoakum

- 25** Glen R. Kloesel
- 20** Michael A. Perez
- 15** Steven W. Immenhauser; Marvin D. Sturm
- 10** Adam S. Andel; Timothy M. Henke

Divisions/Offices/Regions:

Aviation

- 20** Bijan T. Jamalabad

Bridge

- 30** Elizabeth D. Casper

Construction

- 40** Timothy D. Stagg

25 Juan I. Gonzalez

- 20** Elizabeth J. Lukefahr; Mark S. Pavlik; Paul S. St Louis
- 10** Ken L. Barnett

Design

- 20** Kathleen A. Custard; Tasha D. Vice
- 10** Linda A. Weidenhammer

East Regional Support Center

- 25** Tonya M. Keneda

Environmental Affairs

- 10** Michelle M. Lueck
- 5** Carolyn A. Nelson

Finance

- 30** Marcia L. Houston; Kathy W. McCann
- 20** Diana M. Napier

General Services

- 20** Detra A. Evans
- 5** Penny J. Farias; Sidney P. Shelton, Jr.; William J. White

Human Resources

- 10** Raymond L. Belk

Maintenance

- 20** Rick N. Greer
- 10** Robert S. Ray
- 5** Roman A. Hill

Motor Carrier

- 5** Tracey D. Stafford

North Regional Support Center

- 5** Steven Armendariz; Mandy A. Bunger; Joe B. Ross; Douglas W. Simmons

Right Of Way

- 25** Pam H. McDavid
- 20** Nancy B. Owen
- 5** Rebecca A. Miles

South Regional Support Center

- 15** Sandra Harris
- 10** Tamika S. Griffin
- 5** Julia S. Boehme; Sharlana M. Dillard

Technology Services

- 25** Byron B. Kunze
- 5** Marjorie J. Brown; Corby R. Quigley

Traffic Operations

- 25** Robert E. Packert
- 10** Rosalinda S. Cavazos

West Regional Support Center

- 15** Diane F. Weishuhn

Civil Rights

- 5** Jose V. Castro

Retiree Report

JULY 2010

Districts:

Abilene

- 21** Debra K. Rectcr
- 14** Armando T. Hernandez

Amarillo

- 28** David B. Stribling, Jr.

Austin

- 31** Richard C. Harris

Beaumont

- 17** John M. Pitre

Brownwood

- 31** David W. Hutton

Childress

- 30** Gary D. Clinton
- 14** William L. Mock
- 13** Howard Weatherton

Corpus Christi

- 32** Clifford E. Bost
- 21** Linda N. Koonce

Dallas

- 37** Joseph L. Howard
- 25** Michael D. Wellman
- 20** Mark L. Shelton
- 14** James W. Halbrooks; Ester L. Edom

Houston

- 30** Mark H. Kroll
- 27** Ferdinand A. Hildebrand
- 25** David M. Berg

Lubbock

- 29** James E. Wright

Lufkin

- 30** Larry E. Wilson

Odessa

- 24** Mike R. Martinez

San Angelo

- 28** Albert V. Acosta

San Antonio

- 37** Jim B. Mcginnes, Jr.
- 30** Thomas S. Clark
- 29** Kenneth G. Grant
- 24** Peggy E. Hooper

Tyler

- 31** Kenneth S. Folmar
- 27** William L. Thompson
- 20** Paul C. Hooten
- 11** Randy Murray
- 10** Linda C. Buckhanan

Waco

- 31** William W. Walker
- 30** James E. Bentley
- 25** Paul J. Plant

Wichita Falls

- 26** James E. Watterson
- 24** Terry A. Symank

Yoakum

- 37** Carl L. O'Neill
- 12** James W. Konvicka

Divisions/Offices/Regions:

Bridge

- 28** Lewis Gamboa
- 26** Joel B. Rose

Construction

- 21** Kenneth J. Boehme

Occupational Safety

- 22** Philip J. Pellegrino

Office Of General Counsel

- 15** Bobbie K. Sutton
- 3** James A. Thomassen

North Regional Support Center

- 25** Brenda N. Stefka

East Regional Support Center

- 22** Kenneth R. Stephens, Sr.

West Regional Support Center

- 40** Norman B. Reed, Jr.
- 30** Deborah M. Richardson
- 21** Gussie E. Knight

Traffic Operations

- 20** Cindy S. Nelson

Travel Information

- 18** Martin C. Lange



MILESTONES

Employees With 12 Years of Service as of September 2010



Districts:

Abilene

James H. Smith

Amarillo

Alvin E. Davis

Austin

Jason L. Brecht
David R. Franklin
Mark W. Mohr

Beaumont

Corrie J. Frank
Percy Gilmore III
Renee M. Strong

Corpus Christi

Robert V. Allen
Rodney J. Duve
Eusebio Galvan, Jr.
Adrian Lopez
Joseph K. Ramsey

Dallas

Judith D. Garza-Bosquez
Mary E. Lozano
Teddy C. May

Fort Worth

Jerry L. Menzdorf
Juan M. Reyna

Houston

Shawky S. Abushmeis
Beata G. Kwater
Joseph M. Martinez

Lubbock

Kimberly L. Greener
Trine Soto, Jr.

Odessa

Jesus Banegas, Jr.

Paris

Brett A. Bennett

Pharr

Judy B. Sanchez

San Angelo

John D. Burnett
Daniel E. Watters

San Antonio

Cindy A. Adami
Ronald A. Johanningsmeier
De Ann M. Qualls

Tyler

Laura J. Crow

Yoakum

Richard D. Guerrero

Divisions/Offices/Regions:

Administration

Kerry D. Hardy

Bridge

Michael D. Hyzak
Joe David Riba

Design

Paula K. McGinley

East Regional Support Center

Thuy T. Luong

General Services

Nikki N. Gordon-Hawkins

Human Resources

Theresa M. Sykes
Norma J. Willman

North Regional Support Center

Roy C. Bell
Lloyd E. Garrett

Research & Technology Implementation

Nina E. Kroeker

West Regional Support Center

Amanda S. Gipson-Mitchell
Linda K. Peavy
Russell W. Stout

Employees With 12 Years of Service as of October 2010



Districts:

Abilene

Andrew C. Graham
Anita K. McCamey

Amarillo

Berry R. Brooks
Monty R. Gallagher

Atlanta

Harold E. Naasz
Tommy R. Thomas

Austin

Douglas C. Adams
Larry W. Clements
Deirdre D. Gentry
James A. Henderson
Marcus D. Snowden
Kathy J. Vicknair

Beaumont

Marino C. Gernale
James W. Glover

Brownwood

Kay Joffrion

Dallas

Emma J. McKeel
Richard D. Rains

El Paso

Charles G. Clark

Houston

Randy B. Birdlong
Maurice A. Johnson
Boris Klebanskiy
Samuel A. Kolawole
Laura V. Lopez
Lucia L. Lozano

Laredo

Ramon T. Gonzalez
Ruben Rocha

Lubbock

Andres S. Cuellar
Jesus Oltivero

Odessa

Marcelino M. Munoz, Jr.

Paris

David W. Kirby
Jimmy D. White

San Angelo

Ernest W. Collett
John P. Dunlap
Gary W. Enos

San Antonio

David M. Fredricksen
Christie L. Hill

Tyler

Christine M. Crosby
Jeffrey A. Wedding

Yoakum

Patrick G. Grahmann

Divisions/Offices/Regions:

Construction

Astolfo Rodriguez

Design

Mabel L. Wilson

East Regional Support Center

Frank E. Toliver

Finance

Steven J. Henthorn

Human Resources

Trina N. Scott-Smith

Motor Carrier

Rebecca G. Park

North Regional Support Center

Danny P. Gorman

Occupational Safety

Nancy J. Basey
Zita R. Reyes

Office Of Civil Rights

Ben Richardson Cocke

Right Of Way

Mark S. Mckinley

South Regional Support Center

James C. Boyer
Katherine M. De Luna
Ramon Jimenez, Jr.

Technology Services

James K. Johnson

West Regional Support Center

Jason G. Jones
Daniel Montes
Beth A. Risley



MILESTONES

Retiree Report

AUGUST 2010

Districts:

Abilene

- 38** Dale E. Tollett
- 31** Johnny C. Moore

Amarillo

- 31** Mickey L. Skidmore
- 30** David C. Cody
- 28** Emergildo P. Rodriguez, Jr.;
Michael L. Stavenhagen
- 27** Johnnie R. Bates
- 26** Randal O. Clark

Atlanta

- 28** Mark S. Sarubbi

Austin

- 33** Clayton E. Seidel
- 27** James W. Parker

Beaumont

- 28** Stephen E. Patin

Brownwood

- 32** Ben A. Mackey

Bryan

- 30** James D. Herzog
- 25** Dina S. Miller

Childress

- 35** Johnny T. Tiffin
- 25** Robert L. Nichols
- 17** Emma D. Harris

Corpus Christi

- 30** Arturo Martinez, Jr.
- 27** Arturo Morin
- 25** Angel M. Gonzalez

Dallas

- 21** Robert K. Speer
- 12** Armandina Aldrete
- 11** Patricia E. Young

El Paso

- 22** Raul Perez

Fort Worth

- 45** James C. Sawey
- 43** Douglas A. Clay
- 33** William C. Riley
- 31** Agustin J. Martinez
- 29** James H. Parker, Jr.; Terry L. Graves
- 26** Vicki L. Graves; Ralph A. Browne
- 18** Paul S. Hodnett

Houston

- 38** Cruz Gonzales; Bobbie E. Bridges
- 36** Elizabeth K. Gerstenberger
- 31** George E. Henry
- 29** Sheila G. Randolph
- 28** Karen G. Baker
- 26** Tim W. Chase; Pamela L. Barton
- 22** Evelyn A. Bunac
- 20** Mike C. Myers
- 10** Richard L. Kelly

Laredo

- 28** Gregory C. Newman

Lubbock

- 32** Johnny E. Rosemond
- 29** Grady L. Simmons
- 26** Joe L. Flores
- 22** Hilario C. Gonzales, Jr.

Lufkin

- 30** Larry T. Jackson, Jr.
- 27** Michael O. Myers
- 5** Nancy L. Warr

Odessa

- 29** Israel P. Rubio; Larry G. Levario
- 28** Phyllis S. Taylor; Brenda K. Pierce
- 26** Florencio H. Molinar
- 18** Glen W. Larum

Paris

- 32** Mark W. Bates
- 16** John B. Mccollister

Pharr

- 42** Victor M. Martinez
- 33** Rosendo Garcia, Jr.
- 30** Sandra G. Bowers
- 28** Robin L. Boone
- 12** Roxanna Mancha

San Angelo

- 39** Walter G. McCullough
- 31** James C. Bell
- 17** Wayne A. Halfmann
- 16** Marciano Garza, Sr.

San Antonio

- 31** Craig S. Williams
- 29** Robert A. Gonzales
- 27** Glenn R. Talley
- 25** Dennis B. Fisher
- 23** William R. Waid

Tyler

- 36** Larry E. West
- 32** Rickey G. Newman
- 31** Warren B. Tidmore
- 29** Timothy J. Thompson

Waco

- 38** David F. Miller
- 31** Terry L. Guenet

Wichita Falls

- 30** James A. Woods
- 27** Ronnie L. Montgomery

Yoakum

- 39** Delores V. Bittner
- 32** Jose L. Enriquez
- 33** Reinhold W. Gerbert
- 31** Michael W. Drake
- 17** Shirley J. Hrabovsky

Divisions/Offices/Regions:

Administration

- 38** Shirley K. Macik
- 32** Delia C. Hernandez

Aviation

- 38** Karon K. Wiedemann

Bridge

- 25** Thomas E. Rummel

Construction

- 32** Baldemar P. Maldonado, Jr.
- 29** Laura K. Benningfield

Design

- 26** Adelmira S. Garcia
- 27** Brian N. Barger

Environmental Affairs

- 36** Elvia R. Gonzalez
- 20** Graham R. Price
- 18** Henry G. Quinn

Finance

- 32** Duane K. Sullivan

General Services

- 36** Adelina T. Torres

Occupational Safety

- 11** Precila Martinez

Public Transportation

- 17** Thomas G. Robinson

North Regional Support Center

- 29** Matthew O. Asaolu
- 17** John P. Marshall

South Regional Support Center

- 30** Jerry W. Reavis
- 12** Pedro Segundo

East Regional Support Center

- 32** Betty B. Brown
- 26** Lloyd H. McAlpine, Jr.
- 24** Jackie D. Apshire
- 6** Jack Johnson, Jr.

West Regional Support Center

- 27** Douglas C. Christensen
- 6** Mark G. Moore

Right Of Way

- 21** Jimmie D. Hampton
- 4** Lloyd R. Bishop

Technology Services

- 33** Frank R. Bushong

Travel Information

- 29** John G. Appold

In Memoriam

Districts:

Bryan

Chester Hayes

Maintenance Technician
Retirement Date: 8/31/1979
DOD: 9/26/2010

Dallas

Gina R. Franklin

Administrative Assistant II
Years Of Service: 3 Yrs. 7 Mos.
DOD: 9/23/2010

El Paso

Jose "Pilar" Lujan

Transportation Maintenance Technician
Years Of Service: 37 Yrs.
Retirement Date: 8/31/1999
DOD: 9/30/2010

Fort Worth

Donald R. Freeman

Design Technician
Years Of Service: 15 Yrs.
DOD: 8/21/2010

Homer S. Wilson, Jr.

Maintenance Technician
Years Of Service: 36 Yrs.
DOD: 8/22/2010

Jamie Lively

District Maintenance
Years Of Service: 25 Yrs.
DOD: 3/13/2010

Jason Creamier

Construction Chief Inspector
Years Of Service: 17 Yrs.
DOD: 9/12/2010

Houston

Darlene D. Taylor

Contract Specialist III
Years Of Service: 9 Yrs. 4 Mos.
DOD: 9/7/2010

San Angelo

Jimmy Basquez

Maintenance Technician
Retirement Date: 6/30/1993
Years Of Service: 25 Yrs.
DOD: 8/2/2010

Paris

Raymond H. Lindholm, Jr.

Paris District Engineer
Years Of Service: 30 Yrs.
Retirement Date: December 1985
DOD: 9/27/2010

Jim Mcburnett Crofford, Sr.


Greenville Office Maintenance
Supervisor
DOD: 9/30/2010



WHERE AM I?



The Travel Information Division supplied TN with this 1960s-era picture by an unknown staff photographer. The bridge spans a canyon high above a river in what appears to be western Texas. If you think you know where this picture was taken please contact Bill Powell at Bill.Powell@TxDOT.gov or call him at (512) 463-8606.

Identified: Andy Reid, an engineer technician in the Tyler District, was the first to identify the location of the picture in the last edition of TN. He said it was taken at the Mobberly Avenue underpass at Longview's rail yard. He was there recently with the Tyler Bridge section checking clearances. He included a current picture of the street view of the area from a popular Internet search site as proof of his conclusion. 





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<http://crossroads/>



Spotlight

Big Five Winners

(Pictured left to right)

- ★ Herbert E. Bickley — Lufkin District — **Dewitt C. Greer Award**
- ★ James "Bobby" Evans (retired) — Tyler District — **Gibb Gilchrist Award**
- ★ Rep. Stan Schlueter — **Russell H. Perry Award**
- ★ Elvia Gonzalez (retired) — Environmental Affairs Division — **Luther DeBerry Award**
- ★ Dana D. Coté — Houston District — **Raymond E. Stotzer Award**



Extra Mile Award Winners

- Taylor Genn — Amarillo District
- Rodney Mathis — Tyler District
- Israel Ortegon — San Angelo District
- Wilfred "Gary" Jaimes — San Antonio District
- David Hanzelka — Yoakum District