Keeping the TxDOT district of Corpus Christi informed and its people moving.

Winter 2011

State and federal transportation officials unveiled a 10-foot by 10-foot highway sign in Robstown on December 5, 2011.

<u>Corpus Christi</u> ONE

NORTH

Sinton

Victoria

I-69 sign unveiled December 5, 2011

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First Interstate 69 Signs in Texas Unveiled In Robstown

State and federal transportation officials unveiled a 10-foot by 10-foot highway sign in Robstown on December 5, 2011, marking the very first segment of Interstate 69 in Texas and the first new interstate highway in Texas since 1992.

The Corpus Christi District hosted more than 100 honored guests, including TxDOT Executive Director Phil Wilson; Transportation Commissioners Fred Underwood and Jeff Austin III; U.S. Congressman Blake Farenthold; State Senators Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa and Eddie Lucio Jr.; State Representatives Connie Scott and Raul Torres; Federal Highway Administration officials Jan Brown, Albert Hinojosa and Greg Punske; and numerous local elected officials from all across Texas.

The Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) Corpus Christi District installed 10 overhead freeway guide signs and numerous route markers at intersections leading to the newly designated segment of I-69. Commissioner Underwood addresses crowd at I-69 sign event.

ROBSTOWN, TX

Following the necessary approvals of the Federal Highway Administration and American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials, the Texas Transportation Commission gave final approval to designate the first segment of I-69 in Texas on October 27, 2011. The first segment is concurrently designated with U.S. 77 for 6.2 miles from State Highway 44 in Robstown to I-37 in Corpus Christi.

I-69 was identified by Congress as a Federal High Priority Corridor in 1991, linking the Texas-Mexico border to the Canadian border by passing through Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Indiana and Michigan. In Texas, I-69 will follow existing highways wherever possible. The exact path and composition of additional Texas segments of I-69 is still being determined based on input provided by the citizen-led I-69 Advisory Committee and five I-69 segment committees. For more information on this ongoing public involvement effort, visit <u>www.txdot.</u> <u>gov/drivenbytexans</u>.

Compass Roll Out Coming In 2012

COMPASS PROJECT Managing the Direction of Maintenance

Compass, a new Web-based maintenance management system (MMS) designed to replace SES, MMIS and several spreadsheet tools, will be rolled out to all TxDOT districts in February 2012 with full implementation statewide on September 1, 2012. Compass, which has been in the works since 2003, is a program to help track cost and performance by maintenance activities on a daily basis instead of a month-end basis.

In the Corpus Christi District, Janet Gholson, Danny De Leon, Orlando Carrillo, Carlos Carrillo, Lydia Rodriguez, Mitzi Gibson and Terry Castenada have been training on Compass and will act as trainers for all other district users. On February 8, office managers, their back ups, Maintenance Supervisors, Assistant Supervisors, Crew Chiefs, Area Engineers and some division and district personnel will be trained. All TxDOT districts will first go live in a sandbox environment in which none of the interfaces that will eventually be part of the system are live. The sandbox environment will start with six function codes and each month more will be added. Users will be practicing the application until it goes live with the interfaces on September 1, 2012.

Janet Gholson in the district's Maintenance Office said even after Compass goes live statewide in September, some old mainframe legacy systems won't go away. "We know there will be growing pains," Gholson said, "but this system should help the district and the entire agency track maintenance costs and equipment inventories more efficiently in the future."

In February, the state will begin entering the four-year maintenance plans into the MMS. The district's one-year and four-year maintenance plans will be maintained, so monitoring of both by using Compass-generated reports should be simplified.

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Child Passenger Safety Week Observed

The National Center for Health Statistics reports that motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children 14 years old and younger. The National Highway Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates that roughly three out of four child safety seats are not used correctly. Correctly installed child safety seats and booster seats save lives – offering the best protection for children in the event of a crash.

TxDOT's Hazel Zedepa is a certified Child Safety Seat Technician and on September 24, 2011, she joined the Driscoll Children's Hospital and the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services at All-Star Mitsubishi on South Padre Island Drive to give free safety seat check-ups during Child Passenger Safety Week, Sept. 18 - 24. During the two-hour event, 30 car seat checks were made and 20 child safety seats were distributed to low-income families. TxDOT's Linda Guartuche and Joe Tellez demonstrated the Roll-over Convincer to show the public the importance of buckling up.



Hazel Zepeda checking child seat, September 24, 2011

The Texas Child Restraint Law was changed in 2009, requiring all children younger than eight years old, unless taller than four-feet, nineinches, to be in child restraint seats or booster seats in the car. Fines of up to \$25 for a first offense and \$250 for a second offense may be issued for noncompliance.

EDMS Update - What Is Happening? What is Next?

Several months ago the Corpus Christi District began implementing a new Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) to create a central electronic storage system for important records accessible to all employees. EDMS allows you to store any type of document – Word, Excel, PowerPoint, GroupWise e-mail, pdf, jpg or graphics – and share it with others in the district. Only users in the district are able to access documents created in the district. Other TxDOT districts and Austin headquarters staff do not have access to it. EDMS is stored on a separate server in Corpus Christi.

Led by Laura Benavides and Anna Gonzalez, the EDMS Committee is made up of district staff from engineers to office techs, and from inspectors to environmental staff. The EDMS Committee are now trained EDMS users and were tasked with training others in their respective offices. Directors were given a high-level overview and discussed how to utilize the system.

IxDocsOnline Document Management System

"We want to encourage people to experiment and not be afraid of something new," Anna Gonzalez said. "It doesn't take long to learn how to use it. Once you're trained to categorize and store documents, it's very simple to retrieve and use those documents."

Laura Benavides said one of the benefits of this shared document storage is that it will help with records retention and file management. "Most of the questions I get deal with how to file a document," Laura said. "If you follow the records retention categories, it makes it so much easier."

The EDMS Committee was also tasked with creating a plan of action that involves storing all documents for a project from cradle to grave – plan sheets, environmental documents, public hearing information, bid documents, contracts, inspection reports – the works. Storing these documents on EDMS doesn't mean elimination of hard copy files. It simply makes these documents available to a defined list of users. "You will still be using your T: and U: drive to hold some documents," Laura said. "It doesn't mean every document needs to be stored on EDMS."

Agency Issues New Policy On Distracted Driving

As of December 15, 2011, a new policy was issued agency-wide on distracted driving designed to protect TxDOT employees and others. When driving a motor vehicle, operating heavy equipment, forklifts or ferryboats on agency business, TxDOT employees are prohibited from using hand-held mobile devices (cell phones, smart phones, tablets, etc.), texting or adjusting GPS.

Employees should park their TxDOT vehicle in a safe area away from traffic if they need to make a call, text, e-mail or adjust GPS or other navigational devices. The prohibition does not apply if a TxDOT employee is directed to be involved in an emergency situation that requires the need for traffic control, fire, EMS or police response. Employees are permitted to use two-way radios while driving or operating e

fire, EMS or police response. Employees are permitted to use two-way radios while driving or operating equipment for work-related communications.

Distractions may prevent an employee from concentrating on the safe operation of the vehicle or equipment.



More Than 3,000 Celebrate Harbor Bridge Lighting



Fans enjoy harbor bridge lights.

The closing event of the annual Harbor Lights Festival in Corpus Christi on December 4 was unlike any other in the festival's 30-year history. More than 3,000 people huddled at chilly Whataburger Field to witness a 15-minute light show spectacular on the newly illuminated Harbor Bridge.

The community-wide celebration was the result of a public-private partnership between TxDOT, the City of Corpus Christi, the Port of Corpus Christi and American Bank to install approximately 950 state-ofthe-art LED lights on the 52-year-old bridge. Clear Channel Radio broadcast a musical program in conjunction with the light show on Oldies 93.9 (93.9 FM) and NewsTalk KKTX (1360 AM).

District Engineer John Casey told the crowd, "The dedicated public servants at TxDOT are honored to help make this holiday season a little brighter. The project contractor and our TxDOT staff busted their tails literally night and day to get the lights and

hardware installed, run tests and develop an exciting program for your enjoyment."

Local dignitaries, including Mayor Joe Adame, several City Council members, Port Commission Chairman Mike Carrell and state elected officials took part in the event.

Fans began a 10-second countdown and the lights at Whataburger Field went dark and soon a bright white glow began to emerge on the bridge. Loud "oohs" and "ahs" greeted a rainbow of swirling colors on the bridge. Soon after the show ended, it didn't take long for people to start uploading home-made videos to YouTube showing the cool new addition to the Harbor Bridge.

If you missed the show and want to watch the music and light show, the City of Corpus Christi's YouTube channel has a video at <u>http://www.youtube.com/user/</u> <u>CCTVCorpusChristi#p/a/u/0/AF_5SEAe17s</u>.

A Gyotaku fish rubbing entitled "Flounder Run" by Dinah Bowman placed first in the adult division.

Second Ferry Art Contest Winners Announced

DOWMA

By Aaron Ames, Public Information Officer

A Gyotaku fish rubbing entitled "Flounder Run" by Dinah Bowman placed first in the adult division, while Kati Pina's "Reflections of the Gulf Coast" claimed top honors in the youth division in results announced in late November.

Artwork from three adult and three youth were selected in the Second Annual Port Aransas Art Contest. The work will be displayed on three vessels – the B.L. DeBerry, the R.E. Stotzer Jr., and the Arnold Oliver. A total of 62 pieces were entered in this year's contest.



The two other winning pieces in the adult division were Mary Burnett's "The Pleides" and Theresa Coppock's "Deep Turtle." This marked the second consecutive year in which Ms. Coppock had an entry selected to be placed on a ferryboat.

In the youth division, 38 individuals entered the contest. First-place winner Kati Pina is a student at Taft High School. The second and third place finishers whose work will appear on a ferry are Port Aransas students Rebecca Honeck, whose oil pastel drawing is entitled "Magenta Spoonbill," and Connally Waight, whose watercolor painting is entitled "Squid."

Artwork will be placed on two of the boats before Spring Break in March and on the third boat after Spring Break.

Kati Pina's "Reflections of the Gulf Coast" claimed top honors in the youth division.

We Are Proud Of You!

Edward Bryan and John Evers competed in the 2011 State Roadeo in Austin in October – a first time for both competitors – and although they didn't come home with the gold they performed like true professionals. Competing against 48 other top-scoring drivers from TxDOT Maintenance sections around the state, Bryan and Evers got behind the wheel of single-axle dump trucks they've never driven before and battled in six categories.

"John and Edward set a tremendous example for other TxDOT employees by practicing safe driving skills on the job every day," said Susan Feudo, District Safety Officer. "We're very proud of the way they represented the Corpus Christi District at the State Roadeo."

Evers, from the Rockport Maintenance Section, was the Grand Champion for the District and received a \$750 one-time merit. Bryan, from the Beeville Maintenance Section, was runner-up in the District and received a \$500 on-time merit. The one-time merit bonuses were awarded for exhibition of safe practices and promoting safe driving. The Occupational Safety Division awarded each driver in the competition a Carhartt jacket embroidered with 2011 State Roadeo finalist.

The purpose of the Roadeo program is to:

- Establish safe vehicle operation, thus reducing accidents.
- Recognize the skills of the operators participating and the pride exhibited in the safe operation of TxDOT equipment.
- Create a keen interest in driving ability, which contributes to the safety program of any fleet operation.



Wally Villarreal, Michele Regis, Dee Porter, John Casey and Brian Weatherly congratulate Edward Bryan (with plaque) and John Evers (with plaque) for winning the 2011 Corpus Christi District Roadeo.

> Cheering them on during the 2011 State Roadeo were District Engineer John Casey, District Safety Officer Susan Feudo and District Training Coordinator Kip Dove.



New George West Maintenance Office To Open In 2012

Maintenance staff from George West will move into a new facility in early January 2012 that promises to provide more room and an improved work environment. Construction was completed in mid-December 2011 and final wiring and communications equipment was installed by the end of the year.

"I am really looking forward to having hot water again," said Lydia Rodriguez, the Office Manager for the Live Oak Maintenance Office. "I am also very happy that our new office is not so close to the roadway." Although she'll miss the pecan tree-shaded facility on Nueces Street in George West, Rodriguez knows the new facility located on U.S. 59 east of George West offers additional amenities, like showers, larger vehicle bays and a new vehicle lift that will make it safer and more efficient for the crew.

The 10.65-acre site is a larger piece of property than the previous Maintenance facility (approximately nine acres). The

new office building is 3,860-square feet, including the covered entry porch. A shop/ storage area is 6,960-square feet. The truck wash/equipment room is 1,720-square feet and the back equipment shed is 4,375square feet.

The new address will be 3830 U.S. Highway 59, George West, TX 78022. All phone numbers for the George West Maintenance staff will remain unchanged.

Safety Banquet Recognizes Best Practices

The 2011 Safety Banquet was held at the Port Aransas Civic Center on August 24, 2011. The following groups were recognized for achieving the Mission Zero objectives of no injuries, no fatalities, no lost time and no preventable injuries in Fiscal Year 2010.

Alice Area Office

Bridge Maintenance Corpus Christi Area Office District Field Operations District Lab and Construction District Maintenance Work Group George West Maintenance Goliad Maintenance Jim Wells Maintenance Karnes Area Office Robstown Maintenance San Patricio Area Office Sinton Maintenance

The banquet also recognized employees within the district who have worked for 25 or more years without incident. The Robstown Maintenance Section was recognized for its winning display earlier in the year for Work Zone Awareness Week. The winning group received a free pizza lunch.

Lynda Walker from Texas Municipal Police Association gave a presentation on traffic safety and the importance of buckling up, adjusting driving speed as conditions warrant, eliminating distracted driving and watching out for other drivers.

Special Guests included Dee Porter, Chief Human Resources and Modernization Officer; Michele Regis, Occupational Safety Section Director, and Brian Weatherly, San Antonio District Safety Officer.



JUST ONE It takes one minute to write a safety rule. It takes one hour to hold a safety meeting. It takes one day to hold a safety class. It takes one month to put a plan into operation. It takes one year to win a safety award. It takes one lifetime to make a safe worker. It takes one second to destroy it all with...

One Incident.

Cook-Off Highlights the District's Top Chef

It's a long-standing debate in Texas about who has the best barbecue. But the answer as to who cooks the best barbecue in the TxDOT Corpus Christi District was answered on November 10 during the Chef's Choice Cook-Off. Some 19 teams from maintenance sections, area offices and divisions formed teams to test their greatness on the grill.

Each team was allowed to cook the meat of their choice (beef, chicken, seafood, etc.) to be judged on flavor, tenderness and presentation. A special People's Choice category was chosen by secret ballot by their fellow TxDOT colleagues. Judges for the cook-off included several City of Corpus Christi staff members, including then-Police Chief Troy Riggs.

"This was a great event for safety and team building," said District Engineer John Casey. "I am proud of all the groups and the folks from outside TxDOT realized there is something great going on here and commented on how great the people were that they met."

The People's Choice Award was given to the Kingsville Maintenance team of Robert Cantu, Carlos Martinez and Mike Flores. The Top 3 Teams according to the panel of judges were:

First Place - Field Operations - Art Chacon, Jose Sosa, Cruz Flores and Richard Garcia

Second Place – TP&D Engineers - Jason Alvarez, Joe Pena, Rudy Landa, Marcus Ybarra and Ernie De La Garza

Third Place - Alice Maintenance - Emilio Amador and Ricky Flores

The teams have enjoyed these cook-offs so much that plans are in the works for the next event that will be held in Beeville.



1st - John Casey, Jose Sosa, Art Chacon and Wally Villarreal



2nd - John Casey, Rudy Landa, Marcos Ybarra, Jason Alvarez, Ernie De La Garza and Wally Villarreal



Brad Fox and Robert Vega of Refugio Maintenance Section

3rd - John Casey, Noe Trevino, Rey Ramirez, Emilio Amador, Ricky Flores and Wally Villarreal



People's Choice - John Casey, Carlos Martinez, Mike Flores, Robert Cantu and Wally Villarreal

It's the People (continued)

Phil Wilson's visit was on Monday, November 21, 2011.



Santa (Rudy Rivera, Sinton Maintenance Supervisor) appeared at the holiday Don't Drink and Drive press event on December 20, 2011.

The ribbon-cutting for U.S. 281 overpass in Ben Bolt was on September 6, 2011.

It's the People (continued)

Please welcome the following new members of the TxDOT family. In the spirit of OneDOT, mentor and guide them and give them the benefit of your experience, knowledge and skills. Be open to their new ideas as we work to become the best trained, safest and most efficient district in the state.

New CRP District Employees (August 1 - December 31, 2011)						
Name	Position	Location				
Fasiska, Christine M.	Transportation Engr Supvr III - Geometric Design	Corpus Christi				
Ames, Aaron D.	Public Information Officer II	Port Aransas				
Gholson, Janet D.	Maintenance Support Tech IV	Corpus Christi				
Butler, Kevin M.	Transport Maint Crew Chief III	Beeville				
Carroll, Shamaralee	Ferryboat Deckhand I	Port Aransas				
Grimes, Dortha R	Ferryboat Deckhand I	Port Aransas				
Hill, Dana C	Ferryboat Deckhand I	Port Aransas				
Vitek, David L	Ferryboat Deckhand I	Port Aransas				
Walter, Kevin D	Ferryboat Deckhand I	Port Aransas				
Zavala Jr., Rene	General Transp Tech I - Traffic Operations	Corpus Christi				
Brown, Vance J.	Ferryboat Deckhand I	Port Aransas				
Osterman, Sandra L.	Ferryboat Deckhand I	Port Aransas				
Munoz, Jerry	General Transp Tech II	Alice				
Ramirez, Robert J.	General Transp Tech I	Alice				
Mata, Christopher R.	General Transp Tech II	Kingsville				
Morante, Mark A.	General Transp Tech II	Kingsville				
Brink, David Henry	General Engineering Tech I - Construction	Corpus Christi				
Bocanegra, Candido	Engineering Assistant III - Geometric Design	Corpus Christi				
Pedraza, Ricardo	Engineering Assistant III - Geometric Design	Corpus Christi				
McGlaun, Kimberly A.	Environmental Specialist I - Transportation Planning and Development	Corpus Christi				
Fasiska, John	General Transp Tech II - Corpus Christi Maintenance	Corpus Christi				
Greive, Joseph David	Engineering Assistant III - Maintenance	Corpus Christi				
Piatt, Nathan	General Transp Tech I	Rockport				
Cisneros, Roy	General Transp Tech II	Sinton				
Espinoza, Cody	General Transp Tech I	Sinton				
Sanchez, Felix	General Transp Tech II	Sinton				
Retirements - Thanks for your service!						
Stolte, Gary D.	Engineering Technician	Goliad - 10/31/11				
Gonzalez, Daniel G.	Dist Pvmt Data Col Coord II	Corpus Christi - 10/31/11				
Mayberry Jr., Carl R.	Pavement Engr Spec I	Corpus Christi - 10/31/11				
Wilson, Jenise K.	Maintenance Support Tech III	Corpus Chrsiti - 10/31/11				

Service Awards



5 YR - John Casey, Martin Garcia, Joseph Briones, Victor Sparks, Michael Olivarez, Jason Alvarez, David Gonzales and Juan De La Rosa



10 YR - John Casey, Renee Couture, Susan Feudo, Michael Cervantez, Howard Gillespie and Cristoval Ruiz





20 YR - John Casey and James Kay



25 YR - John Casey, Randy Moff, Reymundo Garcia, Martin Horst, James Woods, David Chapa, Eddie Martinez, Bill Reitmann and Juan Montano

5 YEARS

David Gonzales (George West Maintenance) Eugenio Alfaro (Robstown Maintenance) Michael Olivarez (Geometrics) Victor Sparks (Ferry Operations) Martin Garcia (Maintenance) Juan De La Rosa (Kingsville Maintenance) Joseph Briones (Geometrics) Florencio Alvarado (Corpus Christi Maintenance) Michael Gross (Ferry Operations) Jason Alvarez (Transportation Planning and Development)

10 YEARS

Susan Feudo (Administration - Safety) Michael Cervantez (Rockport Maintenance) Howard Gillespie (Ferry Operations) Roberto Gutierrez (Alice Maintenance) Cristoval Ruiz (Ferry Operations) Renee Couture (Geometrics)

15 YEARS

Joe Hernandez (Karnes Maintenance) Mike Hill (Corpus Christi Area Office) Roy Howe (Ferry Operations) Michael Trevino (Karnes Area Office) Richard Valderamma (Beeville Maintenance) Sally Gracia (Administration) Juan Valenzuela (Sinton Maintenance)

20 YEARS

Connie Avalos (Corpus Christi Area Office) James Kay (Ferry Operations)

25 YEARS

James Woods (Survey) Martin Horst (Corpus Christi Area Office) Reymundo Garcia (Lab) David Chapa (Construction) Max Lopez (Corpus Christi Maintenance) Eddie Martinez (Karnes City Maintenance) Juan Montano (Sinton Area Office) Bill Reitmann (Sinton Area Office) Randy Moff (Corpus Christi Area Office) John Hernandez (Traffic Operations)



1701 S. Padre Island Dr. Corpus Christi, Texas 78416

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar of Events

JANUARY 2012

1- New Year's Day

- 16 Martin Luther Jr. Day
- 19 Confederate War Heroes Day (Skeleton Crew)
- 26 Commission Meeting

FEBRUARY 2012

- 2 Groundhog Day
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 15-17 Texas Transportation Forum (San Antonio)
- 20 President's Day Holiday
- 21 Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras)
- 23 Commission Meeting
- 29 Leap Day

MARCH 2012

- 2 Texas Independence Day (Skeleton crew)
- 11 Daylight Savings Time Starts
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 29 Commission Meeting
- 31- Cesar Chavez Day