



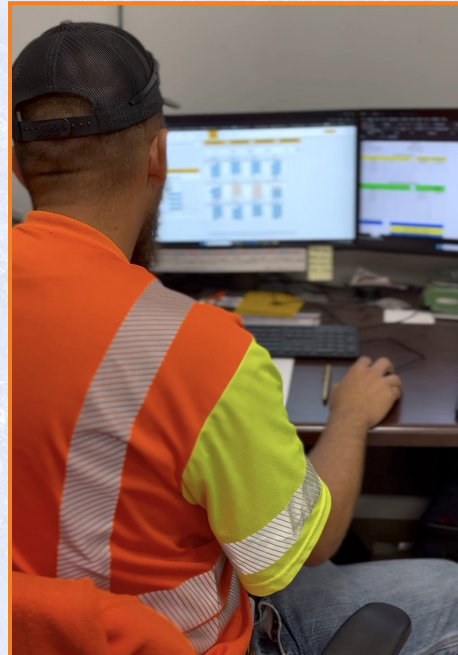
CONTINUED FROM COVER STORY

By the time students arrive on campus, however, that work is largely invisible. School zone lights simply turn on when they're supposed to, signaling drivers to slow down and stay alert around schools.

For Prestien, that's the goal.

"The biggest point is just making sure kids don't get hurt," he said.

Most drivers will never see the planning and coordination it takes to prepare these flashers. But across North Texas, that behind-the-scenes effort by hard-working TxDOT crews helps keep hundreds of school zones operating safely throughout the school year. ■



SOURCE: TxDOT TxDOT photo



Go to [DriveTexas.org](https://www.DriveTexas.org) in order to plan your next travel destination. This website can assist travelers with some of the most accurate and up-to-date travel-related information for highways across Texas.

■ Drivers can use [DRIVETEXAS.ORG](https://www.DriveTexas.org) in order to:

- 1  Check current highway travel conditions
- 2  View statewide network of traffic cameras
- 3  See work zone locations statewide
- 4  View scheduled lane and ramp closures in work zones
- 5  Find rest areas and travel information centers

SCAN ME! 

SOURCE: TxDOT TxDOT graphic

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
214-320-4480
dalinfo@txdot.gov
www.txdot.gov

REPORT A POTHOLE 

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO REPORT A POTHOLE NEEDING REPAIR IN THE DALLAS DISTRICT, PLEASE GO TO THIS LINK:
<https://www.txdot.gov/about/contact-us/report-an-issue/roadneedsrepair.html>
or call 800.452.9292.



DALLAS DISTRICT PROGRESS

COLLIN CO. | DALLAS CO. | DENTON CO. | ELLIS CO. | KAUFMAN CO. | NAVARRO CO. | ROCKWALL CO.

2026

BEHIND THE SCENES: HOW ONE TxDOT EMPLOYEE PREPARES HUNDREDS OF SCHOOLS ZONES FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Students are back in the classroom, teachers have settled into new routines and school zones across North Texas are once again flashing to life each day. What most drivers don't see is the weeks of work that TxDOT performs behind the scenes to make sure those lights were ready before the first bell rang.

In TxDOT's Dallas District, that responsibility falls largely to one person. Traffic Signal Technician Tyler Prestien programs school zone lights along highways across more than 200 schools and school districts across North Texas. From a single workstation, he reviews school calendars and updates flasher schedules to ensure they activate at the correct times throughout the school year.

It's a tedious process, but one that's come a long way from the system in place a decade ago.

"They actually had to physically go to each school zone system and type in school hours for each day and holidays," Prestien said.

Today, technology allows those updates to be made from a centralized system. But that doesn't make the process automatic. Once school districts finalize their calendars, Prestien spends several weeks reviewing schedules and preparing the updates that he'll send to systems across the district.

With hundreds of schools and districts to consider, no two calendars look exactly alike.

"They all do them differently," Prestien said. "So, I have to figure out their system, to fit our system."

The work requires careful attention to start dates, holidays, early release days and other schedule variations before information can be loaded into the system.

— Tyler Prestien
Traffic Signal Technician

SOURCE: TxDOT TxDOT photo

SOURCE: TxDOT TxDOT graphic

MORE ON BACK PAGE »

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AUGUST 2026 LET PROJECTS

#	CSJ	PROJECT LOCATION	TYPE OF WORK	CONTRACTOR	BID
1	CSJ: 0092-06-111	I-45 – Freestone C/L to Ellis C/L	Repair roadway	Roy Jorgensen Associates, Inc.	\$5.41 M
2	CSJ: 0092-06-112	I-45 – N of CR 4742 to S of CR 4744	Bridge maintenance	Rear Contractors LLC	\$0.48 M
3	CSJ: 0095-04-079	US 80 – At Big Brushy Creek	Bridge maintenance	Shalom Services Corporation	\$0.80 M
4	CSJ: 0173-04-059	SH 34 – I-20 EB frontage Rd. to north of SH 243	Rehabilitate existing roadway	Big Creek Construction, Ltd.	\$6.24 M
5	CSJ: 0581-01-177	SL 12 – US 175 to Pemberton Hill	Install illumination	Albatross Construction LLC	\$2.14 M
6	CSJ: 0918-47-401	E Collins Blvd. – At Alma Dr.	Traffic signal improvements	WG Engineering & Construction, LLC	\$2.62 M
7	CSJ: 1012-03-027	FM 981 – Collin County line to SH 78	Rehabilitate existing roadway	D. L. Lennon Incorporated	\$18.83 M

ESTIMATED TOTAL \$36.52 M

SEPTEMBER 2026 SCHEDULED LET PROJECTS • (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

#	CSJ	PROJECT LOCATION	TYPE OF WORK	EST. COST (M)
1	CSJ: 0047-06-178	US 75 – Exchange Pkwy. to Laud Howell Pkwy.	Install Fiber Optic Cable ITS	\$3.14 M
2	CSJ: 0173-04-063	SH 34 – At Abner Rd.	Intersection improvement	\$0.95 M
*	CSJ: 0918-00-440	Various – Various locations in the Dallas District	Install traffic signal	\$4.45 M

ESTIMATED TOTAL \$8.54 M

* Unmapped.

COMPLETED CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS • (FROM AUGUST 1-31, 2026)

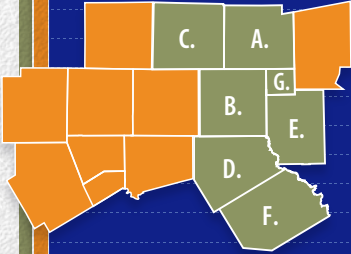
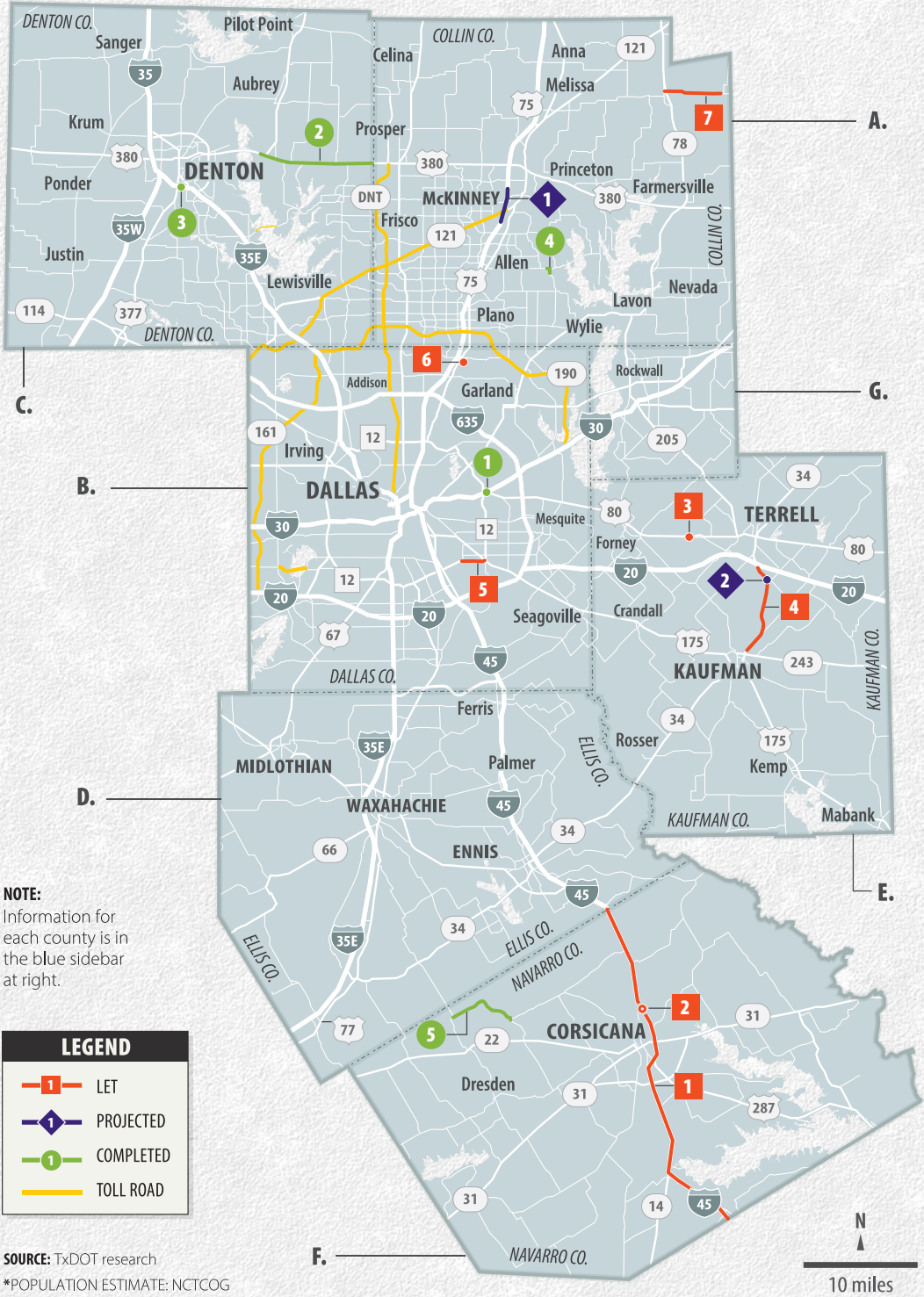
#	CSJ	PROJECT LOCATION	TYPE OF WORK	EST. COST (M)	COMPLETED DATE
1	CSJ: 0009-11-270	I-30 – WB frontage road entrance ramp to SL 12	Install/replace signs	\$1.1 M	8/24/2026
2	CSJ: 0135-10-050	US 380 – From US 377 to west of CR 26 (CL)	Construct new roadway lanes	\$135.9 M	8/11/2026
3	CSJ: 0195-03-088	I-35E – NB frontage road and SB frontage road at UPRR	Bridge replacement	\$11.7 M	8/5/2026
4	CSJ: 1392-01-044	FM 1378 – FM 3286 to S of FM 3286	Rehabilitate existing roadway	\$13.6 M	8/17/2026
5	CSJ: 1724-03-009	FM 2930 – FM 55 E to FM 112	Rehabilitate existing roadway	\$11.3 M	8/17/2026
*	CSJ: 0918-00-477	Various – Various locations in Dallas District	Refurbishment of existing DMS	\$0.5 M	8/24/2026

ESTIMATED TOTAL \$174.1 M

* Unmapped.

DALLAS DISTRICT PROJECTS MAP

Colored and numbered boxes correspond with the charts on page 2 and show projects that have let in August 2026, are projected to let in September 2026, or have recently been completed.



FY2026 DALLAS DISTRICT ESTIMATE TOTALS

VEHICLE REGISTRATION | 4,950,262
*POPULATION ESTIMATE | 5,650,522
LANE MILES | 11,671

A. | COLLIN COUNTY

VEHICLE REGISTRATION: 956,767
*POPULATION ESTIMATE: 1,305,366
LANE MILES: 1,652

B. | DALLAS COUNTY

VEHICLE REGISTRATION: 2,119,019
*POPULATION ESTIMATE: 2,762,279
LANE MILES: 3,618

C. | DENTON COUNTY

VEHICLE REGISTRATION: 819,821
*POPULATION ESTIMATE: 1,068,355
LANE MILES: 1,864

D. | ELLIS COUNTY

VEHICLE REGISTRATION: 705,428
*POPULATION ESTIMATE: 239,923
LANE MILES: 1,659

E. | KAUFMAN COUNTY

VEHICLE REGISTRATION: 170,855
*POPULATION ESTIMATE: 171,808
LANE MILES: 1,235

F. | NAVARRO COUNTY

VEHICLE REGISTRATION: 61,112
*POPULATION ESTIMATE: 55,991
LANE MILES: 1,276

G. | ROCKWALL COUNTY

VEHICLE REGISTRATION: 117,260
*POPULATION ESTIMATE: 135,500
LANE MILES: 366