



2018

# ANNUAL REPORT

**NET RMA**★  
North East Texas  
Regional Mobility Authority





MEMBER COUNTIES

The Counties of the  
North East Texas  
Regional Mobility  
Authority:

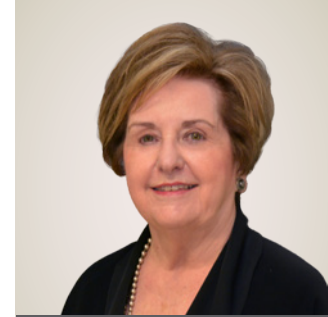
- BOWIE COUNTY
- CHEROKEE COUNTY
- GREGG COUNTY
- HARRISON COUNTY
- KAUFMAN COUNTY
- PANOLA COUNTY
- RUSK COUNTY
- SMITH COUNTY
- TITUS COUNTY
- UPSHUR COUNTY
- VAN ZANDT COUNTY
- WOOD COUNTY



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2 BOARD CHAIR REMARKS
- 3 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- 3 MISSION
- 5 MEMBER COUNTY MAP
- 6 NET RMA HOURGLASS MAP
- 7 TOLL 49 SEGMENT 4
- 11 SEGMENT 4 OPENING EVENT
- 12 TOLL 49 USAGE
- 13 TOLL 49 IMPROVEMENTS
- 16 PRIORITY PROJECTS
- 17 BOWIE COUNTY
- 18 HARRISON COUNTY
- 19 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – SMITH COUNTY
- 20 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – WOOD COUNTY
- 21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REMARKS
- 22 FINANCIAL REPORT





**Linda Thomas**  
Chair

## CHAIR REMARKS

As 2018 is now behind us, it is appropriate to look back and realize how truly monumental it really was. I am humbled and honored to be serving with the best board of directors one could ever hope to work with. These are people who dream big and are willing to plant seeds today for shade that might not even be seen tomorrow, only ultimately, years later.

The Lindale Bypass, a new 6.6-mile stretch of road, was constructed and opened! The newest addition extends from I-20 to US 69, just north of Lindale. It will greatly reduce traffic on local roads in Lindale and, of course, compliments our motto: Save Time, Drive Toll 49!

We continue to work with our transportation partners, all our member counties, and other local and elected officials to move transportation forward in East Texas. To that end, for the third year in a row, the agency supported East Texas Counties with another \$500,000 in grants for transportation related projects. The NET RMA presented Bowie County \$350,000 for a feasibility study for I-369 West Spur, and Harrison County with \$150,000 for the US 59/Interstate 369 Marshall Relief Route. To date, the NET RMA has awarded \$1.4M in funds towards the transportation-related projects all over East Texas.

The agency has added staff to further maintain the road and completed enhancements to the existing part of the road. Our newsletter has continued to increase readership and the agency is working to extend Toll 49 on the east side, as well as examining how it can support its counties in all areas of transportation and mobility, moving forward.

As the NET RMA continues to further mobility in the region, please realize you have a team of highly motivated visionaries that are working selflessly on your behalf.

Sincerely,

Linda Ryan Thomas





## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Gary Halbrooks**  
Vice Chair  
Smith County



**Dr. James Harris**  
Secretary  
Harrison County



**Robert Messer**  
Treasurer  
Kaufman County



**Cory Floyd**  
Bowie County



**Andrea McCoy**  
Bowie County



**Tim McRae**  
Cherokee County



**Dan Droege**  
Gregg County



**Keith Honey**  
Gregg County



**Dave Spurrier**  
Gregg County



**Robbie Shoultz**  
Harrison County



**Belinda Andrus**  
Panola County



**John Cloutier**  
Rusk County



**Barham Fulmer**  
Smith County



**Mike Thomas**  
Smith County



**Nate Preifort**  
Titus County



**Larry Morse**  
Upshur County



**Chet Clayton**  
Van Zandt County



**Jason Ray**  
Wood County

**Mission:** *The NET RMA, in cooperation with its regional partners, will provide solutions to expedite transportation and mobility projects that will improve the quality of life, enhance the regional economy and assure efficient mobility in the North East Texas Region.*





## NEW BEGINNINGS

In 2018 the NET RMA was delighted to welcome a plethora of new board members.

Cherokee County – Tim McRae is a Dealer/ Partner of Bill McRae Ford Lincoln. He was appointed by Cherokee County Judge Chris Davis.

Harrison County – Robbie Shoultz is the President of Bear Creek Smokehouse. He was appointed as the second board member from Harrison County by former Judge Hugh Taylor.

Panola County – Belinda Andrus, a Broker Associate of Coldwell Banker Ken Andrus and Associates was appointed to the NET RMA Board in 2018 by Panola County Judge LeeAnn Jones.

Titus County – Nate Priefert, Executive Vice President of Priefert Mfg., a ranch equipment manufacturing and steel processing company, was appointed to the NET RMA Board by Titus County Judge Brian Lee.

Van Zandt County – Chet Clayton, President, First State Bank of Ben Wheeler, was the most recent appointment to the NET RMA board. Van Zandt County Judge Don Kirkpatrick made the appointment.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Tim McRae**  
Cherokee County



**Robbie Shoultz**  
Harrison County



**Belinda Andrus**  
Panola County



**Nate Priefert**  
Titus County



**Chet Clayton**  
Van Zandt County

## FOND FAREWELLS

Hudson Old of Titus County and publisher of the East Texas Journal left the board after serving since 2007. Hudson served on and Chaired the Long-Range Planning Committee.

Bob Moore of Van Zandt County is another representative the NET RMA says a fond farewell to. Bob served on the Long-Range Planning

Committee and the Marketing Committee.

Finally, Dave Anderson of Panola County, former Judge and retired business professional is also no longer on the board. The NET RMA is sincerely thankful to all of these individuals for their service and dedication to moving mobility forward in East Texas.



**Hudson Old**  
Titus County



**Bob Moore**  
Van Zandt County



**Dave Anderson**  
Panola County

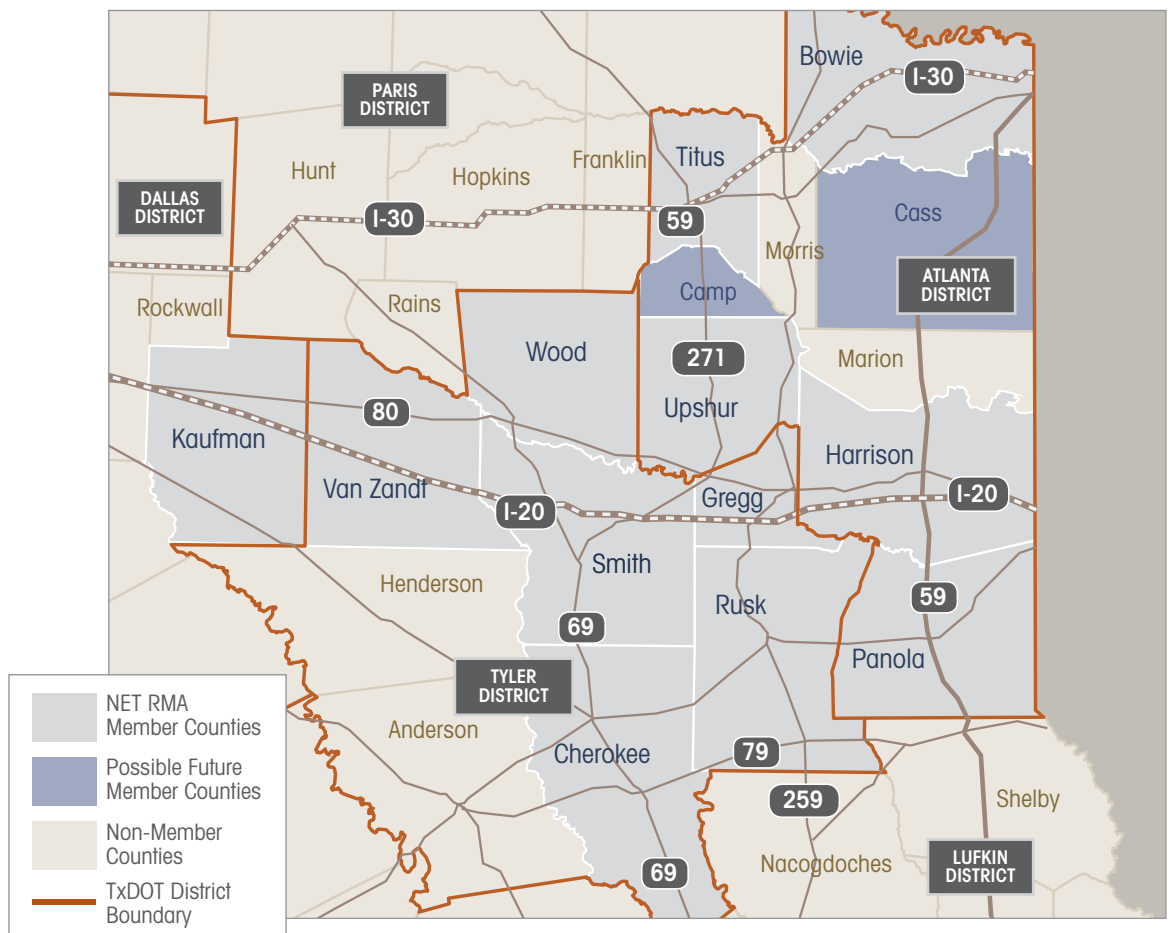




## MEMBER COUNTY MAP



BOWIE COUNTY  
 CHEROKEE COUNTY  
 GREGG COUNTY  
 HARRISON COUNTY  
 KAUFMAN COUNTY  
 PANOLA COUNTY  
 RUSK COUNTY  
 SMITH COUNTY  
 TITUS COUNTY  
 UPSHUR COUNTY  
 VAN ZANDT COUNTY  
 WOOD COUNTY





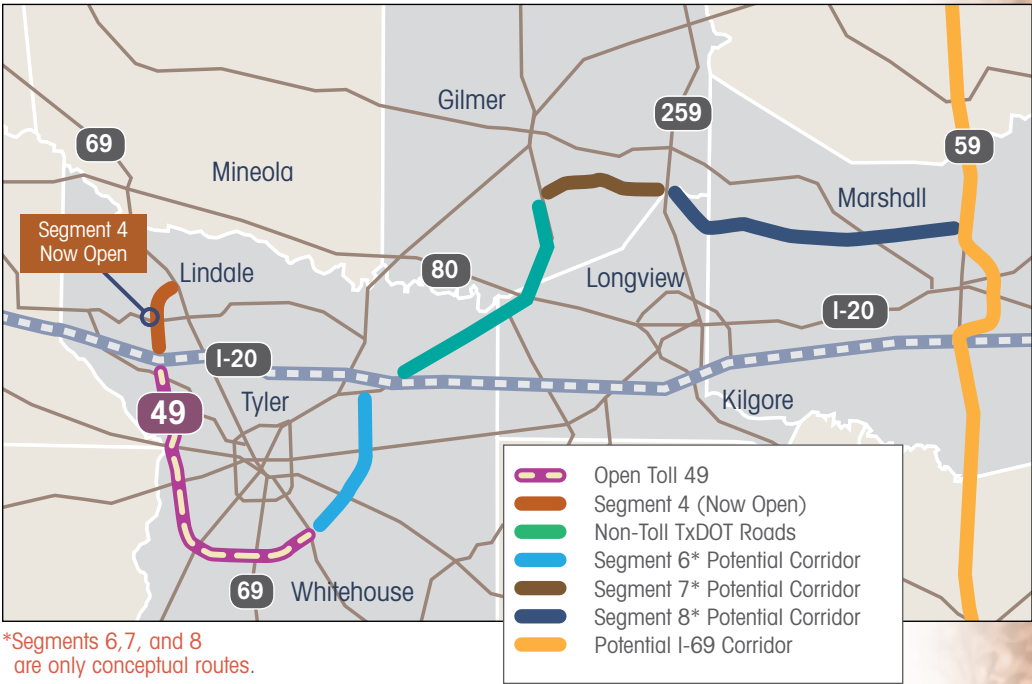
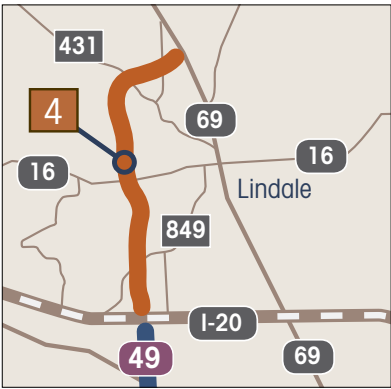
LINDALE RELIEF  
ROUTE (Segment 4)

Construction start: July 2016

Length: 6.7 miles

Connect: I-20 to US 69 North  
of Lindale

Now Open!



	SEGMENT 1	SEGMENT 2	SEGMENT 3A	SEGMENT 3B	SEGMENT 4	SEGMENT 5	SEGMENT 6	SEGMENT 7	SEGMENT 8
COST	\$39.4 M	\$25.1 M	\$51.5 M	\$104.7 M	\$126 M	\$24.7 M	\$274 M	\$263 M	\$483 M
LENGTH	5 miles	2 miles	6.6 miles	9.9 miles	6.7 miles	2.5 miles	13.5 miles	11.8 miles	25.68 miles
STATUS	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Conceptual Alignment	Conceptual Alignment	Conceptual Alignment
COMPLETE	2006	2007	2012	2013	2019	2012	2021	2025	N/A





## SEGMENT 4 PROGRESS: GRADEWORK

Top right: A backhoe is removing soils

Center left: Roadway base grading

Bottom right: Riprap installation and concrete paving





## SEGMENT 4 PROGRESS: TOPCOAT

Top left: Laying second layer of hot mix

Middle left and center: Rolling to achieve compaction on first layer of hot mix

Bottom left: Laying first layer of hot mix





## SEGMENT 4 PROGRESS: I-20 CROSSING



Top right: Toll 49 bridge abutment

Top left: Bridge painting operations

Center right: Placing forms for riprap

Bottom: Completed Toll 49 frontage and mainline





## SEGMENT 4 PROGRESS: FINAL DETAILS



Top left and center right: Toll 49 guardrail installation

Center left: 4-way stop at Toll 49 and I-20

Bottom: Installation of gantries at FM 16



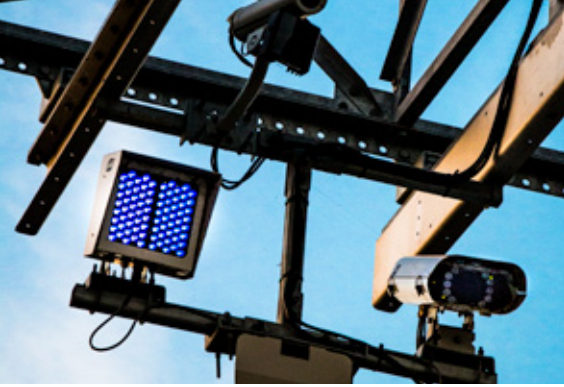


## SEGMENT 4 GRAND OPENING

The NET RMA had its grand opening on December 4, 2018 and was well attended. There were several public officials present, including Smith County Judge Nathaniel Moran, Texas Senator Bryan Hughes, TxDOT Commissioner Jeff Austin III, and Lindale Mayor Jeff Daugherty (not pictured)

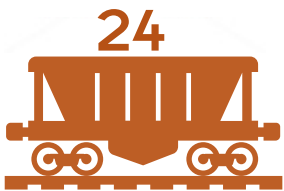
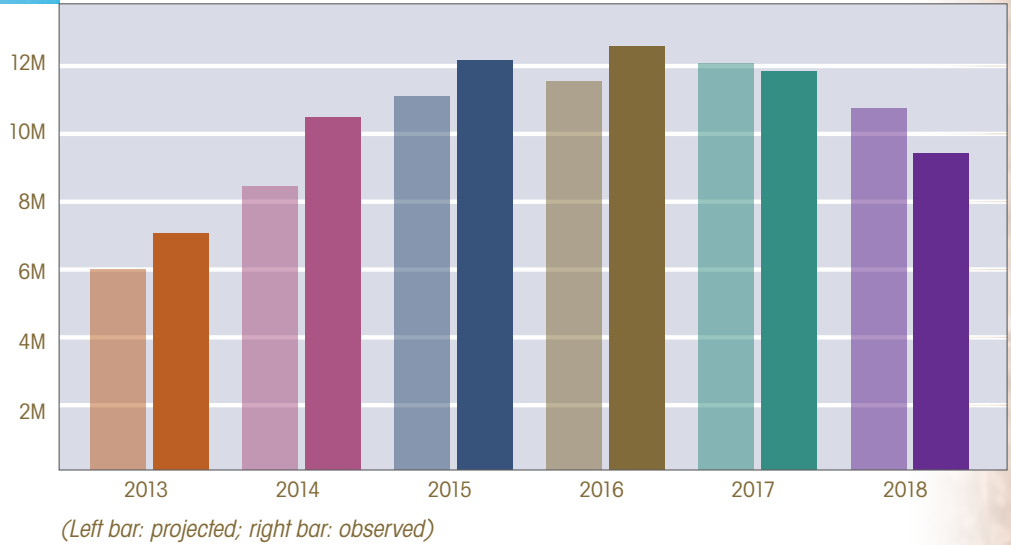






# TOLL 49: TRANSACTIONS

ANNUAL TRANSACTIONS



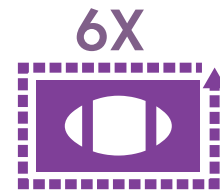
Cement: Over 3,800 tons of cement were used to treat the ground underneath the road. This amount of cement would fully fill 24 train cars.



Pavement Striping: 240,000 linear feet of pavement striping was placed along the road, which would equal to swimming across the Mississippi river in New Orleans 120 times.



Embankment: A total of 1,626,000 cubic yards of embankment material was used, and it would take 67,755 belly dump trailer trucks to move it all from one place to the other.



Guard Rail: Almost 6,100 feet of guard rail was placed along the roadway, which is enough to protect the perimeter of 6 professional football fields.

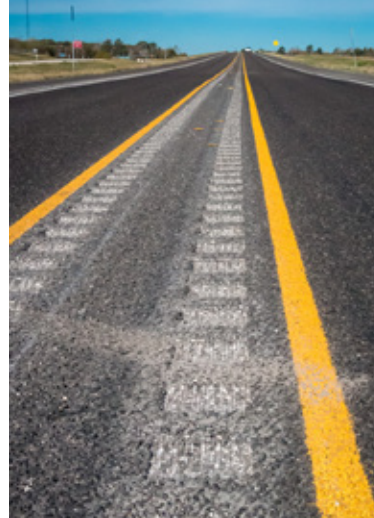




## TOLL 49: IMPROVEMENTS

### 2018 TOLL 49 IMPROVEMENTS

1. Four-foot flush median between lanes on Segments 3B and 4
2. Addition of rumble strips and reflectors between lanes
3. Additional signage emphasizing passing and no passing zones
4. Addition of many more passing lanes
5. Added Toll 49 Access from SH 110
6. Reflective roadway delineators to aid nighttime driving





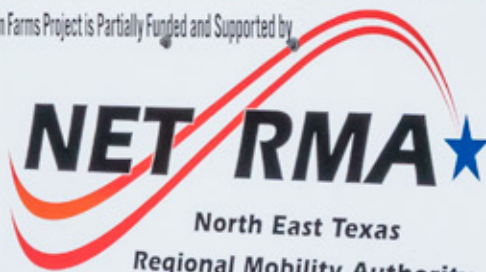
NEXT  
PASSING  
LANE  
4 MILES







This Sanderson Farms Project is Partially Funded and Supported by



North East Texas  
Regional Mobility Authority

NET RMA Wood County Board Member: Jason Ray



## PRIORITY PROJECTS SUMMARY

### PRIORITY PROJECTS CONTINUE TO GROW

The NET RMA Board of Directors continue to fulfill the goal of expediting transportation in East Texas through the Priority Projects Program. This program provides organizational support and money to the grant winner(s) each year. The agency was proud to award two grants in 2018, for a grand total of \$500,000.

*Original Investment \$400K*



*2017 Investment \$500K*



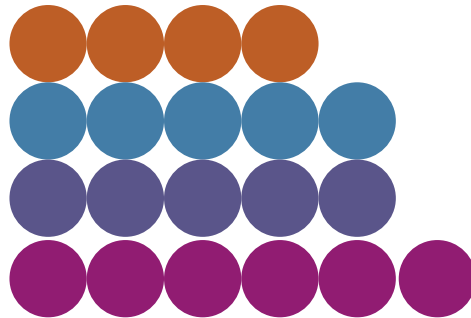
*2018 Investment \$500K*



*Budgeted Investment 2019 \$600K*

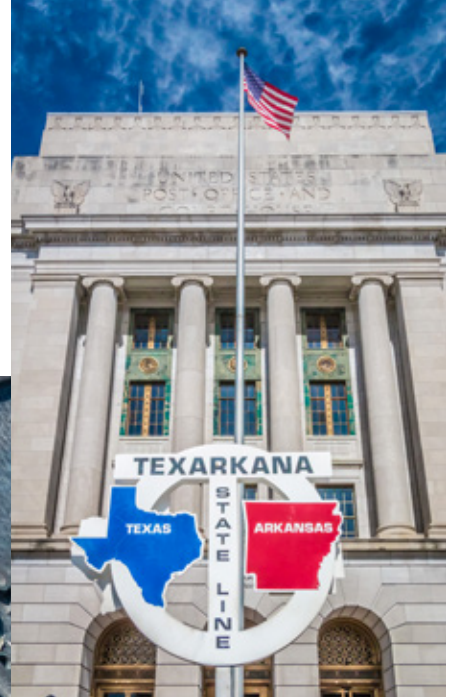


*Total Investment \$2M in 4 years*





## PRIORITY PROJECTS 2018



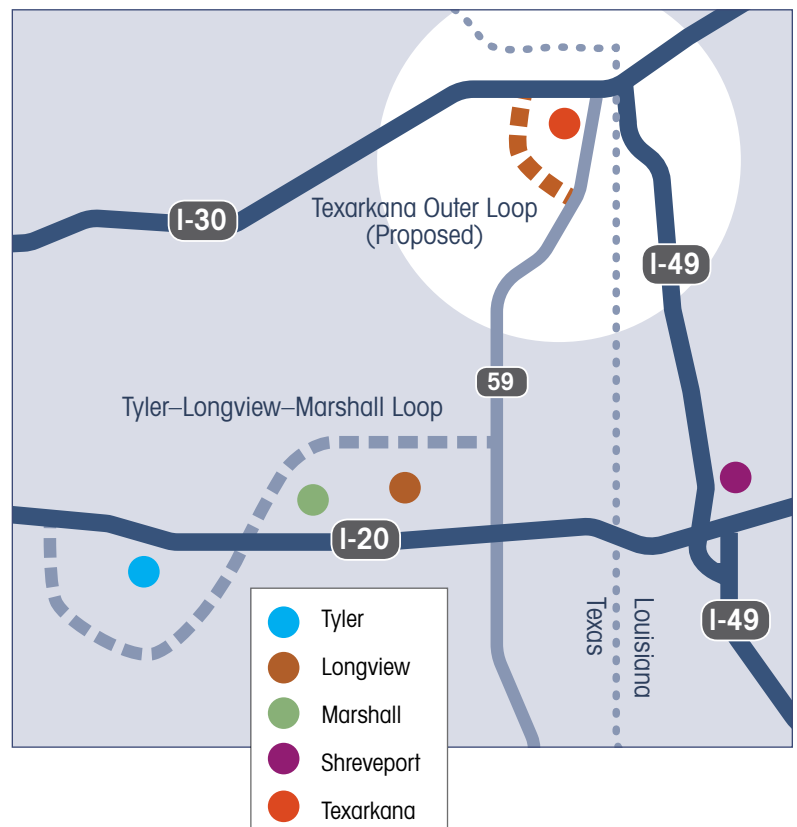
**Priority Project**  
Proposed Texarkana  
west bypass from  
US 59 to I-30

### BOWIE COUNTY: WEST SPUR FEASIBILITY STUDY

**Location:** connects existing I-369/US 59 to I-30, US Hwy 82 and US Hwy 67

**Benefit of project:** provide freight traffic relief for Texarkana urban center, enhanced multi-modal connectivity for RRAD, TAC and the overall I-69 system by providing increased connectivity.

**Monies allocated:** \$350K





## PRIORITY PROJECTS 2018



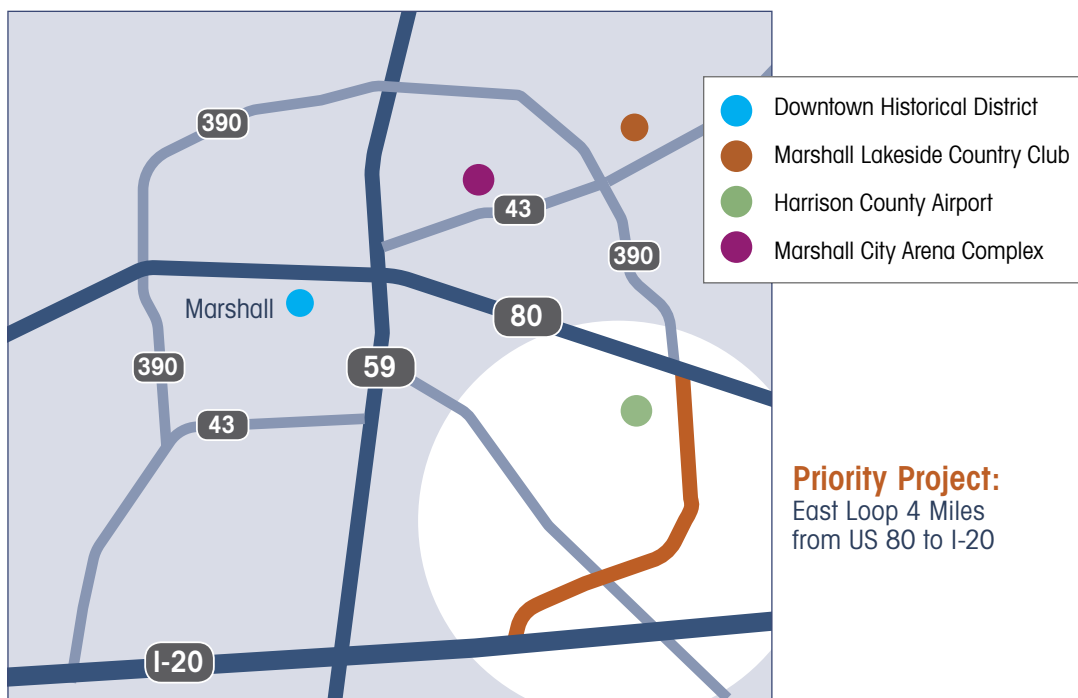
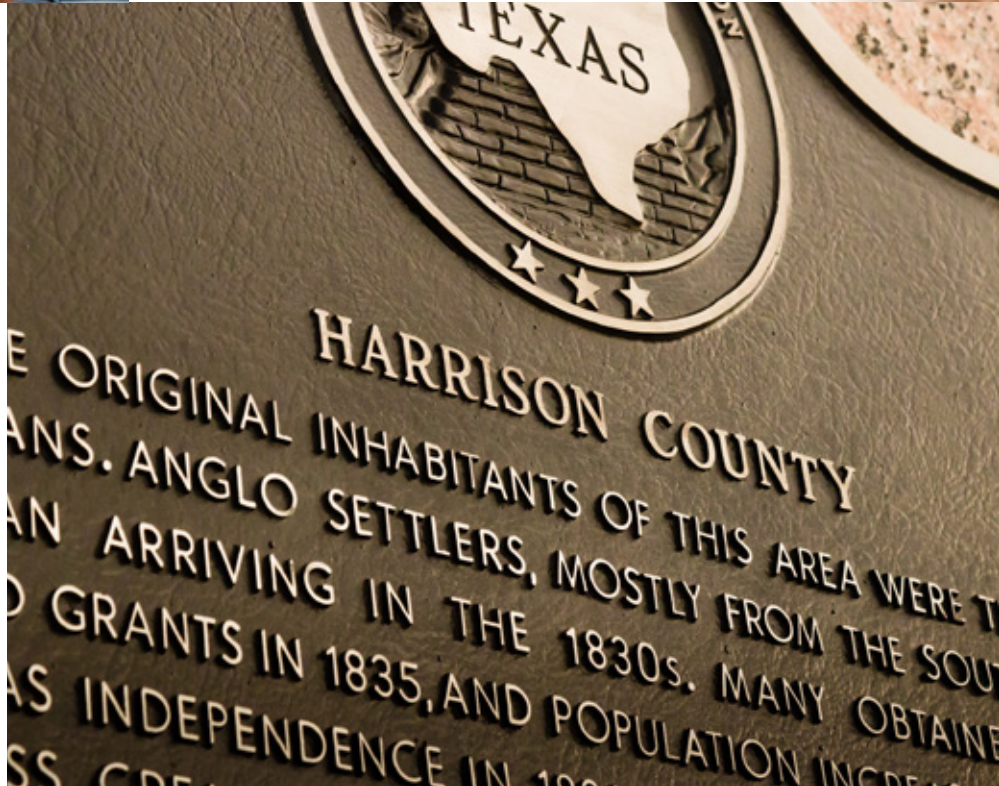
### HARRISON COUNTY: US 59/I 369 MARSHALL RELIEF ROUTE

Location: 4 miles from the intersection of  
US 80 going south to intersection of I-20.

Funding: Harrison County Road and  
Bridge Fund

Benefit of Project: Will be the initial  
keystone block in the I-69 system in the  
Northeast Texas segment stretching from  
Bowie County to Nacogdoches County.  
It would ultimately become eligible to  
become part of the Interstate Highway  
system due to linkages with I-20. This  
segment would greatly relieve traffic  
congestion and provide safer travel  
through this part of the state.

Monies allocated: \$150K





## MEET THE PLANNERS: TYLER

Economic Development and Transportation. Many may not think the two words go together, however, transportation plays a broad role in shaping economies. Economic impact to an area is measured by the benefits realized in economic growth, job creation, chain supply efficiency and economies of scale. This reality holds true for the country as a whole and certainly applies to the East Texas area as well. And two local economic developers, Tom Mullins of Tyler (Smith County) and Mercy Rushing of Mineola (Wood County) know this is a fact. Both constantly work toward making improvements in living standards and business in their respective areas.



Tom Mullins, President and CEO of the Tyler Economic Development Council, advised growth typically follows infrastructure. When speaking about the development of the Villages at Cumberland Park, a 700,000 square foot shopping center at the intersection of SH 69 and Toll 49, he said, “The connectivity of Toll 49 to I-20 was a key consideration for the developer of the Villages at Cumberland Park to start construction.” Years later, the Villages at Cumberland Park is a thriving shopping hub for thousands of East Texans. Toll transaction numbers reflected this, even during the first several months of occupancy at Cumberland Park.

Looking around his office, one notices an abundance of awards, as Tom is committed to personal community involvement, just as much as he is professionally committed to economic development.



People talk about the economic impact of the “Texas Triangle.” This is the area covered in the Dallas/Ft. Worth region down to Houston and San Antonio and then back up to Austin/Waco and back to Dallas. “In 20 years, it will be the Texas rectangle because it will be expanded and extend over to Tyler. We have to be ready for the state’s growth,” Tom stated. There are diverse industries located in the area. There is a Fed EX and a Target distribution center just north of Tyler.

*“The connectivity of Toll 49 to I-20 was a key consideration for the developer of the Villages at Cumberland Park to start construction.”*

More recent growth includes a beverage distribution center that will cover 35 counties and have 100 employees. Sanderson Farms, the second largest processor of chicken in the country (about to overtake Pilgrim), has just located in East Texas as well. This is a \$225 million investment bringing with it 1,700 jobs. The Sanderson Farms project located in this area because of transportation infrastructure. This includes I-20, Toll 49, and rail. Last January, the city of Tyler boasted the addition of 700 new jobs. Mullins is always keeping his eye on a diversification of employers. Deliberate planned growth and diversification is key. Smith County, as a whole, enjoys a significant amount of large employers and a great diversification of industry. This includes UT Health East Texas, CHRISTUS Trinity Mother Frances, Brookshire Grocery Company, TISD, Trane and Suddenlink to name a few.





## MEET THE PLANNERS: MINEOLA



Thirty minutes north of Tyler in Mineola, Mercy Rushing, the Mineola City Manager and Executive Director of the Economic Development Corporation is hungry for a piece of

the infrastructure pie. She has made it happen for her area by working with others including Tyler, Walmart, and her economic development corporation board. The city is celebrating 30 years as a Texas Main Street City and in May as a Continuous National Main Street City. She coined the phrase, "Come to Mineola, visit downtown and do nothing", appealing to the big city residents to visit for a weekend of rest and relaxation.

"Toll 49 has really helped Mineola. Mineola is a bedroom community. People can live here and work in Tyler or Longview. "Mineola's residents can be at the airport in 18 minutes due to Toll 49," Rushing stated. Not only has Toll 49 made a significant impact in the area, rail has as well. Amtrak has allowed residents and East Texans departing from Mineola to be in Dallas in 1.45 hours and Ft. Worth in a mere two hours. She continued, "People can plan a day. Come to Mineola and go back home very relaxed. All in the same day".

Toll 49, as a part of the regional infrastructure, continues to be a significant player in the region's growth. It has allowed industry to come, supply chains to streamline, and jobs to be added to the area. The one outstanding question that should still be in people's minds is, what will move into the area next?

Hardest part of the job: "The challenges of working within a structure of county government that is decentralized by design of the legislature. I work with twenty-eight independently elected officials, each of whom are only accountable to their electorate. So, I've had to learn to serve as a hub of communication with each of them, to seek out their input, and to collaborate with all of them to solve the myriad of issues facing the County."

*"Toll 49 has really helped Mineola. Mineola is a bedroom community. People can live here and work in Tyler or Longview. "Mineola's residents can be at the airport in 18 minutes due to Toll 49."*





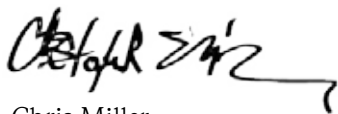
## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

As Executive Director, it is my great honor to report that 2018 was a year of significant achievement for the NET RMA. Through the leadership and direction of the NET RMA Board of Directors, the hard work and dedication of the NET RMA staff, contractors and collaboration with the NET RMA's many partners throughout Northeast Texas, the following achievements were made:

- » Lindale Relief route: opened to the traveling public in November 2018
- » Completed various improvements: increased volume of rumble strips and reflectors, created 2 to 4-foot medians, expanded 3 miles of passing lanes to more than 14.4 miles of passing lanes.
- » Launched Environment Impact Study for the potential future expansion of Toll 49 (Segment 6).
- » Worked cooperatively with the current member counties for the expansion of membership to include Camp and Cass Counties.
- » Awarded \$500K in priority projects last year (total \$1.4M over 3 years)
- » Continued enhanced maintenance on the entire road
  - 94 lane miles maintained
  - 80 tons of debris removed
- » Continued effort to acquire railroad right-of-way benefiting the cities of Troup and Whitehouse.
- » Transitioned to new back office provider.
- » Hired Court liaison and Transportation Specialist/Transportation Inspector.

I have enjoyed working hand-in-hand with our board members and County Judges during the last three years. I am excited about the role the NET RMA is playing in the region and the future of transportation mobility in East Texas. As the agency works closely with its board members and County Judges, we will continue to focus on strategic, economic and practical mobility issues in the Region. I am proud of past accomplishments of the NET RMA and look forward to continuing to help the agency grow and achieve more in the years to come.

Sincerely,



Chris Miller  
*Executive Director, NET RMA 2018*



**Chris Miller**  
Executive Director



# NORTH EAST TEXAS REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY

Actual and Budgeted Revenues and Expenses for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018 and Budgeted Revenues and Expenses for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2019.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	FY 2018 ADOPTED BUDGET	FY 2018 ACTUAL	FY 2019 ADOPTED BUDGET
Revenue:			
Toll revenue - electronic	10,286,000	9,110,954	12,751,903
Toll revenue - video	4,478,000	3,850,678	5,465,101
County contributions	36,000	46,000	36,000
Income on investments	314,000	493,824	250,000
Interest income	64,562	440,350	130,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	15,178,562	13,941,806	18,633,004
Expenses:			
Administration	1,633,705	1,779,028	1,957,819
General engineering consultants	456,040	277,091	379,437
Project development support	500,000	473,253	600,000
Roadway maintenance	1,047,760	1,547,790	1,186,300
Toll processing/collection costs	1,015,165	891,107	1,014,316
Toll maintenance support	400,000	409,405	544,597
Toll operations support	304,265	331,701	305,227
Seg 3B replace asphalt expense	0	129,701	0
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$ 5,356,935	\$ 5,839,076	\$ 5,987,696
<b>Net Before Financing Costs</b>	\$ 9,821,627	\$ 8,102,730	\$ 12,645,308
Financing Costs			
Interest expense	5,637,288	3,446,722	7,194,841
<b>Net After Financing Costs</b>	\$ 4,184,339	\$ 4,656,008	\$ 5,450,467
Other Non-Cash Expenses			
Depreciation expense	6,520,000	6,377,681	6,550,000
<b>TOTAL OTHER NON-CASH EXPENSES</b>	\$ 6,520,000	\$ 6,377,681	\$ 6,550,000
<b>Change In Net Assets (Decrease)</b>	\$ (2,335,661)	\$ (1,721,673)	\$ (1,099,533)









1001 East Southeast Loop 323  
Suite 420

Tyler, TX 75701

903.630.7894

[NETRMA.org](http://NETRMA.org)

