

**Vision 2020 Infrastructure Meeting Notes  
April 20, 2010**

The Infrastructure Committee of Vision 2020 met on April 20, 2010, at 8:00 a.m. at the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce. Present were Amanda Anderson, Susie Cardwell, David Collmorgen, Scott Cooper, James Flournoy, Paul Parker, Tara Watkins, and Dorothy Wilson, with Bob Brown presiding.

Bob Brown opened the meeting at 8:00 a.m. with a welcome to all. Progress on the Infrastructure initiatives was reviewed by each group as follows.

**Green Infrastructure** (Bob Brown in the absence of Ellen Temple)

- The Highway 59 reforestation with East Texas native landscaping has begun thanks to Temple Foundation, TxDOT, and the City of Lufkin's commitment to maintain the site.
- Texas Parks & Wildlife has approved the first Neches River Paddling Trail between Anderson Crossing and the Highway 7 bridge. They will meet on April 27<sup>th</sup> to work out the details. The dedication will take place at the Neches River Rendezvous on June 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The City of Lufkin has approved the extension of Hurricane Creek (Azalea) Trail to Angelina College.
- Work will begin soon on the Cassel Boykin Trail.
- The City of Lufkin has applied for a grant to build a sidewalk link between Chambers Park and Grace Dunne Richardson Park.
- The City of Lufkin passed stronger Tree Preservation and Landscape Ordinances in February—a major milestone.

**City of Lufkin** (*Dorothy Wilson*)

- Census - The City is still very focused on the Census. The figures are looking good for Angelina County with only 2 points behind the national average and 4 points above the state average. They worked the Downtown Hoedown this past weekend and gave out about 40 forms, along with many balloons. They average giving out about 5 forms a day from the office. Training is still going on in preparation for the door-to-door version, which starts next week. They have hired about 250 people for Angelina County and are still hiring.
- Natural History Museum – Dr. Neil Naranjo will be opening a museum and is bringing in a dinosaur.
- New Businesses - There are two new apartment complexes and a new storage company that are about to build in Lufkin/Angelina Chamber of Commerce

**Angelina Beautiful/Clean** (*Amanda Anderson*):

- ABC just finished planting 25 trees in each of the surrounding communities.
- Prescription Medication Day starts on Wednesday at Abeldt's Gaslight Pharmacy.
- The Trash Off is this Saturday.
- May 8<sup>th</sup> is the Household Hazardous Waste Day with sponsors and local businesses helping to dispose of the waste properly.
- The Shred It Day was a success with over 4 tons of paper shredded.
- The Tire and Battery Day was a huge success.

**Lufkin Independent School District** (*Scott Cooper*)

- LISD is working around the budget shortcomings with transportation and slowly replacing the older high-mileage buses.
- Hackney school should be ready this fall to start classes again.
- The Appraisal Fly Over should be available on line some time in April.

**Lufkin Convention and Visitor's Bureau** (*Tara Watkins*)

- Springtime is bringing a lot of family reunions to Lufkin.
- Tara booked 3 weddings at Cassels-Boykin and three smaller fishing tournaments.
- The American Lady Anglers want to have their kickoff at Cassels-Boykin in March and their competition in September. The organization size is about 500.
- The Texas Surveyors Conference is booked for Spring 2011 and the Animal Control Conference will be in May 2010.
- There is a lady with a large film crew that will be staying in Lufkin to produce a film at the Paper Mill.
- The Lufkin Daily News is going to run an upbeat article to promote the easy use of the Cassels-Boykin new boat ramp and to deter the misconception of it being too steep for non-4-wheel vehicles.

**Economic Development** (*James Flournoy*):

- Industrial Park – The entrance and retention pond are ready to bid out shortly.
- Sidewalks in Lufkin – Lufkin has applied for funding for sidewalks connecting Chamber Park and Grace Dunn Park, but has not yet received them.
- Huntington – They have street problems and funding should be coming.
- Diboll - The park project is complete and is all open

**Transportation** (*David Collmorgen*):

- The flyover is now open on the Loop 287 at 59.

- "TLL Temple Foundation with the strong support of Buddy and Ellen have contributed an additional \$615,000 to landscape the new highway construction areas coming into Lufkin. The construction should be complete by the first of June.
- The north loop project is scheduled for June of 2012 with funding of about \$43 million. TxDot will begin buying right of ways.
- The Highway 59 underpass at 2021 is now funded.
- Clearing land has begun on the Highway 94 project. There are 5 bridges that need to be replaced. A canoe launching area is to be built when the bridges are complete, but this is not a TxDot project.

**City of Lufkin (Paul Parker):**

- Sales tax revenue is down about 8% from last year at this time
- New bond money will help with street work on Sayers and Joyce at Fuller Springs and also with a new central fire station.
- Water lines from Lufkin to Diboll will connect to Diboll as their secondary water supply.
- Kit McConnico Park is on its way to being repaired with lights be replaced and soon the new concession stand will be started. They will be ready to host ballgames by May.
- Reforestation project with Buddy and Ellen Temple will be beautiful. It will be about a \$1 million project.
- The City is looking at welcome signs for all major entrances.
- Some of the trees downtown have been replaced.
- The Civic Center is going to be expanded with federal money to more than double its current size. It may be operable by this time next year. Work on the parking lot may begin within the next three months.
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**Next Meeting:**

Please mark June 15<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for our next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.