LET US BE YOUR GUIDE
Exploring TxDOT’s Historical Resources
WHO IS THE ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS DIVISION?

- TxDOT historians and archeologists
- Run a variety of programs:
  - Beyond the Road Campaign
  - Archeology and History
  - Texas Historic Bridges
  - Storm Water Programs
  - Ozone Action Days
  - Mitigation Banks
  - Drive Clean Texas
TYPES OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE

- Digital
  - Websites
  - Maps
  - Photographs
  - Historic contexts
  - Road plans
- Paper Files
  - Bridges
  - Roadside parks
  - Depression-era roads and bridges
  - Works Progress Administration Records
TYPES OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE

- Historic Road Infrastructure of Texas Multiple Property Nominations
- Story Maps
- Historic American Engineering Record Documentation
- Photo Library
- *Texas Highways* Magazine Archives
- Archeology Library

...and more!
1. TxDOT home page: www.txdot.gov

2. Environmental Affairs Division: https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/environmental.html

Other Resources:

Texas Historical Commission
http://www.thc.texas.gov/

Library of Congress
https://www.loc.gov/

Texas State Library and Archives
https://www.tsl.texas.gov/
1. Texas General Land Office:


- Based on historical maps, research, and data
- GIS and GPS systems
- Interactive maps and map layering

2. Texas Historic Overlay

https://tnris.org/data-catalog/entry/txdot-texas-historic-overlay/

- GIS-based resource
- Guide to archeological and cultural sites
- Created to provide information for transportation project planning
DIGITAL RESOURCES – Maps, Historic Bridges

What?
Interactive map of eligible and listed NRHP bridges.

Why?
Created to reference data of historically significant, or already examined, bridges in Texas.

Where?
Texas Historic Bridges

Keyword “Maps” at www.txdot.gov for more information!
DIGITAL RESOURCES - Photo Library

- Free to the public
- We transfer images digitally
- Request images by email or phone
- Photos are not available online, so make an appointment to visit the lab:
DIGITAL RESOURCES – Historic Contexts

What?
A historic context gives you a general overview about a topic during a specific time period in a particular place.

Who?
Educators, Teachers, Museum Specialists, Interested Researchers, You!

Topics?
- Gas Stations
- Industrial Properties
- Irrigation in Lower Rio Grande Valley
- Historic Motels, 1950-1970
- South Texas Ranching
- Texas Aviation
- Roadside Parks
- Texas Adobe
- Historic Agricultural Processing Facilities
- Central Texas Agriculture
- Agricultural Landscape Development Along US 277

2. In the upper right hand corner, search “Historic Resources Toolkit”

3. Select the first option
DIGITAL RESOURCES – Historic Road Infrastructure
DIGITAL RESOURCES – Road Plans

What?
Maps showing:
- Landscaping
- Names of adjacent owners
- Building outlines and uses
- Width of road
- Materials of road
- Historic maps
DIGITAL RESOURCES – Road Plans

Plan Sets:
- Function like Sanborns
- Provide larger, general maps of the area
- Drainage details
- Realignments and bypass jobs
- Land use
- Ownership

Where?
- Contact at TxDOT historian!
PAPER FILES – Archeology

What?
Archeology project files
- Includes cemeteries, project sites, and impact evaluations
- Archeology Magazines
- Provides information about archeological excavations and findings

Where?
TxDOT Archives – contact a TxDOT historian or archeologist for more information!
What?

- History project files
- National Register of Historic Places evaluations
- Texas Historic Overlay project files
- Documented mitigation efforts
- Historic bridge research and construction files
  - Includes some images and original blueprints

Where?

Contact a TxDOT historian for a digital copy of our records!

Why?

These records show:

- Lead Architects
- Past and Current bridge and road conditions
- Pictures
- Historic context on the area
- Resulting construction projects
- Efforts to reduce the impact of TxDOT projects
Who?
The WPA was created as a New Deal program in 1935. It employed many people to work on public works projects – like constructing buildings, roads, parks, and bridges.

What?
Paper records include information about bridges, roads, and parks built by the WPA

Where?
Contact a TxDOT historian for a digital copy
Keyword: “Kid’s Publications”

We are always adding new publications, so remember to check back often!
OTHER RESOURCES – Story Maps

What?
Interactive tool with:
- Pictures
- Video links
- Maps
- Historic stories

Topics?
- Historic Gas Stations
- Historic Highways
- Roadside Discoveries
- Segregated Austin
- Mammoth Watch
2018

Where?
Keyword: “Beyond the Road”
Send inquiries to:

Texas Department of Transportation
Environmental Affairs Division
125 E. 11th Street
Austin, TX 78701

512.416.3001

or by email: https://www.txdot.gov/contact-us/form.html?id=env-email