

Jefferson County Commissioner

Brent A. Weaver

Road & Bridge Precinct 2

News Release

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New Craigen Road Bridge Open to Traffic

The Craigen Road Bridge was closed in May of 2010 due an underwater inspection by TxDOT that revealed the bridge piling had extensive structural deterioration.

Upon taking office in January of 2011, Commissioner Brent Weaver of Road & Bridge Precinct 2 and our engineering department pushed the project forward. Bids were received in February; APAC of Beaumont was awarded the bid at a cost of \$801,907. The funding for this project was provided by the TDRA CDBG Disaster Recovery Grant Program. In March APAC began work to remove the existing bridge; which was a length of (130') and replace it with a new concrete bridge with a length of (330') . Since then, we have been diligently working to ensure the bridge and roadway was open by the end of January 2012. While the bridge was closed our Precinct Road crews rebuilt the section of Craigen Road near the bridge. We are pleased to report the new bridge and new roadway was opened on Friday, January 13th 2012 after the completion of a challenging construction schedule that called for a much longer bridge and the newest specifications to enhance safety and life span of the bridge. The new bridge meets current standards; therefore the load posting will no longer be necessary on the bridge.

We appreciate everyone's cooperation during this construction. We understood from the beginning this was an important transportation route for school bus traffic and citizens in the Fannett area. We still have a few cosmetic small items to complete; this work will NOT cause the roadway or bridge to be closed. However, please be aware we will have road crews out on the roadway during this process and please observe all warning signs posted for work crew safety.

Drainage District 6 is currently undertaking a vast drainage improvement to the Taylor Bayou watershed. Part of the improvement is the widening of the North Fork of Taylor Bayou at the location of the Craigen road bridge. The new bridge was built long enough to accommodate the wider channel.

The county roadway and bridge construction program is essential to our rural areas in order to maintain our county roads and bridges. If you have any questions; please contact the Jefferson County Road & Bridge Pct 2 -Road Division at 727-2173. Please visit the Precinct 2 website by going to www.co.jefferson.tx.us and clicking on the Commissioner's Court link and then click on Commissioner Brent Weaver Pct. 2. --Or go directly to <http://co.jefferson.tx.us/prct2/BrentWeaver.htm>



