



# Arkansas HIGHWAYS

Summer 2012 || A PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY & TRANSPORTATION DEPT.

## State's New Heritage Trail System

AHTD HELPS TO MARK HISTORIC TRAILS



Voters  
APPROVE NEW  
**IRP**

P&R HOSTS  
Documentary  
FILM CREW

**HWY 65**  
Widening  
COMPLETED



## DIRECTOR'S Message

**T**he summer months are a busy time for all of us here at the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department.

Our construction crews are taking advantage of the warmer weather to make road improvements statewide. Our 2012 overlay program is well under way. A \$50 million annual overlay budget is allowing us to resurface literally hundreds of miles of highways this year across the State. This means a new, safer driving surface for those traveling our State in the months ahead.

This summer, revenue from the Natural Gas Severance Tax is providing an additional \$30 million for overlays. Funds from this tax are being utilized for resurfacing highways in the Fayetteville Shale area of north central Arkansas.

The improvements that these two programs bring about are vital in allowing us to keep our highways in the best shape possible.

In addition to resurfacing projects taking place this summer, the Department will begin making improvements on our Interstates beginning at the end of this year under the new Interstate Rehabilitation Program. In a special election last November, voters overwhelmingly approved renewing a \$575 million bond program for our Interstate system. Between 75 and 80 projects are expected to be let to contract that will allow us to rebuild over 450 miles of Interstate highways. The new program will be financed by Federal funds and the existing four cents per gallon tax on diesel fuel dedicated for this purpose. With these improvements, Arkansas's Interstate system will become one of the best in the country.

Let me mention another opportunity to improve our highways coming before voters this November. It is a temporary ½-percent increase in the state sales tax. Approval at the voting booth would fund a \$1.8 billion program that would allow us to construct and improve four-lane highways in Arkansas over the next ten years. If this proposal passes, not only would our highways benefit, cities and counties would benefit greatly through increased turnback revenues. A new State Aid City Streets program would also be created. This program would be similar to our State Aid County Road program that has been used to improve county roads since 1973. Many miles of city streets could be constructed or maintained under this new program.

The vote in November is an opportunity that we, as Arkansans, need to take a close look at and consider. It will bring significant improvements to our highways, county roads and city streets in the years ahead.

This time of year our highways are busier than ever with motorists traveling on vacation. Our construction crews around the State will be busy as well as they work to keep our highways in top shape. And behind the scenes, I know all of us will be working hard to meet the demands of providing a good highway system for those traveling in Arkansas.



*Scott D. Bennett*  
Director of Highways and Transportation

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**FRONT COVER:**  
Scenic U.S. Highway 7  
Perry County

**BACK COVER:**  
Arkansas Welcome Center – El Dorado  
Highway 167  
Union County

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Arkansas's Heritage Trail system was officially announced at an event hosted by the Department of Arkansas Heritage in March 2012.

# ARKANSAS'S Heritage Trail System

At the 88<sup>th</sup> and most recent legislative session at the State Capitol, legislators passed Act 728 which established a State historic trail system known as the Heritage Trail System.

With the cooperation of the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism and the Department of Arkansas Heritage, the AHTD is furnishing and installing signs identifying the trails on the new system.

To qualify for the Arkansas Heritage Trail system, a trail or route must have been established by historic use and must be historically significant to Arkansas or the nation as a result of that historic use. Examples would include trails established in years past for trade, commerce, exploration, migration, settlement or military campaigns.

There are four such heritage trails presently in the system that document land and water routes. The first of those

is the Arkansas Trail of Tears. Following the election of Andrew Jackson in 1828, long-held desires for the lands of the Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek, Chickasaw and Seminole Indians came to fruition with the federal Indian Removal Act of 1830. This act allowed the forcible removal of the five tribes to new lands in the Indian Territory (modern-day Oklahoma). All five tribes passed through Arkansas. Hundreds of members of each of the tribes died of hardship and disease on the long trek to Indian Territory, and many more died of hardship in their new land. The removal of the southeastern tribes is memorialized as the "Trail of Tears."

The second trail is the Butterfield Overland Trail. John Butterfield, a former

stagecoach driver from New York, established the Butterfield Overland Mail Route in 1858 with the goal of connecting the Mississippi River and the Pacific Ocean, delivering mail far faster than by sea. Lines were established from Missouri to Fort Smith and then points west, and from Memphis to Fort Smith, with a side-run to Little Rock. The Butterfield Overland Trail was eclipsed by the faster Pony Express in 1860, and Civil War bushwhackers and hostile Indians in the west spelled an end for the company by 1861. The Butterfield Overland Mail Trail Route is currently being considered as a possible National Historic Trail.

The Southwest Trail is the third trail on the Heritage Trail System.



Civil War Trail, Pea Ridge



Southwest Trail, Conway



Southwest Trail, Old Washington



Trail of Tears, Vill Creek



Butterfield Trail

The Southwest Trail is a general term for the network of routes connecting the St. Louis/St. Genevieve area of Missouri and the Red River Valley of Texas. In Arkansas, what had been little more than a footpath before Arkansas became a territory in 1819 became a major emigration route in the 1820s. More than four-fifths of Arkansas's population by the 1830s had entered the territory along the Southwest Trail. The road was improved by the U.S. Army during Andrew Jackson's presidency. The section north of the Arkansas River saw its use decline during the late nineteenth century, but the route south of there was still in use for decades afterwards.

The final trail on the system is actually a group of Civil War Trails. There are eight Civil War trails in Arkansas and this system recognizes those. They include the Prairie Grove, Pea Ridge and Little Rock campaigns, the Camden Expedition, the Price Raid Route,

Cabell's Route to Fayetteville and two Confederate Approaches (Helena-West Helena and Pine Bluff).

"It's so important for us to remember where we come from and to honor what Arkansas was like in its early days as a territory and new state," Cathie Matthews, Director of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, stated at a news conference for the trail system held on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

"People are already calling the Department of Parks and Tourism and Department of Arkansas Heritage asking about the signs they are spotting in their travels," stated Richard Davies, the State Parks and Tourism Director.

The Highway and Transportation

Department has been busy installing signs along Arkansas highways.

"We've put up about 670 signs at this point," adds Tony Sullivan, AHTD State Maintenance Engineer. "We estimate we are about 40 to 45 percent complete at this time. All of the signs should be up by summer's end."

More trails could be added to the system in the future. The AHTD is consulting with the Department of Parks and Tourism, the Arkansas History Commission and the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program to determine the feasibility of designating additional trails as heritage trails.

In the meantime, with warm weather here, it is the perfect time of year to get outside and enjoy the weather, the beautiful scenery and take in some of Arkansas's rich history along these trails. For more information on the Arkansas Heritage Trail System, visit [www.arkansasheritagetrails.com](http://www.arkansasheritagetrails.com). ■



## P&R Lands DOCUMENTARY FILM ROLE for Innovative Use of Software

**W**hen the Planning and Research Division of AHTD began looking for a low-cost software tool to assist in graphically reporting factors related to vehicular crashes on the highway system, they settled on the use of the Incident Analyst software as their tool. Little did they know that the maker of the tool, Intergraph Corporation, would be listening and learning.

Intergraph had developed the software primarily for use by police and fire departments in order to identify patterns of crime and emergency activity and “hot spot” analysis. The Planning and Research Division was able to apply the same principles to crashes on the highway system.

The Division started using the software in April of last year. They found that Incident Analyst allowed them to quickly compile maps and charts that reflected the tabular crash data. Using the Incident Count function, it was found that the number of events

that occurred within any spatial area such as districts, counties or cities could be identified quickly. With the simple and advanced “Hot Spot” tools, areas that show high densities of events also could easily be identified. This allowed staff to quickly recognize areas along the highway system that may need further safety analysis. Other features, such as the change over time function, were found to be useful in spotting peak times for crashes by month, day or hour.

Intergraph Corporation found that the Department’s use of their Incident Analyst software was very innovative. As a result, company representatives came to visit the Department in December. They brought a film crew to document the Division’s innovative usage. The crew interviewed Sharon Hawkins, Section Head of Mapping and Graphics, and Jessie Jones, Assistant Division Head, regarding the Department’s role in safety analysis and how the Department collected and analyzed data. Hawkins and

Jones shared how the Incident Analyst software was used to improve traffic crash analysis.

With all of the lighting equipment, multiple camera angles and retakes, the scene more resembled a news set than a simple video interview. Intergraph intends to use the video to show other transportation agencies this innovative use of their software.

The video can be seen on the Internet at YouTube. In the search box, type: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department — Incident Analyst. ■



The people of Arkansas have approved it, behind the scenes work is underway and now dates have been set for construction for a new **INTERSTATE REHABILITATION PROGRAM.**

# INTERSTATE REHABILITATION PROJECTS Scheduled to Begin

**A**rkansas voters overwhelmingly passed the program in late 2011 and preliminary work has been underway for months.

“The people of Arkansas did the right thing,” stated Governor Mike Beebe. “This program is creating jobs, improving safety on the highways and there are no new taxes.”

Improvements are planned on most of Arkansas’s Interstates including 30, 40, 55, 440, 530, 540 and 630.

“This program will allow us to make improvements to our Interstate system in areas that weren’t included in the last rehabilitation program,” stated AHTD Director Scott Bennett.

“At the same time, some areas that were covered last time will see improvements as well. Improvements will be made on the majority of our Interstates we have in the State.”

Construction for the Department’s first rehabilitation program got underway in 2000 and, in five years, improved nearly sixty percent of Arkansas’s Interstate highways. The program received national attention for its innovative construction techniques.

Even though construction for the new rehabilitation program is a few months away, work began long before the election last November.

The first task accomplished was to hire a financial advisor. The role of the advisor is to develop a financial plan that will maximize the amount of money available to the Highway Commission for projects. Stephens, Inc. signed a contract to perform that function in November of last year.

The Department also had to determine the type of work to be done on each of the projects.

For the new program, forty projects have already been scheduled over the next five years. The first four projects are scheduled to be let to contract in November of this year. Those jobs will be located on Interstate 40 in Pope County, Interstate 55 in Crittenden County, Interstate 530 in Pulaski and Saline Counties, and Interstate 540 in Sebastian and Crawford Counties.

After determining the type of construction on each job, a preliminary cost estimate and a payout schedule for each was made. While that was underway, plans and specifications for each job were being prepared.

The size of the Department’s design and support staff is adequate to handle the amount of work it has during a normal year. However, just as it did for the 1999 program, design consultants have been hired to assist with some of the extra work involved in developing the new projects. Ten consulting firms have been signed on for project development services.

The AHTD will be taking bids on the first series of bonds to finance the program on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Then it’s just a matter of months before construction begins.

At the end of this new Interstate Program, over 75% of the State’s Interstates should be in good condition with none being in poor condition. This will arguably make Arkansas’s Interstate System one of the best in the country. ■



(L. to R.) Highway Commissioner John Burkhalter, former U.S. Congressman Marion Berry, former State Senator Bobby Glover and Glover's granddaughter Miss Arkansas 2011 Kristen Glover.

## STUTTGART

### Railroad Overpass Dedicated

Highway Commissioner John Burkhalter represented the Commission in Stuttgart on December 16, 2011, to officially dedicate the new Highway 165 Stuttgart Railroad Overpass as the U.S. Congressman Marion Berry and State Senator Bobby Glover Overpass. Both honorees were in attendance for the sign unveiling.

"These are plain spoken individuals and great leaders of our State," said Commissioner Burkhalter. "I want to thank Congressman Berry and Senator Glover for their fine work and we are proud to be part of this honor for them today."

Burkhalter added that this is the second phase of the 2.5-mile Highway 165 Bypass that was opened in December of 2005.

Glover noted that when he was first elected, the people of Stuttgart asked him to support two things — a bypass and a railroad overpass.

"In 1988, the Highway and Transportation Department came over here and told the Stuttgart Transportation Advisory Committee that if they could come up with some federal money then the Highway Commission would move forward," Glover said. "And Congressman Berry just went out there and got us some federal money to make it happen."

Berry secured almost \$6 million of the \$18 million for the overpass. ■



## PARAGOULD

### Ground Broken for Bypass

#### FIRST OF FOUR HIGHWAY 412 PROJECTS



(LEFT) District 10 and Central Office employees break ground on the Paragould Bypass.

(BELOW) Senator Robert Thompson, Commissioner John Ed Regenold and AHTD Director Scott Bennett at the groundbreaking for the Paragould Bypass.

Highway Commissioner John Ed Regenold and Director Scott Bennett led a group of local leaders on April 18th to break ground on the first of four projects that will create two lanes of the ultimate four-lane Paragould Bypass.

"It extends the development to this side of town," said Regenold. "Jonesboro and Paragould are starting to grow together and I think this will be another good landmark for that growth on both sides."

Bennett noted that four phases will make up the 10 miles of new location for the bypass around the south side of Paragould. Initially, two lanes of the ultimate four-lane highway will be constructed.

This first project is for 5.2 miles of grading and structures work from Highway 49 South to Highway 412 East. Robertson Contractors was awarded the \$21 million contract and began work in late 2011. Completion is expected in summer 2014.

Environmental work is nearing completion for the 5.2 miles to connect the bypass from Highway 49 South to Highway 412 West. Plans for the bypass began in 2006.



AHTD Director Scott Bennett speaks at a luncheon hosted by the Paragould Chamber of Commerce.



Sue McGowan, Director of Economic Development and CEO of the Paragould Chamber of Commerce, said that area business leaders are looking forward to having the bypass.

"It will be good for Paragould," noted McGowan. "It will open up properties for development. We are appreciative of the investment being made to our infrastructure."

Attending the event from Central Office were Jessie Jones, Kenneth Scott, Steven Means and Barry Cruz. Staff from District 10 that attended include Walter McMillan, Brad Smithee and Shannon Luke. ■



(LEFT) Commissioner John Burkhalter addresses the crowd gathered for an event to “tie together” the cities of Pottsville and Russellville.

(Below L. to R.) Those attending the Highway 247 Bypass event included AHTD employees from District 8 and Central Office: Joe Knight, Danny Roy, Gary Buzbee, Scott Mullis, Glenn Bolick, Teresa Wright, Director Scott Bennett, Commissioner John Burkhalter, Keli Wylie, Don Nichols and Amy Heflin (of the Federal Highway Administration).



## POTTSVILLE // RUSSELLVILLE

### Highway 247 Bypass Completed

Highway Commissioner John Burkhalter and Director Scott Bennett welcomed dozens of visitors on May 11, 2012, to officially “tie together” the communities of Pottsville and Russellville with a ribbon instead of the traditional ribbon cutting.

“People refer to it as the new Russellville Bypass, but what it really does is tie Russellville, Pottsville and even Dardanelle together,” said Burkhalter. “What better way to celebrate than having a ribbon tying?”

Three separate contracts totaling \$37 million were awarded to construct the 8-mile bypass, according to Bennett. One contract widened existing Highway 247 from two lanes to five lanes. The other two contracts were

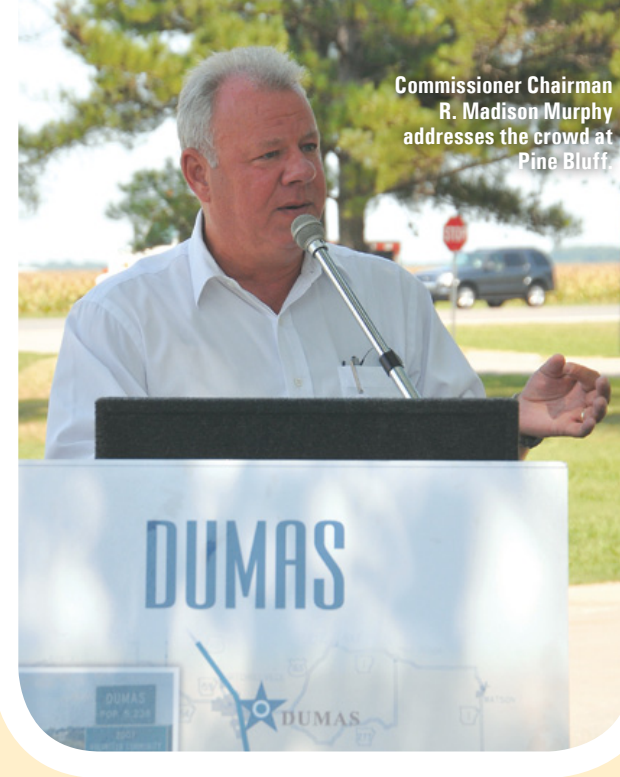
to construct a new location connection to Highway 64.

Highway 247 is now a five-lane connection from Highway 7 north of Dardanelle, through Pottsville to Highway 64. Access to Interstate 40 at the Highway 363 Exit was already in place.

Pope County Judge Jim Ed Gibson said the day was a true milestone for the area and predicted a growth in commercial development along the new corridor.

Pottsville Mayor Jerry Williams and Russellville Mayor Pro Tem Randy Horton also praised the opening of the new bypass.

Members of the Pottsville High School Band entertained the crowd before the ceremonies began. ■



Commissioner Chairman R. Madison Murphy addresses the crowd at Pine Bluff.



(L. to R.) Commissioner Chairman R. Madison Murphy, Federal Highway Administration – AR Division Administrator Sandy Otto, AHTD Director Scott Bennett, Ernie Westfall, and Scott Mullis in Pine Bluff celebrating the completion of the widening of Highway 65.

## PINE BLUFF to LAKE VILLAGE

### Highway 65 Widening Completed

#### FOUR LANES NOW OPEN

It was an extremely hot day on July 19, 2012, but it didn’t stop people from coming out to attend the official completion of the widening of Highway 65 from Pine Bluff to Lake Village. Events were held that morning in Dumas and in the afternoon in Pine Bluff.

Highway Commissioners Madison Murphy and John Burkhalter, along with AHTD Director Scott Bennett attended the celebration. Employees from Central Office attending included Ruby Jordan, Public Involvement Section Head in Environmental; Scooter Key, Pavement Profiling Technician in Planning & Research; Ray Scott, Surveys Crew Chief; Seth Hickman, Abstractor in Right of Way; and Jerry Trotter, Construction.

Desha County Judge Mark McElroy and Speaker of the House Robert Moore were special guest speakers in Dumas. Jefferson County Judge Mike Holcomb and Lester Melton (Jefferson County Industrial Foundation) were the Pine Bluff guest speakers.

“The significance of making Highway 65 a four-lane highway drives home the importance of a statewide grid system in Arkansas,” said Murphy. “Without that, it really puts us at an economic disadvantage.”

Bennett noted that construction on the final 4.4 miles of Highway 82 in Lake Village to the new bridge will be completed in 2013. “More than half of that new bridge is in Arkansas, so it is no longer the Greenville Bridge — it is the Lake Village Bridge,” said Bennett.

Nineteen contracts totaling over \$200 million were awarded to 12 different prime contractors for the widening work on Highway 65. Combined with the new Highway 82 widening and the Arkansas portion of the Highway 82 Mississippi River Bridge (\$133 million),

the total commitment to the corridor is almost \$350 million.

The first widening project was let to contract in March of 1988 for the construction of five bridge structures between Lake Village and Highway 35. Deon Construction of Warren, Arkansas, was awarded that \$3.9 million job and completed it in March of 1991.

The final two jobs on Highway 65 were completed in the summer of 2012. Graves and Associates had the \$16.6 million project in Gould and the Johnsville Company had the \$15.6 million job north of Dumas.

District 2 attendees included Ernie Westfall and Tim Kelly; and from the McGehee Resident Office, Gary Fletcher, Charles Smith, Denice Stitt, Chip LaGrone and Karen Davis. ■



## WORK ZONE SAFETY 2012

### Emphasizes Interstate 40 Conway Area

**A**ssistant Chief Engineer for Operations Emanuel Banks welcomed Conway area officials to a Work Zone Safety news conference on April 24, 2012. Construction on Interstate 40 in Conway was the setting.

Work Zone Safety is a national awareness campaign held each April when construction industry leaders emphasize public awareness of work zones and the need for added caution.

"This Interstate 40 widening project in Conway is one of the most highly traveled areas in the State with over 51,000 vehicles through here each day," said Banks. "Add hundreds of construction workers and suppliers to the area and the potential for conflict is there every day."



Conway Mayor Tab Townsell



Assistant Chief Engineer – Operations Emanuel Banks speaks at the Workzone Safety News Conference.

Mark Windle with contractor Manhattan Bridge, representing the Arkansas Chapter of the Association of General Contractors, and Danny Moore, with the American Traffic Safety Services Association, also spoke to the group.

Conway Mayor Tab Townsell gave a first-hand account of how the construction affects citizens of Conway since Interstate 40 goes through the middle of town. He advised that local residents get used to the construction and learn to be patient when traveling through the work zone.

Tips for driving through a construction zone include: Expect the unexpected, slow down, don't tailgate, keep a safe distance, pay attention to the signs, obey road crew flaggers and most of all just be patient. ■



Throughout the year, public meetings are held around the State in communities where roadwork is being planned. These meetings are an opportunity for citizens to hear about and respond to future highway construction happening in their area.

### HIGHWAY 13 EXTENSION – *Searcy*

A proposed plan to extend Highway 13, southwest of Searcy, from Highway 267 northward to Highway 36 was the subject of a Design Public Hearing in Searcy on October 4th of 2011. Approximately 90 residents from the surrounding area attended the meeting which was held at the Valley Baptist Church. Participants viewed displays, asked questions of the AHTD staff and provided written comments on the project design.

### HIGHWAY 7 – *Dover*

Dover Middle School was the sight of a Public Hearing held on December 6th of 2011. Area residents were on hand to learn more about a proposed project that would make improvements to Highway 7 on new location in the vicinity of Dover. A total of 70 people visited with AHTD staff and saw plans for three alternatives for the roadway in a new location.



### NEW CONNECTOR – *Ozark*

A Location and Design Public Hearing was held in Ozark on March 29th of this year to discuss plans for a new roadway for the city. Approximately 45 residents met with Department staff at Ozark High School to learn more about a constructing a new two-lane City Street connecting Highway 23 and Hillbilly Lane. The new roadway will provide better access to an area of the town that includes Ozark High School, the Franklin County Fairgrounds and West Side City Park.

### HIGHWAY 62 – *Green Forest*

A total of 158 people attended a Location Public Hearing at Green Forest School on June 21st of this year to hear about proposed plans to improve Highway 62 in the area. Plans call for widening the roadway on new location for two miles near Green Forest. Participants saw three location alternatives at the meeting.

### HIGHWAY 36/67 CONNECTOR – *Searcy*

The Downtown Church of Christ in Searcy was the scene of a Location Public Hearing on June 28th regarding a new connector for Highways 36 and 67 in the area. The meeting drew 145 residents attending to discuss alternatives for a two-lane highway on new location. Alternatives for improvements will connect Highway 36 on the west side of Searcy with Highway 67 on the north side of Searcy.



## Dear AHTD,

Last week I contacted a Boyd Dickey in your maintenance group about a problem with the lack of striping at the intersection of Highway 10 (Cantrell) and University. I have almost been sideswiped twice at this intersection within the last few weeks and wanted to see what could be done. I spoke with Boyd and explained the issue, and he said he would go to this location and see what, if anything, could be done. He also said that if it could be taken care of, he would get to it as quickly as possible. To my delight, and surprise, the intersection has been freshly striped as of yesterday.

Mr. Dickey was very professional and courteous in my dealings with him, and was a man of his word. I just wanted to let someone know how positive my interaction with him was.

Thanks,  
**Susann Walters**

### SPECIAL OLYMPICS SUPPORT

Please express our most sincere appreciation to your staff and officers for all the time and energy given to keep the Special Olympics "Flame of Hope" burning. The softball tournament, the golf tournament and the convoy have become signature events of the Arkansas Highway Police — for this we are most grateful.

Thank you again for all you do for Special Olympics Arkansas.

Most Sincerely,  
**Shelly Yielding**  
Director of Resource & Development  
Special Olympics Arkansas

### AHTD CHIVALRY

I wanted to take a moment to say thank you to three AHTD employees who stopped to help my daughter and me change a flat tire. We were on a busy highway near Bono, but no one else bothered to stop. Your employees stopped and were courteous and so helpful. Please extend my gratitude to Jason Orrick, Mitch Little and James Green of the Lawrence County Maintenance Crew. Their actions made my day brighter and proved that chivalry is still alive.

Thank you,  
**Tracy Henderson**  
Roxie, Arkansas

### AHTD ANGELS

On Monday, I was driving a State vehicle and had a blow out. I coasted to the side of the road, got my wits about me and then panicked. I was between Clarksville and Alma. Two of your finest (headquartered in Ozark) stopped to assist me. They were complete gentlemen and wouldn't accept a penny for their kindness. They had my tire changed in less than 5 minutes. On the back of one of the orange vest was "Cloos" and the license plate was 5859 (I think). I cannot tell you how grateful and how proud I am of your employees. They are literally the State's finest and to me Angels. I am so thankful for their help.

**Linda Morgan**, MS OTR/L, ATP, CEAS III  
AT@Work  
Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

*NOTE: The employees referenced in the above letter are David Bowles, Maintenance Aide I, and Mark Cloos, Maintenance Aide I, of the Area Maintenance Crew at Ozark — Franklin County.*

### ATTA BOY!

I want to give you and your staff a very much appreciated "Atta Boy" for the work that the AHTD has recently completed on our major city thoroughfares. The re-surfacing allows for much more efficient and smoother flow of traffic throughout our city and the citizens here are very pleased with the upgrades. Your continued outstanding support to our city and the region are truly appreciated. Thanks again.

**Frank Hash**  
Mayor of El Dorado, Arkansas

### TIRE CHANGE

I would like to give a big THANK YOU to this guy for stopping and helping me and my son change a tire after a blow out on the way to Little Rock Monday morning. He put the donut on and lead us into Newport so we could buy a tire. He wouldn't take any money from us but we are very thankful for him. You have a good employee in this guy.

**Robin Crowe**

*NOTE: The employee referenced in the above letter is Ronnie Mann, Distributor/Roller Operator, District 5.*

### TREMENDOUS HELP

I would like to commend Arkansas Highway Police Officer Sherman Whittle on the help and assistance he did for me on Interstate 30 Friday morning about 10:30 a.m. I had a flat and was changing it when Officer Whittle drove up, and helped me change the tire. I recommend Highway Police Officer Sherman Whittle get a promotion in due time. He deserves it. A fine officer and great human being. We need more officers like Policeman Whittle.

Wishing Continued Success to the Highway Police Department,  
**Harvey Purdy**

### SMOOTH RIDE

As a resident of Sherwood, I would like to extend my thanks for the repaving of Kiehl Avenue. I love the absence of potholes (which were really becoming a problem) and the smooth ride I enjoy every day... not to mention how good it looks!

I was incredibly impressed with the efficiency of the project. Each evening a small army of trucks, machinery and workers would descend upon Sherwood — and in the morning we would wake up to another quarter of the road either stripped or completed. The project was completed so rapidly I was shocked. So thank you to the project planners and to all the workers that made it happen.

Appreciatively,  
**Lorraine Darwin**

### EXCELLENT TRAINING

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Highway Police and Officer Gene Short in assisting J. B. Hunt on the Level I inspection training April 17 and 18. Officer Short did an excellent job ensuring we received the best possible information to complete our mission and educate our drivers. He represented the Arkansas Highway Patrol with poise and professionalism.

Officer Short's expertise brought credibility and realism in training J. B. Hunt operations and litigation and claims personnel. He spoke with clear knowledge of the subject and exhibited both intellect and integrity.

Sincerely,  
**Greer Woodruff**  
Senior Vice President, Corporate Safety  
J. B. Hunt Transport, Inc.

### DWI DETECTION PRESENTATION

On behalf of the Criminal Justice Institute, thank you and the Arkansas Highway Police for your continued support of the DWI Detection and Standardized Field Sobriety Test Program. This program was presented to a group of law enforcement officers April 25-27, 2012, held at NW ALETA in Springdale, and was well received by those in attendance.

I would especially like to extend our appreciation and thanks to Sgt. Tim Gushing and Cpl. Brian Harwood, AHP, who contributed greatly to the quality and standard of the program as instructors. The dedication of officers such as these greatly enhance the DWI program in Arkansas and help to reduce traffic fatalities in the State.

Thank you once again for your continued support for this valuable program.

Sincerely,  
**Jon Waldrip**  
Highway Safety Program Manager  
DWI/SFST/DRE Coordinator

### NEW CONCRETE

On behalf of Arkansas State Parks I want to express our appreciation and special thanks to you and your staff for your assistance in the removal and replacement of the deteriorated asphalt and concrete swale near the cabin registration building. Your assistance has been invaluable to us. Our partnership has allowed us to utilize the resources of the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) to enhance the visitor experience at one of the many great attractions Arkansas has to offer.

Our Departments have cooperated on numerous projects across Arkansas and we look forward to future endeavors. Thank you again for your assistance on a job well done. Please pass along our appreciation to the AHTD staff that completed the work.

Sincerely,  
**Greg Butts**  
Director  
Arkansas State Parks

### ABOVE AND BEYOND

We want to express our gratitude to the Arkansas Highway Police officers — Henson and Banks — at the West Memphis weigh station. On Tuesday, May 29, 2012, we were heading home across the Mississippi River Bridge from Tennessee to Arkansas when we ran over a large metal object that tore up the bottom of our motorcycle (a trike). We managed to get the bike to the weigh station where these men gave us great help in finding a tow to Forrest City and even the use of their personal phone to make the call to the Honda shop. We feel they went "above and beyond." We are so grateful for their care and concern.

Sincerely,  
**Chet and Eileen Upp**

*NOTE: The employees referenced in the above letter are Sergeant Lonnie Banks and PFC Juril Henson, Jr.*





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