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Director of Highways and Transportation



**ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT**



Jonesboro Regional  
Chamber of Commerce

March 10, 2016



# AHTD & Highway Commission History



# Prior to 1913

*“We are always yapping about the ‘Good Old Days’ and how we look away back and enjoy it, but I tell you there is a lot of hoey to it.”*

– Will Rogers





# The Teens

- ***First Commission Created***
  - ✓ ***No Highway Department***
  - ✓ ***No Highway System***
- ***3,600 Vehicles - \$72,000 Total Budget***
- ***36,000 Miles of Public Roads***

Highway 71 near Bella Vista



# The Twenties



Repair Shop of State  
Highway Department,  
Little Rock, early 1930s



- **Highway System Created**

- **Highway Department Created**

- **First Gas Tax – 1 cent per gallon**

- **200,000 Vehicles/8,800 highway miles (1,400 Paved)**

- **Highway Commission Structure Changed Twice**

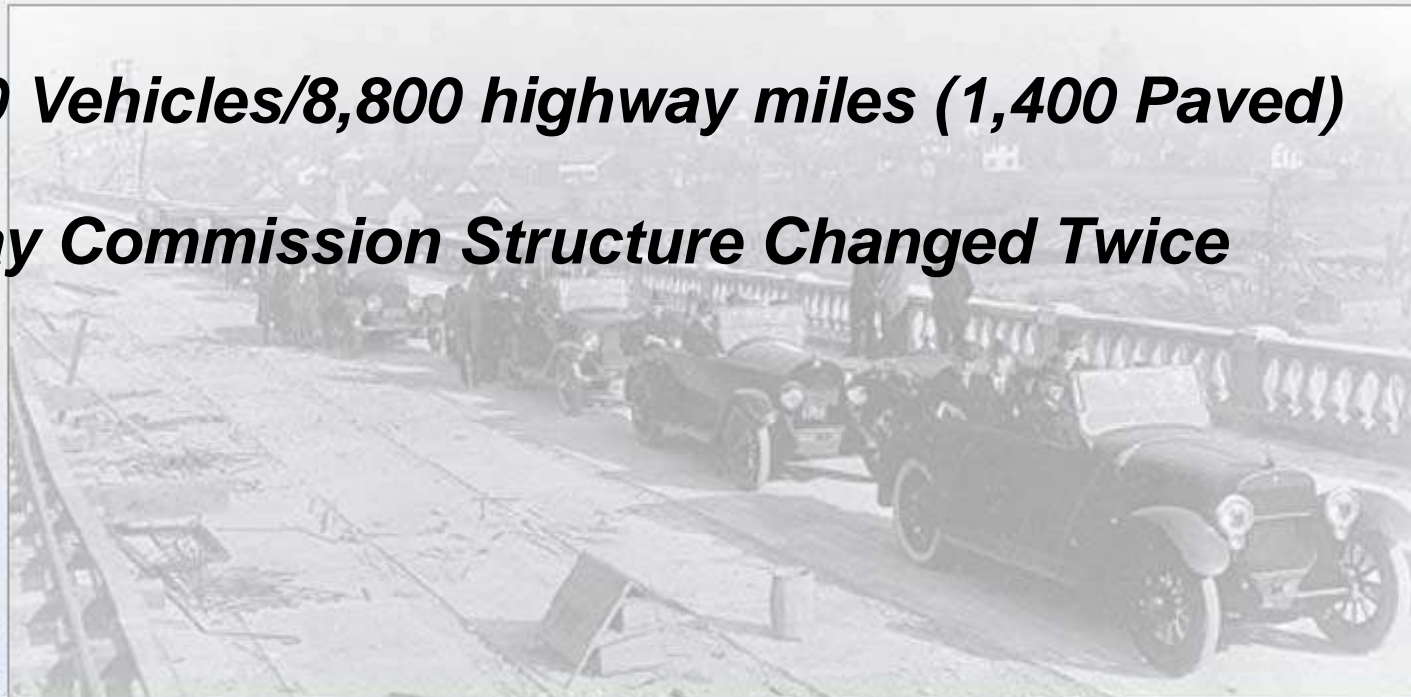
Highway Districts 1923



Highway Districts 1925

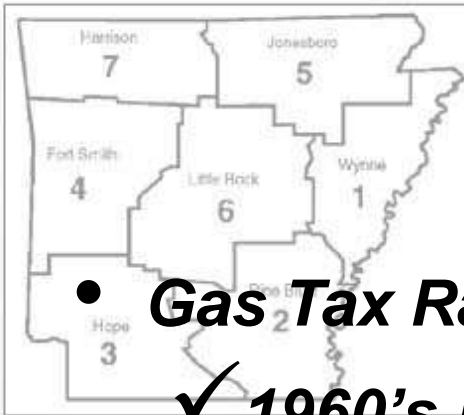


Broadway Bridge dedication,  
1922. View is looking towards  
North Little Rock





# The Thirties



- **Gas Tax Raised to 6.5 cents per Gallon**  
✓ **1960's Before Next Increase**



Magnet Truck. Picked up an average of 20 lbs of metal per mile

- **255,000 Vehicles; 9,300 Highway miles (3,000 Paved)**
- **Commission Structure Changed Two More Times**



State Highway Department HQ, 1939





# The Forties

- ***World War II – Major Influence***
- ***455,000 Vehicles; 9,700 Highway Miles (4,900 Paved)***
- ***Commission Structure Changed Two More Times***
- ***Too much Political Influence on Highways – Growing Discontent***

Operation of the Henderson Ferry at Norfolk Lake cost \$117,981 for 1947-48. During this period 189,856 vehicles were ferried over at an average cost of 62¢

Dillard's Ferry, a hand-cranked operation, crossed the Buffalo River at Highway 14 from 1929-1958.





# The Fifties



- **1951 - Highway Audit Commission Report**

- ✓ **“the advice, counsel and expert know-how which is available from the Department’s own technical and administrative staffs bear scant weight indeed when they are in conflict with the political pressures and political promises of the moment.”**
- **Interstate Era**
- **750,000 Vehicles**
- **11,000 Miles State Highways (8,800 Paved)**

- **9 Legislative Acts Restructured Commission since 1913**
- **1952 – Mack Blackwell Amendment**

Widening Hwy 67 near Malvern, 1956







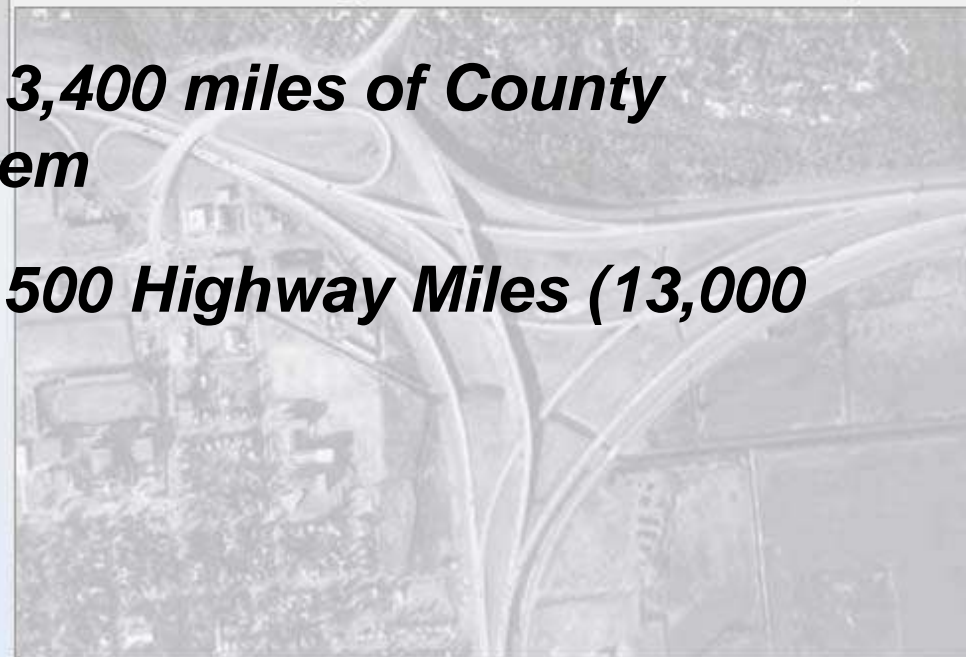
# The Sixties

- ***No changes to Commission Structure***
- ***Arkansas - National Forefront in Interstate Construction/Completion***
- ***Legislature transferred 3,400 miles of County Roads to Highway System***
- ***1.1 million Vehicles; 14,500 Highway Miles (13,000 Paved)***

Highway  
Department  
Complex at I-30  
/ Hwy 338, late  
1960s



Weights & Standards Division, AHD



North Terminal Interchange, 1962



# The Seventies

- **Department became Debt Free**
- **Legislature transferred nearly 1,000 more miles of County Roads to Highway System**

South Terminal Interchange



AHC Lawrence Blackwell burning hands at a ceremony in 1975.

- **Department adds “Transportation” to its name – Authority Expanded**

- **1<sup>st</sup> State to Complete its Interstate System (1975)**
- **1.7 million Vehicles; 16,000 Highway Miles (15,000 Paved)**



Toad Suck Ferry on Arkansas River at Highway 60, 1970

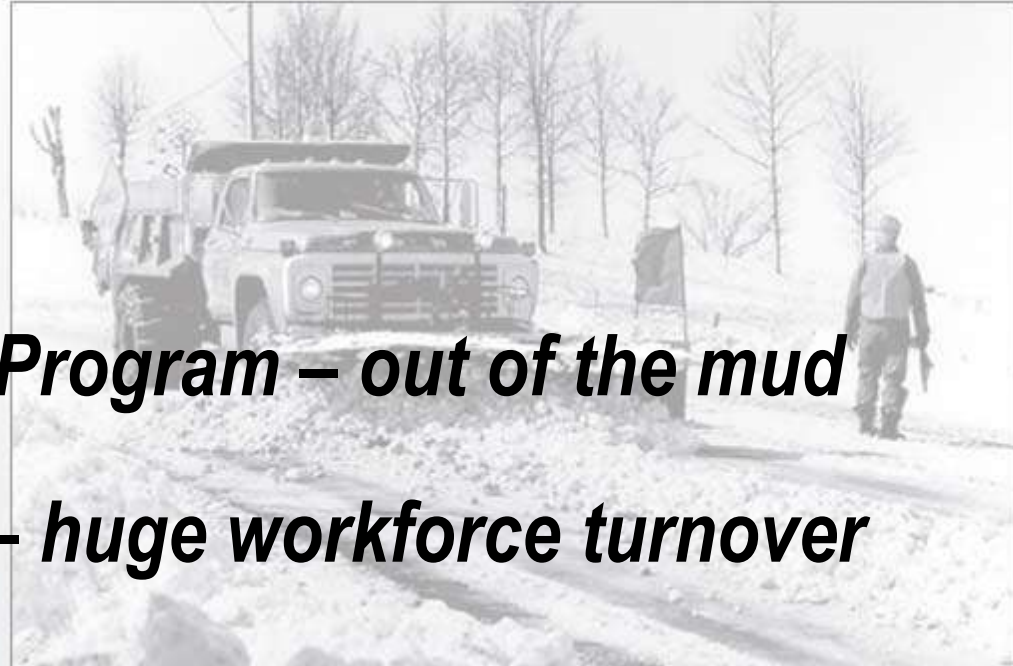


I-430 River Bridge, 1973



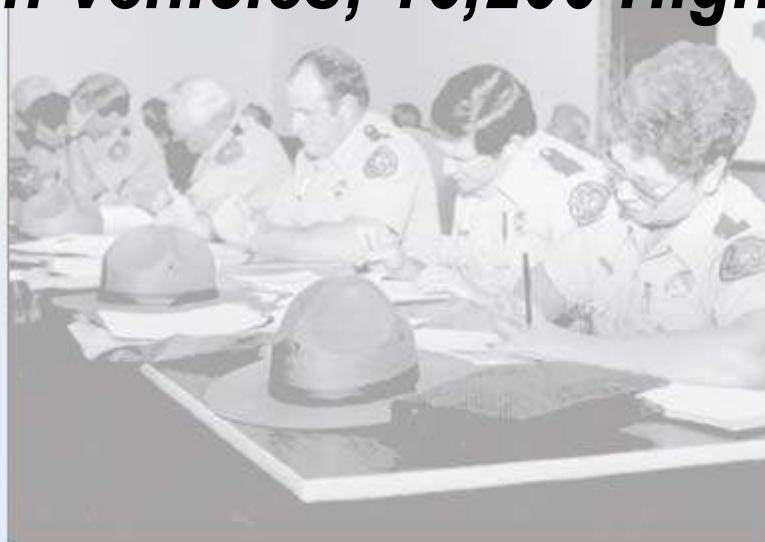


# The Eighties



- **1985 – Rural Road Program – out of the mud**
- **Early Retirements – huge workforce turnover**
- **2.0 million Vehicles; 16,200 Highway Miles**

East-West Alignment linking Hwy 270 W and Hwy 70 W in Hot Springs.



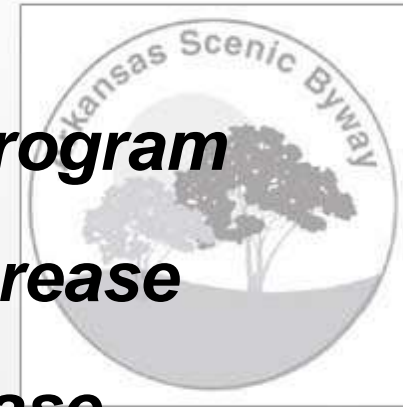
Removal costs reached \$4 M, 1984

Transportation Safety Agency, 1989



# The Nineties

- **1991 – Highway Improvement Program**
- **1993 – Last Federal Gas Tax Increase**
- **1999 – Last State Gas Tax Increase**
- **1999 – Interstate Rehabilitation Program –**



Section of Hwy 7  
named first Scenic  
Byway in Kansas.

## **First Highway Bond Issue in 50 years**

1991 Highway Improvement Program planned to improve or replace approximately 560 bridges.

- **I-540 (now I-49) and I-530 Completed**
- **2.1 million Vehicles; 16,400 Highway Miles**

Dedication of I-540 and Bobby  
Hopper Tunnel, 1999





# The New Millennium



- **2011 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Interstate Rehabilitation Program**
- **2012 – Connecting Arkansas Program**



Winter Weather in Dec 2000 and Jan 2001 cost almost \$40 M.

- **Governor's Working Group on Highway Funding**

- **3.0 million Vehicles; 16,400 miles State Highways**



New White River Bridge on Hwy 64 at Augusta opened in 2001.





# Legislation & Funding

# Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act

- Authorizes 5 Years of Funding
  - Federal Fiscal Years (FFYs) 2016-2020
- \$225.2 Billion for Highway Investment
- Over 5 Years:
  - \$20.2 Billion Increase from FFY 2015
  - \$250 Million Increase for Arkansas





# Funding Challenges

- **Additional State Highway Funds Needed to Match Federal Highway Funds**
  - ✓ Typically 80% Federal 20% State Funds
  - ✓ Use or Lose



# STATE FISCAL YEARS 2016-2020

## ESTIMATED STATE HIGHWAY REVENUE ANALYSIS

x \$1,000,000

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	AVG
<b>Sources and Revenues:</b>						
Motor Fuels and Registration Fees	\$ 356.4	\$ 358.2	\$ 360.0	\$ 361.8	\$ 363.6	
4¢ Diesel Tax - Committed to the Interstate Rehab. Program (IRP)	\$ 16.5	\$ 16.5	\$ 16.5	\$ 16.5	\$ 16.5	
Natural Gas Severance Tax	\$ 29.0	\$ 29.7	\$ 30.4	\$ 31.2	\$ 32.0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 401.9</b>	<b>\$ 404.4</b>	<b>\$ 406.9</b>	<b>\$ 409.5</b>	<b>\$ 412.1</b>	<b>\$ 407.0</b>
<b>Less Fixed Expenditures:</b>						
Maintenance	\$ 221.8	\$ 222.9	\$ 224.0	\$ 225.1	\$ 226.3	
Administration	\$ 21.8	\$ 21.9	\$ 22.0	\$ 22.1	\$ 22.2	
Operations	\$ 26.2	\$ 26.4	\$ 26.5	\$ 26.6	\$ 26.8	
Budgeted Construction w/o Right of Way	\$ 44.9	\$ 45.1	\$ 45.4	\$ 45.6	\$ 45.8	
IRP Debt Service	\$ 16.5	\$ 16.5	\$ 16.5	\$ 16.5	\$ 16.5	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 331.3</b>	<b>\$ 332.8</b>	<b>\$ 334.4</b>	<b>\$ 336.0</b>	<b>\$ 337.6</b>	<b>\$ 334.5</b>
Total State Highway Funds Available for Highway Construction Program	\$ 70.6	\$ 71.6	\$ 72.5	\$ 73.5	\$ 74.5	\$ 72.5
Less Required State Highway Matching Funds for Federal Highway Funds	\$ 116.7	\$ 119.4	\$ 121.9	\$ 124.8	\$ 127.8	\$ 122.1
<b>Shortfall in State Highway Matching Funds Needed for Federal Highway Funds</b>	<b>(\$ 46.1)</b>	<b>(\$ 47.8)</b>	<b>(\$ 49.4)</b>	<b>(\$ 51.3)</b>	<b>(\$ 53.3)</b>	<b>(\$49.6)</b>





# Funding Challenges

- **Additional State Highway Funds Needed to Match Federal Highway Funds**

- ✓ Typically 80% Federal Hwy. Funds are Matched by 20% State Hwy. Funds
- ✓ Use or Lose

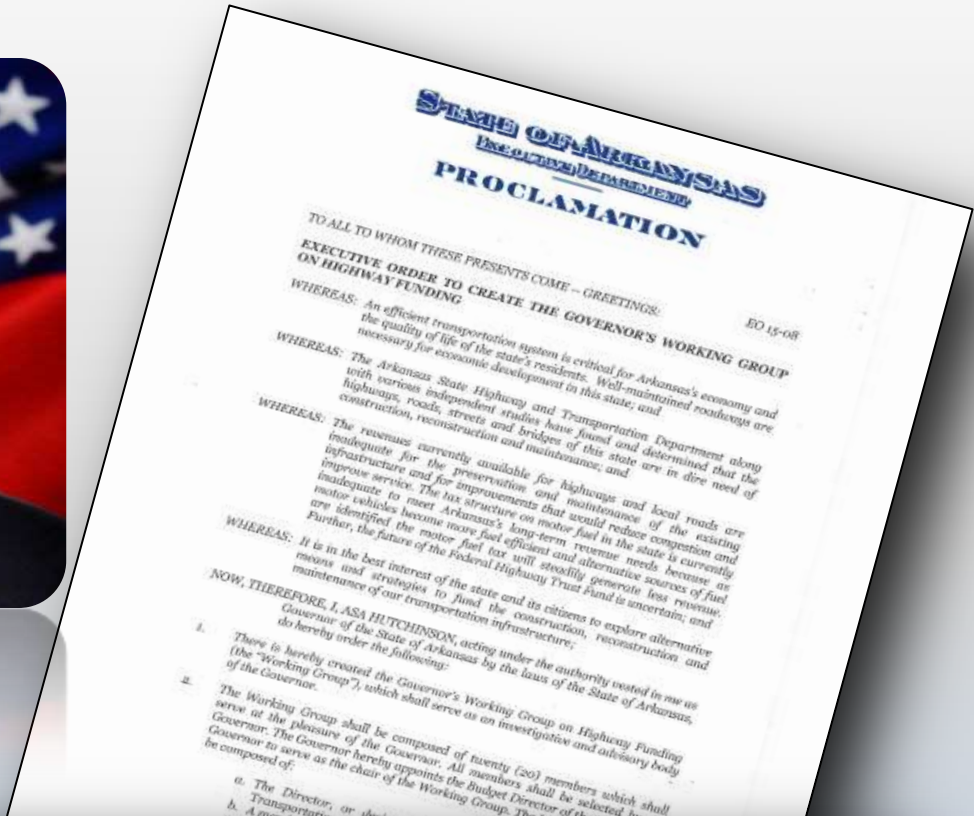
- **Reduction in Annual State Highway Revenue Available to Match Federal Highway Funds**

- ✓ Arkansas State Aid City Street Program - \$ 14 M
- ✓ Increased Maintenance Budget - \$ 18 M
- ✓ Declining Natural Gas Severance Tax Revenue - \$ 20 M

**Total Annual Reduction - \$ 52 M**



# Governor's Working Group on Highway Funding



**“An efficient transportation system is critical for Arkansas’ economy and the quality of life of the state’s residents.”**



# Governor's Working Group on Highway Funding

## GOALS

Needs	Net to AHTD (x \$1 M)	Cumulative Amount (x \$1 M)	Benefits
Immediate/Short-Term (within 2 years)	\$110	\$110	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Critical Needs</li><li>• Match Federal Highway Funds</li><li>• Overlays</li></ul>
Mid-Term (within 3-5 years)	\$140	\$250	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enhanced Maintenance Program<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Pavement Restoration of 50% of the State Highway System every 15-20 years</li></ul></li></ul>
Long-Term (within 6-10 years)	\$150	\$400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enhanced Economic Development Program</li></ul>
Ultimate (10+ Years)	\$1.68 Billion		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Economic Development Projects Completed<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ I-49, I-69</li><li>✓ Four-lane Grid System</li><li>✓ State of Good Repair for Bridges and Pavement</li><li>✓ AHTD Equipment Fleet – Average Age 8 Years</li><li>✓ All AHTD Facilities Modernized</li></ul></li></ul>



# Governor's Working Group on Highway Funding

## GOVERNOR'S WORKING GROUP ON HIGHWAY FUNDING

Short-Term Recommendation



December 15, 2015

Presented to:  
The Honorable Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Compiled and drafted by:  
Chairman Duncan Baird, State Budget Administration  
Tori B. Gordon, Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Asa





# Governor's Working Group on Highway Funding

January 19, 2016  
Press Conference





# Highway Funding Option Presented by Governor Hutchinson 2016 Special Session

Item	Source	2017 (x \$1M)	2018 (x \$1M)	2019 (x \$1M)	2020 (x \$1M)	2021 (x \$1M)
Transfer 2015 Unobligated Funds	Surplus	\$20.0				
Transfer from Governor	Rainy Day Fund	\$20.0				
Transfer Sales Tax New & Used Vehicles	General Revenue	\$ 1.5	\$ 8.0	\$15.0	\$20.0	\$25.0
Redirect Diesel Tax	General Revenue		\$ 2.7	\$ 2.7	\$ 2.7	\$ 2.7
Eliminate Deduction - Temporary ½ cent Sales Tax	State Central Services	\$ 5.4	\$ 5.4	\$ 5.4	\$ 5.4	\$ 5.4
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$46.9</b>	<b>\$16.1</b>	<b>\$23.1</b>	<b>\$28.1</b>	<b>\$33.1</b>

Estimate based on 10-Year Average

Allocate 25% of General Improvement Funding	Surplus		\$48.0	\$48.0	\$48.0	\$48.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$46.9</b>	<b>\$64.1</b>	<b>\$71.1</b>	<b>\$76.1</b>	<b>\$81.1</b>



# Funding Challenges

## GOVERNOR'S PROPOSAL



## SPECIAL SESSION







# Funding Challenges

## “Arkansas Works”

- Governor's Health Care Reform
  - Special Session--April 6
  - Fiscal Session--April 13

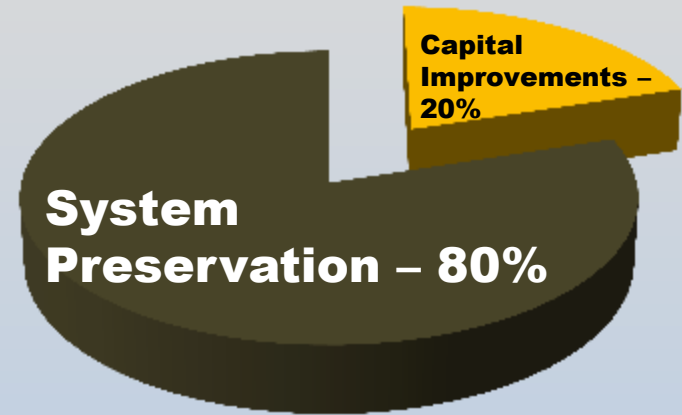




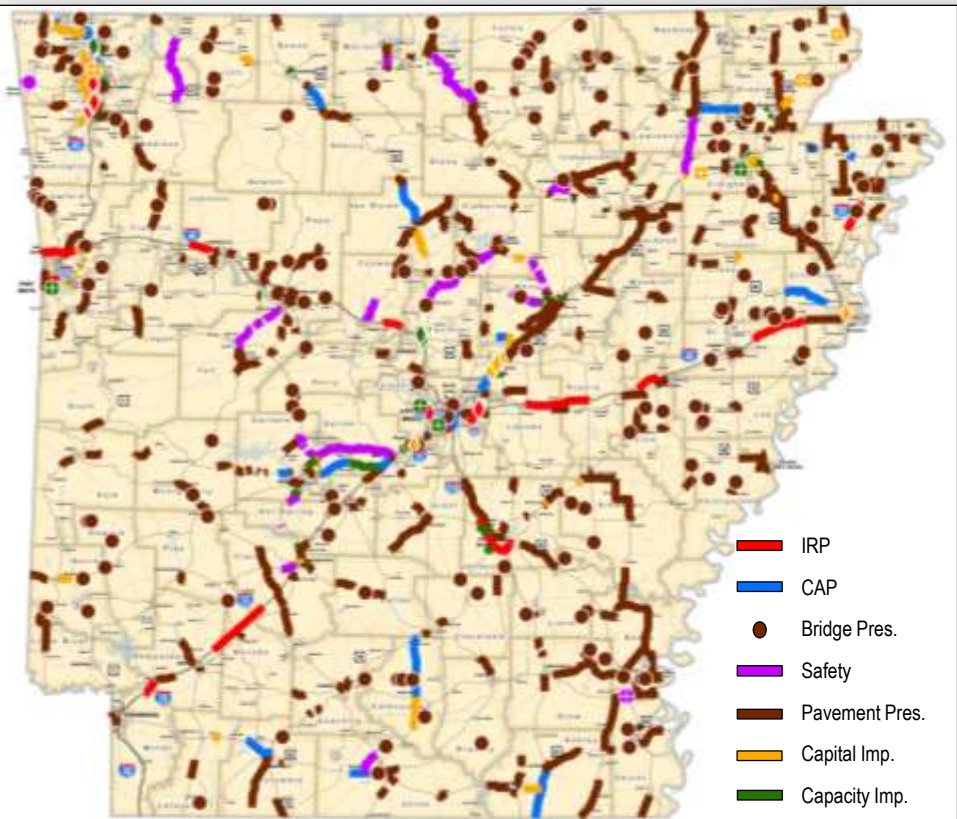
# Draft 2016-2020 STIP

“When you realize the value of all life, you dwell less on what is past and concentrate more on the preservation of the future.”

-Dian Fossey



**Flexible Funds**





**Interstate 555**



JONESBORO



18

Lake City

555

Bay

463

Trumann

1

140

Lepanto

555

Dyess

14

Marked Tree

135

Tyronza

Birdsong

Cherry Valley

CROSS

75

149

Gilmore

555

Turrell

CRITTENDEN



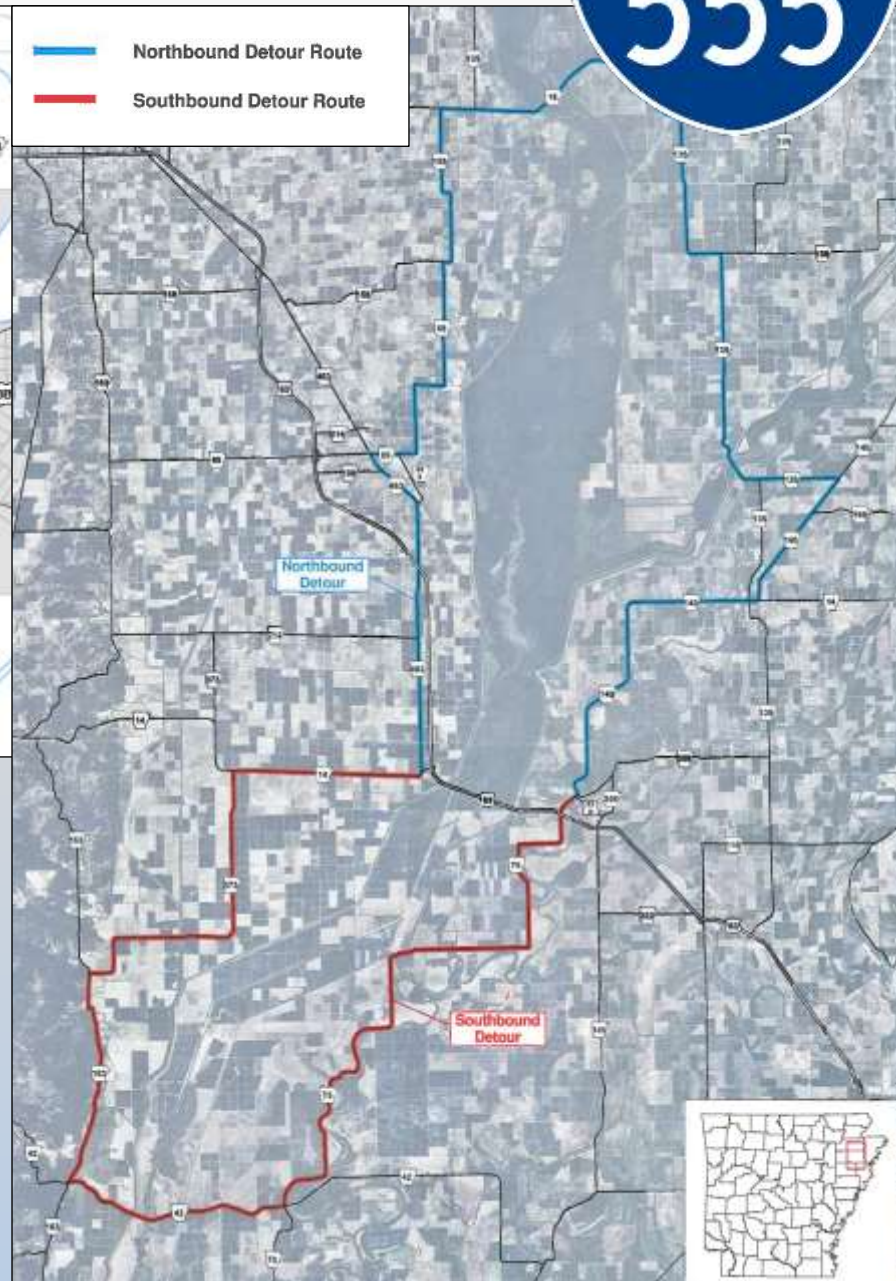
# History



Year	Description
1968-2012	US Highway 63, Interstate 55 to Jonesboro Upgraded to Interstate Standards 44 miles, \$250 Million
1988-2010	\$ 65 Million in Federal-aid Earmarks
1998	Designated as Congressionally Designated High Priority Corridor 39 from Interstate 55 to Marked Tree
2001	Designated as Future I-555



# Obstacles





# Success



Year

2001-2016

May  
2015

Assembly

December  
2015

Order

December  
2015

er

February  
2016

Received from Federal Highway Administration





# Projects of Regional Significance





# I-555 Pavement Restoration



**Draft 2016-2020 STIP  
Pavement Preservation  
\$47.8 Million  
Scheduled to begin in 2017**



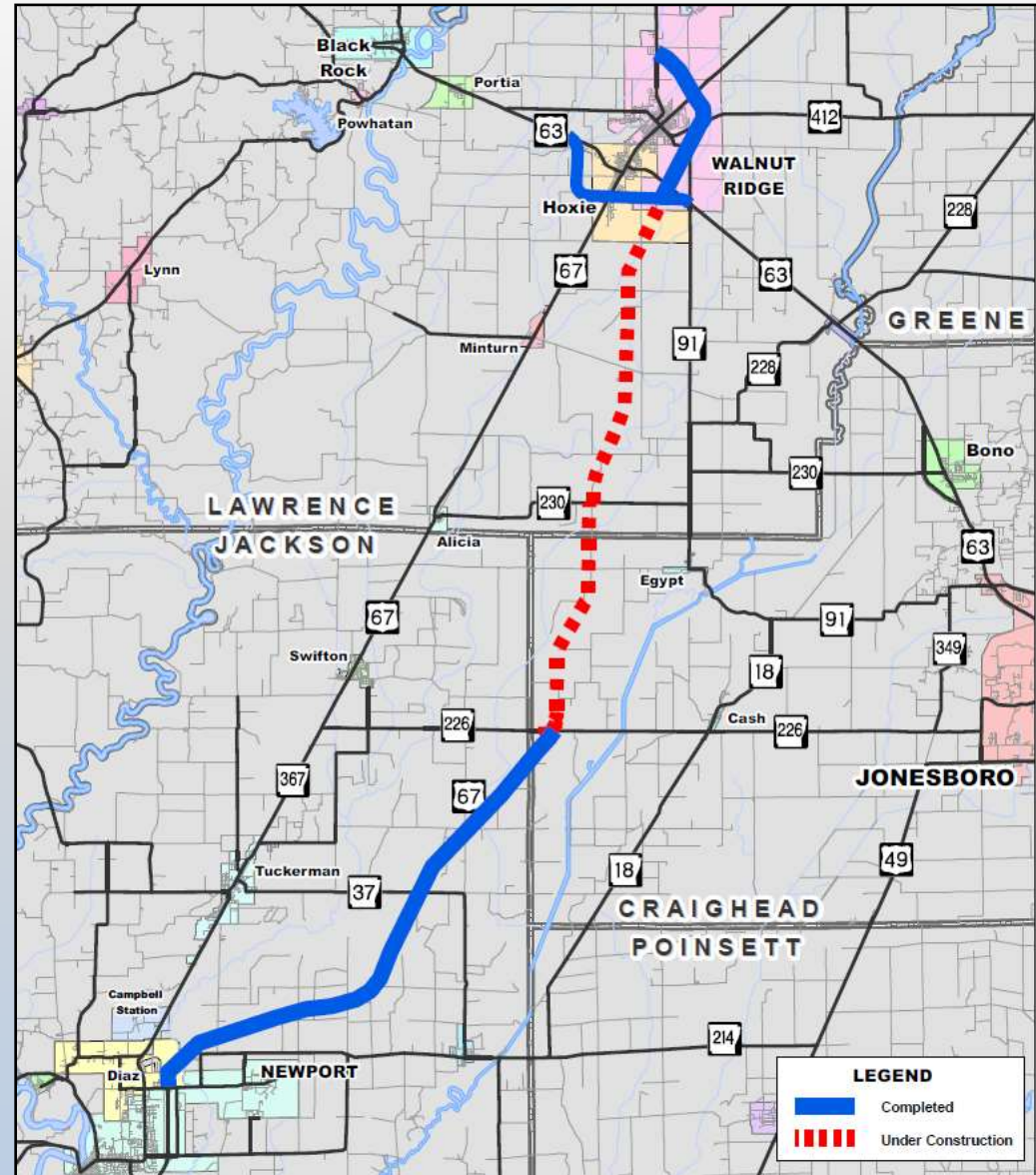
# Highway 67



- Newport – Hwy. 226
- Hwy. 226 – Hwy. 63
  - ✓ Opening Late 2016
- Walnut Ridge / Hoxie Bypass

## GRAND TOTAL

**44.5 Miles**  
**\$246 Million**





✓ **Completed**

- Highway 67 to Cash Bypass
- 5.6 miles
- \$20 Million

✓ **Under Construction**

- Cash Bypass to Highway 49
- 6.8 miles
- \$62 Million
- Estimated Complete mid-2016

✓ **GRAND TOTAL**

- **12.4 Miles**
- **\$82 Million**





# Highway 18 Corridor



## ✓ Completed

- 39 miles
- \$120 Million

## ✓ Under Construction

- 15 miles
- \$52 Million
- Monette-Manila
  - Late 2017
- Hwy. 18 Improvements – Blytheville
  - Mid-2016

## ✓ GRAND TOTAL

- 56.4 Miles
- \$212 Million





# Highway 18 (Highland Ave.)



## 2016-2010 DRAFT STIP

### ✓ Intersection Improvements

- Caraway Road
- \$3.5 Million
- Federal Fiscal Year 2018
  
- Main Street
- \$1.0 Million
- Federal Fiscal Year 2019

### ✓ Burlington Northern Santa Fe RR Overpass

- TIGER Grant with Local Match – \$1.5 Million to begin Project Development
- Construction Cost - \$9.6 Million
- Partnering with AHTD
- Estimated Let Date: Late 2016





# Highway 49

## 2016-2020 DRAFT STIP

### ✓ Widening

- Highway 91 – Highway 351 South
- \$10.4 Million
- Federal Fiscal Year 2019

### ✓ Interchange Improvements

- Highway 91
- \$10.0 Million
- Federal Fiscal Year 2019
- Interstate 555
- \$7.0 Million
- Federal Fiscal Year 2019
- Parker Road
- \$2.0 Million
- Federal Fiscal Year 2019

### ✓ GRAND TOTAL

- 4 Miles
- \$30.5 Million



LEGEND	
<b>Job Type</b>	
	Intersection Impvts.
	Interchange Impvts.
	Roadway
<b>Job Status</b>	
	2016-2020 Draft STIP



# Highway 351

- **Under Construction**

- ✓ Highway 351/ Aggie Rd Roundabout

- **Included in Draft 2016-2020 STIP:**

- ✓ Highway 49 – Pleasant View Dr. (Old Greensboro Rd.)
- ✓ Highway 49 – South (Airport Rd.)
- ✓ Highway 351 Railroad Overpass (Airport Rd.)





# Highway 1B (Harrisburg Road)

## ✓ Included in Draft 2016-2020 STIP:

### ✓ Widening

- Parker Road – Forrest Hill Road
- 0.26 mile
- \$2 Million
- Federal Fiscal Year 2019

### ✓ Pavement Preservation

- Highway 18 - South
- 3.03 miles
- \$800,000
- Federal Fiscal Year 2017

### ✓ GRAND TOTAL

- 3.3 Miles
- \$2.8 Million







# Commerce Drive Extension

Included in Draft 2016-2020 STIP

\$10 Million (Project Development)

Scheduled for 2020

Potential Partnering Project

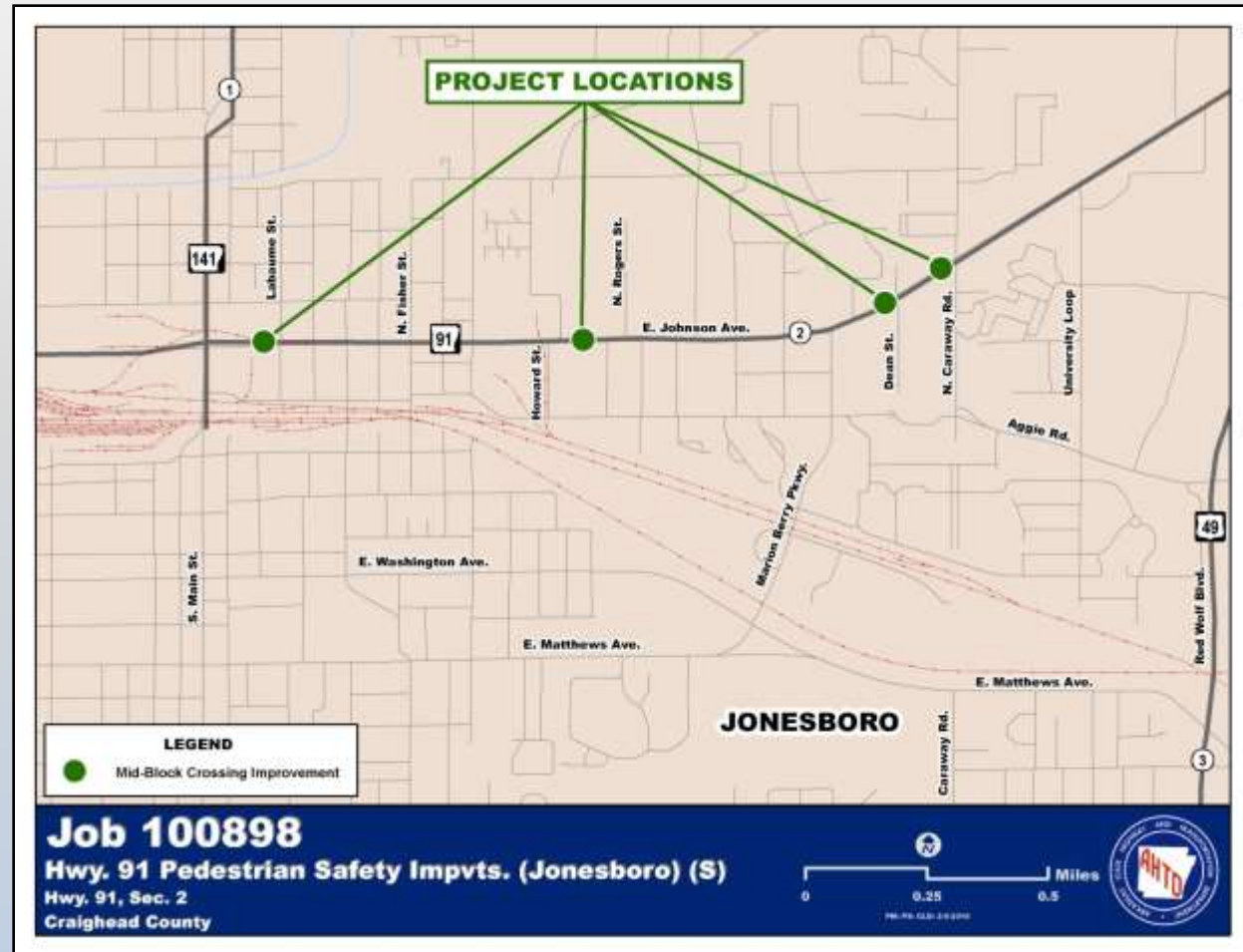




# Highway 91 (Johnson Ave.)

## Pedestrian Safety Improvements

- Partnering Project
  - ✓ AHTD
  - ✓ City of Jonesboro
  - ✓ ASU
    - 4 Pedestrian Islands
    - \$151,000



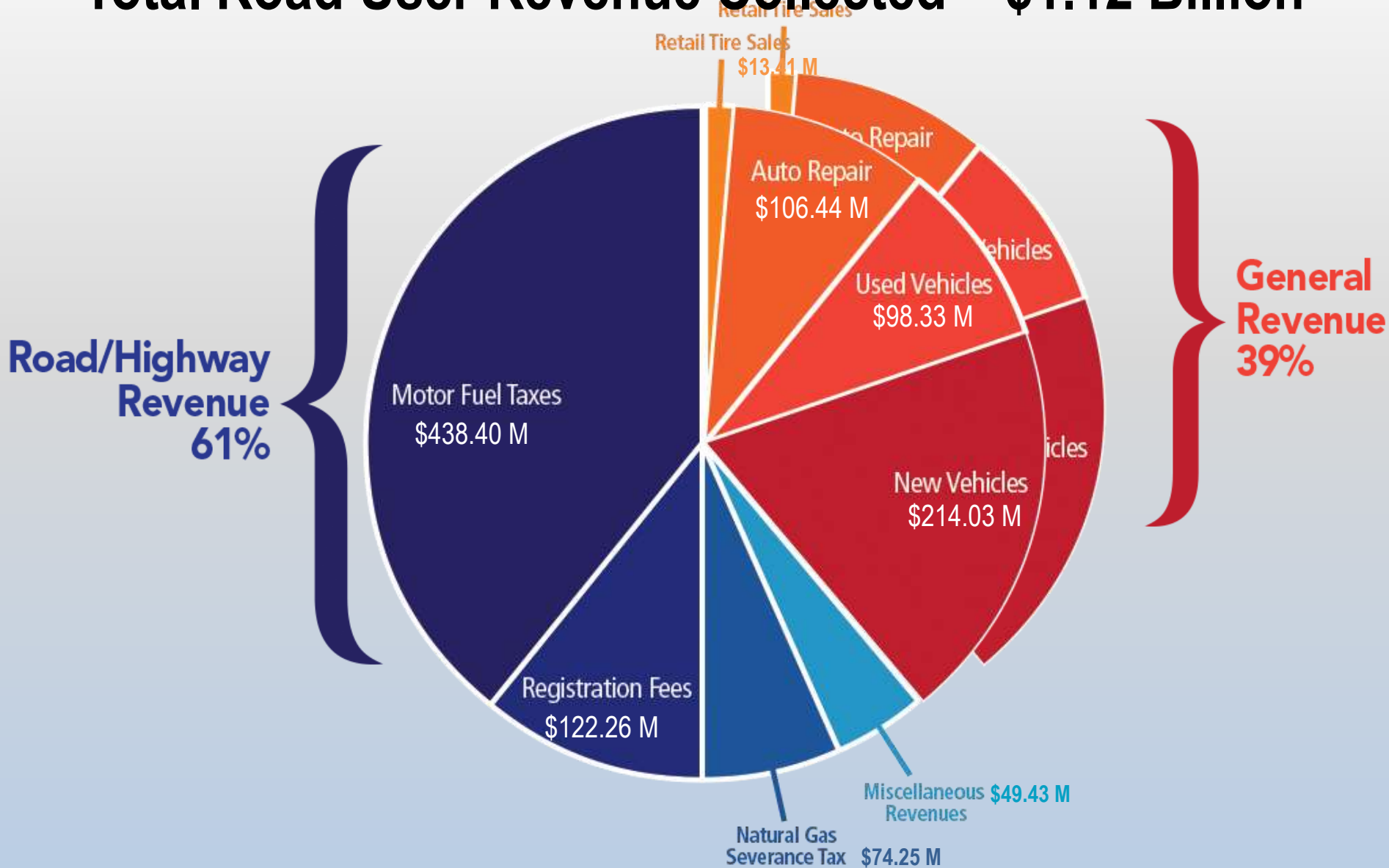


# Road User Revenue in Arkansas



# 2015 Road User Related Tax Revenue

## Total Road User Revenue Collected = \$1.12 Billion

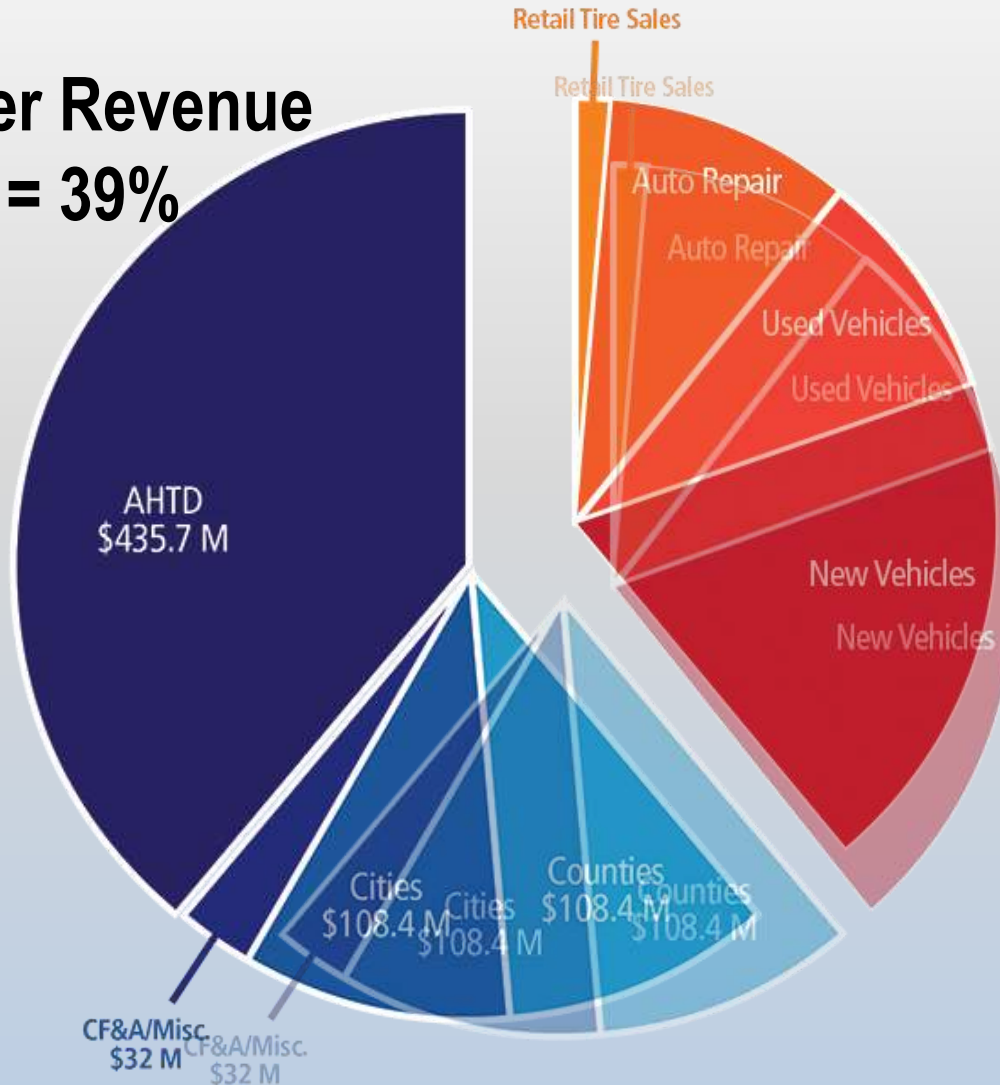




# 2015 Road User Related Tax Revenue

## Total Road User Revenue Collected = \$1.12 Billion

**AHTD Road User Revenue  
= \$435.7 M = 39%**





- [ArkansasHighways.com](http://ArkansasHighways.com)
- [ConnectingArkansasProgram.com](http://ConnectingArkansasProgram.com)
- [Vimeo.com/AHTD](http://Vimeo.com/AHTD)
- [IDriveArkansas.com](http://IDriveArkansas.com)
- [Twitter.com @AHTD](https://twitter.com/AHTD)



@AHTD





**Questions?**