

Scott E. Bennett, P.E.

Director of Highways and Transportation



**ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT**

Fifty for the Future

Thursday, April 21, 2016



History of the Department





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



<http://rustlingsinthewind.blogspot.com>



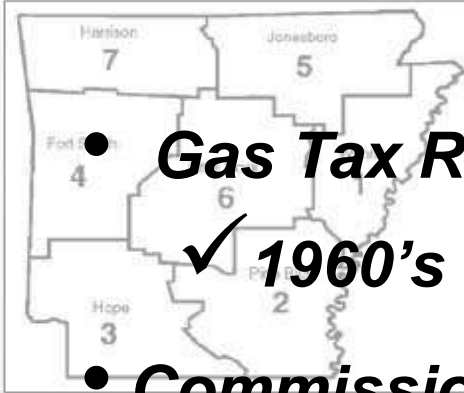
The Teens and Twenties

- ***First Commission Created***
 - ✓ *No Highway Department*
 - ✓ *No Highway System*
- ***\$72,000 Total Budget***
- ***36,000 Miles of Public Roads***
- ***First Gas Tax – 1 cent per gallon***
- ***State Highway System Created***
- ***State Highway Department Created***

Highway 71 near Bella Vista



The Thirties and Forties



- **Gas Tax Raised to 6.5 cents per Gallon**
✓ **1960's Before Next Increase**
- **Commission Structure Changed Four More Times**



Magnet Truck, Picked up
an average of 100 lbs
metal per mile

- **9,700 Highway Miles (4,900 Paved)**

- **Too much Political Influence on Highways**
– **Growing Discontent**



State Highway Department HQ, 1939





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 has scant weight indeed when they are in conflict with the political pressures and political promises of the moment.”**

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

Widening Hwy 67 near Malvern, 1956





The Sixties and Seventies

- ***No changes to Commission Structure***
- ***Department became Debt Free***



- ***Legislature transferred nearly 4,400 more miles of County Roads to Highway System***

South Terminal, Lawrence Blackwell burning bonds at a ceremony in 1975.

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

- ***1st State to Complete its Interstate System (1975)***
- ***16,000 Highway Miles (15,000 Paved)***



Toad Suck Ferry on Arkansas River at Highway 60, 1970



I-430 River Bridge, 1973



The Eighties and Nineties

- **1985 – Rural Road Program – out of the mud**
- **Early Retirements – huge workforce turnover**
- **1991 – Highway Improvement Program**
- **1993 – Last Federal Gas Tax Increase**



Section of Hwy 7
named first Scenic
Byway of Arkansas.

- **1999 – Last State Gas Tax Increase**

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

- **1999 – Interstate Rehabilitation Program –
First Highway Bond Issue in 50 years**

- **I-540 (now I-49) and I-530 Completed**

- **16,400 Highway Miles**

Hopper Tunnel, 1999





The New Millennium



- **2011 – 2nd 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**

- **16,400 miles State Highways**



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





Regional Projects Update





Interstate 30



- US Highway 70 to Sevier Street
- Widening - 5.24 Miles
- \$100-120 Million





U.S. Highway 70



- Hot Springs to Interstate 30
- Widening - 18.9 Miles
- \$75-100 Million





U.S. Highway 270

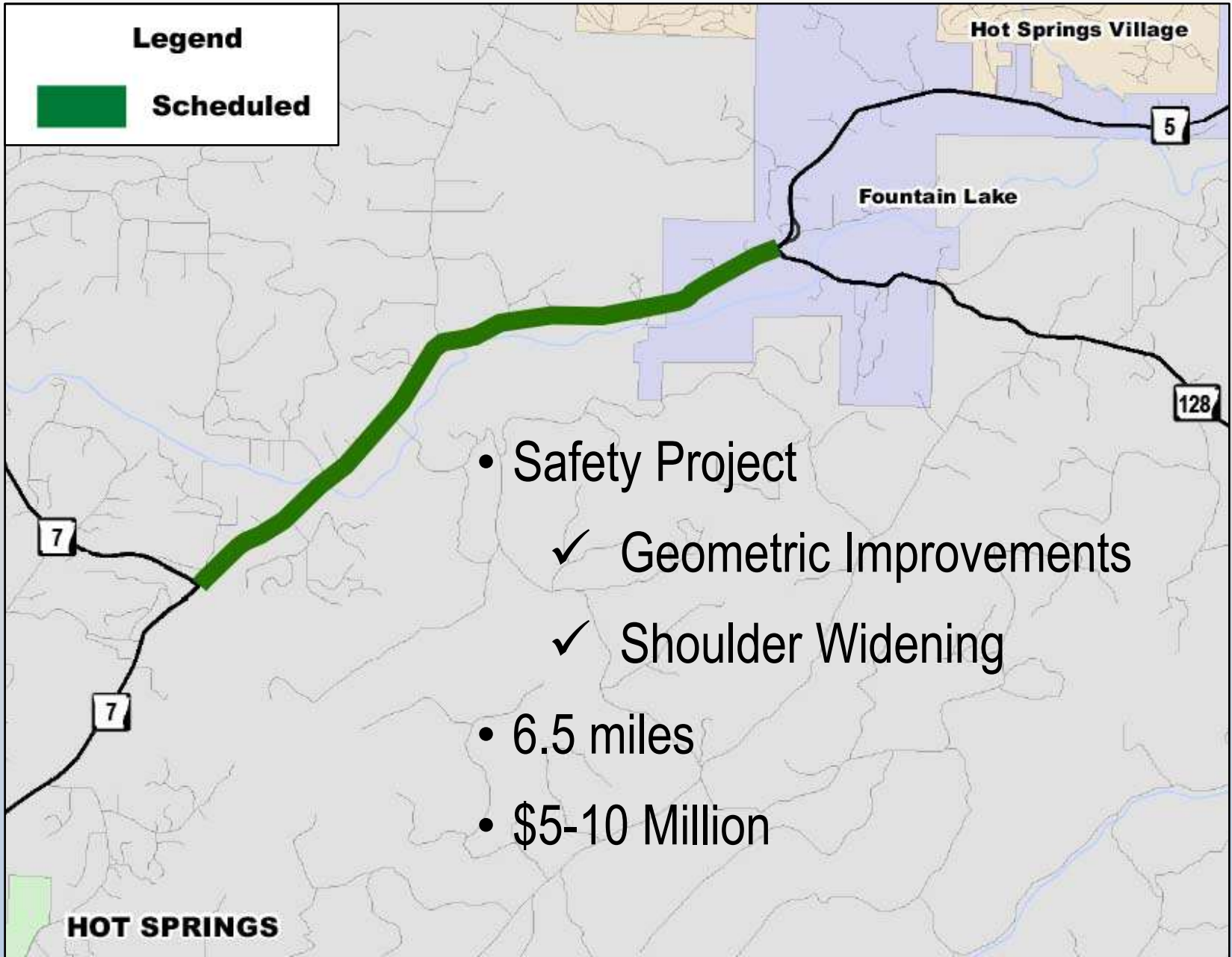


| Termini | Type Work | Length (miles) | Amt (x \$1 M) | Date |
|--|-------------|----------------|---------------|------|
| Montgomery Co. Ln. – East (Sel. Secs.) | Resurfacing | 3.82 | \$ 2.5 | 2019 |
| West of Hwy. 227 – Royal (Sel. Secs.) | Resurfacing | 1.67 | \$ 1.1 | 2018 |
| Ouachita River – Black Snake Rd. | Widening | 1.89 | \$ 11.1 | TBD |
| Black Snake Rd. – Hwy. 227 | Widening | 1.49 | \$ 10.0 | 2017 |
| Hwy. 70 – Hwy. 7 (Hot Springs) | Resurfacing | 3.70 | \$ 1.9 | 2019 |
| | Total | 12.57 | \$ 26.6 | |





State Highway 5

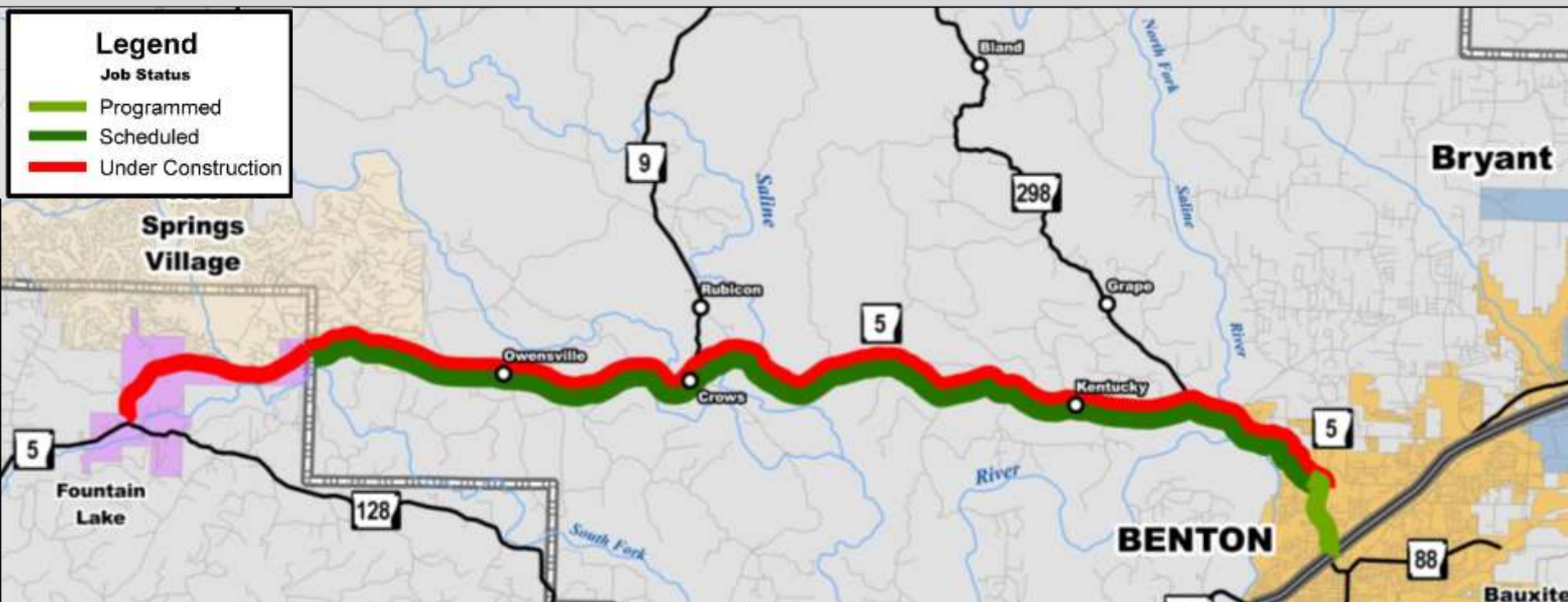




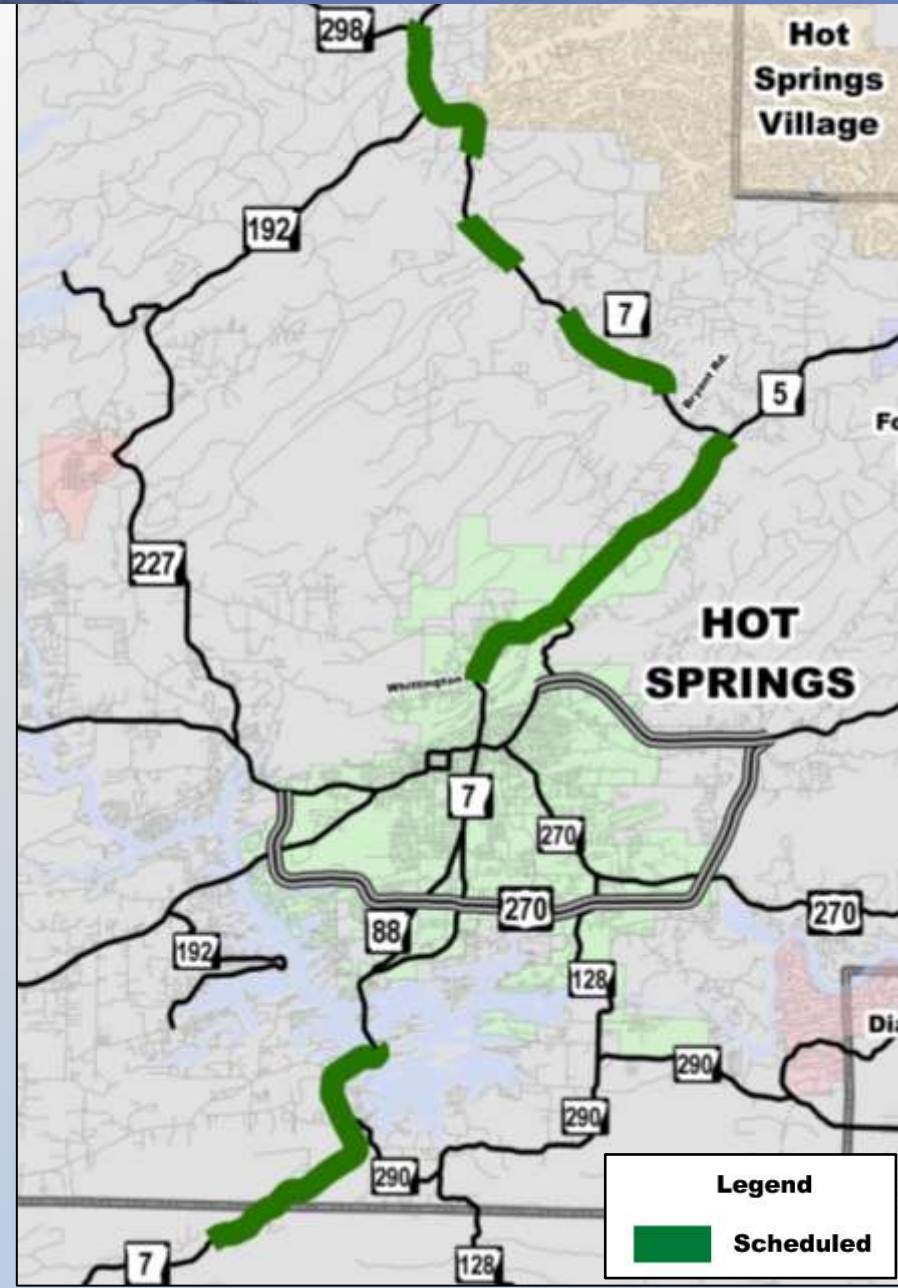
State Highway 5



| Termini | Type Work | Length (miles) | Amt (x \$1 M) | Date Sched/Let |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Hwy. 128 – Benton | Safety | 20.9 | \$ 7.9 | 2/2016 |
| Garland Co. Ln. – Benton (Sel. Secs.) | Safety | - | \$ 2.0 | 2017 |
| Salt Creek Road – Benton | Widening | 1.4 | \$ 8.7 | TBD |
| | Total | 22.3 | \$18.6 | |



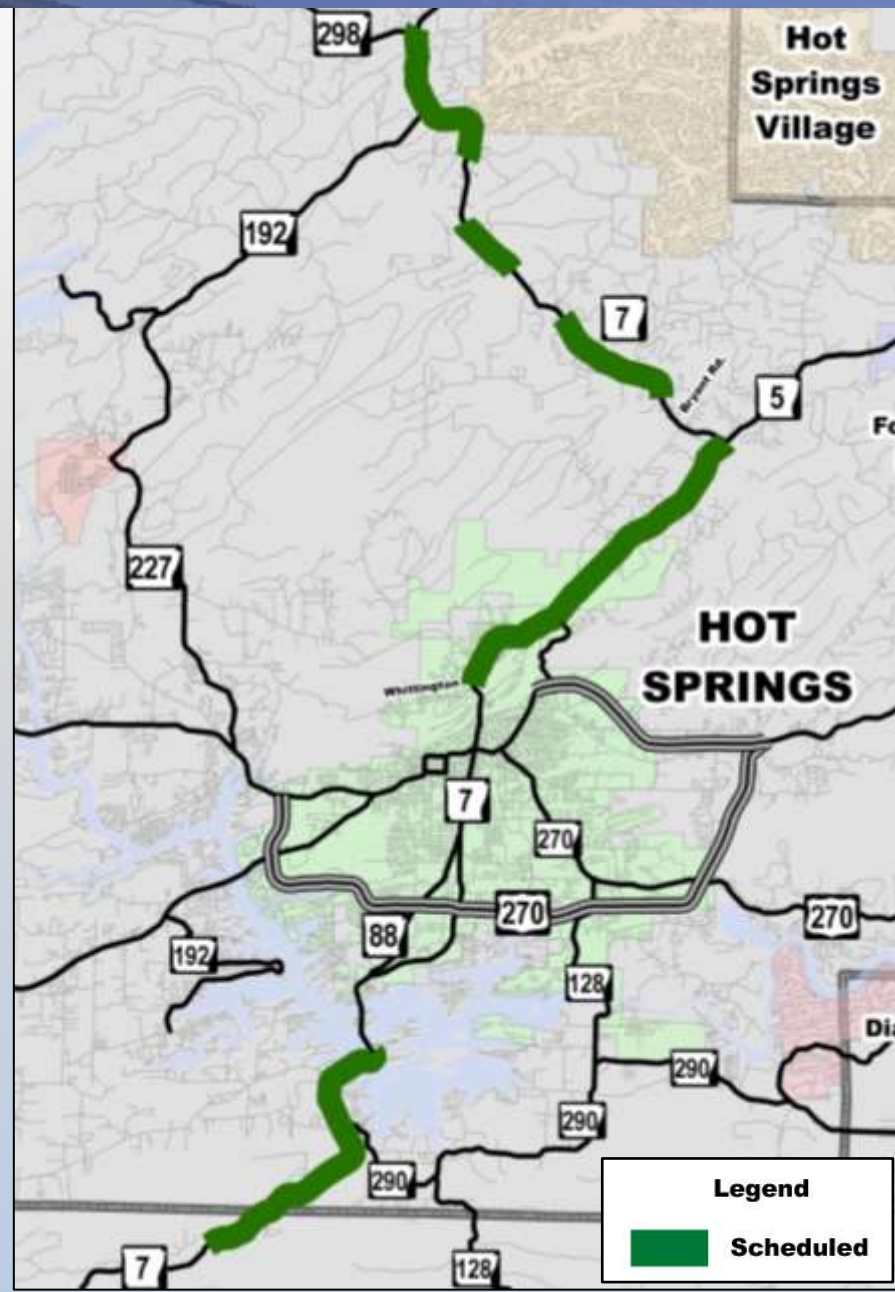
- Mitzi Parkway to Highway 290
 - ✓ Center Turn Lane
 - ✓ Replace Sorrels Creek Bridge
 - ✓ 3.8 miles / \$10-15 Million
- Highway 290 to Ouachita River Bridge
 - ✓ Widening to 5 lanes
 - ✓ 1.7 miles / \$10-15 Million



- Hot Springs to Highway 5 (Phase I)
 - ✓ Capacity/Safety Improvements
 - ✓ 6.2 miles / \$10 Million

- Bryant Road to Highway 298 W
 - ✓ Capacity/Safety Improvements
 - ✓ 6.3 miles / \$10-15 Million

- Grand Total
 - ✓ 18 miles / \$40-55 Million





Other Projects

- Highway 88 Widening / Highway 7 South to Highway 7 North
- Replacing Stokes Creek Bridge on Michael Street
- Highway 128 Widening / Highway 270 to Highway 270B





Partnering





MLK Expressway Extension

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

DICK THAMMEL
CHAIRMAN
THOMAS B. SCHWICK
VICE CHAIRMAN
ROBERT B. MOORE, JR.
MEMBER AT-LARGE

P.O. Box 2261
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72203-2261
PHONE (501) 569-2000 • VOICE/TTY 711 • FAX (501) 569-2001
WWW.ARKANSASHIGHWAYS.COM • WWW.DRIVEARKANSAS.COM

FRANK D. SCOTT, JR.
STATE ROAD
DAN FARMER, JR.

The Honorable Rick Davis
Garland County Judge
501 Ouachita
Hot Springs, AR 71901

Dear Judge Davis:

Reference is made to your recent letter regarding the proposed extension of Highway 70/270 (Martin Luther King Jr. Expressway).

As we previously discussed, the plan is to begin development of the referendums for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) 2016-2019 to begin development of the referendums in 2015. \$5 million of Department funds and \$5 million of Federal funds will be finalized and approved by the end of this year. However, project development and construction would not begin until a firm funding agreement is in place.

In order to expedite development of the referendums, we need to know by September 2015, whether the County will support the project. The deadline will also allow us to redirect the project if voters do not approve the proposal.

2016-2020 Federal Fiscal Years



ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
1000 North Arkansas Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72202
In Compliance with 23 USC 10101.2 (a) (1)
November 2015



West Central Arkansas Planning & Development District, Inc.

Wayne Pratt
Executive Director
July 6, 2015

Scott Bennett, Director
Arkansas Highway & Transportation Department
1000 North Arkansas Street
Little Rock, AR 72203-2261

RECEIVED
JUL 07 2015

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Match Funding for US 70/270 Bypass (MLK Expressway) Extension to Highway 7

We are working here in Garland County to formulate an effort to take before the voters to extend a current 5/8 cents sales tax to provide local match funding for the above project. We have a committee that meets monthly, working with the West Central Arkansas Planning & Development District staff, to determine the issues we wish to address and to devise the strategy to present to the voters.

The primary election was changed from the current date to March. This affects our effort as we need to have the tax vote on a ballot other than the state-wide primary date. Now that the primary is in March, the possible run-off in April or May; it may be June, July or August before we can have the ballot.

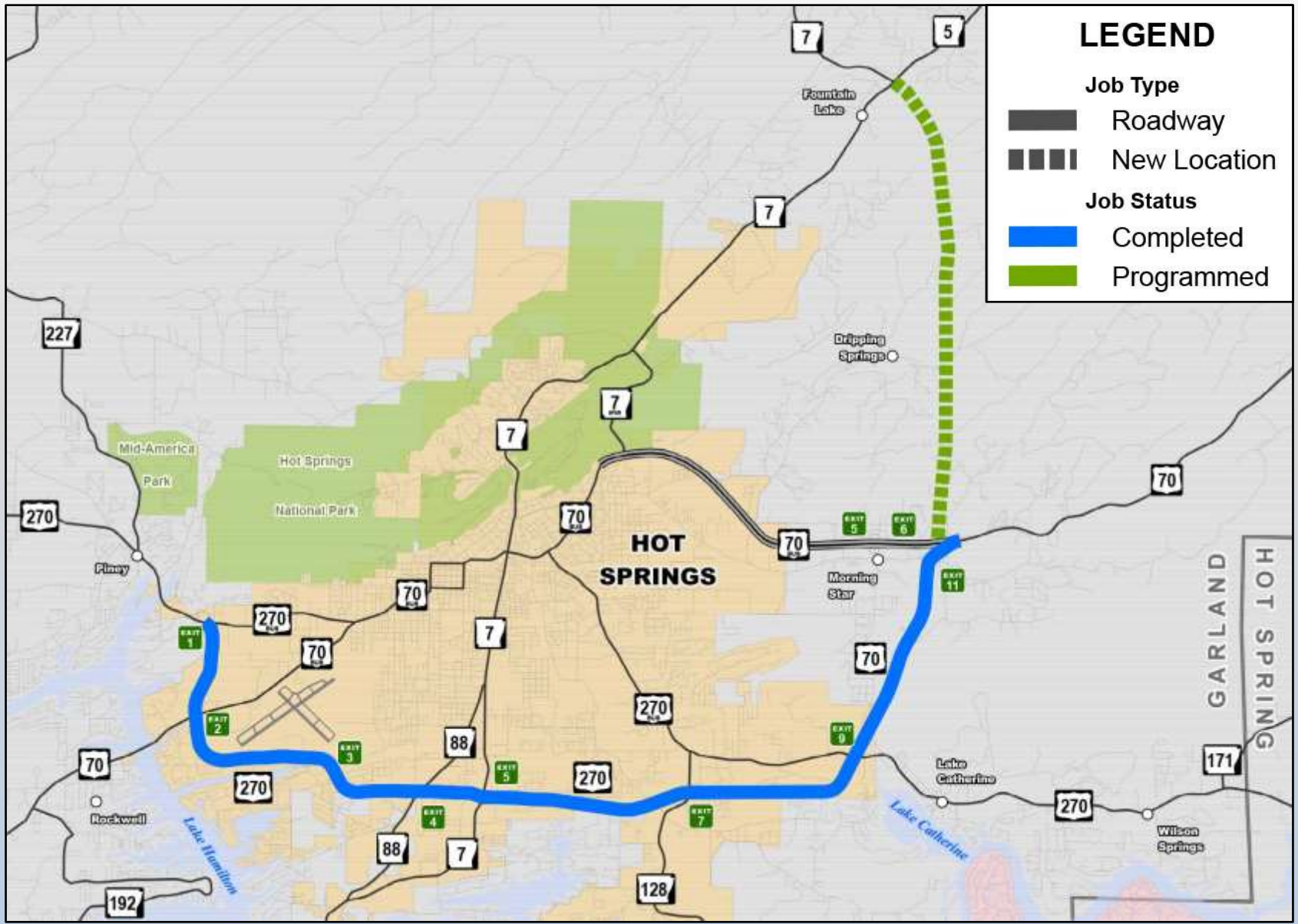
Do you have the latest possible date that you need a firm commitment from the County regarding the commitment of funding for this vital project? We need to know our local share via a county-wide sales tax extension. Do you have an earliest convenience? We are in the process of contacting the County and holding focus groups to determine the public's receptivity towards this project.

501-569-2000
501-569-2001
501-569-2002

Wayne Pratt, Executive Director
Scott Bennett, Director
Arkansas Highway & Transportation Department
1000 North Arkansas Street, Little Rock, AR 72203-2261



MLK Expressway Extension





Partnering Program

| | | | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Northwest | | Let to Contract | Scheduled | Total |
| | Projects | 22 | 8 | 29 |
| | Total Cost | \$208,180,434 | \$214,276,150 | \$422,456,583 |
| | Local Contribution | \$90,104,455 | \$65,328,212 | \$155,432,667 |
| | Contribution % | | | 37% |
| Central | | Let to Contract | Scheduled | Total |
| | Projects | 14 | 2 | 16 |
| | Total Cost | \$157,811,743 | \$27,224,000 | \$185,035,743 |
| | Local Contribution | \$45,268,054 | \$11,500,00 | \$56,768,054 |
| | Contribution % | | | 31% |
| Other | | Let to Contract | Scheduled | Total |
| | Projects | 12 | 3 | 15 |
| | Total Cost | \$100,449,334 | \$64,815,119 | \$165,264,453 |
| | Local Contribution | \$21,459,432 | \$12,839,184 | \$34,298,616 |
| | Contribution % | | | 21% |



Partnering Program

- Hot Springs Partnering Projects
 - ✓ Highway 88 (Higdon Ferry Road)
 - Highway 7 South – Highway 7 North

| Partner | Number of Projects | Total Project Cost | Total Local Contribution | Contribution Percent |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Bentonville | 6 | \$97,171,989 | \$67,253,677 | 69% |
| Rogers | 5 | \$52,624,526 | \$28,776,050 | 55% |
| Springdale | 4 | \$63,565,655 | \$23,839,925 | 38% |
| Fayetteville | 9 | \$146,008,819 | \$23,605,221 | 16% |
| Conway | 3 | \$45,764,550 | \$20,039,190 | 44% |
| Cabot | 2 | \$22,932,315 | \$9,858,723 | 43% |
| Hot Springs | 4 | \$25,748,021 | \$8,231,531 | 32% |
| Fort Smith | 2 | \$14,608,989 | \$7,329,901 | 50% |
| Siloam Springs | 2 | \$16,254,223 | \$2,900,000 | 18% |



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



@AHTD





Questions?

