

# 2016

# ANNUAL *Report*

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

## AHTD Mission Statement

To provide a safe, efficient, aesthetically pleasing and environmentally sound intermodal transportation system for the user.

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### PHOTO THIS PAGE /

Highway 70 Railroad Overpass (Roosevelt Rd., Little Rock)  
photo by Rusty Hubbard

### FRONT & BACK COVER PHOTOS /

Highway 70 Bridge (Broadway St.) over the Arkansas River  
photo by Rusty Hubbard



## DIRECTOR'S *message*

**T**HE ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD) is proud to present our annual report and share the highlights and successes that the Department experienced over calendar year 2016.

For the year, the Department let to contract 263 projects totaling just over \$1.2 billion. The largest of those projects was on Interstate 40 in Prairie County. In addition, work continued on replacing the Broadway Bridge (U.S. Highway 70) connecting Little Rock and North Little Rock and on improvements to Interstates 49 and 440. This report provides information on projects in all 10 of our Districts across the State. Each reflects our commitment to making our highway system one of the best in the nation as well as one of the safest.

Our two major road improvement programs progressed well in 2016. As the year ended, a total of 30 projects had been completed as part of our Interstate Rehabilitation Program. A total of 198 miles of Interstate have been improved since the program began. The Department's Connecting Arkansas Program had 10 projects under construction at the end of the year. Another 23 projects are scheduled within the next few years.

The successes we share in this Annual Report reflect the hard work and dedication of the members of the Arkansas State Highway Commission and Department staff.

We at the Department would like to thank the people of Arkansas for their continued support of the AHTD and the programs that we carry out.



*Scott E. Bennett*

**SCOTT E. BENNETT, P.E.**  
Director of Highways and Transportation

**WORK CONTINUED  
ON REPLACING**  
*the Broadway Bridge*  
**(U.S. HIGHWAY 70)**  
**CONNECTING**  
*Little Rock and  
North Little Rock*

# 2016 HIGHWAY Commission



**DICK  
TRAMMEL**

**COMMISSION CHAIRMAN DICK TRAMMEL**, of Rogers, was appointed by Governor Mike Beebe effective January 12, 2009. He currently serves as Executive Vice President, member of the Board of Directors and Board Secretary of Arvest Bank, Rogers. He is past President and current member of the Board of the Rogers-Lowell Chamber of Commerce. He has served on the Rogers-Lowell United Way board and twice served as Drive Chairman. Trammel is a past President of the Rotary Club of Rogers and past Governor of Rotary International District 6110. Trammel is a founding Director, Director Emeritus and past Chairman of the Northwest Arkansas Radiation Therapy Institute (NARTI). He is a charter member, past Chairman and past board member of the Board of Trustees of Northwest Arkansas Community College. His term on the Arkansas Highway Commission will expire in January of 2019.



**THOMAS B.  
SCHUECK**

**COMMISSION VICE CHAIRMAN THOMAS B. SCHUECK**, of Little Rock, was appointed by Governor Mike Beebe effective January 14, 2011. Schueck has 41 years experience in forming and managing companies that are involved in heavy construction. Among the companies he has founded are Schueck Steel, Custom Metals, Prospect Steel, L-Con Constructors, L-Con Marine Fabricators and Heritage Golf. Schueck served most recently on the Arkansas Parks, Recreation and Travel Commission. Prior to that, he served on the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission and the Little Rock Municipal Airport Commission. He also serves on the boards of The Nature Conservancy, UAMS Foundation and the Arkansas Industrial Development Foundation. His term on the Arkansas Highway Commission will expire in January of 2021.



**ROBERT S.  
MOORE, JR.**

**COMMISSIONER ROBERT S. MOORE, JR.**, of Arkansas City, was appointed by Governor Mike Beebe effective January 22, 2013. Moore is a three-term member of the Arkansas House of Representatives and represented the 12th District beginning in 2007. He also served as Speaker of the House. He is Owner/Operator of Moore Farms. He had his own private law practice from 1981 to 1985. Governor David Pryor appointed Moore as chairman of the Arkansas Transportation Commission in 1977. He would serve on the staff of Governor Bill Clinton and served two decades as Director of the Alcoholic Beverage Control. He is a member of the American Legion, the Arkansas City Chamber of Commerce, Vice Chairman of the Desha County Historic Preservation Society and Vice Chairman of the John H. Johnson Cultural and Entrepreneurial Center Board. His term on the Arkansas Highway Commission will expire in January of 2023.



**FRANK D.  
SCOTT, JR.**

**COMMISSIONER FRANK D. SCOTT, JR.**, of Little Rock, was appointed by Governor Mike Beebe effective October 17, 2013. Scott serves as business development officer for First Security Bank. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Memphis. He then obtained a Master's of Business degree with an emphasis on strategic management from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Scott was Governor Beebe's Intergovernmental Affairs Director beginning in 2007. He left the Governor's staff in 2012 to join First Security Bank. In addition to his work at First Security, Scott serves on the boards of directors for the Little Rock Port Authority and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Central Arkansas. He replaced John Burkhalter who left the Commission to enter the race for Lieutenant Governor. His term on the Arkansas Highway Commission expired in January of 2017.



**DALTON A.  
FARMER, JR.**

**COMMISSIONER DALTON A. FARMER, JR.**, of Jonesboro, was appointed by Governor Asa Hutchinson effective January 27, 2015. Farmer is president of Farmer Enterprises, Inc., a family-owned farm and property investment and management company. He also serves on the Board of the Childress Gin and Elevator Company, and as manager for Alec Farmer Farms, LLC. Farmer graduated with honors from Arkansas State University in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science degree. He received his Juris Doctorate degree in 1990 from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law. Farmer is a former chairman of the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission and a former special Commissioner of the Arkansas State Police Commission. He was also an original member of the Arkansas Agricultural Board. His term on the Arkansas Highway Commission will expire in January of 2025.

# TOP TEN CONTRACTS of 2016

**A** TOP PRIORITY FOR THE AHTD is always to keep our roadways in the best condition possible. Crews worked on projects across the State in 2016 that continued to improve the condition of Arkansas' highways.

There were 16,432 miles on Arkansas' highway system in 2016, making it the 12th largest system in the country. There were also 7,330 bridges on the system.

To maintain such a large highway system, 263 projects totaling \$1,212,817,331 were let to contract in 2016. The largest of those was construction of a new bridge over the White River on Interstate 40 in Prairie County.

## TOP TEN CONTRACTS AWARDED IN 2016

Rank	Project	Location (County)	Award Amount
1	Interstate 40	Prairie	\$100,559,842
2	Interstate 49	Washington	\$ 94,824,907
3	Highway 67	Pulaski & Lonoke	\$ 79,264,377
4	Highway 70	Garland & Saline	\$ 78,528,337
5	Interstate 49	Benton	\$ 38,702,138
6	Interstate 440	Pulaski	\$ 38,371,201
7	Highway 18	Mississippi	\$ 35,471,089
8	Interstate 440	Pulaski	\$ 33,796,319
9	Interstate 530	Jefferson	\$ 29,815,993
10	Interstate 49	Benton	\$ 28,808,497

**THERE WERE  
16,432 miles ON  
ARKANSAS' HIGHWAY  
SYSTEM IN 2016, MAKING  
IT THE 12th largest system  
IN THE COUNTRY.**

## TOTAL AWARD AMOUNTS 2009 - 2016

Year	Number of Jobs	Total Amount
2009 <sup>(1)</sup>	222	\$ 498,401,522 <sup>(1)</sup>
2010 <sup>(1)</sup>	230	\$ 567,915,542 <sup>(1)</sup>
2011 <sup>(1)</sup>	223	\$ 547,825,706 <sup>(1)</sup>
2012 <sup>(2)</sup>	256	\$ 700,685,723
2013 <sup>(2)</sup>	279	\$ 647,280,714
2014 <sup>(2)(3)</sup>	270	\$ 916,223,363
2015 <sup>(2)(3)</sup>	198	\$ 670,032,356
2016 <sup>(2)(3)</sup>	263	\$1,212,817,331

<sup>1</sup> Totals include projects utilizing \$350 million in one-time funds from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Includes IRP projects authorized by a November 2011 vote funded with bond proceeds.

<sup>3</sup> Includes CAP projects authorized by a half-cent sales tax increase in 2012.

# CONSTRUCTION HIGHLIGHTS



**U.S. HIGHWAY 64 BETWEEN MARION AND EARLE**

## DISTRICT ONE

**COUNTIES:** Crittenden, Cross, Lee, Monroe, Phillips, St. Francis and Woodruff

Construction crews in Crittenden County began work on improving 5.5 miles of U.S. Highway 64 between the towns of Marion and Earle in 2016. The project is widening the roadway from two lanes to five lanes beginning at County Road 375 and extending to State Highway 147. The improvement project was let to contract in August of 2016 as part of the Connecting Arkansas Program. Crisp Contractors, Inc. was awarded the project with a bid of \$23,303,705. Administration of the project is by the Resident Engineer #14 Office in West Memphis. The improvements are expected to be complete in July of 2018.



**INTERSTATE 530 NEAR WHITE HALL**

## DISTRICT TWO

**COUNTIES:** Arkansas, Ashley, Chicot, Desha, Drew, Grant, Jefferson and Lincoln

Interstate 530 in central Arkansas was the focus of an Interstate Rehabilitation Program job that is improving the Interstate near White Hall, in Jefferson County. Awarded to Redstone Construction Group, Inc. for \$29.8 million, this was the third project in District Two to be let to contract on the Interstate in the last few years. The first two projects have been completed and the most recent work is also substantially complete. The purpose of these three projects and one that will be let to contract in 2017 is to reconstruct the section of Interstate 530 that begins just north of Redfield and extends to the east side of Pine Bluff.

## DISTRICT THREE

**COUNTIES:** Hempstead, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Nevada, Pike and Sevier

Crews in District Three worked on two Interstate Rehabilitation Program projects on Interstate 30 throughout 2016. The first one rehabilitated four miles of the Interstate east of Fulton. Approximately eight inches of asphalt was removed from a 1993 surfacing project and the original concrete pavement was rubblized, followed by construction of a new asphalt roadway section with pavement underdrains. A polymer overlay preservation treatment was placed on six bridge structures, along with guardrail improvements and wire rope safety fence installation along a portion of the project. Additionally, 12 miles of shoulders on U.S. Highway 67 were milled and reconstructed, with rumble strips added. This project began in January of 2016 and was substantially completed in November. The contractor, Redstone Construction, completed the project 39 days ahead of schedule.



**INTERSTATE 30 REHABILITATION NEAR FULTON**

A second project on Interstate 30 rehabilitated approximately seven miles of roadway between Hope and Emmet. The existing asphalt surface was overlaid with two inches of asphalt, along with various shoulder and base repairs. Two bridge decks were rehabilitated and a polymer overlay preservation treatment was placed on two additional bridge structures. Guardrail improvements were also included along a portion of the project. Crews began in the spring of 2016 and had substantially completed the project in October. The contractor, Cranford Construction, completed the project on schedule.

## DISTRICT FOUR

**COUNTIES:** Crawford, Franklin, Logan, Polk, Scott, Sebastian and Washington

Two projects on State Highway 220 in the Ozark National Forest are closing the curtain on Arkansas' last gravel highway. An eight-mile section of the highway crossing the boundary between Washington and Crawford Counties below Devil's Den State Park was the only stretch of unpaved highway remaining on the Arkansas highway system. Crews for Nabholz Construction Corporation and Pace Construction Company are paving the highway for a total of \$12.2 million. In addition to paving the roadway, the project also replaces a one-lane bridge over Ellis Branch. The Department worked closely with the U.S. Forest Service, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality and Arkansas State Parks to ensure that the project caused minimal disturbance to the surrounding land. The new paved surface will provide better access to the southern entrance to Devil's Den State Park.

## DISTRICT FIVE

**COUNTIES:** Cleburne, Fulton, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Sharp, Stone and White

Work was completed on an extension of State Highway 13 on the west side of the city of Searcy. The project totaled five miles in length and combined a section of reconstructed Honey Hill Road with 2.2 miles of new location. The improved highway intersects with State Highway 267 on the southern end and State Highway 36 on the northern end. A 317-foot bridge structure was also included in the project. Rogers Group was awarded the contract in 2012 for \$16.4 million. The improved section of Highway 13 represents the first of three projects that will make up a 13-mile, two-lane bypass of Searcy. The second and third projects on the bypass are currently under construction. Work is also complete on a project that replaced a bridge over Greers Ferry Lake at Midway Branch on Highway 225, near the town of Greers Ferry. Jensen Construction Company was awarded the contract for \$8.1 million in 2012. Improvements are also complete on the installation of a westbound passing lane on Highway 66 west of Mountain View. Measuring just over one mile, the \$2.9 million project was awarded to White River Materials, Inc. in 2013.



**INTERSTATE 30 REHABILITATION NEAR HOPE**



**STATE HIGHWAY 220 IN THE OZARK NATIONAL FOREST**



**STATE HIGHWAY 13 NEAR SEARCY**

# CONSTRUCTION HIGHLIGHTS



**BROADWAY BRIDGE (U.S. HIGHWAY 70)**

## DISTRICT SIX

**COUNTIES:** Garland, Hot Spring, Lonoke, Prairie, Pulaski and Saline

With a de-commissioning ceremony held on September 28, 2016, the Broadway Bridge (U.S. Highway 70) spanning the Arkansas River between Little Rock and North Little Rock ended 93 years of service to motorists traveling between the two cities. Massman Construction Company of Kansas City was awarded a \$98.4 million contract in 2014 to replace the bridge with a new structure. Implosion of the bridge's arches and its removal from the river bottom followed not long after the de-commissioning. The new bridge structure will feature two 450-foot spans incorporating basket handle arches. As the year ended, crews were constructing the bridge deck which will feature four travel lanes and a bicycle/pedestrian path separated from vehicular traffic by a concrete barrier wall.

## DISTRICT SEVEN

**COUNTIES:** Bradley, Calhoun, Clark, Cleveland, Columbia, Dallas, Ouachita and Union

Construction progressed in Arkadelphia on a new State Highway 51 bridge over the Ouachita River. The project was awarded to Robertson Contractors, Inc. for \$14.8 million in 2014. The new bridge will span both the Ouachita River and the Union Pacific railroad tracks located in the area. The improved bridge will provide much more reliable access to Arkadelphia by eliminating the existing curve in the roadway and raising the highway above an area that is sometimes prone to flooding. Anticipated completion is targeted for the fall of 2017.

Crews were also at work in Clark County replacing four bridges on U.S. Highway 67, north of Gurdon. Manhattan Road and Bridge Company was awarded the project at \$9.3 million.

Five projects in Union and Calhoun Counties are widening approximately 17 miles of U.S. Highway 167 to four and five lanes, between El Dorado and Hampton. The five projects include another bridge across the Ouachita River at Calion. The total contract for all five projects was \$97.8 million. Three of the projects, including the River Bridge, were awarded to Y. G. Yates and Sons for \$67.6 million. The other two projects were awarded to McGeorge Contracting Co. for \$30.2 million.

## DISTRICT EIGHT

**COUNTIES:** Conway, Faulkner, Johnson, Montgomery, Perry, Pope, Van Buren and Yell

The fast-growing area of southeast Conway was the site for a \$9.4 million project awarded to Rogers Group, Inc. Crews widened a half-mile of Dave Ward Drive, relocated and widened Interstate 40 ramps at U.S. Highway 65B, and constructed



**OUACHITA RIVER BRIDGE IN ARKADELPHIA**



**ROUNDBABOUTS IN CONWAY**

two roundabouts east of Interstate 40 towards Thomas G. Wilson Drive. The project will provide motorists with safer, faster travel in the area of the new Lewis Crossing Shopping development.

On the north side of Conway, crews with McGeorge Contracting Company, Inc. are relocating a section of State Highway 25 and adding a ramp onto Interstate 40. The new location for Highway 25 is being built west of the existing roadway and connects to an overpass constructed over Interstate 40 in 2009. The project will be completed in the summer of 2017 at a cost of \$10.8 million.

## DISTRICT NINE

**COUNTIES:** Baxter, Benton, Boone, Carroll, Madison, Marion, Newton and Searcy

Construction crews continued work on the Bella Vista Bypass in 2016. Five projects are building the first two lanes of what will be a divided, four-lane, controlled access facility that will be the future Interstate 49. Five projects make up the 14.3-mile bypass. Two projects are complete, one is under construction and the final two will be let to contract when Missouri begins work on their portion of the bypass.

Work also continued on the Eastern North-South corridor located in Benton and Washington Counties. The four-mile project is constructing a three-lane facility that connects to State Highway 265/Old Wire Road in Bethel Heights on the south end and 1st Street in Rogers on the north end. Approximately one mile of the project is on new alignment.

## DISTRICT TEN

**COUNTIES:** Clay, Craighead, Greene, Lawrence, Mississippi, Poinsett and Randolph

The Black River near Pocahontas was the site where crews worked to widen the U.S. Highway 67 northbound bridge crossing the river. The \$10 million project was awarded to Jensen Construction Company. Work began in the spring and many of the pile foundations on the east side of the channel are completed. Crews also excavated for a large cofferdam footing in the river. Construction is proceeding at a vigorous pace and completion is expected in the summer of 2018.

Crews also were at work on the widening of four miles of State Highway 18 from two to five lanes in the vicinity of Manila. The work includes construction of just over 1.5 miles of the highway on new location. Lakeside Contractors, LLC, was awarded the contract for the improvements at \$14.5 million. The widening should be completed in December of 2017.



**STATE HIGHWAY 25 NEAR CONWAY**



**BELLA VISTA BYPASS**



**HIGHWAY 67 NEAR POCAHONTAS**

# IMPROVING OUR

# HIGHWAY SYSTEM

## THE INTERSTATE REHABILITATION PROGRAM

**C**onstruction crews continued to work on the AHTD's Interstate Rehabilitation Program (IRP) in 2016.

In a special election held November 8, 2011, the citizens of Arkansas voted to allow the Arkansas Highway Commission to issue up to \$575 million in GARVEE bonds to help finance improvements and repairs to existing Interstates in Arkansas.

This Interstate Rehabilitation Program is virtually identical to the 1999 IRP, and in combination with existing federal and state revenues, is expected to support more than \$1 billion in construction on our Interstate highways over the life of the program.

The newest program includes 82 road projects. At the close of 2016, a total of 30 IRP projects had been completed. That number represents 198 miles of construction at a cost of \$593 million. There were 12 projects under construction at a cost of \$446 million that will, when completed, add an additional 66 miles to the total of Interstate miles completed. For the future, 40 projects are scheduled to rehabilitate an additional 230 miles. Costs for the upcoming projects total \$453 million.

**AT THE CLOSE OF 2016,  
a total of 30 IRP  
PROJECTS HAD BEEN  
COMPLETED.**

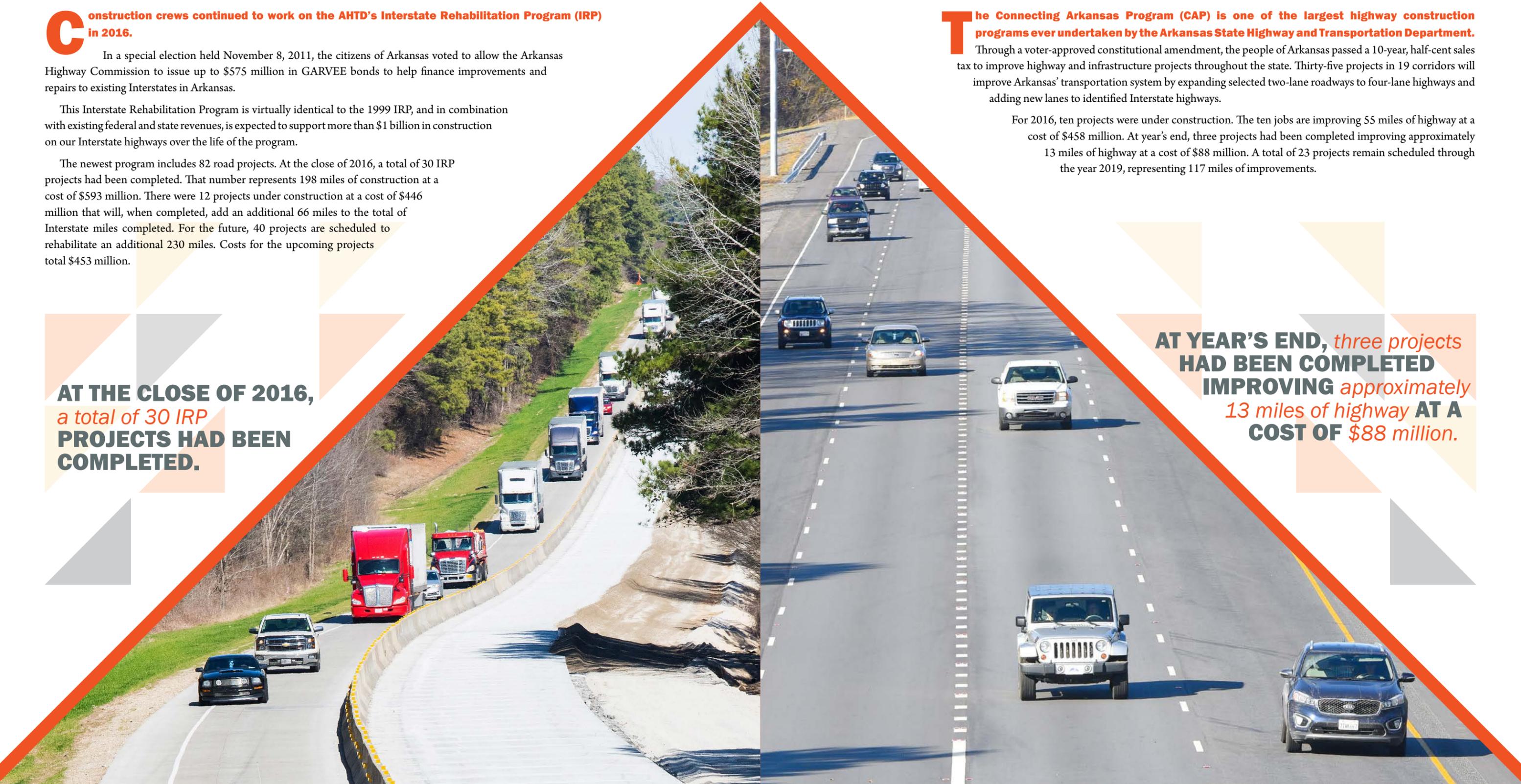
## THE CONNECTING ARKANSAS PROGRAM

**T**he Connecting Arkansas Program (CAP) is one of the largest highway construction programs ever undertaken by the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department.

Through a voter-approved constitutional amendment, the people of Arkansas passed a 10-year, half-cent sales tax to improve highway and infrastructure projects throughout the state. Thirty-five projects in 19 corridors will improve Arkansas' transportation system by expanding selected two-lane roadways to four-lane highways and adding new lanes to identified Interstate highways.

For 2016, ten projects were under construction. The ten jobs are improving 55 miles of highway at a cost of \$458 million. At year's end, three projects had been completed improving approximately 13 miles of highway at a cost of \$88 million. A total of 23 projects remain scheduled through the year 2019, representing 117 miles of improvements.

**AT YEAR'S END, *three projects*  
HAD BEEN COMPLETED  
IMPROVING *approximately*  
13 miles of highway AT A  
COST OF *\$88 million.***



# GROUNDBREAKINGS

## INTERSTATE 555 DESIGNATION Northeast Arkansas

The AHTD designated its newest Interstate highway in the State on March 11th when U.S. Highway 63, between Interstate 55 at Turrell and Jonesboro, was re-designated as Interstate 555. Governor Asa Hutchinson joined State and local leaders, AHTD Commissioners and staff for a dedication ceremony. In 2001, Highway 63 from U.S. Highway 49 West in Jonesboro to Interstate 55, was officially designated as Future Interstate 555 by the Federal Highway Administration. The 44-mile route would be eligible to be signed as Interstate 555 upon completion of an upgrade to Interstate standards. Over the past 40 years, the Department has spent approximately \$250 million upgrading the roadway. Congressman Rick Crawford, Senator John Boozman and Governor Hutchinson were instrumental in securing an exemption for the Interstate that ensured the continued ability of agricultural vehicles to travel between Marked Tree and Payneway, over the St. Francis Sunken Lands, once Highway 63 was officially designated as Interstate 555. With their success and all construction upgrades complete, Interstate 555 now handles an average of 13,500 motorists each day.

## STATE HIGHWAY 13 EXTENSION Searcy

The first of three sections of highway that will make up a 13-mile, two-lane bypass of Searcy was opened on May 13th. The project combined five miles of reconstructed, existing State Highway 13 with new location connecting State Highway 267 on the southern end to State Highway 36 to the north. The Rogers Group was awarded the contract in 2012 for \$16.4 million. The second section of the bypass is currently under construction and extends eastward from Highway 36 to State Highway 16. It is expected to be completed in the fall of 2018. Work on the third section of the bypass is underway and extends from Highway 16 eastward to U.S. Highway 67. It is estimated to be completed in early 2018. The City of Searcy and White County each contributed \$3 million toward funding of the estimated \$50 million bypass.

## U.S. HIGHWAY 167 Thornton

On October 7th, AHTD and local officials gathered to cut a ribbon on a new section of U.S. Highway 167 that was recently widened to four lanes. The event celebrated the completion of widening on the highway from Interstate 530 southward to Thornton. The entire Highway 167 Corridor runs from Interstate 530 down to the Louisiana state line. It provides a vital connection for the residents of south Arkansas and is an important economic tool. To date, \$360.5 million of work has been completed to widen Highway 167 between Interstate



Interstate 555 Designation Ceremony.



Director Scott Bennett at Highway 13 Ribbon Cutting.



U.S. Highway 167 Ribbon Cutting.

# & RIBBON CUTTINGS

530 and Thornton. An additional five projects totaling \$97.8 million are under construction between El Dorado and Hampton. The final four projects are scheduled for 2017 and 2018 for an estimated cost of \$83.6 million. This work will complete the final section between Hampton and Thornton. Upon completion, the investment to widen the Highway 167 corridor will total \$541.9 million.

## INTERSTATE 40/HIGHWAY 65B INTERCHANGE STATE HIGHWAY 286 Conway

A dedication ceremony was held December 21st of 2016 in Conway for the \$9.4 million Interstate 40/U.S. Highway 65B interchange and State Highway 286 widening project. The dedication was held at the site of the new Lewis Crossing shopping development. The improvements feature relocated and widened Interstate 40 ramps at Highway 65B, and two roundabouts east of the Interstate towards Thomas G. Wilson Drive. The City of Conway contributed \$2 million to the project, financed utility relocation and assumed the maintenance of Amity Road.

## INTERSTATE 40 North Little Rock

Construction was completed in late 2016 on the AHTD's first Connecting Arkansas Program (CAP) project. The job widened two Interstate 40/Interstate 430 interchange ramps and also widened five miles of Interstate 40 to six lanes west of the interchange. The \$38.4 million job was awarded to McGeorge Contracting Company in September of 2014. A ribbon cutting was held for the project on November 30th. Combined with other recent projects, this CAP job completes the widening of Interstate 40 from North Little Rock to Conway at a final construction cost of \$174 million.

## U. S. HIGHWAY 65 Bee Branch/Clinton

U.S. Highway 65, between the north central Arkansas towns of Clinton and Bee Branch, saw improvements in 2016. A 1.5-mile section of the highway, just south of Clinton, was widened from three to five lanes. Mobley Contractors, Inc. was awarded the contract for approximately \$12.5 million. A four-mile section of the highway in the Bee Branch area was also substantially completed. Rogers Group, Inc. was awarded that contract at approximately \$11.5 million. A ribbon cutting was held on November 21st to recognize both recently widened sections. Just one eight-mile section of the highway between Clinton and Bee Branch remains to make Highway 65 a four-lane roadway extending from Conway northward to Clinton.



Commissioner Frank D. Scott, Jr. at Conway Ribbon Cutting.



Interstate 40 CAP Completion Ceremony.



U.S. Highway 65 Ribbon Cutting.

# PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

**P**ROVIDING THE BEST SYSTEM OF HIGHWAYS POSSIBLE is always a top priority for the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department. Part of keeping that system the best it can be involves the construction of new roadways and the proper maintenance of our existing ones.

A great deal of planning and work goes into providing a good network of highways. Maintaining our current highways requires crews on the scene every day. Planning for new highways requires consideration of the terrain, environmental issues, existing structures in the path of a new highway, connecting roadways and construction costs.

When planning new highways or improvements to existing ones, the AHTD believes it is important to include the general public in the process. To do that, the Department holds public meetings across the State to gain input from local citizens and share existing plans. The feedback gained from meeting with area residents is important to the planning process. The meetings are also an opportunity for AHTD staff to answer any questions residents may have and address any concerns.

For the year 2016, public information meetings were held in 16 communities. Planning for future highways was shared with close to 1,400 residents.

Public meetings were held in Bella Vista, Benton, Bentonville, Clinton, El Dorado, Fayetteville, Fordyce, Hamburg, Hot Springs, Jasper, Little Rock, Lowell, Magnolia, Morrilton, Pangburn, Rogers and Springdale.

30 CROSSING TOWN HALL PUBLIC MEETING

# 2016 IDRIVEARKANSAS Stats

**PAGEVIEWS / 2,207,031**

Pageviews is the total number of pages viewed. Repeated views of a single page are counted.

**USERS / 876,533**

Users that have had at least one session within the selected date range. Includes both new and returning users.

**NEW USERS AVG. / 32.14%**

An estimate of the percentage of first time visits

**SESSIONS / 1,564,774**

A session is the period time a user is actively engaged with your website or app. All usage data (Screen Views, Events, Ecommerce, etc.) is associated with a session.

**AVG. SESSION TIME / 2 MIN.**

The average length of a Session on IDriveArkansas.

## TYPE OF DEVICE USED

Mobile - 74.25%  
Desktop - 18.92%  
Tablet - 6.83%

## TOP 3 OPERATING SYSTEMS USED

iOS - 56.32%  
Android - 23.94%  
Windows - 17.58%

## TOP 6 BROWSERS USED

Safari (in-app) - 36.16% Internet Explorer - 7.80%  
Chrome - 29.62% Firefox - 2.50%  
Safari - 20.39% Android Browser - 1.44%

# TWITTER Stats

**IMPRESSIONS / 12,176,000**

The number of times our tweets were seen by the public.

**ENGAGEMENT RATE / 2.4%**

Percentage of audience that retweeted, marked as a favorite or expanded our tweets.

**FOLLOWERS / 36,162**

@ahtd gained 9,300 new followers in the calendar year.

**LINK CLICKS / 7,169**

Number of times the public was directed to information we included in a tweet.

The Broadway Bridge demolition event had **41 tweets**, each tweet averaging **9.6k impressions** and a **4.6% engagement rate**, with the most popular tweet reaching **37,500 people** and **engaging 8.9%** of them.

Our team created a series of tweets warning people against playing a popular game, Pokemon Go, while driving. The series of six tweets reached more than **98,000 people**. Other Departments of Transportation created or participated in a public service announcement against playing the game while driving after seeing the AHTD campaign.

## HOW DO WE COMPARE? # OF TWEETS IN 2016

University of Arkansas	49,000
AHTD	36,162
Arkansas Game & Fish Commission	28,800
Arkansas Dept. of Parks & Tourism	18,900
Arkansas State Police	13,000
Arkansas Department of Education	11,900

# RECOGNITIONS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## AMERICA'S TRANSPORTATION AWARDS

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department received an **America's Transportation Award** from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). The awards recognize excellence in transportation projects that improve travel safety, reduce roadway congestion and provide more travel options to consumers. The purpose of the awarded project was to widen approximately five miles of U.S. Highway 167 just north of Fordyce from two lanes to four-lane and five-lane divided roadway. The widening project was awarded to McGeorge Contracting Company, Inc. of Pine Bluff, Arkansas for \$33.4 million. It was completed on September 2, 2015. The improvements to U.S. Highway 167 were completed ahead of schedule and under budget. The final cost was \$765,000 less than expected and was completed nearly two months ahead of schedule.



## THOMAS H. MACDONALD MEMORIAL AWARD

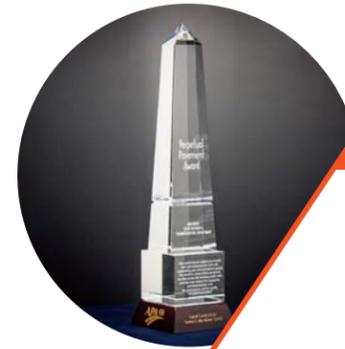
AHTD Director Scott Bennett was awarded AASHTO's top honor, the **Thomas H. MacDonald Memorial Award** in 2016. The association bestows the award to an individual who has "rendered continuous outstanding service over an extended period of time or has made some exceptional contribution to the art and science of highway engineering."

The award was established in 1957 in recognition of outstanding achievements of the late MacDonald, who served as chief of the Federal Highway Administration's Bureau of Public Roads in the fields of highway administration, engineering and research. At the presentation, AASHTO officials described Bennett as a visionary who has implemented many positive changes at the AHTD since becoming Director.



## QUALITY IN CONSTRUCTION AWARDS

The Department was the recipient of two **Quality in Construction Awards** from the National Asphalt Pavement Association. The award recognizes excellence in asphalt pavements that deliver high performance and drivability to the public. The first award was presented for improvements on State Highway 92 in Conway, Van Buren and Cleburne Counties in central Arkansas. The project included the expansion of two major box culverts with excavation and embankment work, and the resurfacing of 26 miles of the highway. The second award was for a section of U.S. Highway 62 stretching from Avoca to Garfield in northwest Arkansas. That project widened six miles of the roadway to five lanes.



## PERPETUAL PAVEMENT AWARD

The AHTD received a **Perpetual Pavement Award** from the Asphalt Pavement Alliance for its work on U.S. Highway 62 in northwest Arkansas. The award is presented to state transportation departments and local agency road owners for well-performing asphalt pavements that are at least 35 years old and have proven high-quality structural design. The Department received the award for a three-mile, two-lane section of Highway 62 located in Carroll County, near Berryville. The awarded section of the highway opened in 1971 and has only received two standard maintenance overlays in 44 years.



## TRANSCOMM AWARD

The Department was recognized for its *Arkansas Highways* magazine during the 2016 TransComm Conference held in Charleston, West Virginia. TransComm is the annual meeting for AASHTO's Subcommittee on Transportation Communication. *Arkansas Highways* magazine won First Place in the **TransComm Award's** "Published Article" category for an article titled "Fighting Litter." The article spotlighted the Department's Adopt-A-Highway program. The contest is considered the premier communications competition in the transportation industry.



## HERMES CREATIVE AWARD

The AHTD was the recipient of a **Hermes Creative Award** for its *Arkansas Highways* magazine. Hermes Creative Awards is an international competition for creative professionals involved in the concept, writing and design of traditional materials and programs, and emerging technologies. The competition is open to all individuals, companies and organizations involved in producing marketing and communication materials for external or internal audiences. *Arkansas Highways* magazine was named a 2016 Gold Winner.



## COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SAFETY ALLIANCE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department and the Arkansas Highway Police played a major role in hosting the **2016 Annual Conference and Exhibition of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance**. The event was attended by hundreds of members from across the United States, Mexico and Canada. The conference provides the opportunity for government officials, enforcement and industry to gather and identify meaningful changes to the overall culture of transportation safety throughout the three countries. Members held sessions to discuss and advance CVSA's mission to improve commercial motor vehicle safety and uniformity. Major Jay Thompson of the Arkansas Highway Police served as the CVSA president in 2016.

# DISTRICT INFORMATION



## **DISTRICT ONE**

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Telephone: (870) 238-8144 • Fax: (870) 238-2994

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*Counties: Crittenden, Cross, Lee, Monroe, Phillips, St. Francis and Woodruff*



## **DISTRICT TWO**

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*Counties: Arkansas, Ashley, Chicot, Desha, Drew, Grant, Jefferson and Lincoln*



## **DISTRICT THREE**

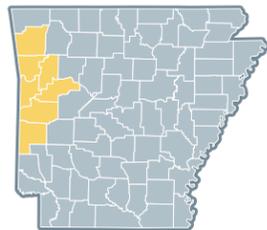
Engineer: Stephen Frisbee

2911 Highway 29 North • P.O. Box 490 • Hope, AR 71802-0490

Telephone: (870) 777-3457 • Fax: (870) 777-3489

Email: Steve.Frisbee@ArkansasHighways.com

*Counties: Hempstead, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Nevada, Pike and Sevier*



## **DISTRICT FOUR**

Engineer: Chad Adams

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*Counties: Crawford, Franklin, Logan, Polk, Scott, Sebastian and Washington*



## **DISTRICT FIVE**

Engineer: Bruce Street

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*Counties: Cleburne, Fulton, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Sharp, Stone and White*



## **DISTRICT SIX**

Engineer: Mark Headley

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Email: Mark.Headley@ArkansasHighways.com

*Counties: Garland, Hot Spring, Lonoke, Prairie, Pulaski and Saline*



## **DISTRICT SEVEN**

Engineer: Jeff Venable

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## **DISTRICT EIGHT**

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Email: Scott.Mullis@ArkansasHighways.com

*Counties: Conway, Faulkner, Johnson, Montgomery, Perry, Pope, Van Buren and Yell*



## **DISTRICT NINE**

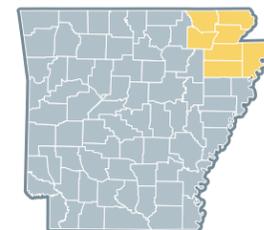
Engineer: Steve Lawrence

4590 Highway 65 • P.O. Box 610 • Harrison, AR 72602-0610

Telephone: (870) 743-2100 • Fax: (870) 743-4630

Email: Steve.Lawrence@ArkansasHighways.com

*Counties: Baxter, Benton, Boone, Carroll, Madison, Marion, Newton and Searcy*



## **DISTRICT TEN**

Engineer: Brad Smithee

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*Counties: Clay, Craighead, Greene, Lawrence, Mississippi, Poinsett and Randolph*

# ORGANIZATION & WORKFORCE



## THE ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION AND THE ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

have been working to provide Arkansas with the best transportation system possible since the Mack-Blackwell Amendment of 1953. Under that amendment, each of the five Arkansas Highway Commissioners serves a 10-year, staggered term with a new commissioner being appointed by the Governor every two years.

The Commission is assigned all powers necessary to fully and effectively administer Arkansas laws and regulations related to AHTD operations.

The Department Director is appointed in order to develop a professional staff and to oversee construction and maintenance on Arkansas' highway network.

At the close of the year 2016, the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department employed 3,693 full-time, regular employees.

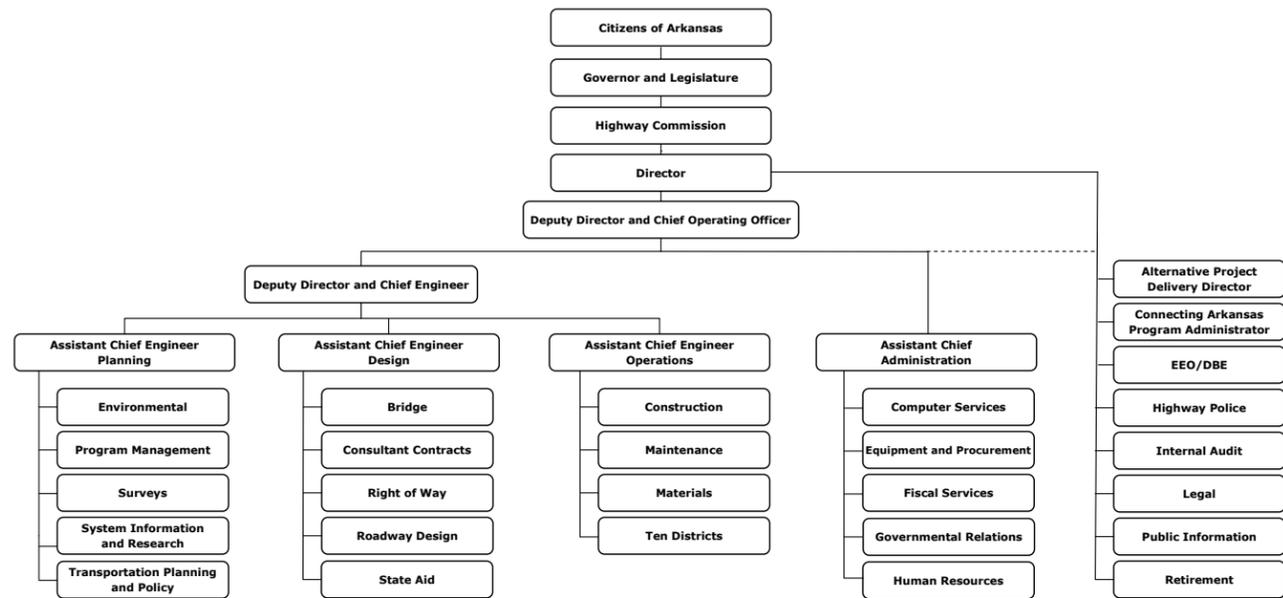
The 2016 workforce was made up of 2,985 males and 708 females. Of that total, 762 were minority employees and 2,931 were non-minority.

(Standing L. to R.)

**MIKE FUGETT**, Assistant Chief Engineer for Design  
**RANDY ORT**, Assistant Chief for Administration  
**KEVIN THORNTON**, Assistant Chief Engineer for Planning  
**TONY SULLIVAN**, Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations

(Seated L. to R.)

**EMANUEL BANKS**, Deputy Director and Chief Engineer  
**SCOTT E. BENNETT, P.E.**, Director  
**LORIE TUDOR**, Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer



## CENTRAL OFFICE

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## EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT

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 Telephone: (501) 569-2667



## MATERIALS LAB

11301 West Baseline Road  
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 Telephone: (501) 569-2185



## MAINTENANCE

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 Little Rock, AR 72209  
 Telephone: (501) 569-2231



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