

***Arkansas State
Highway and Transportation
Department
2005 Annual Report***

Letter from the Director



AHTD Director Dan Flowers

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department is pleased to present its 2005 Annual Report.

The many accomplishments in 2005 are a reflection of the hard work and dedication of both our Highway Commission members and the Department staff. Congratulations go to all of our employees for a job well done!

Early in the year, we welcomed a new member to the Arkansas State Highway Commission. John Ed Regenold from Armored, in northeast Arkansas, was appointed to the Commission by Governor Mike Huckabee. The Commission members and Department staff look forward to working with Mr. Regenold in the coming years.

This was also the year that the majority of the Interstate Rehabilitation Program, commonly known as the IRP, was completed. In 1999, the citizens of Arkansas voted to allow the Arkansas State Highway Commission to sell bonds to fund improvements on our Interstate system. In the past five years, 54 projects rehabilitated more than 350 miles of our Interstates. These improvements have brought national and international attention to the AHTD because of the innovative funding and construction methods used. The IRP brought us from having 63% of our Interstates rated “poor”, to 72% rated as “good.” What a success!

Throughout the year, the Department cut ribbons on major projects across the state. Some of those projects included a 17-mile widening project on Interstate 30 from Benton to Little Rock, the Highway 165 Stuttgart Bypass, Highway 549 (future I-49) in southwest Arkansas and the new Van Buren/Fort Smith Arkansas Welcome Center to name a few. Other significant projects included the completion of the Bono Bypass and the beginning of construction for an Interchange on Highway 63 at Washington Avenue in Jonesboro.

The Department and staff received numerous awards throughout the year. Our equipment operators won the Southeast Regional Equipment Operators Rodeo for the third year in a row. We also received an award from the Arkansas Regional Minority Supplier Development Commission for outstanding commitment to minority business contracting and purchasing.

Our Litter Violator Hotline reached the one year mark with great success. Over 5,000 calls were received in its first year. We hope to achieve a greater awareness of the litter problem in Arkansas through this program.

This Annual Report highlights these events and more. I hope that you will find this summation of 2005 informative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Flowers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dan Flowers
Director of Highways
and Transportation

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Regenold Appointed to Commission

John Ed Regenold of Armorel was appointed by Governor Mike Huckabee to serve a 10-year term on the Arkansas State Highway Commission. He replaced J.W. "Buddy" Benafield whose term expired in January. Regenold took the Oath of Office on February 10, 2005. His term will expire in January 2015.

Regenold is a native of northeast Arkansas and is Chairman of the Armorel Planting Company.

He has served on numerous commissions and boards, such as the Arkansas Economic Development Commission. He is also a member of the St. Francis Levee Board and is a commissioner for the District 17 Drainage District. He is the Chairman of the Mississippi County Hospital System Board and a member of the Arkansas Northeast College Foundation. He is a former member

of the board of the First National Bank of Blytheville.

Regenold and his wife, Martha Dale, have four children and nine grandchildren.

He joins fellow Commissioners Prissy Hickerson, who is the current Chairman; Jonathan Barnett, Vice Chairman; Carl S. Rosenbaum and R. Madison Murphy.



The Honorable Judge Graham Partlow (r.) of the Second Judicial Circuit in Blytheville presided over the swearing in ceremony as Martha Dale Regenold, wife of John Ed Regenold, watched.

Recognition



The AHTD was recognized at the Governor's Conference on Tourism, March 8th in Little Rock, with the Crystal Award (left) for its work with the Department of Parks and Tourism on plans to rebuild four Arkansas Welcome Centers. The AHTD received a QBS Award (Qualification Based Selection) (center) from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Arkansas on February 24th. The award is for exemplary use of the QBS selection process and promotion of the practice of QBS in the selection of engineering services. On March 3rd, AHTD received the 1st Annual Corporate Executive Minority Business Award (right) from the Arkansas Regional Minority Supplier Development Council for outstanding commitment to minority business contracting and purchasing.



Dan Flowers, (2nd from right) Director of the AHTD, received the 2005 University of Arkansas College of Engineering's Distinguished Alumni Award. Scott Bennett, (far right) AHTD Assistant Chief Engineer for Planning, was recognized with the Young Alumni Award from the College. They received the awards at the College of Engineering Alumni Awards Banquet on April 9, 2005, in Fayetteville.



The 3rd Annual Regional Equipment Operators Roдео was held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, in October. Participants from five states competed in events such as Tractor/Lowboy, Tandem Axle Dump Truck, Single Axle Dump Truck/Trailer, Tractor/Mower, Backhoe and Motor Patrol. The AHTD team came away from the event as Regional Roдео Champions for the third year in a row.



The AHTD and Gilbert Central Corporation of Omaha, Nebraska, received the National Partnership for Highway Quality (NPHQ) 2005 State Award for their rehabilitation of approximately eleven miles on Interstate 40 near Conway in central Arkansas.



The AHTD and the University of Arkansas' Mack-Blackwell Rural Transportation Center (MBTC) received a Roadway Work Zone Safety Awareness Award from The American Road and Transportation Builders Association on September 29th. Farrell Wilson (l.) of the AHTD Public Affairs office, and Melissa Tooley (r.), MBTC Director are pictured with the award.



The AHTD received the 2005 Departments of Transportation Partnership Award from Keep America Beautiful in December. Ellen Hill (c.) of the AHTD Public Affairs office, attended the awards ceremony. Robert Phelps, (l.) Executive Director, Keep Arkansas Beautiful, also attended. Ray Empsen, (r.) President, Keep America Beautiful, made the presentation.

Groundbreakings & Dedications

A smoother, wider section of Interstate 30 stretching 17 miles from Little Rock to Benton was formally dedicated on November 18th of 2005.

Governor Mike Huckabee joined highway officials and local leaders in cutting the ribbon on the new roadway that has proved to be popular with area commuters.

The project cost \$200 million and involved rebuilding the original four main lanes, adding an

additional lane in each direction, adding concrete barrier walls and converting the access roads to one-way operation. Also included were new crossovers and reconfigured interchanges. The improvements stretch from Geyer Springs Road in Little Rock to Sevier Street in Benton.

This project was included in the AHTD's Interstate Rehabilitation Program.



Participating in the Interstate 30 dedication were (l. to r.) Arkansas Highway Commission Chairman Prissy Hickerson, AHTD Director Dan Flowers, Governor Mike Huckabee, AHTD District 6 Engineer Emanuel Banks and Commissioner Carl Rosenbaum.

IRP UPDATE

It was five years ago that highway officials announced the five-year Interstate Rehabilitation Program (IRP). Since it began, more than 350 miles of Arkansas Interstates have been reconstructed. A total of 54 projects comprised the program.

Arkansas is being showcased nationally for the IRP's innovative thinking, research, design and implementation. AHTD engineers are frequently asked to share their experiences at transportation industry conferences around the country and have even had foreign visitors from as far away as Russia come to learn about the rehabilitation procedures.

A recent ranking of the nation's Interstates by Overdrive magazine included Interstate 40 in Arkansas as the number one "Most Improved" highway in the country. Interstate 30 in Arkansas ranked third in the same category.

The AHTD has been recognized with nine awards for excellence in communications and work zone safety for the IRP.

It has had a significant impact on the economy of the state as well. The amount of construction work involved with the IRP created approximately 47,000 jobs.



(l. to r.), Gary McMillan of First Security Bank in Cabot; State Representative Sid Rosenbaum, State Senator Bobby Glover, AHTD Director Dan Flowers, Highway Commissioner Carl Rosenbaum and Assistant to the Director Frank Vozel look over plans for the Highway 89 relocation project in downtown Cabot on January 6.

Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee cuts the ribbon to dedicate the new Van Buren/Fort Smith Welcome Center on May 24. Members of the Highway Commission and the Department of Parks and Tourism were on hand, as well as local dignitaries.



On July 13, Highway Commission Chairman Prissy Hickerson joins local officials to cut the ribbon to officially open Highway 132 in Morrilton.



On October 25, Assistant to the Director Frank Vozel acted as Master of Ceremonies as a large crowd gathered to open the newest section of the East-West Arterial in Hot Springs.

AHTD Director Dan Flowers and local officials assist as Arkansas Highway Commission Chairman Prissy Hickerson cuts the ribbon to officially open the new section of Highway 549 from Fouke to Doddridge on October 20.



Highway Commission Chairman Prissy Hickerson assists in the ribbon cutting to open the Ashdown Bypass on October 28. The one-mile section from Highway 71 east to Highway 32 is the final leg of the Bypass.



AHTD Director Dan Flowers gathers with local officials, on December 21, to cut the ribbon and officially open the Highway 165 Stuttgart Bypass, connecting Highway 63, north of Stuttgart, to Highway 79 on the eastern side of town.



Litter Hotline

2005 marked the first full year of operation for the 24-hour Litter Reporting Hotline. The program was launched in December 2004, with First Lady Janet Huckabee serving as the Hotline spokesperson. In the first year of operation, the hotline has had a steady stream of callers. Litter reporting phone calls to 1-866-811-1222 are answered 24-hours-a-day by an office of the Arkansas Highway Police (AHP) who records the incident. A letter is then sent to the registered owner of the vehicle regarding the violation. Motorists who want to report a violation need to provide the date and location that the lit-

tering occurred, a description of the vehicle including the license plate number and a description of the item discarded onto the roadway.

In its first year of operation, the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department's Litter Hotline has seen positive results. In 2005 the hotline received well over 5,000 calls. Each of these calls resulted in a joint letter being sent to the violator from the Arkansas Highway Police and the Arkansas State Police.

"We are extremely pleased with the public's involvement with the program," stated AHTD

Director Dan Flowers. "We hope we are curbing the litter problem in Arkansas." There are currently eight other states around the nation that have implemented similar Litter Reporting Systems. The hope is that not only will this make citizens more conscious of the litter problem in Arkansas, but will also give motorists a remedy for the frustrations of seeing others litter.

"Our call center has answered over 5,000 calls on the litter hotline this year," said Arkansas Highway Police Chief Ron Burks. "We hope to achieve greater awareness of our litter problem with this program."

Public Involvement

The Department held numerous public involvement meetings around the state in 2005. Thousands of citizens and local officials attended nearly 40 public meetings and hearings. These meetings allowed the Department to exchange information with the general public and gave citizens the opportunity to voice their opinions on specific projects.

Public Involvement Sessions were held in Alpena, Bentonville, Bonanza, Carlisle, DeQueen, El Dorado, Fayetteville, Fort Smith, Hindsville, Hot Springs Village, Huntington, Junction City, Lake Village, Nashville, North Little Rock, Paragould, Rogers, Sherwood, Valley View and Van Buren. Neighborhood Meetings were held in Carlisle and the Pinebergen community to reach people in certain neighborhoods that would be affected by upcoming projects. Public

Hearings were held in Conway, Doddridge, El Dorado, Fountain Lake, Grady, Hindsville, Monticello, Pine Bluff, Pottsville, Sheridan, Sherwood, Vilonia and Texarkana.

The Highway and Transportation Department encourages early and ongoing input from citizens, and places great emphasis on the public involvement process.



Citizens are encouraged to make comments at each public meeting.

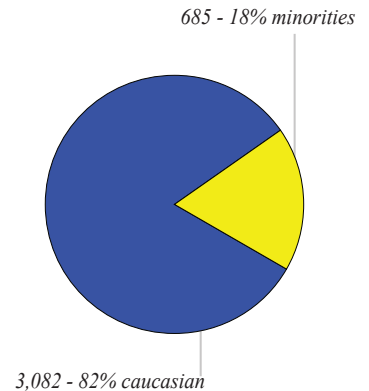
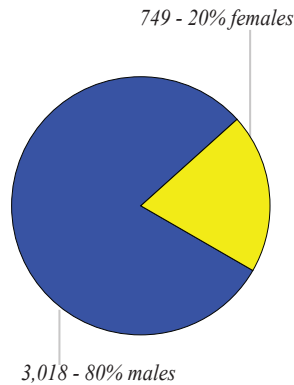


Maps of the area were shown at each public involvement session.

AHTD Workforce

The Department's workforce numbered approximately 3,767 in 2005. Approximately 20 percent, or 749 employees, of the workforce was made up of females. About 80 percent, 3,018 employees, were males.

Out of the 3,767 AHTD employees, 685 were minorities. This represents approximately 18 percent of the workforce.



Bid Lettings and Projects

The Arkansas State Highway Commission awarded contracts on 228 jobs in 2005. These jobs totaled approximately \$382,804,881.

These figures do not include the largest project in AHTD history. The Highway 82 Green-

ville Bridge Approaches project, leading to the new bridge over the Mississippi River, was awarded in November for a total of \$65,989,487. Although Arkansas will pay 100% of the cost for this project, the letting was held by the Mississippi Department of

Transportation. They are the lead agency on this partnership and have awarded all contracts for the Greenville Bridge project.

Below are the top 10 most expensive projects let during 2005, excluding the Greenville Bridge Approaches project.

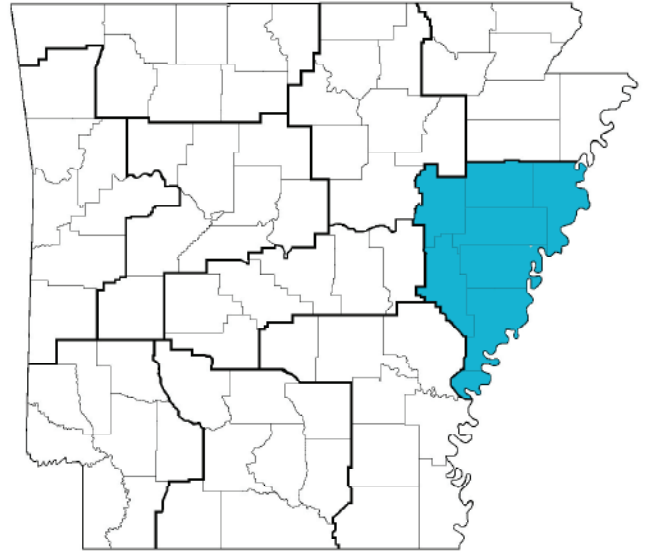
COUNTY	JOB NAME	AMOUNT
Pulaski	Highway 67/167, I-40 - McCain & Wildwood - Kiehl	\$42,259,669.04
Craighead	Highway 67, Hwy. 37 - Hwy. 226 (Grading & Structures)	\$19,792,452.92
Crittenden	Highway 64, Hwy. 147 - Interstate 55	\$16,879,760.99
Crittenden	Interstate 40 and Highway 118 Interchange improvements	\$16,516,849.44
Searcy	Highway 65, Bear Creek - Clinton	\$13,985,578.78
Greene	Highway 412, Paragould - Big Slough Ditch	\$11,731,844.34
Washington	Highway 62, Illinois River - Highway 170	\$11,178,978.85
Sevier	Highway 70, Industrial Park Road - Wilson Creek	\$ 9,985,654.79
Chicot	Tourist Information Center - Highway 82	\$ 9,308,084.05
Craighead	Washington Avenue Interchange	\$ 8,993,088.66

District 1

District Engineer: **Ray Woodruff**
2701 Highway 64
Wynne, Arkansas 72396
870-238-8144

Number of Highway Miles: 1,600
Number of Interstate Miles: 107
Number of Employees: 275

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

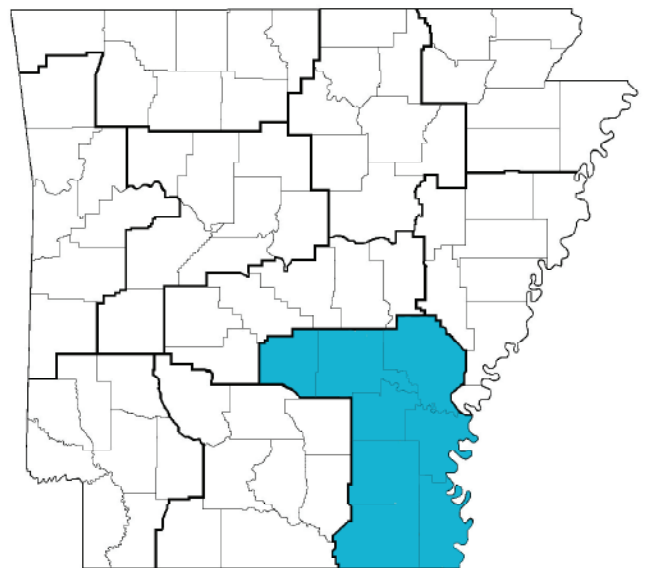


District 2

District Engineer: **James House**
4900 Highway 65 South
Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71611
870-534-1612

Number of Highway Miles: 1,725
Number of Interstate Miles: 30
Number of Employees: 256

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

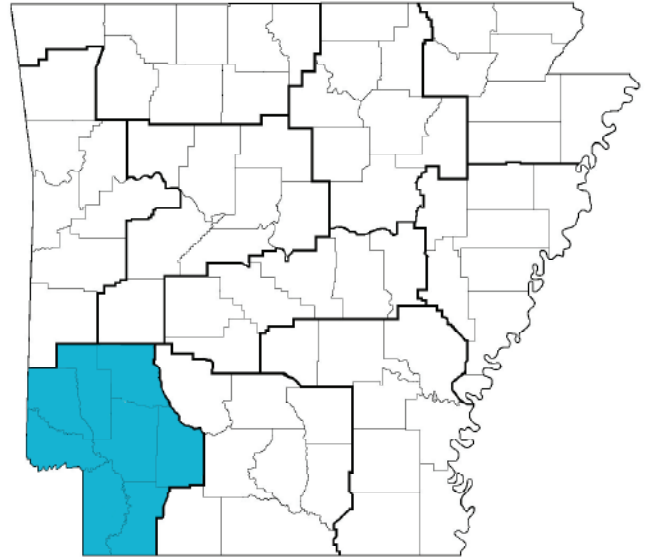


District 3

District Engineer: **Don Donaldson**
2911 Highway 29 North
Hope, Arkansas 71802
870-777-3457

Number of Highway Miles: 1,517
Number of Interstate Miles: 53
Number of Employees: 270

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

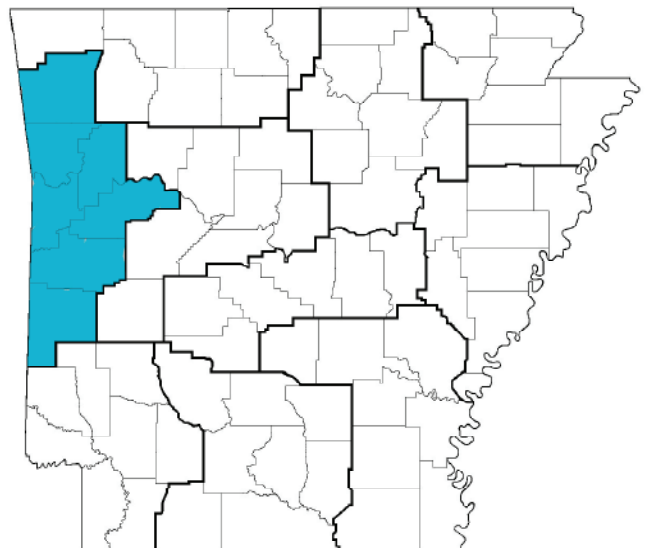


District 4

District Engineer: **Joe Shipman**
4019 Towson Avenue
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72902
479-646-5501

Number of Highway Miles: 1,862
Number of Interstate Miles: 113
Number of Employees: 285

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

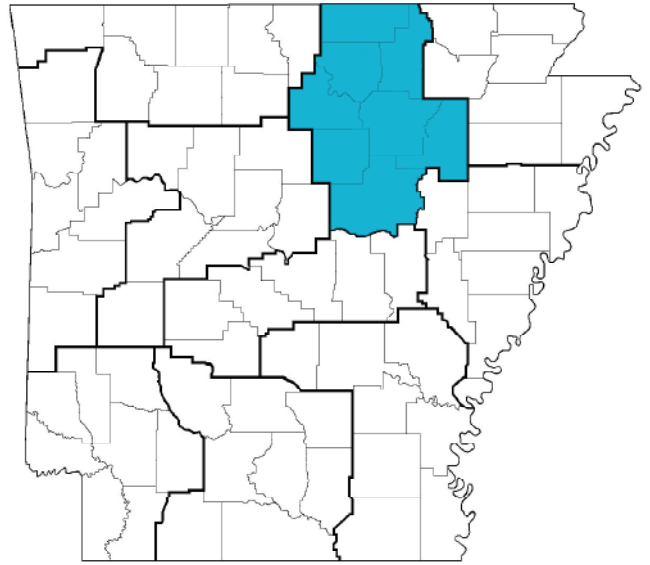


District 5

District Engineer: **Lyndal Waits**
1673 Batesville Boulevard
Batesville, Arkansas 72503
870-251-2374

Number of Highway Miles: 1,875
Number of Interstate Miles: 0
Number of Employees: 230

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

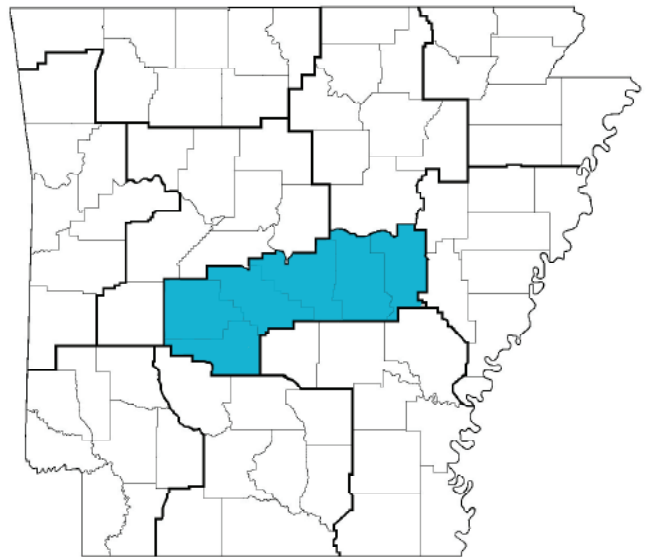


District 6

District Engineer: **Emanuel Banks**
8900 Mabelvale Pike
Little Rock, Arkansas 72219
501-569-2266

Number of Highway Miles: 1,290
Number of Interstate Miles: 176
Number of Employees: 323

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

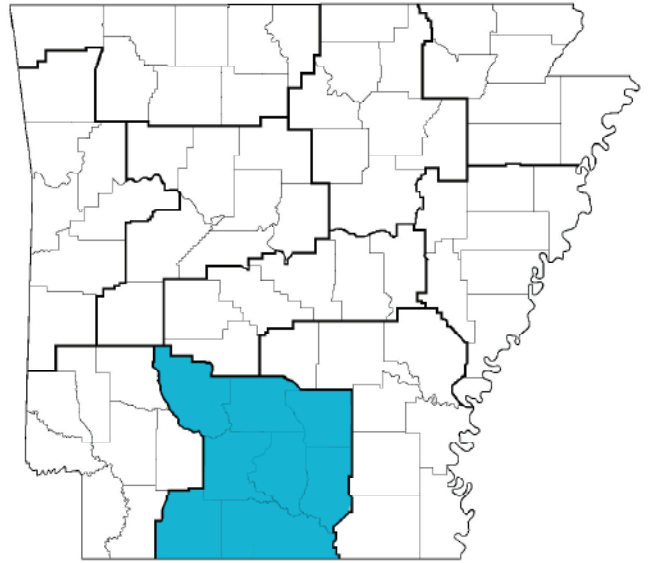


District 7

District Engineer: **Carl Bachelor**
2245 California Avenue
Camden, Arkansas 71711
870-836-6401

Number of Highway Miles: 1,556
Number of Interstate Miles: 28
Number of Employees: 254

Counties: Bradley, Calhoun,
Clark, Cleveland, Columbia,
Dallas, Ouachita, Union

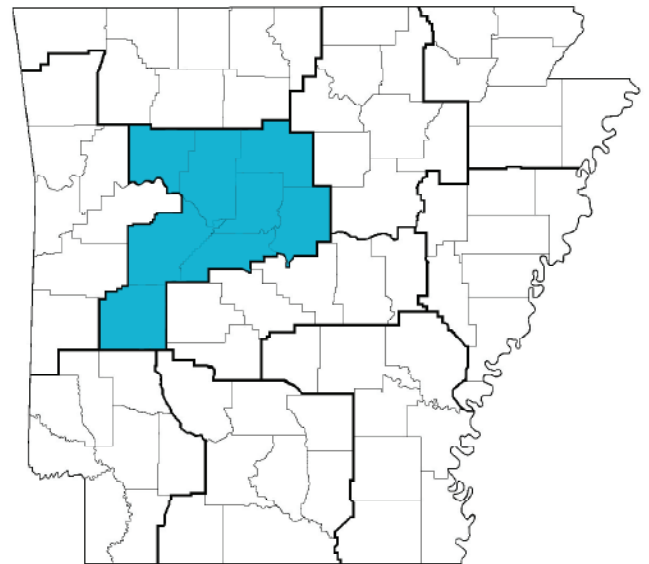


District 8

District Engineer: **Frank Russenberger**
372 Aspen Lane
Russellville, Arkansas 72811
479-968-2286

Number of Highway Miles: 1,726
Number of Interstate Miles: 94
Number of Employees: 273

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



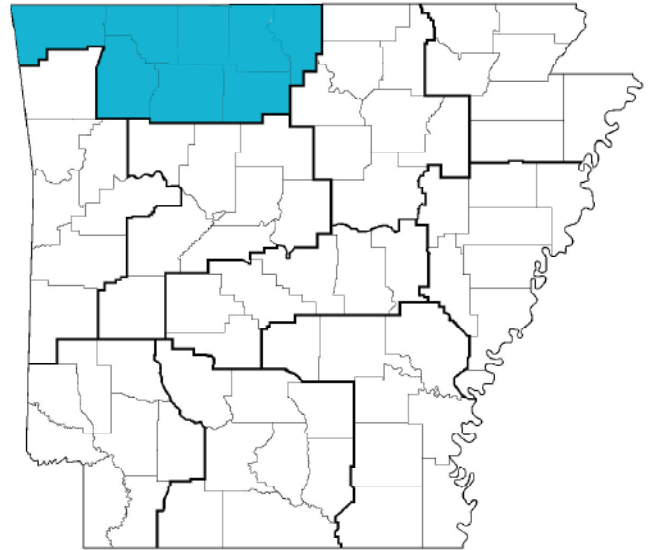
District 9

District Engineer: **Ralph Fulton**

4590 Highway 65
Harrison, Arkansas 72602
870-743-2100

Number of Highway Miles: 1,706
Number of Interstate Miles: 12
Number of Employees: 256

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



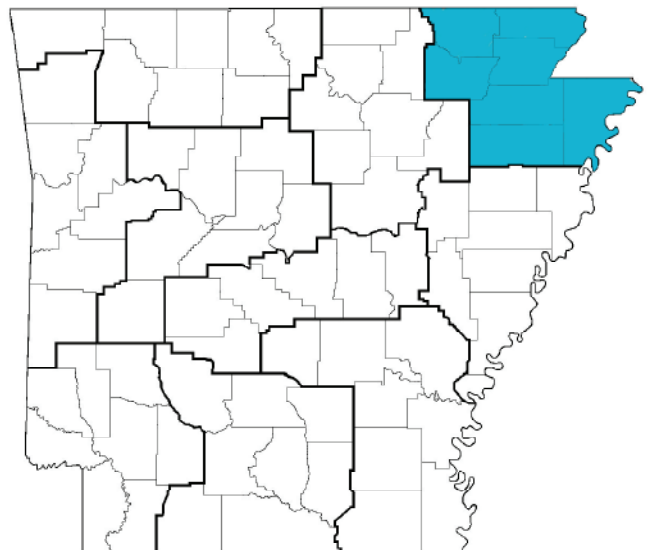
District 10

District Engineer: **Joe Barnett**

2510 Highway 412 West
Paragould, Arkansas 72451
870-239-9511

Number of Highway Miles: 1,979
Number of Interstate Miles: 44
Number of Employees: 273

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



Central Office

10324 Interstate 30
 P.O. Box 2261
 Little Rock, AR 72203
 501-569-2000



47th Arkansas State Highway Commission
 Front (l. to r.) Carl S. Rosenbaum; Mary P. “Prissy” Hickerson, Chairman; Jonathan Barnett, Vice Chairman
 Back (l. to r.) John Ed Regenold; Dan Flowers, AHTD Director; R. Madison Murphy

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION CHART

