

INFORMATION RELEASE



Office of the Director

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AHTD AND HIGHWAY COMMISSION REACTION TO BOND ELECTION RESULTS

LITTLE ROCK (11-8) – The following statement is from Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) Director Scott Bennett in reaction to Tuesday’s highway bond election:

“On behalf of the Commission and Department, I want to say I am very pleased with the results of the highway bond proposal in today’s election. I want to thank Governor Beebe, the Move Arkansas Forward Committee, and everyone who worked hard to get the positive message out to the voters.

In 1999, the Commission took a very conservative approach to using bond financing for our Interstate improvements. It had been 50 years since the people of Arkansas had approved the use of bonds for highway work, and the people needed to have a chance to get comfortable with that funding mechanism.

Since that time, the people of Arkansas have seen over half of our existing Interstate highway miles improved. We’ve gone from having some or the worst Interstates in the country to literally some of the best. But we need to continue that progress.

I think today’s vote is evidence that the people are pleased with the way our Interstates have been improved in recent years. All that was being asked was that we be able to continue using this funding mechanism on future Interstate improvements. I think the election results speak for themselves.

I can assure you that the Commission and the Department do not take this responsibility lightly. We will strive to be prudent and practical with this funding mechanism and with all the revenues that are available to us. We will also continue to explore all available funding options for future highway improvements in order to meet our mission of providing the safest and most efficient transportation system possible.

Again, I want to thank the public for their support of this important proposal.”

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