

INFORMATION RELEASE



Office of the Director

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
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Statements from the Arkansas Highway Commission and State Highway Department Regarding Issue #1 Election Results

Madison Murphy, Chairman of the Arkansas Highway Commission

“On behalf of the Highway Commission, I want to say I am very pleased with the success of Issue #1 in today’s election. I especially want to thank the Move Arkansas Forward Committee and the hundreds of volunteers who worked hard to get our message out to the voters.

“Today’s positive vote is evidence that Arkansans believe in the importance of good roads, and that they are willing to invest in themselves and the future of our State. The people of Arkansas were presented with an opportunity and they chose to pursue it. This program does not rely on federal assistance – this is money generated in Arkansas, it stays in Arkansas, and it improves Arkansas roads.

“I also want to recognize the work of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Finance, on which I was fortunate to serve. We met throughout 2009 and 2010 to develop options for improving roadways at all levels in Arkansas – state highways, county roads, and city streets. What became Issue #1 was proposed by the Blue Ribbon Committee, adopted and referred by the Legislature, and ultimately approved by the people. This has truly been a transparent and public process, and I am extremely pleased with the results.”

Scott Bennett, Director of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department

“We appreciate the opportunity that we have been given. But with that opportunity comes responsibility, a responsibility that we do not take lightly. We have made commitments, both verbally and in writing, and it is now incumbent on us that we fulfill those commitments.

“The Highway Commission and Department must now implement and complete this highway construction program. The new revenue stream will begin in July of 2013, and we will be working diligently throughout the coming months to prepare for beginning construction shortly thereafter. We look forward to fulfilling the public’s trust by successfully completing this program within the coming 10 years.”

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