



INFORMATION RELEASE

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Social Hill Rest Area to Close – Will Become Arkansas Tourist Information Center

HOT SPRING COUNTY (3-25) –The Social Hill Rest Area, located between the cities of Social Hill and Rockport on Interstate 30 at mile-marker 93, will undergo a complete transformation into an Arkansas Tourist Information Center; the work will require closure of the rest area for more than a year, according to the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation (AHTD) officials.

The facility is scheduled to be closed at **7:00 a.m. on Monday, March 28, 2016** and will remain closed for the duration of the project. Weather permitting; the Arkansas Tourist Information Center at Social Hill will open late-2017. Motorists should plan to use alternate facilities until the project is completed.

Transformation of the Social Hill Rest Area will include demolition of the existing restrooms and construction of larger buildings to accommodate a greater number of restroom facilities that meet the latest Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, are more family friendly, and feature baby changing stations.

Unlike the Department's Welcome Centers, the new Tourist Information Centers will be unmanned, equipped instead with self-service kiosks that feature the AHTD's highly successful travel and construction information site, IDriveArkansas.com. Additional kiosks will provide weather conditions and forecasts as well as information about local amenities to include attractions, dining, lodging, and more. Limited public Wi-Fi access will also be made available.

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Transformation of the Social Hill facility is one among several Rest Areas that will become Tourist Information Centers. See attached drawings of a typical facility. Work has already begun on the Big Piney and White River Rest Areas. Additionally, the Arkansas Welcome Centers in Harrison and at the Red River (U.S. Highway 71 in Little River County) will be replaced with new facilities.

The Social Hill Rest Area was originally constructed in 1972. Seale's Construction Company, Inc. of Sparkman was awarded the contract in February 2016 for transforming it into an Arkansas Tourist Information Center with a bid of \$1.8 million.

The location of all rest areas and Arkansas Welcome Centers, as well as the latest travel information, can be found on IDriveArkansas.com. You can also follow us on [Twitter @AHTD](https://twitter.com/AHTD).

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