



INFORMATION RELEASE

Office of the Director

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AHTD TO HOLD NEWS CONFERENCE CONCERNING U.S. HIGHWAY 70 CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

GARLAND COUNTY (2-23) – Construction is underway on the widening of U.S. Highway 70 between Interstate 30 in Saline County and the Hot Springs Bypass in Garland County and a news conference has been scheduled that will provide an overview of the work being done and what motorists can expect as work progresses, according to Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) officials.

The news conference will be held at the front gate of Magic Springs Theme and Water Park on **Friday, February 24 at 1:30 p.m.** AHTD Director Scott Bennett will be joined by representatives of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce, Oaklawn Racing & Gaming, Magic Springs, the U.S. National Park Service, and the Hot Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau.

As spring break fast approaches and eventually gives way to summer activities, traffic volumes typically increase on this route to and from the Hot Springs area. The AHTD wants to ensure motorists are aware of the 18-mile, \$78.5 million construction project underway that is widening U.S. Highway 70 to five lanes (two lanes in each direction with a continuous center turn lane). Work is estimated to be complete in late 2018. See attached fact sheet for additional details.

The news conference will also highlight an enhanced law enforcement effort within the work zone to help promote safety, alternate routes that motorists can take to save time and avoid potential traffic delays, and the fact that although there is a major work zone on the primary highway to Hot Springs – area businesses are still open!

Director Bennett will be available for questions and interviews regarding the project. He will also promote the AHTD's construction and travel information web site [IDriveArkansas](#) and encourage motorists to "know before you go" by using the site to determine if an alternate route is necessary.



Overview

This widening project is part of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department's (AHTD) Connecting Arkansas Program. It includes widening 17.8 miles of U.S. Highway 70 to two travel lanes in each direction with a continuous center turn lane, as well as wider shoulders. The project widens Highway 70 from Interstate 30 in Benton (Exit 111) to the interchange with U.S. Highway 70 Business in Hot Springs (Exit 6).

Safety

In addition to widening the highway, the project will improve the roadway to make driving conditions safer.

- Straightening curves
- Flattening hills
- Changing geometrics of the highway

General Sequence of Construction

- Clearing and grubbing
- Notch and widen eastbound lanes
- Full pavement reconstruction
- Notch and widen westbound lanes
- Full pavement reconstruction
- Construct centerline
- Place final surface and install permanent pavement markings

Alternate Route and Travel Impacts

Motorists are encouraged to use alternate routes during construction, especially U.S. Highway 270, which connects Hot Springs to I-30 at Malvern/Rockport (Exit 98), as well as State Highway 5.

News releases for travel impacts, such as lane closures, will be sent to the media, and travel impacts are posted on AHTD's program website, *ConnectingArkansasProgram.com*, within the Highway 70 corridor page, and at *ArkansasHighways.com*.

To help motorists find ways around accidents and work zone backups on state highways and interstates, AHTD has an Alternate Routes feature on *IDriveArkansas.com*. It displays linkages between the interstate corridors and secondary routes that motorists may consider when travel is delayed.

Project Funding

A portion of the construction project is being funded through AHTD's Connecting Arkansas Program. Through a voter-approved constitutional amendment in November 2012, the people of Arkansas

Quick Facts

- **Overview:** Widening U.S. Highway 70 from two and three lanes to four travel lanes and a continuous center turn lane.
- **Length:** 17.8 miles (0.2 miles of bridges)
- **Cost:** \$78.5 (contract award)
- **Contractor:** McGeorge Contracting Co., Inc (Pine Bluff, AR)
- **Construction Start:** January 2017
- **Estimated Completion:** Late 2018
- **Design Speed:** 60 mph
- **Average Daily Traffic:** 15,000-17,500 (2018)

Project Aspects

- Widening to both sides of the highway
- Reconstructing Cedar Creek Bridge
- Reconstructing Ten Mile Creek West Bridge
- Reconstructing Ten Mile Creek Bridge
- Reconstructing Caney Creek Bridge
- Installing traffic signal at State Highway 128.

passed a 10-year, half-cent sales tax to improve highway and infrastructure projects throughout the state. Thirty-six projects in 19 corridors improve Arkansas' transportation system by expanding selected two-lane roadways to four-lane highways and adding new lanes to identified interstate highways. Approximately 200 miles of improvements are included in this \$1.8 billion program.

More Information

Websites

- *IDriveArkansas.com*
- *ConnectingArkansasProgram.com*
- *ArkansasHighways.com*

Email

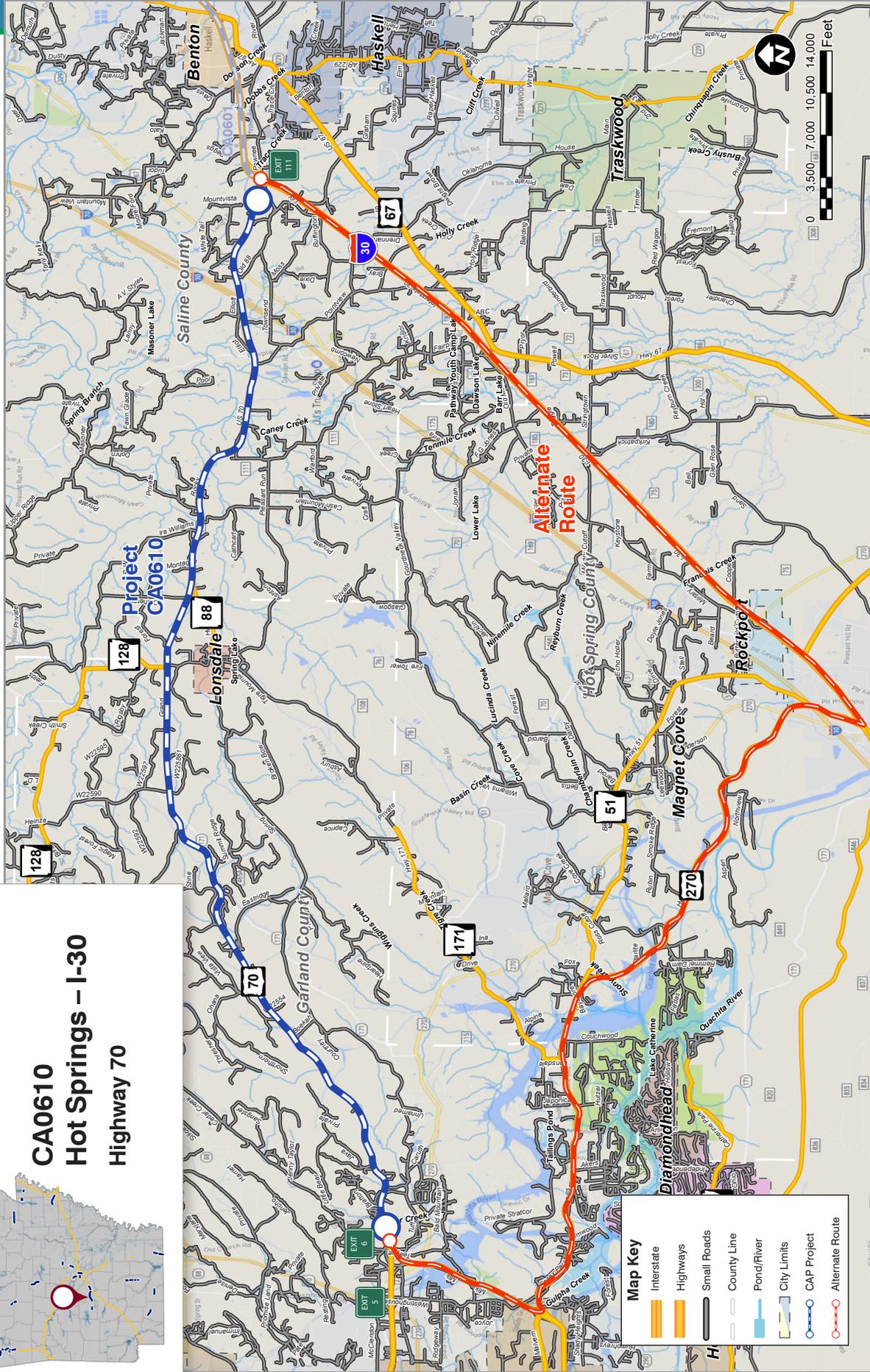
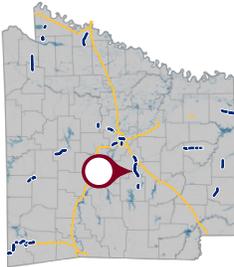
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CA0610
Hot Springs – I-30
Highway 70



Map Key

	Interstate
	Highways
	Small Roads
	County Line
	Pond/River
	City Limits
	CAP Project
	Alternate Route

