

Welcome to the Design Public Hearing for:

**East-West Arterial
(Hot Springs)
Hwy. 70 East -
Hwy. 7 North**



JOB R60140

February 27, 2018

How do I become involved?

- Register your attendance at the registration table.
- Gather information, view displays, and ask questions.
- Oral statements can be taken at the recording area.
- Written statements may be submitted at the hearing by using the attached comment form, or mail/email it to the ARDOT Environmental Division by 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 14, 2018.
- Your attendance and participation are greatly appreciated!!!

For more information, please call 501-569-2281
or email environmentalpimeetings@ardot.gov

ARDOT Environmental Division

P.O. Box 2261

Little Rock, AR 72203-2261

Design Public Hearing Information

What is the purpose of this hearing?

This packet has been prepared to provide general information about the project and its potential impacts. Information has been included pertaining to the proposed design, environmental impacts, and right-of-way. Additional information on each of these topics is available at the hearing or by contacting the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT).

One of the primary objectives of this hearing is to provide a medium of free and open discussion which hopefully will result in the resolution of any problems or controversial issues. In order to accomplish this goal, we must have your cooperation and participation.

The Department hopes to make you familiar with the proposed design and give you an opportunity to express your opinions. In order to meet these goals, public participation is needed to identify, discuss, and resolve any problems or controversial issues. ARDOT personnel are also available to answer questions and explain the project and its impacts.

What is the East-West Arterial project?

The ARDOT is proposing to construct an extension of the Highway 270 Bypass of Hot Springs (East-West Arterial) from the interchange with Highway 70 east of the City of Hot Springs north to the intersection of Highways 5 and 7 northeast of the City.

What would the project accomplish?



The project will reduce delays for through traffic and improve safety within the City of Hot Springs and Hot Springs National Park and for vehicles and pedestrians by removing much of the through traffic, especially trucks, from the section of Highway 7 most heavily used by tourists and pedestrians.

What is the Preferred Alternative?

The Preferred Alternative was developed during the Environmental Assessment (EA) process starting in the spring of 2003. The ARDOT explored and evaluated all reasonable alternatives and eliminated alternatives that did not meet the purpose and need of the project. A Location Public Hearing was held in April 2005 to show the Preferred Alternative that was identified in the EA.

The Preferred Alternative has two 12-foot travel lanes with 8-foot shoulders. It will be a fully controlled access facility with interchanges at the southern terminus with Highways 70/70B, the northern terminus at Highways 7/5, at Promise Land Road, and Mill Creek Road. Access to the roadway will only be possible at these interchanges. Property will be purchased for an eventual four-lane, divided, facility. The project will be 5.49 miles long and will require 190 acres of new-right of-way.

What happens after this hearing?

After a review of comments received from citizens, public officials, and public agencies, the next step in the environmental process will be to respond to comments received from this hearing and to finalize the project design.

Once the design is finalized, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) document will be prepared and submitted to the Federal Highway Administration for approval. Upon approval, the FONSI will identify the Selected Alternative and conclude the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

What are the impacts from this project?

	Preferred Alternative
Length (Miles)	5.49
Total Cost	\$60 million
Natural and Visual Environment	Clearing of timber, mountain cuts, and placement of fill
Secondary Impacts	Conversions of land to residential and commercial land use
Wetlands and Waters of the U.S.	1.0 Acre
Cultural Resources	Indian Mountain Historic Sites/ Thousand Dripping Springs Site/Cluster Springs Complex
Floodways/Floodplains	300' crossing of an unnamed tributary of the South Fork Saline River
Relocations	10 residential owners, 9 tenants, 2 businesses, 4 landlord businesses
Environmental Justice	No adverse impacts to low income/minorities
Social/Economic	Positive impact expected to area residents
Hazardous Waste	No UST's/ 1 large dump avoided/ 3 small illegal dumps impacted
Prime Farmland	No Prime Farmland impacted
Endangered Species	Bat survey completed, no endangered species affected
Water Quality	Localized, short-term adverse impacts
Hydrogeology	Thousand Dripping Springs Recharge Hot Springs Recharge Area Study ongoing by USGS
Public/Private Water Supplies	Many private water wells are located in the project area. If private water wells are impacted by the project, well replacement will be required.
Wild and Scenic Rivers	No Wild and Scenic Rivers in the area. An unnamed tributary to the South Fork of the Saline River is an ecologically sensitive waterbody.
Public Lands	No public lands will be impacted by the project
Air Quality	In Attainment of EPA air quality standards
Noise	Noise levels will increase for residents along the route, but no sensitive receptors will be adversely impacted.
Section 4(f)	Cluster Springs Complex eligible for National Register of Historic Places
Land Use	190 acres of right-of-way acquired
Stream Impacts	18,387 linear feet

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Open Forum Design Public Hearing

**ARDOT Job R60140 – Hwy. 70 East – Hwy. 7 North (S)
Garland County**

February 27, 2018

Please Print

Name: _____

Address: _____

Street Address

City, State, Zip

• REMEMBER •

Your comments must be in writing or recorded on tape to be considered part of the official record of this public hearing.

Comments:

Continue on back...

(Use additional sheets if necessary)

Written Comments should be left in the drop box at this hearing or received by 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, **March 14, 2018 at the following address:**

Arkansas Department of Transportation - Environmental Division

P.O. Box 2261

Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

Telephone: 501-569-2281

Fax: 501-569-2009

Email: environmentalpimeetings@ardot.gov

For additional information, please visit our website at www.arkansashighways.com

