

Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department



2006 Annual Report

Letter from the Director

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department is pleased to present its 2006 Annual Report.

The accomplishments made by the staff and Highway Commission over the past year are a reflection of their hard work and dedication to the Department.

In 2006, the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department joined the rest of the nation in celebrating the 50th anniversary of our Interstate System in the United States. It was in 1956 that President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Federal-Aid Highway Act. It created the Highway Trust Fund as a dedicated source of funding for the Interstate Highway System on a pay-as-you-go basis through the Federal gas tax and other motor vehicle user fees.

Today, motorists on our Interstate system travel over 650 billion miles each year for both work and recreation. This 47,000-mile system of roads carries 24 percent of all vehicle travel in our nation and has opened the door for increased tourism and economic development. In honor of the "Year of the Interstate," we are featuring Arkansas Interstate photos throughout this year's report.

2006 was a busy time for the Arkansas Highway Commission and the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department staff. From massive projects such as new crossings for the Mississippi River in southeast Arkansas to local projects involving new traffic signals in suburban neighborhoods, we have all worked hard to meet our goal of providing the best transportation system possible for motorists traveling our state.

Once in a while, it is appropriate to step back and examine our accomplishments and to evaluate the progress we've made in reaching our goals. This Annual Report highlights some of the many accomplishments of the Department during 2006. Congratulations go to all of our employees for a job well done!



AHTD Director Dan Flowers

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Flowers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dan Flowers
Director of Highways
and Transportation

The Arkansas State Highway Commission



Standing l. to r.: Commissioner John Ed Regenold, AHTD Director Dan Flowers,
Commissioner R. Madison Murphy
Seated l. to r.: Commissioner Carl Rosenbaum, Chairman Mary P. "Prissy" Hickerson,
Vice Chairman Jonathan Barnett

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Riverside Weigh Station on
Interstate 40 in West Memphis



Interstate 55 near Blytheville



Interstate 40 near Lonoke

Front cover photo: Interstate 30 in Central Arkansas

Back cover photo: Arkansas Welcome Center on Interstate 30 in Texarkana

America Celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Interstate System



Interstate 40 in Conway, Faulkner County

Recognition

Over the past year numerous members of the Department staff have been recognized for outstanding work.

AHTD Director Dan Flowers was presented with the prestigious Jack Evans Regional Leadership Award by the Metroplan Board of Directors in January. Flowers was presented the award for his efforts to promote intergovernmental planning and cooperation through new legislation. Flowers provided leadership in the passage of Act 2275 of 2005, known as the Regional Mobility Authority Act. The act allows an individual county, or a group of contiguous counties, to form a public corporation to address regional transportation problems. The regional mobility authorities would have limited power to implement local taxes and issue bonds to build and operate improvements to surface transportation systems.

Equal Employment Opportunity/Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Section Head James Moore, Jr. received the Impact Award at the Second Annual Corporate Executive Minority Business Award (CEMBA) program. The Impact Award is presented to an individual who works to make a

change within an organization, understands the importance of minority business development, and successfully works to implement second tier subcontracting opportunities. The event was sponsored by the Arkansas Regional Minority Supplier Development Council.

The Department also won the PRIDE Award from the American Road & Transportation Builders Association. The award was for the Environmental video "Beyond the Pavement: The AHTD's Commitment to Environmental Excellence." The video shares the story of the Department's dedication to the environment and the success we have experienced in environmental areas.

For the fourth consecutive year, the team representing the AHTD won first place at the Southeastern Regional Equipment Operators Rodeo. The event took place in Savannah, Georgia. Teams from Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee competed in events such as Tractor/Mower, Lowboy, Backhoe, Motor Grader, Single Axle Dump Truck and Tandem Axle Dump Truck.



AHTD Director Dan Flowers receives the Jack Evans Leadership Award from Maumelle Mayor Burch Johnson.



James Moore, Jr. (c), Section Head of EEO, received the Impact Award from Charles King (l.) and Odies Wilson, III. (r.)



The 2006 AHTD Regional Rodeo Team. The Department has won the past four Regional Rodeos.

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The Bobby Hopper Tunnel on Interstate 540 in Washington County

Dedications

AHTD officials traveled across the state in 2006 to cut ribbons on new roadways, bridges, an Arkansas Welcome Center and a recreational trail.

A ribbon was cut on improvements to Highway 412 in the Paragould area. The replacement of the St. Francis River Relief and Big Slough bridges with four-lane structures was a \$7.4 million project.

Replacement of the St. Francis River Bridge was a joint project between AHTD and the Missouri Department of Transportation. Arkansas' share was close to \$5 million.

A ribbon was cut on two projects on Highway 63B in Jonesboro. Totaling \$15 million, the projects have improved the roadway to five

lanes with curb and gutter through the area.

The first leg of Highway 530 was officially opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Referred to as the Interstate 69 Connector, this new roadway connects Highway 278 at its southern end near Wilmar with Highway 35 four miles to the north. Highway 530 will ultimately be a four-lane, divided roadway connecting Interstate 530 in Pine Bluff to Interstate 69 near Wilmar.

Director Dan Flowers joined local officials in Ashley County to celebrate the completion of two projects. A new, wider Chemin-A-Haut Bridge on Highway 8 now serves motorists. In addition, new passing lanes were constructed on

Highway 133 north of Crossett.

Another new Arkansas Welcome Center was opened in 2006 in Corning. Governor Mike Huckabee was on hand to dedicate the \$2.2 million facility. The center is the fourth new Welcome Center to open since the end of 2004.

The shore of Lake Ouachita was the scene of a ribbon cutting for the first leg of the Lake Ouachita Vista Trail. Located in the Denby Bay area off of Highway 270, the 4.7-mile trail is part of a multi-phase trail development to link Forest Service and Corp of Engineer recreation areas along the southern shore of the lake. The AHTD provided \$57,700 of Federal Recreational Trail Funds for the project.



AHTD Director Dan Flowers cuts the ribbon on a project that widened the Chemin-A-Haut Bridge in Ashley County.



State and local officials join together to cut the ribbon on the newest Arkansas Welcome Center, located in Corning.



Bikers enjoy the newly dedicated Lake Ouachita Vista Trail.

America Celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Interstate System



U.S. Highway 63, from I-55 to Jonesboro, is currently considered Future I-555.

Bid Lettings & Projects

The Arkansas State Highway Commission awarded contracts on 173 projects in 2006. These jobs were let in order to improve roadways and AHTD facilities across the state. These improvements totaled approximately \$377,251,887.

The most expensive job, located in Miller County, began the construction of approximately four miles of Highway 71 on new location around Texarkana. It represents the beginning of the northern section of the loop around the city.

Progress has been made in previous years to the southern section of the loop. Eventually, this will be a four-lane, divided, Interstate-quality highway, which will serve as a portion of future Interstate 49.

Below are the top ten projects let to contract during 2006.

COUNTY	JOB NAME	AWARD AMOUNT
Miller	Highway 71, I-30 to Highway 71 (Grading & Structures)	\$27,273,707.01
Union	Highway 7, Champagnolle Rd. to Highway 7S (Grading & Structures)	\$23,186,190.45
Madison	Highway 412, Washington County Line to Highway 45	\$21,579,430.81
Poinsett	Highway 63, Highway 135 Interchange	\$18,562,154.28
Lee	Highway 1, L'anguille River/Union Pacific RR Overpass (Gr. & Strs.)	\$18,444,930.65
Sebastian	Highway 71, Custer Blvd. to Highway 22 (Gr. & Minor Drainage Strs.)	\$17,420,112.07
Benton	I-540/Perry Road Interchange	\$15,434,095.12
Lincoln	Highway 65, South Grady to North Gould	\$15,255,686.79
Baxter	Highway 62, Mountain Home to Highway 101	\$15,215,563.26
Benton	Highway 59, from Gentry south	\$14,060,426.25

Total award amounts 2000 - 2006

YEAR	NUMBER OF JOBS	TOTAL AMOUNT
2000	267	\$548,717,932
2001	282	\$698,189,173
2002	256	\$648,103,382
2003	250	\$474,156,141
2004	247	\$425,122,871
2005	228	\$382,804,881
2006	173	\$377,251,887

America Celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Interstate System



Highway 549 just south of Texarkana is part of future Interstate 49.

Public Involvement

The Highway and Transportation Department encourages early and ongoing input from citizens, and places great emphasis on the public involvement process.

The Department held numerous public involvement meetings around the state in 2006. Over 2,500 citizens and local officials attended nearly 30 public meetings and hearings. These meetings allowed the Department to exchange information with the general public and gave citizens the opportunity to voice their opinions on specific projects.

Public Involvement Sessions were held in Alma, Carlisle, Central City, Clinton, Crossett, Eureka Springs, Hensley, Lake Village, Little Rock, North Little Rock, Paragould, Pinebergen, Pocatongas, Prescott, Searcy, Sherwood and Texarkana. Public Hearings were held in Beaver, Bella Vista, Gould, Monticello, Clarendon, Sheridan, Grady, Vilonia and Siloam Springs.



Residents review information during a public meeting in Pinebergen.



Citizens examine a map at a Public Involvement Meeting in Sheridan.



A Gould resident visits with an AHTD staff member about projects.

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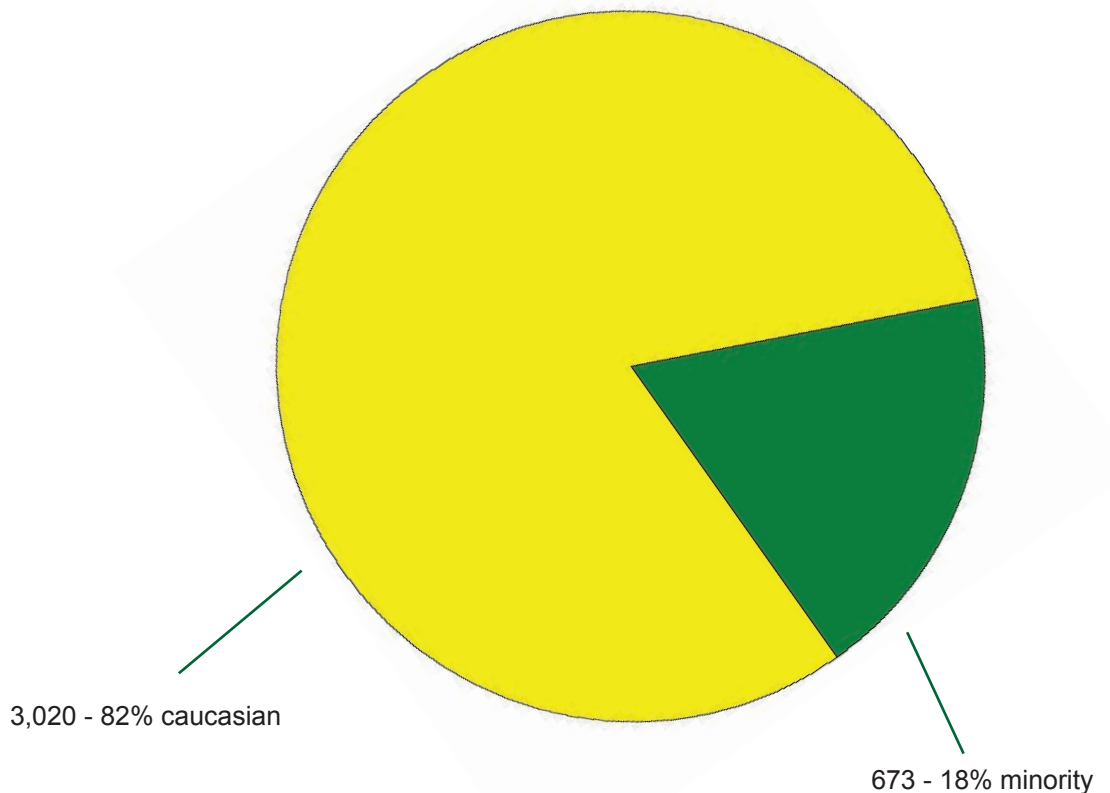
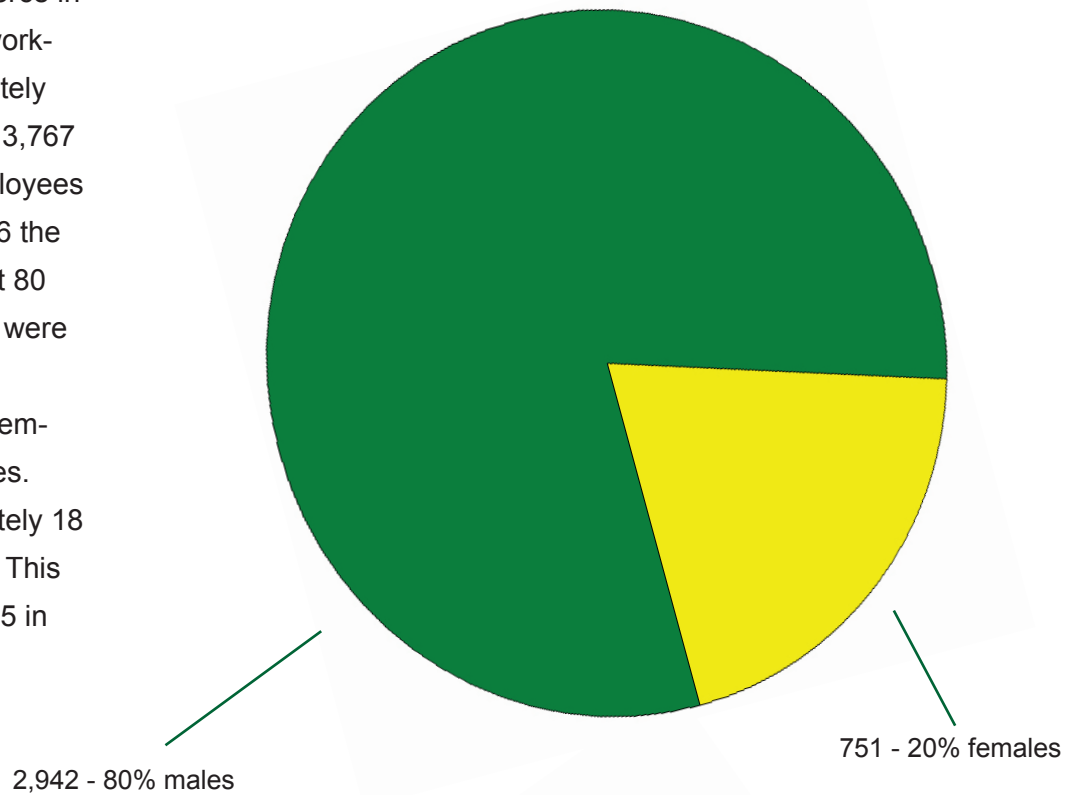
Interstate 530 in Pine Bluff, Jefferson County

AHTD Workforce

The AHTD saw some change in the make-up of its workforce in 2006. The Department's workforce numbered approximately 3,693 in 2006, a drop from 3,767 in 2005. In 2005, 749 employees were females, while in 2006 the number rose to 751. About 80 percent, 2,942 employees, were males.

Out of the 3,693 AHTD employees, 673 were minorities. This represents approximately 18 percent of the workforce. This number increased from 635 in 2005.

2006 AHTD Workforce



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Interstate 40, near Russellville

Organization

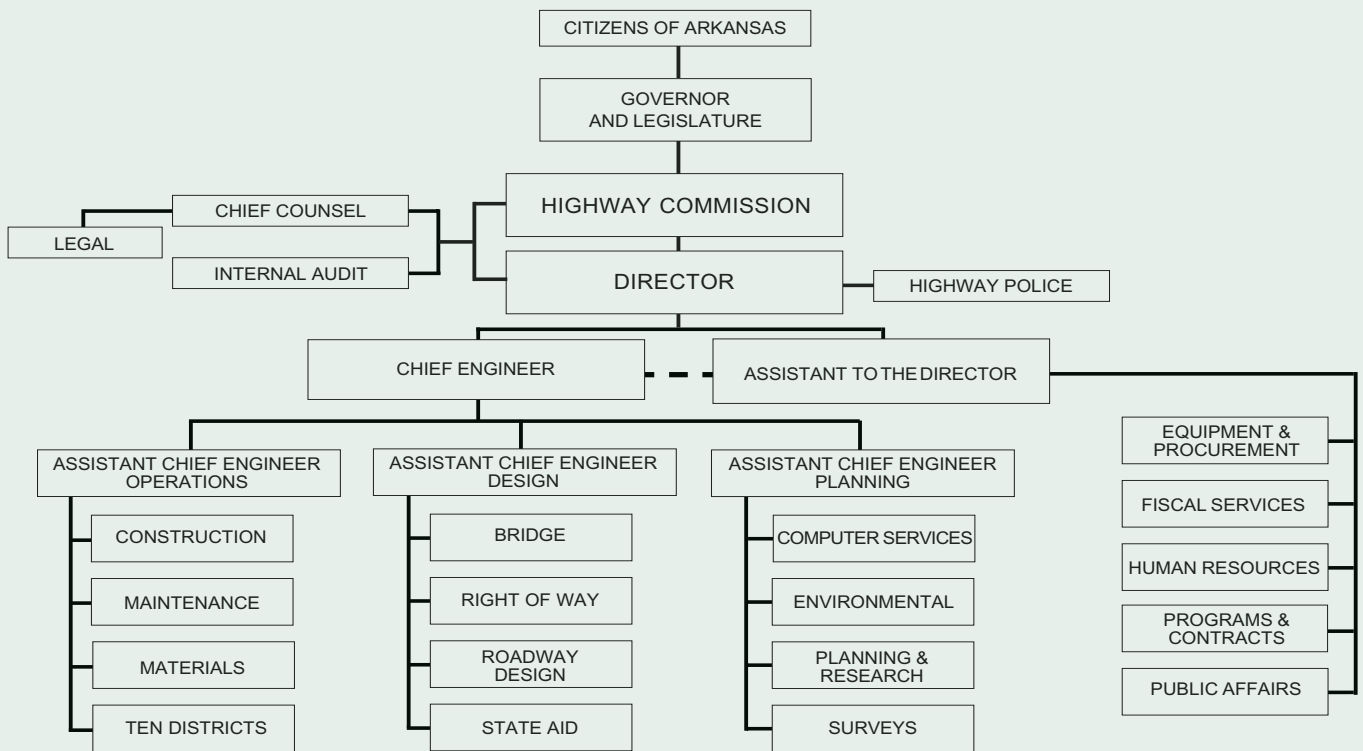
The Arkansas Highway Commission and the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department have enjoyed over 50 years of progress under the structure envisioned by two State Senators, Y.M. Mack and Lawrence Blackwell. Together, they wrote Amendment 42 to the Arkansas Constitution. This landmark

amendment, commonly known as the Mack-Blackwell Amendment, provides that each of the five Arkansas Highway Commissioners serves ten-year staggered terms, with a new commissioner being appointed by the Governor every two years. The Commission is assigned all powers necessary

to fully and effectively administer Arkansas laws and regulations relating to AHTD operations.

The Department Director is appointed by the Commission and is responsible not only for developing a professional staff, but also building, maintaining and overseeing 16,441 miles of highway.

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION CHART



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Interstate 540 in Northwest Arkansas, Washington County

Contact Information

District 1

P.O. Box 278
Wynne, AR 72396
870-238-8144

District 2

P.O. Box 6836
Pine Bluff, AR 71611
870-534-1612

District 3

P.O. Box 490
Hope, AR 71802
870-777-3457

District 4

P.O. Box 1424
Fort Smith, AR 72902
479-646-5501

District 5

P.O. Box 2376
Batesville, AR 72503
870-251-2374

District 6

P.O. Box 190296
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501-569-2266

District 7

P.O. Box 897
Camden, AR 71711
870-836-6401

District 8

P.O. Box 70
Russellville, AR 72811
479-968-2286

District 9

P.O. Box 610
Harrison, AR 72602
870-743-2100

District 10

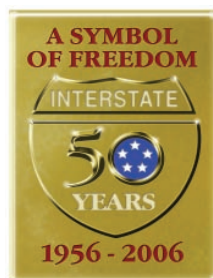
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