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## Arkansas State Highway & Transportation Department



## Arkansas State Highway Commission

The first State Highway Commission was appointed in 1913. Amendment 42 of the Constitution of Arkansas, adopted in 1952, established the present five-member State Highway Commission. Under this authority, the State Highway Commission is vested with powers and duties for administering Arkansas' State Highway System. Act 192 of 1977 created the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD), adding responsibilities for coordinating public and private transportation activities and implementing a safe and efficient intermodal transportation system.

### Travel

Travel across Arkansas highways, roads, and streets totaled 32 billion vehicle miles in 2010. Travel across the State Highway System totaled 25 billion vehicle miles or 78%. In 2010, over 95% of all heavy truck travel in Arkansas occurred on the State Highway System.

## Organization and Personnel

The Central Office is in Little Rock. Ten district headquarters, 85 county area maintenance headquarters, and 31 resident engineer offices are located statewide providing consistent control over maintenance and construction activities. Streamlining efforts have reduced the AHTD's full time workforce from approximately 4,000 in 1993 to 3,588 as of June 30, 2010.

## Safety

The State Highway Commission adopted the Arkansas Strategic Highway Safety Plan in July 2007 as a planning guide for improving highway safety in the State. The Plan identified six emphasis areas and recommended strategies for each emphasis area to reduce the number of fatal and serious injury crashes on the State's roadways. A goal was established to reduce the State's fatality rate to 1.8 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles (MVM) traveled by the year 2010. In 2009, the State fatality rate decreased 10 percent to a rate of 1.8 fatalities per 100 MVM traveled, compared to 2.01 fatalities in 2007.

### Consumption

Gasoline consumption was down for six of the twelve months for FY 2010 (July 2009 to June 2010) as compared to FY 2009. Diesel consumption was down for eight of the twelve months during the same period. Overall, the consumption for the twelve-month period was relatively flat.

## State Highway System

As of January 1, 2010, the state-administered highway system totaled 16,442 miles, or 16.4%, of the 100,031 miles of public roads in Arkansas. Nationally, the State Highway System ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in mileage and the State ranks 41<sup>st</sup> in total revenues per mile. During State Fiscal Year 2010, projects totaling approximately \$385 million were let to contract for state highways.

## Bridges

As of July 2010, the AHTD is responsible for maintenance, inspections and load analysis for 7,206 state-owned bridges as well as inspections and load analysis of 4,302 county-owned bridges and 940 city-owned bridges. Bridges are inspected every two years unless they have weight restrictions and/or poor conditions. These bridges are inspected at least annually and sometimes more often. Only 7% of bridges in Arkansas and 4% of the bridges on Arkansas state highways are structurally deficient compared to 12% of the nation's bridges.

## State Funding

Road-user revenues are generated under tax laws governing motor fuels, special motor fuels, and motor vehicle registrations. After deductions for other programs, the AHTD receives 70%, and 30% is divided equally between cities and counties. Net State Highway Department funds, including interest, in State Fiscal Year 2010 amounted to \$424 million. Cities and counties divided approximately \$81 million. Alternative fuels are assessed by a graduated scale based on annual registered vehicle users.

Currently, an Environmental Assurance Fee of \$0.003 per gallon is also collected for the Regulated Storage Tank Trust Fund. Current (6-30-10) State Motor Fuel Tax Rates per gallon are:

- Gasoline - 21.5¢
- Diesel - 22.5¢
- Liquefied Petroleum Gas - 6.5¢
- Compressed Natural Gas - 5.0¢

<b>Typical Construction Cost Per Mile</b>	
Widening 2 to 5 Lanes (Urban)	\$4.7M
New Rural 2-Lane	\$2.8M
Rural Passing Lanes	\$1.3M
New Interstate Construction	\$8.0-\$12.8M
Interstate Mill & Overlay	\$3.5M

## Federal Funding

On August 10, 2005, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) was enacted and established highway and transit programs and funding for a five year period (2005-2009). Arkansas has received an estimated average annual amount of \$505 million for highway programs under the act. SAFETEA-LU has been extended through continuing resolutions. Taxes are levied on motor fuels per gallon with the revenues deposited in the Federal Highway Trust Fund-Federal aid Highway Account, Mass Transit Account, and the Regulated Storage Tank Trust Fund (RSTTF).

Fuel	Highway	Transit	RSTTF	Total
Gasoline.....	15.44¢	2.86¢	0.1¢	18.4¢
Diesel.....	21.44¢	2.86¢	0.1¢	24.4¢
LPG.....	16.17¢	2.13¢	0.0¢	18.3¢
CNG.....	15.43¢	2.86¢	0.0¢	18.3¢

## State Aid County Road Program

The State Aid Road Division, authorized under Act 445 of 1973, administers the State Aid County Road Program. The Division also administers Federal-aid highway funds available for county roads. In State Fiscal Year 2010, 96 projects on 326.1 miles and 6 bridges were contracted at a total cost of \$29.4 million.

**Scenic Byways**

Arkansas scenic byways include portions of Highways 5, 7, 10, 14, 21, 23, 71, 96, and 309, Interstate 530, Interstate 540, the Great River Road, Crowley's Ridge Parkway, and Talimena Scenic Drive. The Great River Road, Crowley's Ridge Parkway, and Talimena Scenic Drive are also National Scenic Byways.

## American Recovery And Reinvestment Act

The American Recovery And Reinvestment Act of 2009 provided \$379.8M to the state of Arkansas for transportation (includes funds for Transit). The funds were distributed as follows.

Population greater than 200,000:  
 North Little Rock/Little Rock Metro Area.....\$14.2M  
 West Memphis/Marion Metro Area.....\$ 1.5M

Population less than 200,000.....\$ 77.8M  
 Population less than 5,000.....\$ 11.9M  
 AHTD Discretionary.....\$235.5M  
 Transportation Enhancement.....\$ 10.5M  
 Transit.....\$ 28.4M  
 TIGER GRANT ( Bella Vista).....\$ 10.0M  
 Ferry Boat.....\$350,000

## Public Transit

Six Federal Transit Administration programs administered by the AHTD total approximately \$13 million annually. These programs are supported by the Mass Transit Account that is funded by a 2.86¢ per gallon federal fuel tax and Federal General Revenues. Act 949 of 2001 established the Arkansas Public Transit Fund, to be funded from a 5% tax on car rental rates, which generates approximately \$3.5 million yearly for transit activities. The funds generated by the tax on rental cars are used to match federal funds for the purchase of public transportation vehicles, public transit equipment or facilities, and for the operation of the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration Assistance programs.