Highway 7 in Perry County

On the Cover:
The new Highway 82 Bridge over the Mississippi River, in Chicot County, was featured on the cover of the 2009 Arkansas State Highway Map.
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**Mission Statement:** To provide a safe, efficient, aesthetically pleasing and environmentally sound intermodal transportation system for the user.
The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department is pleased to present its Annual Report for the year 2009.

In this report are the highlights and successes that the Department has experienced over the past calendar year.

The year was a success in a number of ways due to the dedication and hard work of the Arkansas State Highway Commission and the Department staff working across the state.

Playing a prominent role for all Departments of Transportation in 2009 was the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The Act provided Arkansas with $351 million to use on roadway projects. The result is 127 projects spread across the state that includes work ranging from resurfacing to new traffic signals and from new passing lanes to major freeway improvements.

The year also saw the creation of the Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Finance. Act 374 of 2009 created the Committee with a purpose of “defining an equitable and adequate system to properly finance improvements to the systems of state highways, county roads and city streets within the state.” The Committee is to propose legislation that can be brought before the General Assembly in 2011.

Bids were opened on 222 highway projects in 2009. The largest of those projects, at $34.8 million, is located in Monroe County and is one of three projects that will relocate Highway 79 in the area and build a new bridge over the White River. A $24.8 million project in Lawrence County will construct the embankment and bridges for ten miles of widening on Highway 67, on new location.

Officials from the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department and the Department of Parks and Tourism cut the ribbon on a new Arkansas Welcome Center located on Interstate 55 in Blytheville. It is the fifth Welcome Center to be reconstructed in recent years.

And finally, the Department was proud to be the recipient of several prestigious awards in 2009. Among them were a national Roadway Safety Award for an innovative program that installed centerline rumble strips on Highway 7 in northwest Arkansas and a Perpetual Pavement Award for a stretch of Highway 79 in Ouachita County.

This report includes details on these accomplishments and many more over the past year.
Commission Chairman Carl Rosenbaum, of Little Rock, was appointed by Governor Mike Huckabee effective January 16, 2001. Rosenbaum currently serves as the Chairman of Safefoods Corporation in North Little Rock and Arkansas Glass Container Corporation in Jonesboro. In addition to his business career, Rosenbaum has served on a number of civic boards and organizations. Rosenbaum's previous experience in public service includes serving as a member of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, as International Director of Rotary International, serving on the Advisory Board of UAMS Arkansas BioVentures as well as the Advisory Council of the Eighth District Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. His term will expire in January 2011.

Commission Vice Chairman R. Madison Murphy, of El Dorado, was appointed by Governor Mike Huckabee effective January 14, 2003. He began work as a Junior Accountant for Murphy Oil in 1980 and moved up to Junior Auditor and Associate Auditor. In 1982, he moved to London, England, to serve as an Associate Auditor for Murphy Eastern Oil. He later served as the Supply Coordinator for Crude Oil and Products, the Manager of Treasury and Financial Controls and the Manager of Supply, Trading and Refinery Planning. In 1987, Murphy moved to New Orleans to serve as Executive Assistant for the Ocean Drilling and Exploration Company. He returned to El Dorado in 1988 as Vice President of Planning for Murphy Oil and later served as the company's Treasurer, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer, and Chairman of the Board. He is currently a member of the board for Murphy Oil, Deltic Timber Corporation and Bancorp South, Inc., as well as President of the Murphy Foundation. His term will expire in January 2013.

Commissioner John Ed Regenold, of Armorel, was appointed by Governor Mike Huckabee effective January 26, 2005. He is a longtime business and civic leader in east Arkansas. He is Chairman of the Armorel Planting Company. Former Governor Huckabee previously appointed Regenold to the Arkansas Economic Development Commission. He is also a member of the St. Francis Levee Board and is a Commissioner for the District 17 Drainage District. He is the Chairman of the Mississippi County Hospital System Board and a member of the board of the Arkansas Northeastern College Foundation. His term will expire in January of 2015.

Commissioner Cliff Hoofman, of North Little Rock, was appointed by Governor Mike Beebe effective January 18, 2007. Hoofman, an attorney and cattle farmer, served in the House of Representatives for eight years before serving in the State Senate for 20 years. While in the Senate, he served as Floor Leader for Governor Bill Clinton from 1983 to 1986. He was Chairman of the Budget Committee and he served as Senate Chairman of the Legislative Council from 1997 through 2000. After his tenure in the legislature, Hoofman served four years in the Attorney General’s office as Director of Legislative Affairs. Prior to his service at the Capitol, Hoofman served two years as City Attorney for the City of North Little Rock. His term will expire in January of 2017.

Commissioner Dick Trammel, of Rogers, was appointed by Governor Mike Beebe effective January 12, 2009. He currently serves as Executive Vice President, member of the Board of Directors and Board Secretary of Arvest Bank, Rogers. He is past President and current member of the Board of the Rogers-Lowell Chamber of Commerce. He has served on the Rogers-Lowell United Way board and twice served as Drive Chairman. Trammel is a past President of the Rotary Club of Rogers and past Governor of Rotary International District 6110. Trammel is a founding Director, Director Emeritus and past Chairman of the Northwest Arkansas Radiation Therapy Institute (NARTI). He is a charter member, past Chairman and past board member of the Board of Trustees of Northwest Arkansas Community College. His term will expire in January of 2019.
New Highway Construction

The State administered highway system in Arkansas totals 16,438 miles. Nationally, Arkansas' highway system ranks 12th in mileage and ranks 41st in total highway user revenues per mile. For 2009, 222 projects totaling $498,401,522 million were let to contract for state highways, county roads and city streets. That figure is up from the previous year. The most expensive project let to contract was located in Monroe County and, with two additional jobs, will build a new bridge over the White River. Below are the top ten projects let to contract during 2009.

Top Ten Contracts Awarded in 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Award Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Relocation of Highway 79 for new White River bridge</td>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>$34,873,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Embankment &amp; bridges for Highway 67 - new location</td>
<td>Lawrence</td>
<td>$24,816,799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Widening of Highway 167</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>$23,481,686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Widening of Highway 167</td>
<td>Dallas</td>
<td>$21,912,648</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Improvements to Interstate 430/630 interchange</td>
<td>Pulaski</td>
<td>$18,813,387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Widening of Highway 65</td>
<td>Desha/Lincoln</td>
<td>$16,607,226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Widening of Highway 65</td>
<td>Desha</td>
<td>$15,576,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Railroad overpass on Highway 165</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>$14,518,002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Highway 71/Highway 22 interchange</td>
<td>Sebastian</td>
<td>$13,756,569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Widening of Highway 67</td>
<td>Pulaski</td>
<td>$13,677,341</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Award Amounts 2003 - 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Jobs</th>
<th>Total Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>$474,156,141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>$425,122,871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>$382,804,881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>$377,251,887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>$374,889,601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>$373,741,532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>$498,401,522</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ribbons were cut on numerous new construction projects across the state in 2009.

The widening of 1.3 miles of Highway 133, in Crossett, was officially opened on July 23rd. The $3.7 million job was awarded to Ideal Construction Company and widened the highway to five lanes between Highway 82 and Highway 133 Spur.

AHTD officials and staff joined local dignitaries in Eureka Springs on July 29th to cut a ribbon on a new southbound passing lane on Highway 23, south of town. The $2.3 million project is one mile in length and was awarded to Jimmy Jones Excavation, Inc. of Berryville, Arkansas.

Officials from the Department and from the Department of Parks and Tourism gathered in Blytheville on August 7th to cut a ribbon on the new Arkansas Welcome Center on Interstate 55 near the Missouri state line. Olympus Construction Company of Lowell, Arkansas, was awarded the contract for $3.6 million.

A new 17-mile section of four-lane Highway 67 on new location was opened north of Newport on October 9th. Governor Mike Beebe joined AHTD officials and staff to cut a ribbon on the $93 million project. The improvements extend from Highway 18 at Newport northward to Highway 226.

A ribbon was cut in northeast Cabot on the new Highway 38 railroad overpass on July 10th. The $6.4 million project was awarded to M.J. Lee Construction Company. The new section of Highway 38 connects to Highway 367 north of downtown.
The Department was recognized in 2009 for outstanding work in numerous areas.

The Department received a national award for an innovative project that placed rumble strips on the centerline of Highway 7 in north central Arkansas. The Roadway Safety Award was presented by the Roadway Safety Foundation and the Federal Highway Administration. The innovative program installed centerline rumble strips on a 74-mile section of Highway 7 in Pope, Newton and Boone counties resulting in a 41% reduction in all crashes. Head on and opposite direction sideways crashes were reduced by 56% during a study period.

The Department won a Perpetual Pavement Award from the Asphalt Pavement Alliance (APA) for a 1.2-mile stretch of Highway 79. Arkansas’ award-winning road is a section of Highway 79, in Ouachita County, near Camden. The R.H. Davis Construction Company built the first .21-mile section in 1966. Reynolds & Williams built the remainder in 1973. It was resurfaced only once, in 2003, with a two-inch overlay. There have been no other repairs on the pavement.

The Department was honored by the Arkansas Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, an agency of the Department of Defense, with a Pro Patria Award. The award recognizes organizations for demonstrating exceptional support to guard and reserve employees.

The Arkansas Highway Police Division was recognized by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) for outstanding data quality. The Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Programs Leadership Award for Overall Data Quality recognizes the timely collection and recording of accurate and complete commercial motor vehicle crash and inspection records to the FMCSA.

Rick Cranford, Public Transportation Coordinator for the AHTD, received the Arkansas Transit Association’s President’s Award given in recognition of the recipient’s commitment and professional contribution to the Arkansas public transportation industry.

At the 2009 North American Inspector Championship held in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, Arkansas Highway Police PFC James Canard was recognized as a member of an eight-person “Top Team” that scored the highest average during the competition in numerous categories. Canard was recognized as the Arkansas Highway Police top inspector for the second consecutive year at the 2009 Arkansas Inspector competition.

The 7th Annual Southeast Regional Equipment Operators Roadeo was held in Hot Springs in October. The AHTD won the competition. It is the fifth top finish for Arkansas since the competition began in 2003. It also marks the seventh year the Department has finished in the top-three.

The National Work Zone Memorial, a traveling exhibition memorializing men, women and children who have lost their lives in roadway work zones, was on display in February. Two AHTD employees, Bruce Fick of District Five and Jerome Harris of District Six, are among the names included in the memorial.

(l. to r.) Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, AHTD Traffic Safety Sect. Head Jon Waldrip and Roadway Safety Foundation Director Greg Cohen with the Safety Award.

The National Work Zone Memorial at the Capitol Building in Little Rock.

(l. to r.) John Suskie of the Asphalt Pavement Association, Commission Chair Carl Rosenbaum, Commission Vice Chair Madison Murphy and AHTD Director Dan Flowers with the Perpetual Pavement Award.
Public Involvement

Early and ongoing input from citizens in local communities is something the Highway and Transportation Department insists on when planning for new roadways.

Our Public Involvement meetings that are held around the state are an effective way to share design plans and maps for new roadways and also receive feedback from citizens and local officials that live in the project area. The meetings also allow the Department staff to answer any questions that may arise.

The Department held 26 public meetings across the state in 2009. Over 1,620 people attended in order to exchange information with our staff.

Public meetings were held in Ash Flat, Batesville, Bella Vista, Berryville, Cash, Centerton, Clarksville, Dumas, Enola, Fayetteville, Flippin, Jordan, Lake Village, Little Rock, Mt. Vernon, Magnolia, Marianna, Monticello, North Little Rock, Paragould, Russellville, Searcy, Springdale, White Hall and Wynne.

(top to bottom) Photos on this page are from public meetings held in Monticello, Dumas and Berryville.
Department Workforce

The AHTD workforce numbered 3,569 employees at the end of 2009. That is a decrease of 29 employees compared to the close of 2008.

For 2009, there were 2,850 males (80%) and 719 females (20%), with 2,879 non-minorities (81%) and 690 minorities (19%).

Since 2006, the representation of minorities in the Department has increased slightly.

Carolina Castellanos, Construction Field Engineer II, District Six
Billy Jo Roberts, Storeroom Supervisor, District Nine
Dorothy Childs, Area Headquarters Attendant, District One
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 a ten-year staggered term, 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 16,438 miles of highway.

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(l. to r.) Assistant Chief Engineer - Design, Phil McConnell; Assistant to the Director, Ralph Hall; Assistant Chief Engineer - Planning, Scott Bennett; AHTD Director Dan Flowers; Assistant Chief Engineer - Operations, Emanuel Banks; Deputy Director & Chief Engineer, Frank Vozel; and Chief Counsel, Robert L. Wilson.
District Information

District 1

Engineer: Ray Woodruff
2701 Highway 64, P.O. Box 278, Wynne, Arkansas 72396-0278
Telephone: (870) 238-8144    Fax: (870) 238-2994
Email: ray.woodruff@arkansashighways.com

Counties: Crittenden, Cross, Lee, Monroe, Phillips, St. Francis and Woodruff

District 2

Engineer: James House
4900 Highway 65 South, P.O. Box 6836, Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71611-6836
Telephone: (870) 534-1612    Fax: (870) 534-2038
Email: james.house@arkansashighways.com

Counties: Arkansas, Ashley, Chicot, Desha, Drew, Grant, Jefferson and Lincoln

District 3

Engineer: Don Donaldson
2911 Highway 29 North, P.O. Box 490, Hope, Arkansas 71802-0490
Telephone: (870) 777-3457    Fax: (870) 777-3489
Email: don.donaldson@arkansashighways.com

Counties: Hempstead, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Nevada, Pike and Sevier

District 4

Engineer: Joe Shipman
4019 Towson Avenue, P.O. Box 1424, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72902-1424
Telephone: (479) 646-5501    Fax: (479) 646-8286
Email: joe.shipman@arkansashighways.com

Counties: Crawford, Franklin, Logan, Polk, Scott, Sebastian and Washington
District Information

District 5

Engineer: Lyndal Waits
1673 Batesville Boulevard, P.O. Box 2376, Batesville, Arkansas 72503-2376
Telephone: (870) 251-2374    Fax: (870) 251-2393
Email: lyndal.waits@arkansashighways.com

Counties: Cleburne, Fulton, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Sharp, Stone and White

District 6

Engineer: Joe Sartini
8900 Mabelvale Pike, P.O. Box 190296, Little Rock, Arkansas 72219-0296
Telephone: (501) 569-2266    Fax: (501) 569-2366
Email: joe.sartini@arkansashighways.com

Counties: Garland, Hot Spring, Lonoke, Prairie, Pulaski and Saline

District 7

Engineer: Carl Bachelor
2245 California Avenue, P.O. Box 897, Camden, Arkansas 71711-0897
Telephone: (870) 836-6401    Fax: (870) 836-4864
Email: carl.bachelor@arkansashighways.com

Counties: Bradley, Calhoun, Clark, Cleveland, Columbia, Dallas, Ouachita and Union

District 8

Engineer: Scott Mullis
372 Aspen Lane, P.O. Box 70, Russellville, Arkansas 72811-0070
Telephone: (479) 968-2286    Fax: (479) 968-4006
Email: scott.mullis@arkansashighways.com

Counties: Conway, Faulkner, Johnson, Montgomery, Perry, Pope, Van Buren and Yell
District Information

District 9

Engineer: Ralph Fulton
4590 Highway 65, P.O. Box 610, Harrison, Arkansas 72602-0610
Telephone: (870) 743-2100    Fax: (870) 743-4630
Email: ralph.fulton@arkansashighways.com

Counties: Baxter, Benton, Boone, Carroll, Madison, Marion, Newton and Searcy

District 10

Engineer: Walter McMillan
2510 Highway 412 West, P.O. Box 98, Paragould, Arkansas 72451-0098
Telephone: (870) 239-9511    Fax: (870) 236-1156
Email: walter.mcmillan@arkansashighways.com

Counties: Clay, Craighead, Greene, Lawrence, Mississippi, Poinsett and Randolph

Central Office

10324 Interstate 30, P.O. Box 2261, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261
Telephone: (501) 569-2000

Materials Lab

11301 West Baseline Road
Little Rock, Arkansas 72209
Telephone: (501) 569-2185

Equipment & Procurement

11302 West Baseline Road
Little Rock, 72209
Telephone: (501)569-2667

Maintenance

11300 West Baseline Road
Little Rock, 72209
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