

Technology Transfer Brief

New Message Boards Will Alert Motorists

Motorists traveling the highways in Central Arkansas have likely seen electronic message boards springing up over the last several months. Those new boards represent the second and final phase of an electronic message system for the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) that will help motorists evacuate the Central Arkansas area in case of a catastrophic event at the Pine Bluff Arsenal.

The AHTD worked with the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management and CSEPP, a Federal program, to improve safety in the area of the arsenal.

Phase One of the program erected signs on major routes in Jefferson and Grant Counties and the surrounding area where the CSEPP program is concentrated.

For Phase Two, signs are being installed in Pulaski County on Interstates 30, 40, 430, 440 and 630 as well as on Highway 67/167. Once completed, they will be used to manage traffic flow in case of an incident at the Arsenal. In addition, Nick AMBER Alert System that broadcasts information about used to alert motorists to major traffic accidents and major road

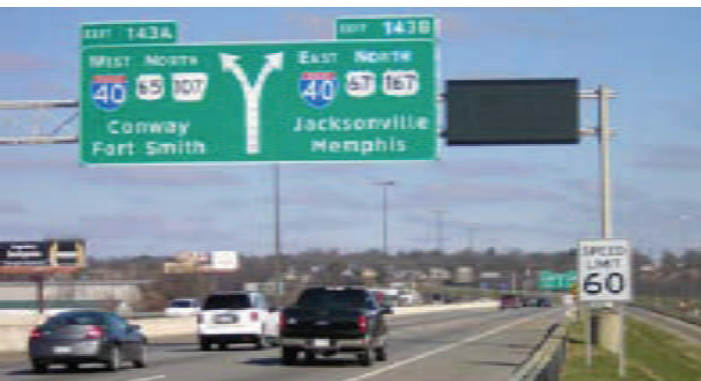


Interstate 430 in Little Rock

they can be utilized as part of the Morgan missing children. The signs will also be closures.

“Many of the message boards will be integrated with existing overhead signs,” stated AHTD Director Dan Flowers. “Others will be stand alone signs in the median.”

In addition to the electronic message boards, beacon lights will be erected at four CSEPP evacuation centers including Barton Coliseum in Little Rock, North Little Rock High School, the Arkansas Army National Guard Armory in Sheridan and the Pine Bluff Convention Center.



Interstate 30 in North Little Rock

The AHTD has a \$2.2 million construction contract with Time Striping for Phase Two of the project. The signs should all be in place by May. Emergency responders will then conduct exercises to test the message system.

CSEPP also works closely with seven other sites in the United States where chemical stockpiles are stored.