History
“We are always yapping about the ‘Good Old Days’ and how we look away back and enjoy it, but I tell you there is a lot of hooey to it.”
– Will Rogers
The Teens

- 1913 - First Arkansas Highway Commission Created
- No Highway Department / No Highway System
- First Highway Improvement Fund
- $10 Registration Fee / Vehicle - $72,000 Total Budget
- 50,000 Vehicles
- 36,000 Miles of Public Roads
The Twenties

- First Gas Tax – 1 cent per gallon
- Arkansas Highway Commission Changed Twice
- 1927 - All Road Improvement District miles and $100 Million in Debt Transferred to State
- 1929 – Highway Department Created
- 200,000 Vehicles
- 8,800 Miles State Highways (1,400 Paved)
The Thirties

- Arkansas Highway Commission Changed Two More Times
- Gas Tax Raised to 6.5 cents per Gallon
  ✓ 1960’s Before Next Increase

Magnet Truck, Picked up an average of 20 lbs of metal per mile

- 255,000 Vehicles
- 9,300 Miles State Highways (3,000 Paved)
The Forties

- World War II
- Arkansas Highway Commission Changed Two More Times
- Political Influence on Highways – Growing Discontent

Operation of the Henderson Ferry at Norfork Lake cost $117,981 for 1947-48. During this period 189,856 vehicles were ferried over at an average cost of 62¢ per vehicle.

Dillard’s Ferry, a hand-cranked operation, crossed the Buffalo River at Highway 14 from 1929-1958.

- 455,000 Vehicles
- 9,700 Miles State Highways (4,900 Paved)
The Fifties

• New Governor Elected – Promise to Improve Roads
• 1951 - Highway Audit Commission Report

✓ “the advice, counsel and expert know-how which is available from the Department’s own technical and administrative staffs bear scant weight indeed when they are in conflict with the political pressures and political promises of the moment.”

• Arkansas Highway Commission
  ✓ 9 Legislative Acts Restructuring Commission since 1913
• 1952 – Mack Blackwell Amendment
• Interstate Era
• 750,000 Vehicles
• 11,000 Miles State Highways (8,800 Paved)

Widening Hwy 67 near Malvern, 1956
The Sixties

- Legislature
  ✓ Allowed Counties to Transfer County Roads to the Department as State Highways
  ✓ Increase of 3,400 miles

- Arkansas – National Forefront in Interstate Construction/Completion

- 1.1 million Vehicles
- 14,500 Miles State Highways (13,000 Paved)
The Seventies

- 1.7 million Vehicles
- 16,000 Miles State Highways (15,000 Paved)
- Debt Free

Legislative Action
- Architects and County Judges “Each” Allowed to Transfer 12 miles of Local Roads
- Increased State Highway System 875 miles (550 unpaved)
- Created State Aid Road Construction Program

Arkansas Department of Highways renamed Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department – Expanded Authority

AHC Lawrence Blackwell burning bonds at a ceremony in 1975.
The Eighties

• 16,200 Miles State Highways (15,900 Paved)
• 2.0 million Vehicles

Transportation Safety Agency Transferred to AHTD

1985 - Rural Road Program

Snow and ice removal costs reached $4 M, 1984

East-West Arterial linking Hwy 270 W and Hwy 70 W in Hot Springs.
1991 Highway Improvement Program planned to improve or replace approximately 560 bridges.

1991 – Highway Improvement Program

1993 – Federal Gas Tax
- Gas Tax - 18.4 cents per gallon
- Diesel Tax – 24.4 cents per gallon
- Has Not Changed Since 1993

1999 – State Gas Tax
- Gas Tax Raised 3 cents per gallon to 21.5 cents
- Diesel Tax Raised 4 cents per gallon to 22.5 cents

1999 – Interstate Rehabilitation Program

Dedication of I-540 and Bobby Hopper Tunnel, 1999

- 2.1 million Vehicles
- 16,400 Miles State Highways (16,300 Paved)
The New Millennium

Winter Weather in Dec 2000 and Jan 2001 cost almost $40 M.

- 2011 – 2\textsuperscript{nd} Interstate Rehabilitation Program
- 2012 – Connecting Arkansas Program

New White River Bridge on Hwy 64 at Augusta opened in 2001.

- Governor’s Working Group on Highway Funding
- 3.0 million Vehicles
- 16,400 miles State Highways (16,400 Paved)
Organization Chart

Citizens of Arkansas

Governor and Legislature

Highway Commission

Director

Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer

Deputy Director and Chief Engineer

Assistant Chief Engineer Planning
- Environmental
- Program Management
- Surveys
- System Information and Research
- Transportation Planning and Policy

Assistant Chief Engineer Design
- Bridge
- Right of Way
- Roadway Design
- State Aid

Assistant Chief Engineer Operations
- Construction
- Maintenance
- Materials
- Ten Districts

Assistant Chief Engineer Administration
- Computer Services
- Equipment and Procurement
- Fiscal Services
- Human Resources

EEO/DBE
- Highway Police
- Internal Audit
- Legal
- Public Information
- Retirement

March 13, 2015

Director of Highways and Transportation

Date
AHTD Quick Facts

3rd Largest State Agency
(3,634 Employees)

Maintains
16,418 miles of Highway
7,335 Bridges

Central Offices in Little Rock

10 Districts Statewide

Mission:
Provide a safe, efficient, aesthetically pleasing and environmentally sound intermodal transportation system for the user.
ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
ORGANIZATION CHART

Citizens of Arkansas

Governor and Legislature

Highway Commission

Director-3

Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer-1

Deputy Director and Chief Engineer-1

Assistant Chief Engineer Planning-1
- Environmental
- Program Management-9
- Surveys-5
- System Information and Research-18
- Transportation Planning and Policy-14

Assistant Chief Engineer Design-1
- Bridge-27
- Right of Way-1
- Roadway Design-29
- State Aid-10

Assistant Chief Engineer Operations-1
- Construction-10
- Maintenance-15
- Materials-13
- Ten Districts-138

Assistant Chief Administration
- Computer Services-2
- Equipment and Procurement-1
- Fiscal Services
- Human Resources

EEO/DBE
- Highway Police
- Internal Audit
- Legal
- Public Information-1
- Retirement

DISTRIBUTION OF AHTD ENGINEERS
AS OF 1-28-16
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GROWTH OF THE HIGHWAY SYSTEM

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Statewide Intermodal Transportation Plan

• $54 – $63 Billion in Needs for 2016-2040

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ArkansasHighways.com
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ArkansasHighways.com/Publications/Historical_Review.pdf
Questions?