“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

Highway 71 near Bella Vista

• First Commission Created
  ✓ No Highway Department
  ✓ No Highway System

• 3,600 Vehicles - $72,000 Total Budget

• 36,000 Miles of Public Roads
The Twenties

- Highway System Created
- Highway Department Created
- First Gas Tax – 1 cent per gallon
- 200,000 Vehicles/8,800 highway miles (1,400 Paved)
- Highway Commission Structure Changed Twice
The Thirties

- Gas Tax Raised to 6.5 cents per Gallon
- 1960’s Before Next Increase
- 255,000 Vehicles; 9,300 Highway miles (3,000 Paved)
- Commission Structure Changed Two More Times

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

- **World War II – Major Influence**
- **455,000 Vehicles; 9,700 Highway Miles (4,900 Paved)**
- **Commission Structure Changed Two More Times**
- **Too much 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.
The Fifties

- 1951 - Highway Audit Commission Report
  - "the advice, counsel and expert know-how which is available from the Department’s own technical and advisory staffs bear scant weight indeed when they are in conflict with the political pressures and political promises of the moment."

- Interstate Era
  - 750,000 Vehicles
  - 11,000 Miles State Highways (8,800 Paved)

- 9 Legislative Acts Restructured Commission since 1913

- 1952 – Mack Blackwell Amendment

Widening Hwy 67 near Malvern, 1956
The Sixties

- No changes to Commission Structure
- Arkansas - National Forefront in Interstate Construction/Completion
- Legislature transferred 3,400 miles of County Roads to Highway System
- 1.1 million Vehicles; 14,500 Highway Miles (13,000 Paved)
The Seventies

- **Department became Debt Free**
- **Legislature transferred nearly 1,000 more miles of County Roads to Highway System**
- **Department adds “Transportation” to its name—Authority Expanded**
  - 1st State to Complete its Interstate System (1975)
  - 1.7 million Vehicles; 16,000 Highway Miles (15,000 Paved)
The Eighties

- 1985 – Rural Road Program – out of the mud
- Early Retirements – huge workforce turnover
- 2.0 million Vehicles; 16,200 Highway Miles
The Nineties

- 1991 – Highway Improvement Program
- 1993 – Last Federal Gas Tax Increase
- 1999 – Last State Gas Tax Increase
- 1999 – Interstate Rehabilitation Program – First Highway Bond Issue in 50 years
- I-540 (now I-49) and I-530 Completed
- 2.1 million Vehicles; 16,400 Highway Miles
The New Millennium

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

Governor’s Working Group

• 2011 – 2nd Interstate Rehabilitation Program
• 2012 – Connecting Arkansas Program
• 2016 – Arkansas Highway Improvement Plan

3.0 million Vehicles; 16,400 miles State Highways

New White River Bridge on Hwy 64 at Augusta opened in 2001.
Today and Tomorrow
Matters of Scale
Statewide Transportation Improvement Program for Federal Fiscal Years 2016-2020 (STIP)

- Federal Requirement for Federally Funded and Regionally Significant Transportation and Transit Projects
- 4-Year Minimum

- Required Components:
  - Demonstration of Financial Constraint
  - Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Coordination
  - Public Involvement
  - Performance Management
Regional Projects
Interstate 555

Bridge Maintenance and System Preservation

- Selected sections of I-555 from I-55 to Jonesboro
- Just under 39 miles
- Estimated between $45 and $50 Million
Selected sections of U.S. Highway 67 from Cabot to Newport

Just under 59 miles

Estimated between $65 and $70 Million
Recently Completed
- 7.1 miles
- $23 million

Under Construction
- 14.2 miles
- $45.3 million

Scheduled
- 2.4 miles
- $35-40 million
State Highway 1-B

Programmed

- 3.1 miles
- $1.8 million
State Highway 18

Programmed

➢ $14.5 million
State Highway 18S

Programmed

- 4.34 miles
- $5-10 million
U.S. Highway 49

Programmed

$9 million
Programmed

- 1.35 miles
- $20.4 million
State Highway 351

Programmed

- 0.9 miles
- $14 million
Craighead System Preservation

14 Projects
- 32.88 Miles
- $16.7 Million
Average Monthly Household Expenditures

- Electricity/Gas: $160.00
- TV/Internet: $124.00
- Roads: $46.00
- Telephone: $161.00
2015 Road User Related Tax Revenue

Total Road User Revenue Collected = $1.12 Billion

Motor Fuel Taxes: $438.40 M
New Vehicles: $214.03 M
Used Vehicles: $98.33 M
Vehicles: $106.44 M
Auto Repair: $122.26 M
Registration Fees: $122.26 M
Retail Tire Sales: $13.41 M
Miscellaneous: $49.43 M
Natural Gas Severance Tax: $74.25 M

Road/Highway Revenue: 61%
General Revenue: 39%
Total Road User Revenue Collected = $1.12 Billion

AHTD Road User Revenue = $435.7 M = 39%
Fuel excise taxes

Highway programs are funded in part with revenue from per-gallon excise taxes on gasoline and diesel. Arkansas and surrounding states also use general revenue on highways. This map shows the gasoline and diesel excise taxes per gallon in Arkansas and surrounding states.

FEDERAL EXCISE TAX
- Gasoline: 18.4 cents per gallon
- Diesel: 24.4 cents per gallon

NATIONAL AVERAGE EXCISE TAX
- Gasoline: 23 cents per gallon
- Diesel: 24 cents per gallon

SOURCES: Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department, U.S. Energy Information Administration
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette
*Indicates receipt of revenue from sources other than motor fuel taxes, registration fees, or severance tax. Does not include temporary ½ cent sales tax.
- ArkansasHighways.com
- ConnectingArkansasProgram.com
- Vimeo.com/AHTD
- IDriveArkansas.com
- Twitter.com @AHTD
Questions?