Scott E. Bennett, P.E.
Director of Highways and Transportation

FHWA DFS South Leadership Meeting
Wednesday, April 19, 2017
“I don’t want ordinary people, I want people who are willing to sacrifice and do without a lot of those things ordinary students get to do. That’s what it takes to win.”

“I like to start the day early, it keeps me out of trouble.”

“[Writing] was more difficult than laying asphalt, and at times more frustrating than selling underwear. But it paid off. Eventually…”
Arkansas’ Businesses

- Walmart
- Tyson
- J.B. Hunt
- Murphy Oil Corporation
Settle Down Somewhere…

We have plenty of unique towns to choose from…

- Hogeye
- Ben Hur
- Possum Grape
- Strawberry
- Tomato
- Pickles Gap
- Toad Suck
- Goobertown
- Hollywood
- Greasy Corner
- Ink
- Turkey Scratch
- Bald Knob
- Smackover
- Locust Bayou
- Beverage Town
- Nimrod
- Crumrod
- Fifty-Six
- Number Nine
- “Y” City
- Paris
- London
- Egypt
- Romance
- Rob Roy
Only in Arkansas...

Clinton Presidential Center

Bathhouse Row, Hot Springs

Crater of Diamonds State Park
Only in Arkansas…

Buffalo National River
America’s 1st National River

Crystal Bridges
Museum of American Art
Only in Arkansas…

University of Arkansas

Razorbacks

45 National Championships
ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
ORGANIZATION CHART

Citizens of Arkansas
Governor and Legislature
Highway Commission
Director—1
Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer—1

Deputy Director and Chief Engineer—1

Assistant Chief Engineer Planning—1
Environmental
Program Management—9
Surveys—6
System Information and Research—15
Transportation Planning and Policy—16

Assistant Chief Engineer Design—1
Bridge—25
Consultant Contracts—2
Right of Way—1
Roadway Design—26
State Aid—11

Assistant Chief Engineer Operations—1
Construction—11
Maintenance—16
Materials—12
Ten Districts—141

Assistant Chief Administration
Computer Services—1
Equipment and Procurement—1
Fiscal Services
Governmental Relations
Human Resources

Alternative Project Delivery Director—1
Connecting Arkansas Program Administrator—1

EEO/DBE
Highway Police
Internal Audit
Legal
Public Information
Retirement

DISTRIBUTION OF AHTD ENGINEERS
AS OF 4-11-2017
301

Director of Highways and Transportation
Date

April 11, 2017
District Organization
“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
• **First Commission Created**
  ✓ No Highway Department
  ✓ No Highway System
• **$72,000 Total Budget**
• **36,000 Miles of Public Roads**
The Thirties and Forties

- Gas Tax Raised to 6.5 cents per Gallon
- Commission Structure Changed Two More Times
- 9,700 Highway Miles (4,900 Paved)

- Too much Political Influence on Highways – Growing Discontent
The Fifties

- **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.”

- **Interstate Era**
- **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 and Seventies

- No changes to Commission Structure
- Department became Debt Free
- Legislature transferred nearly 4,400 more miles of County Roads to Highway System
- Department adds “Transportation” to its name – Authority Expanded
- 1st State to Complete its Interstate System (1975)
- 16,000 Highway Miles (15,000 Paved)
The Eighties and Nineties

- 1985 – Rural Road Program – out of the mud
- Early Retirements – huge workforce turnover
- 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
- 16,400 Highway Miles
The New Millennium

- 2011 – 2nd Interstate Rehabilitation Program
- 2012 – Connecting Arkansas Program
- Governor’s Working Group on Highway Funding
- 16,400 miles State Highways
Broadway Bridge
Broadway Bridge

Let to Contract in 1920
Completed in 1923
World War I Memorial
Cost: $971,000
25,000 ADT
Broadway Bridge

Scott Bennett @AHTDScott · 24h
1970s arch. 1970s hard hat. After 10:00 only the hard hat will remain. Hopefully!
#implosion #I'mpushingthebutton!

AHTD Replied to by AHTD · 2 hours ago
"@jcauley501 Tempting, but we've got a firm stance against child-labor. ;)"

Jason Cauley @jcauley501 · 2 hours ago
@AHTD I have a 7 year old that'll have that thing down by sunset...

AHTD Replied to by AHTD · 3h
Well, that didn't go quite as planned.... #BroadwayBridge #TheDayTheBridgeStoodStill

Jeff Wardlaw @jeffWardlaw2814 · 20h
@AHTDScott how did that workout?

Scott Bennett @AHTDScott · 2:25 PM – 11 Oct 2018
@JeffWardlaw2814 About as well as the blasts did!
How 2nd grade would bring Broadway Bridge down:

- I would use a boulder to hit the bridge.
- I would use a crane to pull the bridge down.
- I would hit the bridge with hammers and torches.
- I would send a Monster to bridge down.
- I would use a giant to knock bridge down.
- I would use children to knock it down.
- I would use a lot of animals.
- I would use some big rocks.
- I think a tornado can make it fall down.
Hey @AHTD, if you needed the #BroadwayBridge blown up properly, shoulda given the @UCA_Football defense a holler.

@AHTD @RJHawk she's a tough ole broad!
I-30 Project

- The 6.7-mile Corridor
- Convergence of Six Major Interstates and Highways
- Major Components
Schedule

**MID 2017**
- Draft EA
- RFQ Advertisement
- IJR Complete

**LATE 2017**
- SOQ Short List
- Public Hearing
- Env. Doc Decision

**EARLY/MID 2018**
- RFP Issued
- 1-on-1 Meetings

**LATE 2018**
- D-B Contract
- Notice to Proceed

30 Crossing
What Makes I-30 Unique?
Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL)

- Established by FHWA
- Collaborative and Integrated Approach to Transportation Decision Making
- Benefits
- Timeframe
30 Crossing Funding Sources

64% - Connecting Arkansas Program
15% - Federal Bridge
3.5% - Interstate Rehabilitation Program
1.5% - National Highway Performance Program
16% - Design-Build Finance
Alternatives

8-Lane General Purpose
Alternatives

6-Lane with Collector Distributor Lanes
Partners with

The Federal Highway Administration
• ArkansasHighways.com
• ConnectingArkansasProgram.com
• Vimeo.com/AHTD
• IDriveArkansas.com
• Twitter.com @AHTD