Arkansas Highway Commission Schedules Series of Regional Public Meetings to Educate Public on Funding Option


The purpose of these meetings is to educate and inform the public while soliciting input regarding proposed projects that could be funded by a continuation of the temporary half-cent sales tax. A total of 12 meetings have been scheduled, the earliest of which will be held January 21 in Monticello. Other meetings are planned in West Memphis, Harrison, Texarkana, Mena, Fort Smith, Hot Springs, Maumelle, Springdale, Batesville, Jonesboro and El Dorado (see attached for specific dates and locations).

These meetings will consist of an open house session where attendees can view displays and visit with Arkansas Department of Transportation (ArDOT) staff. This will be followed by a brief formal presentation on the current funding and condition of the Arkansas Highway System as well as the impact that continuation of the half-cent sales tax would have in funding system preservation and new capital projects moving forward.

In early 2019, Governor Hutchinson announced his highway funding legislative package that resulted in Act 416 and a proposed Constitutional Amendment, House Joint Resolution 1018. Act 416 provides revenue from motor fuel taxes, electric and hybrid vehicle registration fees, and casinos resulting in an estimated $95 Million in new funding to ArDOT. If the constitutional amendment is approved by voters, it will provide an additional estimated $205 Million annually to ArDOT and an estimated $43 million each to cities and counties.

Citizens with an interest in learning more about the Governor's proposed highway program are encouraged to attend one of these 12 regional public meetings. Each of the meetings will be identical in format and presentation material. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions directly to the Commission and ArDOT Director Scott E. Bennett, P.E.
2020 REGIONAL PUBLIC MEETINGS

1. Monticello . . . . . January 21
2. West Memphis . . January 23
3. Harrison . . . . . January 28
4. Texarkana . . . . January 30
5. Mena . . . . . February 11
6. Fort Smith . . . February 13
7. Hot Springs . . February 20
8. Maumelle . . . . March 9
9. Springdale . . . March 10
10. Batesville . . . March 12
11. Jonesboro . . . March 31
12. El Dorado . . . April 2
1. MONTICELLO  
Tuesday, January 21st, 5:30 P.M.  
UAM Fine Arts Center  
371 University Drive  
Monticello, AR 71655

2. WEST MEMPHIS  
Thursday, January 23rd, 5:30 P.M.  
The Academies of West Memphis – Performing Arts Center  
501 W. Broadway  
West Memphis, AR 72301

3. HARRISON  
Tuesday, January 28th, 5:30 P.M.  
Harrison High School – Performing Arts Center  
925 Goblin Drive  
Harrison, AR 72601

4. TEXARKANA  
Thursday, January 30th, 5:30 P.M.  
Trinity Baptist Church  
3115 Trinity Boulevard  
Texarkana, AR 71854

5. MENA  
Tuesday, February 11th, 5:30 P.M.  
U of A Rich Mountain – Ouachita Center  
1100 College Drive  
Mena, AR 71953

6. FORT SMITH  
Thursday, February 13th, 5:30 P.M.  
The Blue Lion  
101 N. 2nd Street  
Fort Smith, AR 72901

7. HOT SPRINGS  
Thursday, February 20th, 5:30 P.M.  
Crossgate Church  
3100 E. Grand Avenue  
Hot Springs, AR 71901

8. MAUMELLE  
Monday, March 9th, 5:30 P.M.  
Jess Odom Community Center - Gymnasium  
1100 Edgewood Drive  
Maumelle, AR 72113

9. SPRINGDALE  
Tuesday, March 10th, 5:30 P.M.  
The Jones Center  
922 E. Emma Avenue  
Springdale, AR 72764

10. BATESVILLE  
Thursday, March 12th, 5:30 P.M.  
UACCB – Independence Hall  
2005 White Drive  
Batesville, AR 72501

11. JONESBORO  
Tuesday, March 31st, 5:30 P.M.  
ASU – 1st National Bank Arena - Auditorium  
217 Olympic Drive  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

12. EL DORADO  
Thursday, April 2nd, 5:30 P.M.  
El Dorado Municipal Auditorium  
100 W. 8th Street  
El Dorado, AR 71730