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Bella Vista Bypass Citizen Comment Forms



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ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

CITIZEN COMMENT FORM

**AHTD JOB NUMBER 090224
BELLA VISTA TOLL FACILITY
BENTON COUNTY**

**LOCATION:
RIORDAN HALL
7 KINGSDALE LANE
BELLA VISTA, AR
4:00 – 7:00 P.M.**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2009

Make your comments on this form and leave it with AHTD personnel at the meeting or mail it within 15 days to: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, Environmental Division, Post Office Box 2261, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261.

1) How many times per week would you normally use the proposed Bella Vista Bypass if it were not tolled? Please check one box.

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- 10-20 times each week
- More than 20 times each week
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2) How many times per week would you normally use the proposed Bella Vista Bypass if a toll were required? Please check one box.

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3) Where do you live? Please check one box.

- Rural Benton County
- Gravette or Hiwasse
- Bella Vista – West of Highway 71
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Would you qualify for a reduced toll rate by falling into one of the following groups?
Please check one box.

- One person family with an income of \$10,830 or less
- Two person family with an income of \$14,570 or less
- Three person family with an income of \$18,310 or less
- Four person family with an income of \$22,050 or less
- Five person family with an income of \$25,790 or less
- Six person family with an income of \$29,530 or less
- My family doesn't fall into any of the groups above, so we wouldn't qualify.

Please make additional comments here. _____

Do not make this By-Pass a Toll Road.
The people that live in Missouri and
work in NW Arkansas will not use
the toll Road. All that traffic will
continue to go through Bella Vista.
If we can't get funding, I feel
we should Pay-as-you-go.

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The bypass will help EVERYONE -

IT'S LONG OVERDUE!

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NICELY DONE - SATISFIED MY
CURIOSITY OVER PLANNED ROUTE

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I ^{probably} will not use the bypass, even if it is not tolled. - we live very close to 71

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Rural Benton County

Gravette or Hiwasse

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Possibly once a month

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- My family doesn't fall into any of the groups above, so we wouldn't qualify.

Please make additional comments here.

*The ASHOTO have dragged their legs
long enough.*

*This project has been on the "drawing boards"
since the mid 1990's and has
proceeded at a snail's pace.*

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Probably less than 1 time per month.

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Please make additional comments here. The Bypass is a good measure but putting a toll on the 15 miles or so that you have to get on is not feasible. Company trucks (ABF JB Hunt Tyson - Walmart) would be the only ones that could utilize the toll. no need to pay for all the toll booths that is to be built even tho small use it for the road.

Independent truckers who are struggling for money would use the toll to cut into their profits. I know as I am an ex trucker.

people on the east side of Bella Vista (metfield area and around) want to go to the toll road to go to fare mo or on north to Anderson we need a road but not toll.

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

CITIZEN COMMENT FORM

**AHTD JOB NUMBER 090224
BELLA VISTA TOLL FACILITY
BENTON COUNTY**

**LOCATION:
RIORDAN HALL
7 KINGSDALE LANE
BELLA VISTA, AR
4:00 – 7:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2009**

Make your comments on this form and leave it with AHTD personnel at the meeting or mail it within 15 days to: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, Environmental Division, Post Office Box 2261, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261.

1) How many times per week would you normally use the proposed Bella Vista Bypass if it were not tolled? Please check one box.

- 1-9 times each week
- 10-20 times each week
- More than 20 times each week
- I will not use the bypass, even if it is not tolled.

2) How many times per week would you normally use the proposed Bella Vista Bypass if a toll were required? Please check one box.

- 1-9 times each week
- 10-20 times each week
- More than 20 times each week
- I will not use the bypass if it is tolled.

3) Where do you live? Please check one box.

- Rural Benton County
- Gravette or Hiwasse
- Bella Vista – West of Highway 71
- Bella Vista – East of Highway 71
- McDonald County, Missouri
- Other _____

(Continued on back)

Would you qualify for a reduced toll rate by falling into one of the following groups?
Please check one box.

- One person family with an income of \$10,830 or less
- Two person family with an income of \$14,570 or less
- Three person family with an income of \$18,310 or less
- Four person family with an income of \$22,050 or less
- Five person family with an income of \$25,790 or less
- Six person family with an income of \$29,530 or less
- My family doesn't fall into any of the groups above, so we wouldn't qualify.

Please make additional comments here.

*We've had enough talking. Let's
get building!*

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

CITIZEN COMMENT FORM

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ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

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2) How many times per week would you normally use the proposed Bella Vista Bypass if a toll were required? Please check one box.

- Seldom*
- 1-9 times each week
- 10-20 times each week
- More than 20 times each week
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Please make additional comments here.

① I am concerned about conjunction of movement East off Hwy 72 onto Hwy 279. It is dangerous as is but with toll so close, will result in more traffic and danger.

2. I am disappointed that more consideration was not given in running the bypass to at least center turn and more preferably all the way straight south for easier access to XNA Airport. Better would be to run 279 all the way to North Fayetteville, taking out the dangerous curve on 540 by the Fayetteville Auto Park.

3. This plan dumps all the Semi Trucks right back on to the middle of well developed already congested highway traffic. More long range planning needed multi county.

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

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BENTON COUNTY**

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ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

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Please make additional comments here. _____

IF THE TOLL WOULD INSURE THE BYPASS - THEN
BY ALL MEANS - TOLL IT -

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

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Please make additional comments here. I have lived in Texas,
California, Kansas & Alaska and this is the first
state I have lived in that can't find money to fix
a pot hole w. the adding a new tax. I think toll
roads are a form of double taxation. If my federal
taxes are used to build a road the state should
not be allowed to charge me a toll.

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

CITIZEN COMMENT FORM

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- My family doesn't fall into any of the groups above, so we wouldn't qualify.

Please make additional comments here.

*Definitely for the bypass
whether it's a toll road or not. This has been a
proposed project for far too long and the
cost is not getting less!
Go for it!*

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

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- Bella Vista – West of Highway 71
- Bella Vista – East of Highway 71
- McDonald County, Missouri
- Other _____

(Continued on back)

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

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ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

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- 0
 1-9 times each week
 10-20 times each week
 More than 20 times each week
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- 2) How many times per week would you normally use the proposed Bella Vista Bypass if a toll were required? Please check one box.

- 0
 1-9 times each week
 10-20 times each week
 More than 20 times each week
 I will not use the bypass if it is tolled.

- 3) Where do you live? Please check one box.

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3) Where do you live? Please check one box.

- Rural Benton County
- Gravette or Hiwasse
- Bella Vista – West of Highway 71 (*Highlands*)
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- My family doesn't fall into any of the groups above, so we wouldn't qualify.

Please make additional comments here. I just want to make sure that there is wording within state/federal/local contracts that once the toll loans/contracts are paid that the tolls come off and it becomes a freeway.

I also wanted to make sure there was language at all levels that at completion there is no legal way for the road to be sold for investment/PPP and it remains taxpayer/state owned.
(concessionaries)

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

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2) How many times per week would you normally use the proposed Bella Vista Bypass if a toll were required? Please check one box.

- 1-9 times each week (crossed out) NEVER
10-20 times each week
More than 20 times each week
I will not use the bypass if it is tolled.

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- Rural Benton County
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Please make additional comments here. _____

NO TOLL ROADS - USE THE LOTTERY
THAT IS ROBBING PEOPLE

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

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Please make additional comments here.

The number of times the toll road would be used would depend upon the amount of the toll - as Bentonville would still be accessible by Hwy 279.

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

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X I will not know until more is developed (see back)

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X I will not know until more is developed around the area.

3) Where do you live? Please check one box.

- Rural Benton County
Gravette or Hiwasse
Bella Vista - West of Highway 71
Bella Vista - East of Highway 71
McDonald County, Missouri

(almost way east/north to MO)

Other

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- Two person family with an income of \$14,570 or less
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- Four person family with an income of \$22,050 or less
- Five person family with an income of \$25,790 or less
- Six person family with an income of \$29,530 or less
- My family doesn't fall into any of the groups above, so we wouldn't qualify.

From where we live, we find alternatives to using 71 to get to Bentonville \approx south because of traffic.

Please make additional comments here.

This bypass is not one which will reduce business in town - maybe increase

We own property along Highlands Blvd which should re-increase with value once the toll road is open. We look forward to having additional amenities and services near the area because of increased accessibility. Of course, no toll would be better than toll but we just want to see this bypass put in. We've waited a long time!

If we lived on our property in Highlands, we would definitely use the Bypass to go North or South on our family trips/vacation travels. That would fall in the 1-9 trips category. Paying a small toll would be a minor inconvenience to the convenience!

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

CITIZEN COMMENT FORM

AHTD JOB NUMBER 090224
BELLA VISTA TOLL FACILITY
BENTON COUNTY

LOCATION:
RIORDAN HALL
7 KINGSDALE LANE
BELLA VISTA, AR

4:00 – 7:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2009

Make your comments on this form and leave it with AHTD personnel at the meeting or mail it within 15 days to: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, Environmental Division, Post Office Box 2261, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261.

1) How many times per week would you normally use the proposed Bella Vista Bypass if it were not tolled? Please check one box.

- 1-9 times each week
- 10-20 times each week
- More than 20 times each week
- I will not use the bypass, even if it is not tolled.

2) How many times per week would you normally use the proposed Bella Vista Bypass if a toll were required? Please check one box.

- 1-9 times each week
- 10-20 times each week
- More than 20 times each week
- I will not use the bypass if it is tolled.

3) Where do you live? Please check one box.

- Rural Benton County
- Gravette or Hiwasse
- Bella Vista – West of Highway 71
- Bella Vista – East of Highway 71
- McDonald County, Missouri
- Other Center town - But am planning a future home in Bella Vista

(Continued on back)

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

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- Bella Vista – West of Highway 71
- Bella Vista – East of Highway 71
- McDonald County, Missouri
- Other _____

(Continued on back)

Would you qualify for a reduced toll rate by falling into one of the following groups?
Please check one box.

- One person family with an income of \$10,830 or less
- Two person family with an income of \$14,570 or less
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- Six person family with an income of \$29,530 or less
- My family doesn't fall into any of the groups above, so we wouldn't qualify.

Please make additional comments here. *My hope is complete cooperation between the MO and AR Highway departments.*

Since a Toll road Bypass seems to be the only chance to get Stimulus fund grants my desire is that AHTD works extra hard to secure these funds for this may be the last chance to actually get the Bells Vista Bypass.

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

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10-20 times each week
More than 20 times each week
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More than 20 times each week
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3) Where do you live? Please check

- Rural Benton County
Gravette or Hiwassee
Bella Vista - West of Highway 71
Bella Vista - East of Highway 71
McDonald County, Missouri
Other Springdale

Would you qualify for a reduced toll rate by falling into one of the following groups?
Please check one box.

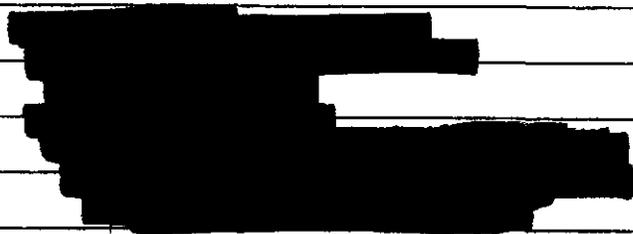
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- My family doesn't fall into any of the groups above, so we wouldn't qualify.

Please make additional comments here. I anticipate that, 20-25 years after this toll road is built, you will renege on your pledge to end the tolls when the construction financing is repaid. I expect the tolls to become perpetual.

If you're going to charge tolls, how about giving us a higher speed limit as has been done with the Cherokee Turnpike in Oklahoma. 70 isn't fast enough!

Recently I drove part of the Pennsylvania Turnpike and it cost me \$16.25. Be careful about setting the amount of your tolls lest you irritate your customers as I am irritated at Pennsylvania.

Shouldn't the public be given the opportunity to vote on whether or not they want toll roads in ARKANSAS?



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B/c I don't live on that side

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 McDonald County, Missouri
 Other Bentonville

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Please make additional comments here.

Please slow this project down as rapidly as possible, as traffic is now out of control & dangerous at many intersections. Truck traffic is heavy & dangerous to local citizens & inconvenient for the truckers. Missouri is ready for action on this project now!!!

T. Parks



ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

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- Bella Vista – West of Highway 71
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- McDonald County, Missouri
- Other BENTONVILLE

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- My family doesn't fall into any of the groups above, so we wouldn't qualify.

Please make additional comments here. *We have needed the bypass for years. Why have other roads been funded but the bypass failed to get the dollars needed?*

Get the bypass now.

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

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- My family doesn't fall into any of the groups above, so we wouldn't qualify.

Please make additional comments here. I Believe we need to
Build The Second Interchange at Pankin-Holler Rd
This interchange would pull traffic from
340, up Chelsea Rd 1 & 2 to Arthur & Prescott
up Miller Church Rd, to Pankin-Holler Rd.
This would take a lot of traffic
off 71, which were going to need
to do.

Without this second interchange
71 bus will still be overused,
as it is today, and the area will
grow, and things will get worse.

I think we should bring one of the
2 interchanges off 72 at Hiwasse, down
to Pankin-Holler Rd.

Then, when we need a second
interchange at Hiwasse, we could build
it later.

Thank you

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

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- Bella Vista - West of Highway 7
- Bella Vista - East of Highway 7
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Please make additional comments here.

I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY A TOLL
WORKS DIFFERENT FOR THE TOLL RATE.

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE TOLL RATE IN
REVISIONS WHEN TO BE IN A
CONCRETE WITH PAVEMENT AND PA HAS AN
ACCESS ROAD PARALLEL WITH THE TOLL SECTION.
NECESSARY TO GET THROUGH TO THE TOLL SECTION.

PAVEMENT NOT MAINTAINED FOR
TOLL ROAD, THE TOLL ROAD WILL BE
LOW HAS SOME MAINTENANCE TO BE
DOING TO GET THROUGH TO THE TOLL SECTION.

[REDACTED]

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- Gravette or Hiwasse
- Bella Vista - West of Highway 71
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- McDonald County, Missouri
- Other _____

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Please check one box.

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- Four person family with an income of \$22,050 or less
- Five person family with an income of \$25,790 or less
- Six person family with an income of \$29,530 or less
- My family doesn't fall into any of the groups above, so we wouldn't qualify.

Please make additional comments here.

If it is a toll road, using the same electronic payment system that OK has would be a good thing.

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

CITIZEN COMMENT FORM

**AHTD JOB NUMBER 090224
BELLA VISTA TOLL FACILITY
BENTON COUNTY**

**RECEIVED
AHTD**

AUG - 7 2009

**ENVIRONMENTAL
DIVISION**

**LOCATION:
RIORDAN HALL
7 KINGSDALE LANE
BELLA VISTA, AR
4:00 - 7:00 P.M.**

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Please make additional comments here. _____

Our only concerns would be the noise and air pollution because presently western Belle Vista has neither.

Beyond that we are concerned for the convenience of not having to travel 20 minutes east to drive down a congested Belle Vista Way with the trucks + senior drivers all jammed together - very dangerous

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

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Please make additional comments here. LIVING NEAR THE INTERSECTION OF AR 279 AND AR 340, I WOULD USE THE BELLA VISTA BYPASS ON A REGULAR BASIS WHETHER THE ROAD WAS TOLLED OR NOT. AT PRESENT, I FREQUENTLY MAKE TRIPS TO BENTONVILLE VIA AR 72 AT HIWASSE, RATHER THAN FIGHT THE TRAFFIC ON US 71 BETWEEN DARTMOOR RD. AND COUNTY ROAD 40. I WOULD ALSO USE THE BYPASS JUST TO GET TO SHOPPING AT THE SOUTHERN END OF BELLA VISTA.
OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, I HAVE NOTICED GREATLY INCREASED LARGE TRUCK TRAFFIC THROUGH BELLA VISTA ON AR 279. ~~THEY~~ MOST LIKELY TRAVELING FROM MISSOURI TO GARVETTE, THEN SILOAM SPRINGS VIA AR 72 AND AR 59. I THINK THESE TRUCKS WOULD TAKE THE BYPASS TO GET TO AR 72 AND POINTS WEST RATHER THAN TRAVERSING RESIDENTIAL BELLA VISTA'S HILLS AND WINDING, NARROW ROADWAYS.

WHILE I WOULD PREFER THE BYPASS TO BE TOLL FREE, IF THAT IS WHAT IT TAKES, LET'S BUILD THE BYPASS!
BELLA VISTA NEEDS AND WANTS MORE COMMERCIAL BUSINESS. A TOLL ROAD WOULD REDUCE COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES, BUT A TOLL ROAD IS BETTER THAN NO ROAD.

THIS BYPASS IS YEARS OVERDUE. WITH A POPULATION OF 26,000 AND GROWING, BELLA VISTA NEEDS AND DESERVES MORE ROADWAY ALTERNATIVES.

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

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BELLA VISTA TOLL FACILITY
BENTON COUNTY**

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Please make additional comments here. _____

I WILL NOT USE TOLL RD BECAUSE I LIVE NEAR 71
IN NORTH BELLA VISTA.

I AM NOT OPPOSED TO TOLL RD I AM IN
FAVOR OF IT.

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

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Please make additional comments here.

I see no reason not to build the Bella Vista bypass whether it would be a toll road or not. It is needed desperately a need for the Northwest Arkansas area. The benefits would mainly be safety with convenience for northern commuter secondary.

A lot of states charge no toll on tollways so I think for Missouri folks who commute to work in Arkansas should be granted a toll exemption for commuting to work. Missouri has NO toll roads, so I think reciprocity to them is important.

Furthermore as soon as this bypass is completed it should be extended to bypass the rest of Northwest Arkansas and join up with I549/I49 south of Fayetteville. This would complete a needed link in I49. I hope south of Ft. Smith is also included in near future plans for I49.

Arkansas has some of the unsafest roads in the nation. Instead of bragging about our state government having a surplus, do what the rest of our states do & put it to good use: Build Roads! we have saw the cost of the bypass go from about \$100 million in 1995 to 250 million in 1999. Build it!

Would you qualify for a reduced toll rate by falling into one of the following groups?
Please check one box.

- One person family with an income of \$10,830 or less
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Please make additional comments here. _____

Like most Missourians, I really do not like toll roads. That dislike is so distinct that it is law in Missouri that public funds are not permitted to be used to construct toll roads.

If the Bella Vista bypass becomes a toll road, Arkansas will be converting our portion of the bypass into a toll road in order to collect funds to pay for their portion of the highway. That opens the door for a class action lawsuit by Missouri taxpayers against Arkansas for reimbursement of the cost for the Missouri portion of the bypass.

Under the current proposed plan for the toll road, the whole Missouri portion of the bypass becomes substantially a toll road, while the portion of the bypass from Hwy 90 to the Arkansas line becomes totally a toll road. Making it possible to enter and exit at the first Arkansas exit without paying a toll would change the Hwy 90 section from totally to substantially a toll road. Granted drivers have the option of not paying the toll by not driving the road. That does not alter the fact that it would be a toll road paid for by Missouri taxpayers.

The bypass will be a road which local Missouri traffic avoids in favor of the expressway which MoDOT built in recent years. The bypass will be a longer route than the current Hwy 71, so it is not likely to save fuel. Except for rush hour traffic, using the longer bypass is unlikely to save substantial time for travel. At the minimum projected toll of \$1.50/ trip, twice a day, 5 days a week, workers traveling to Arkansas via the bypass would pay in excess of \$750 a year in tolls. We have paid for the expressway and will pay for our share of the bypass, and now Arkansas would like to require that we pay for their share as well. It is not likely to happen.

Creating a toll road will divert much of the traffic to the expressway, benefit business in the Jane area, and divert sales tax to Missouri and McDonald County. That is a good thing for Missouri. However, we do not have to expend millions of dollars to build the bypass to accomplish that. We can simply maintain the status quo.

There is a proposal to REDUCE the toll rate for low income groups. I think you would find Missouri folks in that economic status would simply use the expressway rather than pay ANY toll, let alone having to go through the demeaning process of applying for special rates. Maybe some of the folks in Bella Vista would find more benefit to the proposal than Missourians would.

Simply put, tolls are not appropriate to fund the Bella Vista bypass.

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

CITIZEN COMMENT FORM

**AHTD JOB NUMBER 090224
BELLA VISTA TOLL FACILITY
BENTON COUNTY**

**RECEIVED
AHTD**

AUG - 7 2009

**LOCATION:
RIORDAN HALL
7 KINGSDALE LANE
BELLA VISTA, AR
4:00 - 7:00 P.M.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL
DIVISION**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2009

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3) Where do you live? Please check one box.

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- My family doesn't fall into any of the groups above, so we wouldn't qualify.

Please make additional comments here.

When is Arkansas going to get out of the 1930's regarding distribution of highway funding?

Highway money should follow the traffic (i.e. population).

The system currently in use is nothing short of idiotic. Let's get up-to-date and practical (NOT POLITICAL)

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Please make additional comments here.

*We need the by-pass
It will be used.*

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Please make additional comments here.

I drive VS 91 in B.V.

WE NEED THIS!

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Please make additional comments here.

*We really need this
bypass to make 71 safer through Bella Vista.
Thanks.*

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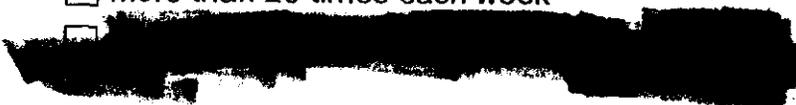
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Please make additional comments here. *Please proceed as quickly as possible. We will use the road in most of our trips - toll or otherwise*

Thanks



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Please make additional comments here.

THE BYPASS IS ESSENTIAL TO REDUCE THE TRAFFIC ON HWY 71 FOR THE MORNING & EVENING COMMUTE.

THE DELAY AT THE LONES INTERSECTION IN THE MORNING AND EVENING IS EXTREMELY LONG.

I WILL USE THE BYPASS AT LEAST 2 TIMES A DAY 7 DAYS A WEEK.

I WILL ALSO PURCHASE THE YEARLY PASS TO SIMPLIFY USE OF THE TOLL ROAD.

I ALSO THINK THE TOLL ROAD IS THE LOGICAL SOLUTION TO FUNDING THE HIGHWAY.

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Please make additional comments here. _____

IM A SUPPORTER OF BYPASS. NEED TO
SUPPORT INTERSTATE SYSTEM. BUILD IT
QUICKLY. TOLL US NON-TOLL NOT A
BIG ISSUE FOR PEOPLE IN BELLS VISTA.



8/7/09

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- I will not use the bypass if it is tolled.

3) Where do you live? Please check one box.

- Rural Benton County
- Gravette or Hiwasse
- Bella Vista – West of Highway 71
- Bella Vista – East of Highway 71
- McDonald County, Missouri
- Other Over

(Continued on back)

Would you qualify for a reduced toll rate by falling into one of the following groups?
Please check one box.

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Please make additional comments here. _____

As I live east of Highway 71 with access readily available thereto it would be very seldom I would use it however, believe it is essential to the growth of Bella Vista and SW Missouri.

A question though how much traffic would be diverted from Highway 71 if tolled. I believe tolling will only divert basically traffic going beyond Bentonville/Rogers southbound and Anderson, Mo. northbound. In other words I think the local traffic will stay on 71 largely due to the gas stations, liquor stores & Wal-Mart just north of state line in Mo.

Round Trip

For 14 Miles at 10¢ = \$2.80 daily or \$4.00 Weekly or \$728 yearly

For 15 Miles at 10¢ = \$3.00 " " \$5.00 " or \$750 "

For 14 Miles at 15¢ = \$4.20 " " \$21.00 " or \$1092 "

For 15 Miles at 15¢ = \$4.50 " " \$22.50 " or \$1170 "

Most people living in SW Missouri live there because living is cheaper than NW Arkansas where the jobs are. \$700 to \$1100 + goes a longways towards their livelihood as it does mine. Likewise most people living in Bella Vista would have very little reason to use the Bypass.

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

CITIZEN COMMENT FORM

AHTD JOB NUMBER 090224
BELLA VISTA TOLL FACILITY
BENTON COUNTY

LOCATION:
RIORDAN HALL
7 KINGSDALE LANE
BELLA VISTA, AR
4:00 – 7:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2009

RECEIVED
AHTD

AUG 10 2009

ENVIRONMENTAL
DIVISION

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Please make additional comments here.

I HOPE IT OPENS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
I AM A REALTOR, WORKING PRIMARILY IN BELLA
VISTA. I BELIEVE IT WILL BENEFIT BELLA
VISTA AND MY BUSINESS AS A REALTOR

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Please make additional comments here. _____

Everyone Needs to pay the same
amount or None Fair !!

What a waste of tax money to have
20 State emp. for a Mtg with
5 Station maps!

So sad to see farm land, homes and
lives ruined when this road
may NEVER be built!

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Please make additional comments here.

When going thru Toll Booth going North
and pay my toll, but decided to get off
at First Exit or Second Exit, I should
not have to pay full toll just to
go a short distance. This is not
right to pay full toll just to go a short
distance. Maybe someone needs to look
into this,

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Only if Pinkin Hollow access is put back in - otherwise only rarely

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Just outside Bentonville to the west, just south of Bella Vista.

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Please make additional comments here.

There has been significant growth in the Punkin Hollow / Miller Church / Arthur Road area since the financial studies of the 1990's that resulted in cutting the interchange at Punkin Hollow. The traffic projections show that the current plans leave a lot of traffic on the existing Hwy 71, and not having a southern Bella Vista access is a contributing factor to this. Punkin Hollow is now continuously paved from Peach Orchard to Short Road (where this project plans to begin relocating it slightly to the west), and Arthur Road is continuously paved from Chelsea to Ingleborough. Population in this area has grown and will continue to grow. Without this access, approximately 1/4th of the western area of Bella Vista will be unserved by the road and will continue to use the existing route. Congestion at the 540/71 interchange would be reduced and revenue would be increased by returning the Punkin Hollow interchange to the plan.

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Please make additional comments here. I encourage the bypass
to release traffic along 71 Highway. The reason
I wouldn't use the bypass, I have three children
+ their families in Kol. Since I live on the
east side of "71" in the Metfield area I would continue
to go north on "71" instead of driving west
for approximately 15 miles to pick up the bypass.

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Please make additional comments here. _____

A toll plaza at Hwy 34 is a waste —
as are exit/on ramps. Highlands
Blvd can be used to access Hwy 34 from
the Hwy 72 ^(Hiwassee) toll plaza/on/off ramps.
Let's try saving some money for a change.
The Hwy 72 ramp at Hiwassee is all that
is needed on this side of the bypass.
~~Hwy 34 is not used much.~~ Does the traffic
on Hwy 34 justify the cost? We don't
need a ramp in that area to access the
bypass from Highlands Blvd or Glasgow Road.

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Please make additional comments here.

Really looking forward to convenient
Access to South and A to North from
Highlands Area - we live very close to
Highlands Club House - take 20 minutes
just to get to Hwy 71!
Toll Road w/ I-Pass will be great!

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Please make additional comments here. _____

We do not support toll roads in Arkansas.
The back-up on Hwy 71 through B.V. is unacceptable. State & Federal resources should be funded to construct the Bypass.
Income levels in AR/Mo are not sufficient to provide discretionary personal funding, and readily available statistics support this.
While the demographics of B.V. have changed dramatically, this is still primarily a retirement community on reduced income. Further discussions with truckers indicate they will not support the bypass with a toll, and they will very likely avoid it.

8/6/09

P.S. Re. PR/communications on this project, why not make a section on your website avail. for these & other Q&A's and for AR citizens to ask additional questions? It was almost impossible to interact with your personnel at the meeting in B.V. Use technology! For efficiency, reduced expense, & detail.

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Please make additional comments here. The By-Pass is needed

Badly - current traffic situation hinders
growth, lessens quality of place, and
stifles commerce.

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Please make additional comments here.

I don't understand, if Mo. can figure out a way to
build a toll without toll, why can't Arkansas?

We live close to where Hwy #41 and 540 connect,
our concern is will the traffic flow there, or continue
to be congested because of ~~the~~ so many interchanges
right there?!? We will not use the bypass ~~if toll~~
when headed North, if it is toll. We have
FREE roads we can use.

We pay taxes, taxes, taxes, No tolls, tolls, tolls

Did you REALLY need 20 people at the Bella Vista
forum? I just figured up how much \$ the
Dept of Transportation was spending for an
evening, overnight & next evening. maybe that's
why we don't have \$ for the road!

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- I will not use the bypass if it is tolled.

3) Where do you live? Please check one box.

- Rural 
- Greater Little Rock area 
- Bella Vista 
- Bella Vista 
- McDonnell County, Missouri
- Other _____

(Continued on back)

Would you qualify for a reduced toll rate by falling into one of the following groups?
Please check one box.

- One person family with an income of \$10,830 or less
- Two person family with an income of \$14,570 or less
- Three person family with an income of \$18,310 or less
- Four person family with an income of \$22,050 or less
- Five person family with an income of \$25,790 or less
- Six person family with an income of \$29,530 or less
- My family doesn't fall into any of the groups above, so we wouldn't qualify.

Please make additional comments here.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION NEW HOME CHURCH AND CEMETERY, WHICH IS LOCATED ON PEACH ORCHARD JUST SOUTH OF THE PROPOSED ROUTE, NEAR THE INTERSECTION BACK W/ 540. NOT ONLY IS THERE A CEMETERY AT NEW HOME, BUT THE CHURCH ITSELF IS OVER 100 YEARS OLD, & LISTED ON THE HISTORICAL ~~LANDMARKS~~ REGISTER OF SITES.

APPROXIMATELY A DOZEN YEARS AGO, MR LYNN MAL BOROUGH (NOT SURE ABOUT SPELLING) ~~MEMBER~~ OF THE AHTD MET W/ US AT NEW HOME & PROMISED TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO THE CHURCH & ITS SETTING BY A BERM OR OTHER WALL-TYPE STRUCTURE BETWEEN THE NEW ROAD & OUR OLD CHURCH/CEMETERY.

THANK YOU.

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AHTD

AUG 21 2009

ENVIRONMENTAL
DIVISION

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

RECEIVED
AHTD

AUG 10 2009

ENVIRONMENTAL
DIVISION

CITIZEN COMMENT FORM

AHTD JOB NUMBER 090224
BELLA VISTA TOLL FACILITY
BENTON COUNTY

LOCATION:

RIORDAN HALL
7 KINGSDALE LANE
BELLA VISTA, AR
4:00 - 7:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2009

Make your comments on this form and leave it with AHTD personnel at the meeting or mail it within 15 days to: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, Environmental Division, Post Office Box 2261, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261.

1) How many times per week would you normally use the proposed Bella Vista Bypass if it were not tolled? Please check one box.

1-9 times each week

10-20 times each week

week

I will not use the bypass, even if it is not tolled.

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1-9 times each week

10-20 times each week

More than 20 times each week

I will not use the bypass if it is tolled.

3) Where do you live? Please check one box.

Rural Benton County

Gravette or Hiwasse

Bella Vista - West of Highway 71

Bella Vista - East of Highway 71

McDonald County, Missouri

Other _____

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Please make additional comments here. _____

PLEASE E-MAIL ME WHEN YOU HAVE A
WEBPAGE UP WITH THE ~~A~~ AERIAL VIEWS OF
THE PROPOSED HIWAY ROUTE -

~~FARMERS~~



ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

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- Other Bentonville

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Please make additional comments here. _____

Keep trail connection between Bentonville
& Bella Vista.

It would be best to have a 12' wide
Box Culvert.

Thanks

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

CITIZEN COMMENT FORM

**AHTD JOB NUMBER 090224
BELLA VISTA TOLL FACILITY
BENTON COUNTY**

**LOCATION:
GRAVETTE HIGH SCHOOL
325 LION DRIVE
GRAVETTE, AR
4:00 – 7:00 P.M.
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- My family doesn't fall into any of the groups above, so we wouldn't qualify.

single - \$ 24,000 / yr.

Please make additional comments here. _____

* Please mail me an aerial photo with
proposed Bella Vista Bypass route overlaid

AND A detailed proposed route layout showing
layout with existing Hiways, county roads, + streams
showing all proposed exits and toll gates / plaza.

THANKS

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

CITIZEN COMMENT FORM

**AHTD JOB NUMBER 090224
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BENTON COUNTY**

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AUG 11 2009

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Please make additional comments here.

Please provide me with a map reflecting the current bypass project.

Questions:

1. What is the status of land acquisition?
2. What is the status of funding for the project?
3. Is this project approved for inclusion in the present administration's economic stimulus plan which was designed to put people back to work?
4. When will AHTD know (be advised) of the approved budget for the construction project?
5. How long will it take to complete the ^{total} project including land clearing and site preparation.
6. What's the status of funding for Missouri's part of the total bypass project?

An early reply will be sincerely appreciated. I'm approaching 83, am in good health (today) and hope to use the bypass before I go underground.



ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

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**LOCATION:
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4:00 – 7:00 P.M.**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2009

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Not a local resident

3) Where do you live? Please check one box.

- Rural Benton County
- Gravette or Hiwasse
- Bella Vista – West of Highway 71
- Bella Vista – East of Highway 71
- McDonald County, Missouri
- Other _____

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- My family doesn't fall into any of the groups above, so we wouldn't qualify.

Please make additional comments here. _____

Please send me information on the proposed project's

- aerial photo of proposed rd. location

- projected traffic counts (non-toll & toll)

Thank you!

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

CITIZEN COMMENT FORM

**AHTD JOB NUMBER 090224
BELLA VISTA TOLL FACILITY
BENTON COUNTY**

**LOCATION:
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325 LION DRIVE
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- My family doesn't fall into any of the groups above, so we wouldn't qualify.

Please make additional comments here.

JANE JUST ON JULY 10TH RECEIVED
A 7 MILLION DOLLAR SEWER GRANT
PUTTING SEWER 6-7 MILES NORTH
OF STATE

10,000 PEOPLE FROM McDONALD
COUNTY WORK IN ARKANSAS

TRUCK WOULD TAKE TOLL
ROAD

McDONALD PERCENTAGE WISE
2ND OR 3RD FASTEST GROWTH.

ECONOMIC PLANNER
COUNTY

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

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Please make additional comments here.

We've lived here a long time. Would love a
by-pass to get rid of the terrible congestion
on Bella Vista Hwy 71.

We've seen the northbound backed up
to the hill to the Exit before at night.

It's taken our tour bus 35-45 min to
go south from Riordan Rd to Lowe's at
8:00 am.

WHAT A MESS!!

Please build the bypass ASAP!!!

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

CITIZEN COMMENT FORM

**AHTD JOB NUMBER 090224
BELLA VISTA TOLL FACILITY
BENTON COUNTY**

**RECEIVED
AHTD**

AUG 10 2009

**ENVIRONMENTAL
DIVISION**

**LOCATION:
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325 LION DRIVE
GRAVETTE, AR
4:00 – 7:00 P.M.
THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2009**

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My family doesn't fall into any of the groups above, so we wouldn't qualify.

Please make additional comments here.

We have been trying to sell our house at 13300 Gordon Hollow Road, Gravette, AR. 72736 for over two years now. But every time we get a buyer that is interested, then they find out about this bypass road, which will be just down the road from our house. Then they all change their minds and buy elsewhere. Because of this damn bypass we can't give our house away. To top everything off the state doesn't even have the money to build this road. It's been a rumor type proposal for over 15 years now. Now you are trying to use the government stimulus money and are calling the bypass a toll road, which now will cost \$250 Billion dollars to build. Our government will not give you this money for one stupid toll road. Our state highway department has been working on a five mile section on 102 for over 1 1/2 years and it's still not completed. How do you think our Highway Dept. can build this bypass in less than three years. That's a joke, it cannot be done. Just kill and drop this bypass idea.

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

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- My family doesn't fall into any of the groups above, so we wouldn't qualify.

Please make additional comments here.

Having the Bypass not a toll would attract
more business along the route.

Toll should be based on miles driven not the
same toll for all - regardless of miles driven.

~~It~~
It is not fair the way the State divides money
for roads by quarters - should be by population.

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

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Please make additional comments here. We would ~~not~~ pay for
a toll to go to Lenoirville, Rogue, Springdale
Fayetteville we would go the regular highway
where you do not have to pay.

RECEIVED
AHTD

AUG 21 2009

ENVIRONMENTAL
DIVISION

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

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ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

CITIZEN COMMENT FORM

**AHTD JOB NUMBER 090224
BELLA VISTA TOLL FACILITY
BENTON COUNTY**

**LOCATION:
GRAVETTE HIGH SCHOOL
325 LION DRIVE
GRAVETTE, AR
4:00 – 7:00 P.M.
THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2009**

Make your comments on this form and leave it with AHTD personnel at the meeting or mail it within 15 days to: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, Environmental Division, Post Office Box 2261, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261.

1) How many times per week would you normally use the proposed Bella Vista Bypass if it were not tolled? Please check one box.

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 Gravette or Hiwasse
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- My family doesn't fall into any of the groups above, so we wouldn't qualify.

Please make additional comments here. DISCOUNTS FOR TOLL TRANSPONDER
IF PAID MONTHLY OR QUARTERLY. REQUIRE MINIMUM
DEPOSITS FOR PERSONAL & COMMERCIAL ACCOUNTS WITH A
CREDIT CARD REQUIRED ON RECORD.

TRAVEL PLAZA WITH FOOD & FUEL AVAILABLE. SELL
PROPERTY + RIGHTS TO HELP OFFSET COST TO BUILD BYPASS.

CALL TOLL TRANSPONDER "RAPID RAZORBACK TRANSIT
SYSTEM" (RRTS). STM WITH NW ARKANSAS THEME

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Please make additional comments here. I believe there needs
to be a way for locals to qualify for a
reduced toll. This could happen through
a monthly fee & pass per family or a reduced
toll pass for people who are only using
about 6 miles of the toll road.

Anyone going north from Bentonville to Living
local would be penalized under your proposal

There are other options that could work!! We
just need to take a serious look at not
penalizing local traffic
hurst@MOxgroupinc.com - for further questions

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Hi! to Marilyn Book

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- Gravette or Hiwasse
- Bella Vista – West of Highway 71
- Bella Vista – East of Highway 71
- McDonald County, Missouri
- Other _____

(Continued on back)

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

CITIZEN COMMENT FORM

**AHTD JOB NUMBER 090224
BELLA VISTA TOLL FACILITY
BENTON COUNTY**

**LOCATION:
GRAVETTE HIGH SCHOOL
325 LION DRIVE
GRAVETTE, AR
4:00 – 7:00 P.M.
THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2009**

Make your comments on this form and leave it with AHTD personnel at the meeting or mail it within 15 days to: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, Environmental Division, Post Office Box 2261, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261.

1) How many times per week would you normally use the proposed Bella Vista Bypass if it were not tolled? Please check one box.

- 1-9 times each week
- 10-20 times each week
- More than 20 times each week
- I will not use the bypass, even if it is not tolled.

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ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

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ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

CITIZEN COMMENT FORM

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**LOCATION:
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ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

CITIZEN COMMENT FORM

**AHTD JOB NUMBER 090224
BELLA VISTA TOLL FACILITY
BENTON COUNTY**

**LOCATION:
RIORDAN HALL
7 KINGSDALE LANE
BELLA VISTA, AR
4:00 – 7:00 P.M.**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2009

Make your comments on this form and leave it with AHTD personnel at the meeting or mail it within 15 days to: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, Environmental Division, Post Office Box 2261, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261.

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(Continued on back)

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- Five person family with an income of \$25,790 or less
- Six person family with an income of \$29,530 or less
- My family doesn't fall into any of the groups above, so we wouldn't qualify.

Please make additional comments here. _____

• The present state funds allocation process, (ie. dividing up the total funds available by the 5 commissioners) is not equitable to NW Ark. Either re-distribute the districts under each commissioner or reduce the number of commissioners.

• The head commissioner needs to give NW Ark. some attention, instead of giving it all to Little Rock.

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

CITIZEN COMMENT FORM

**AHTD JOB NUMBER 090224
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BENTON COUNTY**

**LOCATION:
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ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

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- My family doesn't fall into any of the groups above, so we wouldn't qualify.

Please make additional comments here.

I am for the by-pass hopefully it
will get rid of congestion & truck traffic
on 71 between md. line and Lower
it is a mess through that area!!

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

CITIZEN COMMENT FORM

**AHTD JOB NUMBER 090224
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ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

CITIZEN COMMENT FORM

AHTD JOB NUMBER 090224
BELLA VISTA TOLL FACILITY
BENTON COUNTY

RECEIVED
AHTD

AUG 19 2009

LOCATION:
GRAVETTE HIGH SCHOOL
325 LION DRIVE
GRAVETTE, AR
4:00 - 7:00 P.M.
THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2009

ENVIRONMENTAL
DIVISION

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1) How many times per week would you normally use the proposed Bella Vista Bypass if it were not tolled? Please check one box.

- 1-9 times each week
- 10-20 times each week *Some weeks*
- More than 20 times each week
- I will not use the bypass, even if it is not tolled.

2) How many times per week would you normally use the proposed Bella Vista Bypass if a toll were required? Please check one box.

- 1-9 times each week *Maybe. Depends on the toll fee.*
- 10-20 times each week
- More than 20 times each week
- I will not use the bypass if it is tolled.

3) Where do you live? Please check one box.

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- McDonald County, Missouri
- Other *Live at Bentonville in stable & horses on Gravette*

Would you qualify for a reduced toll rate by falling into one of the following groups?
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- Six person family with an income of \$29,530 or less
- My family doesn't fall into any of the groups above, so we wouldn't qualify.

Please make additional comments here.

I and my wife are retired and we both much prefer that the bypass not charge a toll ~~for seniors~~ unless given a free pass ^{for seniors} ~~or a pass for a very low cost~~. Also, all NW Arkansas residents should have an opportunity to purchase a yearly pass at ^(reduced) low cost. The same opportunity should be given SW Missouri Residents. However, all trucks larger than one (1) ton should be charged a full toll. Commercial enterprises should provide the vast majority of tolls, along with non NW Ark and SW Mo residents providing a substantial amount.

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

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**LOCATION:
GRAVETTE HIGH SCHOOL
325 LION DRIVE
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ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

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- Five person family with an income of \$25,790 or less
- Six person family with an income of \$29,530 or less
- My family doesn't fall into any of the groups above, so we wouldn't qualify.

Please make additional comments here.

While we would realize some convenience
from being able to utilize the bypass - toll
or non-toll, the real benefit to Bella Vista is
diverting of thru traffic from U.S. 71

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

CITIZEN COMMENT FORM

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BELLA VISTA TOLL FACILITY
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Please make additional comments here.

ONCE tolls start they will never be stopped they will continue to raise tolls [Turnpike - when pd for would revert back - never has - never will] only continue to add more - Nuckle/Dine you to death.

② Should have N/S ROAD from Lane to Fayetteville to incorporate XNA. But we will get another toll road there probably.

③ too late but 71 Hwy should have been upgraded to Freeway. Damn the toll course would have been less expensive.

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

CITIZEN COMMENT FORM

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BENTON COUNTY**

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- Six person family with an income of \$29,530 or less
- My family doesn't fall into any of the groups above, so we wouldn't qualify.
- Prefer not to answer

Please make additional comments here.

Toll roads are seldom ever paid for! Maintenance costs, salaries, etc all preclude that from occurring. I don't ever want to see ANY toll roads in Arkansas.

Furthermore this proposal does not address the actual growth problems that exist in NW Arkansas at this time, nor in the future.

I am 100% against a toll road.

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

CITIZEN COMMENT FORM

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ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)

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RESOLUTION BELLA VISTA BY-PASS

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EFFORTS TO OBTAIN FUNDING FOR THE BELLA VISTA BYPASS SEGMENT OF FUTURE INTERSTATE 49

WHEREAS, the Highway Departments of Arkansas and Missouri will jointly be submitting a discretionary grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation requesting up to \$300 million from the "Supplemental Discretionary Grants" program established in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; and

WHEREAS, the requested funds will be used to complete an approximately 20 – mile segment that is a key, unfinished link in the future Interstate 49 corridor that will eventually connect New Orleans, Louisiana to Duluth, Minnesota and Winnipeg, Canada; and

WHEREAS, more than 3.3 million Americans live in Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) along the future I-49 corridor between Ft. Smith and Kansas City; and

WHEREAS, since 2000, the MSA immediately around the Bella Vista Bypass grew by 27.9% and the nearby Kansas City, Joplin, Springfield and Fr. Smith MSA's grew by nearly 10% since 2000; and

WHEREAS, extensive delays occur daily along this unfinished segment of the future I-49 resulting in added costs for individual commuters and diversions of truck traffic to nearby 2-lane north-south highways; and

WHEREAS, the economies of northern and western Arkansas and southern and western Missouri are already closely linked and this highway connection will further strengthen these important relationships; and

WHEREAS, I-49 will carry commercial and local north-south traffic throughout mid-America and it will help mid-American businesses be more successful and improve quality of life for millions of families; and

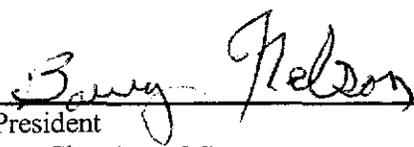
WHEREAS, over fifty three percent of McDonald County workers commute to jobs out of the county, the vast majority of them travel south into Arkansas. I-49 will provide more opportunities for businesses to develop in McDonald County that approximately 20% of the population was in poverty in 2000, virtually unchanged from 1990. McDonald County's personal income is more than 30% less than the average for the state of Missouri; and

WHEREAS, the improvement of accessibility to more resources in education, employment, recreational and cultural opportunities will be of benefit to residents of McDonald County as well as visitors to the area; and

WHEREAS, I-49 that links Northwest Arkansas to the Kansas City metropolitan area will provide an invaluable connection that will be potential for a much more prosperous and livable environment for the residents and visitors of McDonald County. It is vital to our future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY The McDonald County Chamber of Commerce THAT, the U.S. Department of Transportation is encouraged to award Supplemental Discretionary Grant funds for the I-49/Bella Vista Bypass – a critical highway project for Arkansas, Missouri and all of mid-America.

Dated this 6th day of July, 2009.

APPROVED: 
Barry Nelson, President
McDonald County Chamber of Commerce

