

# Alec Farmer

## Arkansas Highway Commissioner



**Jonesboro Regional  
Chamber of Commerce**  
Monday, May 22, 2017

# AHTD & AHC



# History



# Prior to 1913

*“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 hoey to it.”*

– Will Rogers







# The Teens

- ***First Commission Created***
  - ✓ ***No Highway Department***
  - ✓ ***No Highway System***
- ***\$72,000 Total Budget***
- ***36,000 Miles of Public Roads***

Highway 71 near Bella Vista



# The Twenties



Repair Shop of State Highway Department, Little Rock, early 1930s



- **Highway System Created**

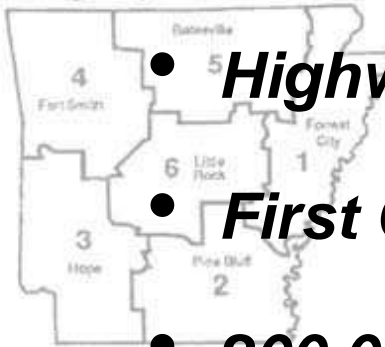
- **Highway Department Created**

- **First Gas Tax – 1 cent per gallon**

- **200,000 Vehicles/8,800 highway miles (1,400 Paved)**

- **Highway Commission Structure Changed Twice**

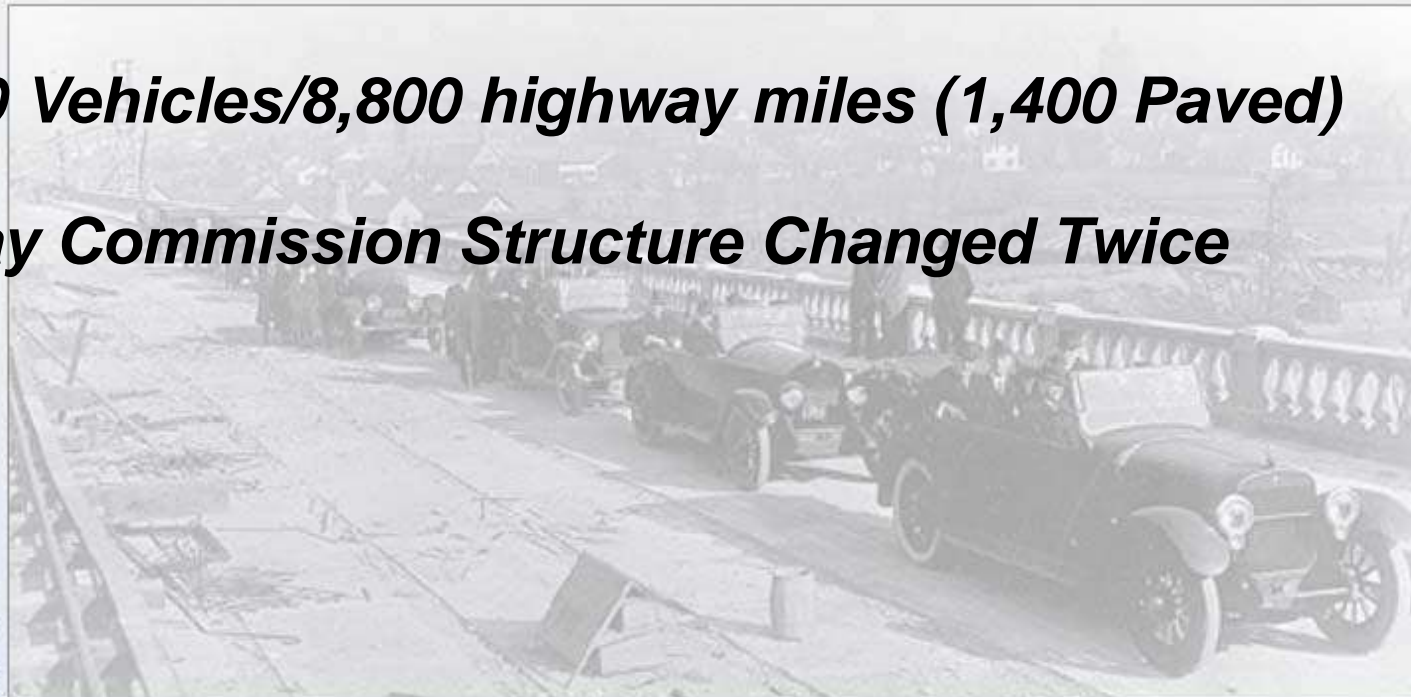
Highway Districts 1923



Highway Districts 1925



Broadway Bridge dedication, 1922. View is looking towards North Little Rock





# The Thirties and Forties



Operation of the Henderson Ferry at Norfolk Lake cost

\$117,981 for 1947-48.

During this period 189,856 vehicles were

ferried over at an average cost of \$0.62

per vehicle.

- **Gas Tax Raised to 6.5 cents per Gallon**

- ✓ **1960's Before Next Increase**

- **9,700 Highway Miles (4,900 Paved)**

- **Commission Structure Changed Four More Times**

- **Too much Political Influence on Highways**  
– **Growing Discontent**



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





# 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 has scant weight indeed when they are in conflict with the political pressures and political promises of the moment.”**

- **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***

South Terminal, Lawrence Blackwell burning bonds at a ceremony in 1975.

- ***Department adds “Transportation” to its name – Authority Expanded***

- ***1<sup>st</sup> State to Complete its Interstate System (1975)***
- ***16,000 Highway Miles (15,000 Paved)***



Toad Suck Ferry on Arkansas River at Highway 60, 1970



I-430 River Bridge, 1973





# 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**



Section of Hwy 7  
named first Scenic  
Byway of Arkansas.

1991 Highway Improvement Program authorized to  
improve or replace approximately 560 bridges.

- **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**

Hopper Tunnel, 1999





# The New Millennium

- **2011 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Interstate Rehabilitation Program**
- **2012 – Connecting Arkansas Program**
- **2015 - Governor’s Working Group on Highway Funding**



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

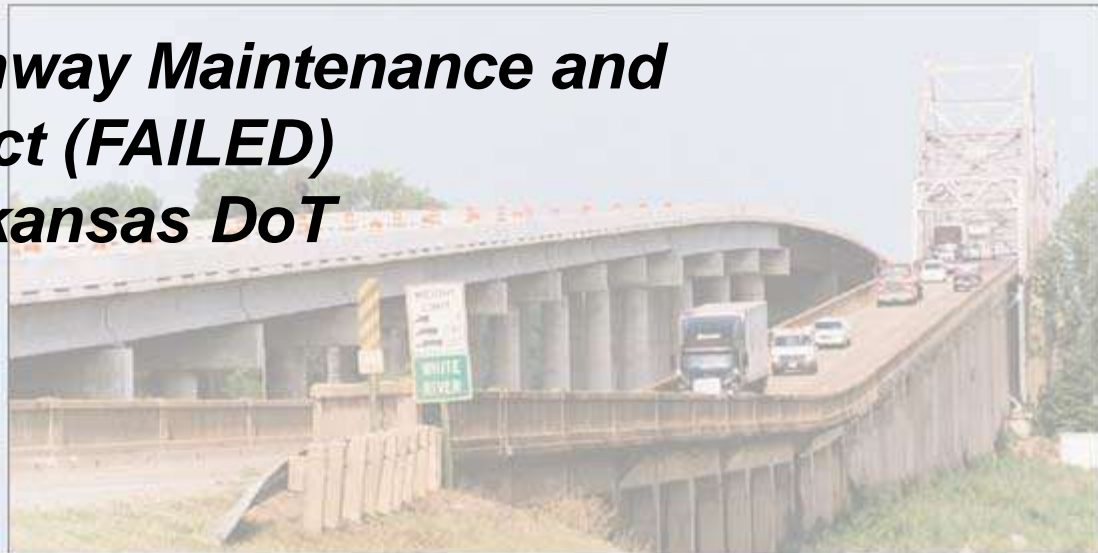
Governor’s Working Group

- **2016 – Act 1 of Third Extraordinary Session of 2016**

- **2017 – Arkansas Highway Maintenance and Construction Bond Act (FAILED)**  
- July 1 change to Arkansas DoT



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





# Today and

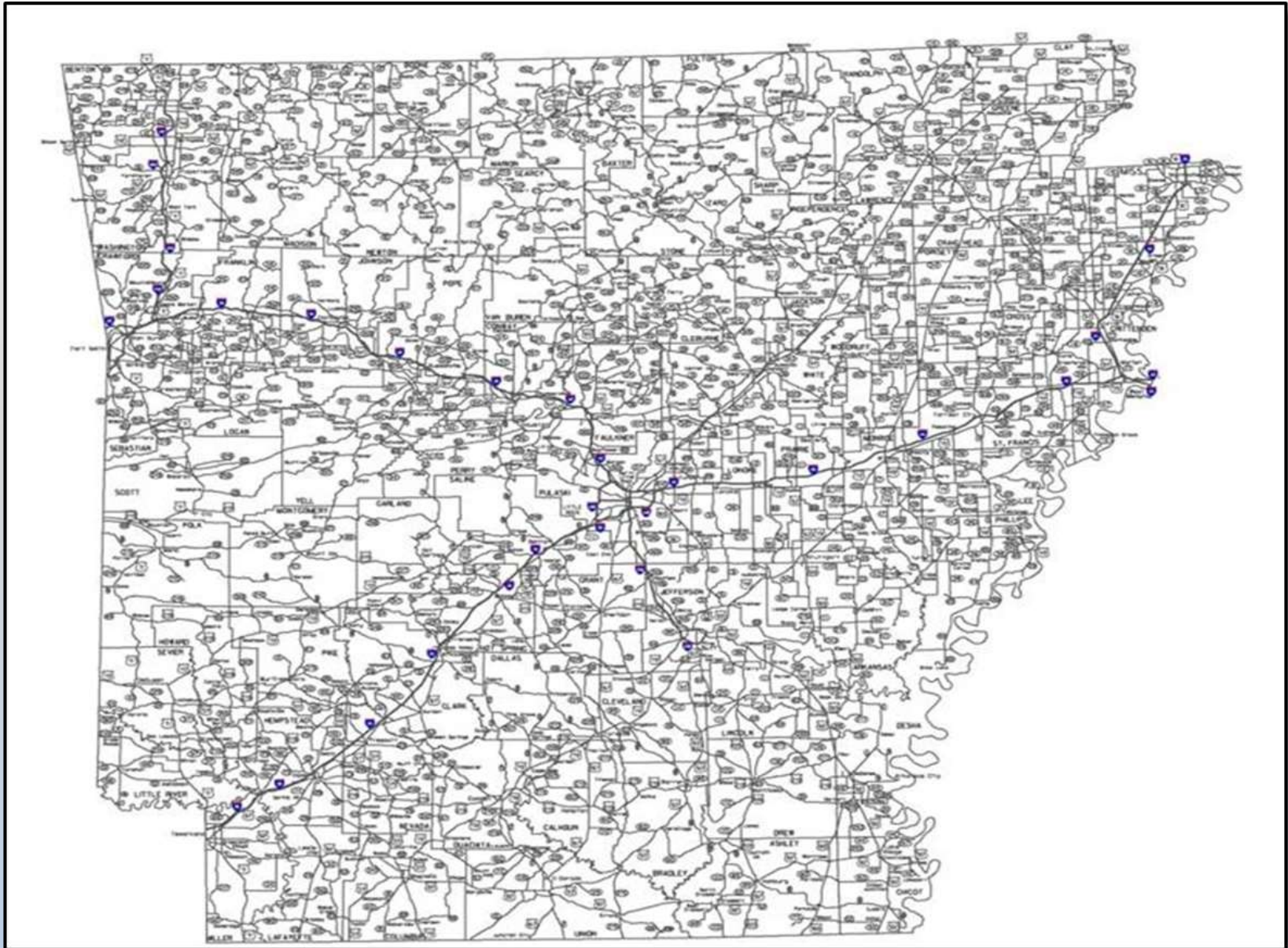


# Tomorrow





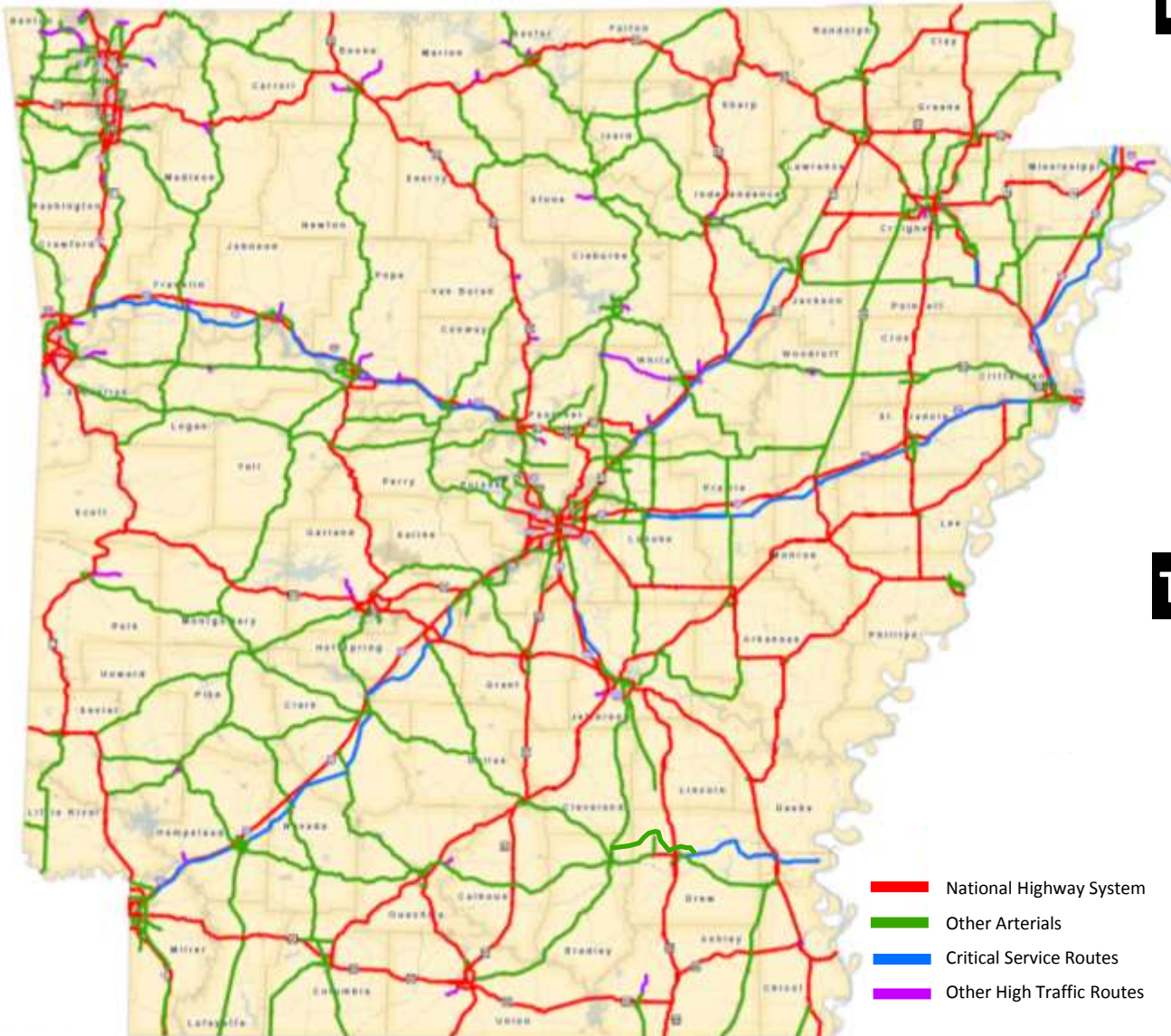
# Map of Arkansas Highway System



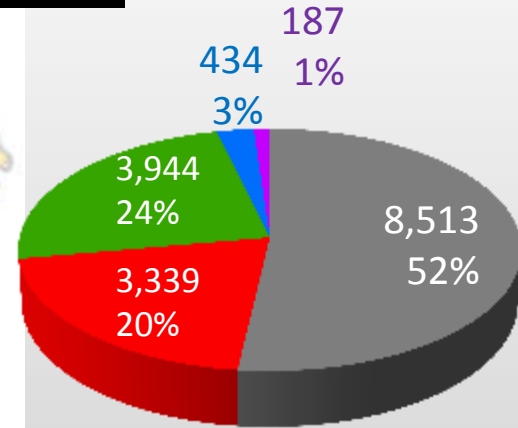


# All of the APHN

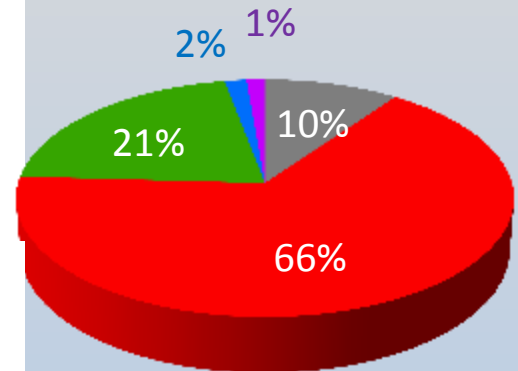
Arkansas Primary Highway Network



## Miles



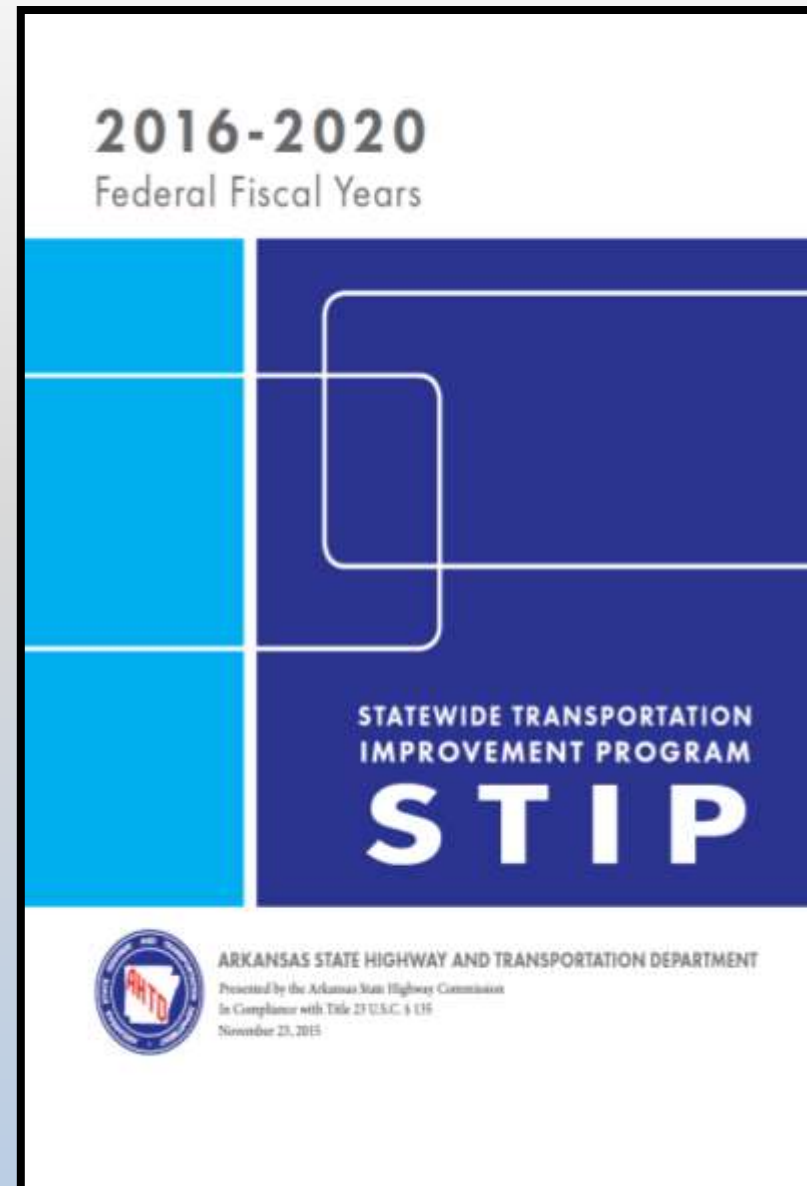
## Traffic





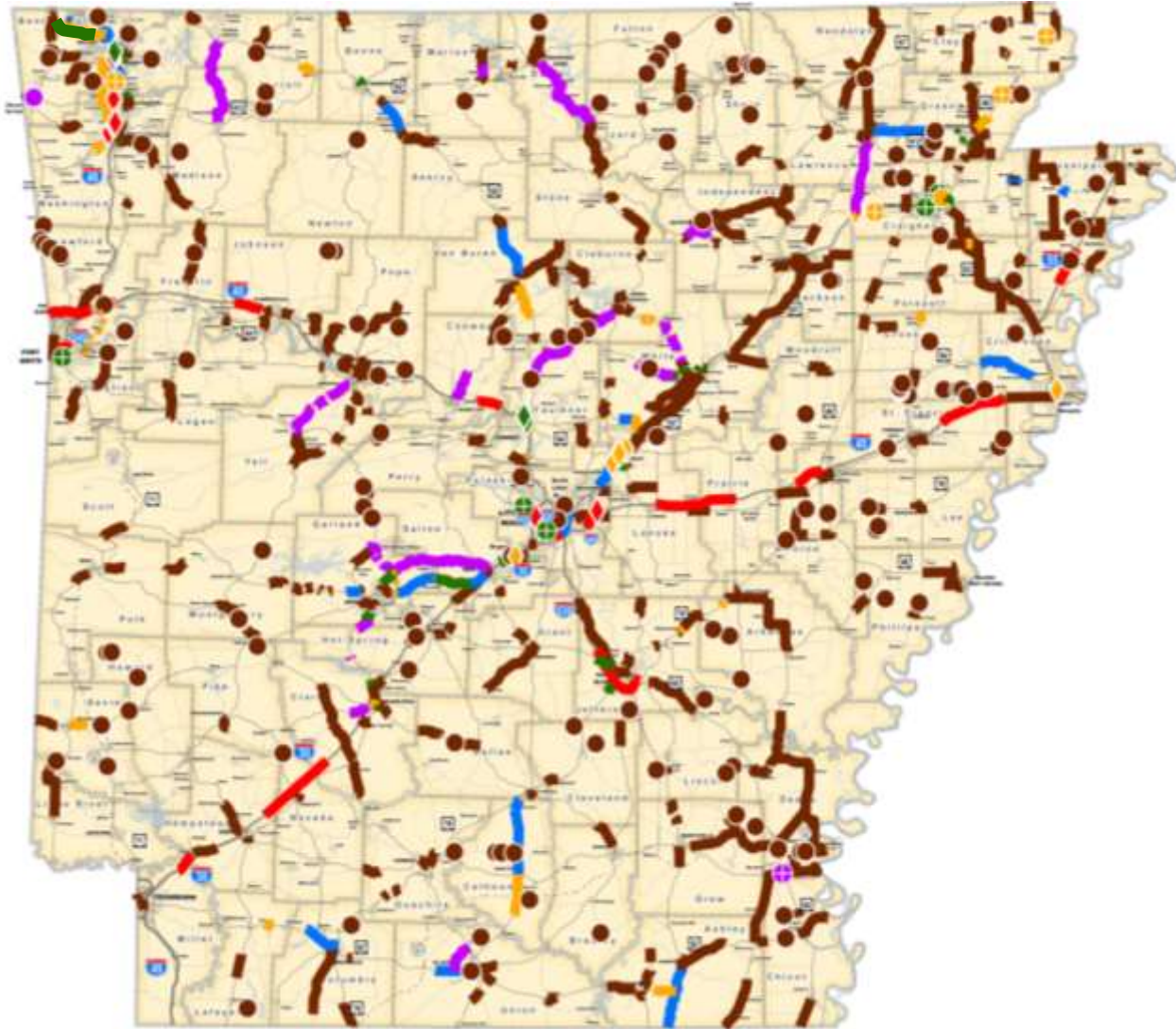
# Statewide Transportation Improvement Program for Federal Fiscal Years 2016-2020 (STIP)

- 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





# Draft 2016-2020 STIP



### LEGEND

#### Job Type

- Bridge
- ◆ Interchange
- ⊕ Intersection
- ▬ Roadway
- New Location

- IRP
- CAP
- Bridge Preservation
- Safety
- Pavement Preservation
- Capital Improvement
- Capacity Improvement



# 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





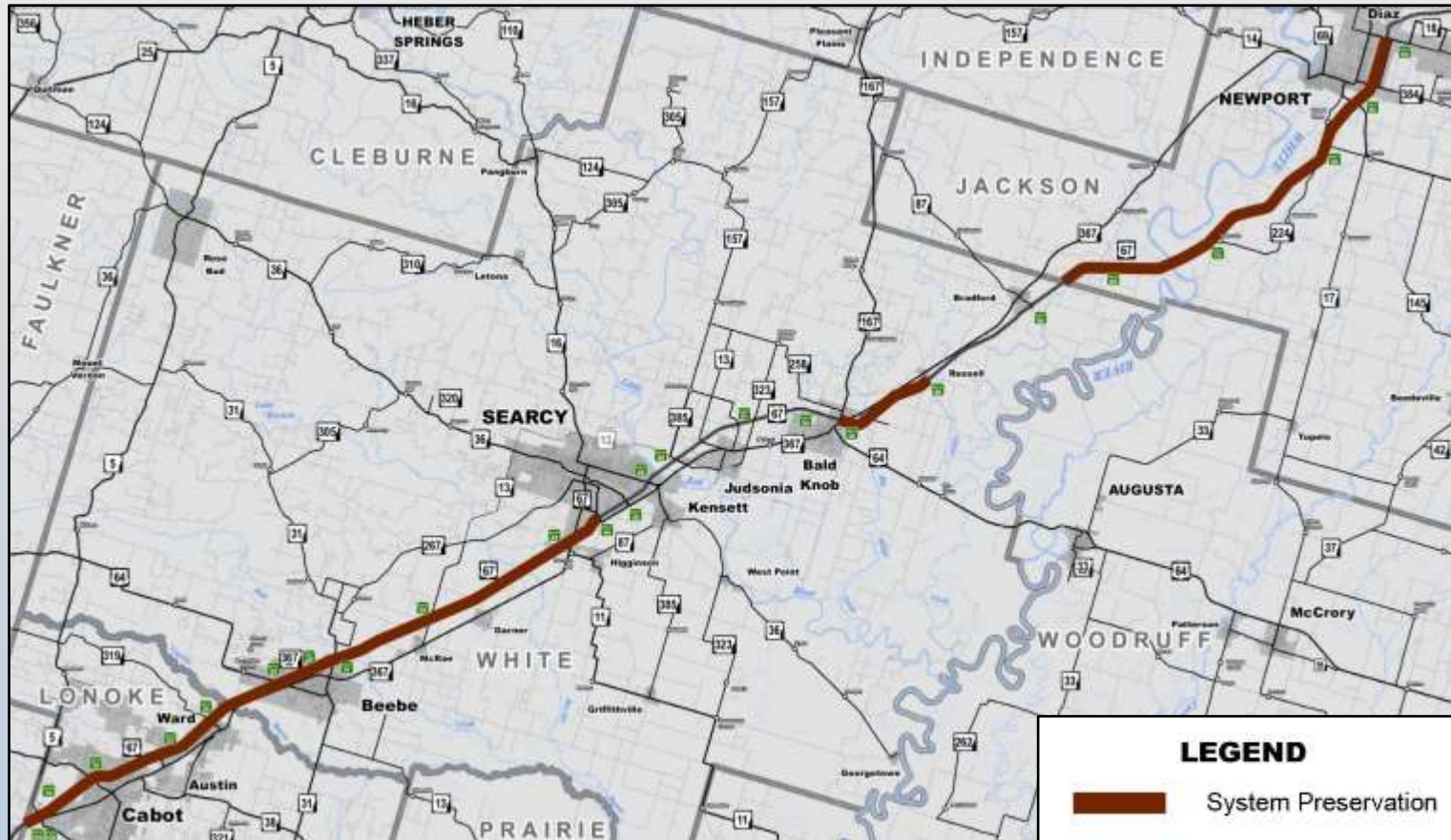


# U.S. Highway 67



## System Preservation from Cabot to Newport

- Selected sections of U.S. Highway 67 from Cabot to Newport
- Just under 59 miles
- Estimated between \$65 and \$70 Million





# State Highway 18



**Recently Completed**

- 7.1 miles
- \$23 million

**Under Construction**

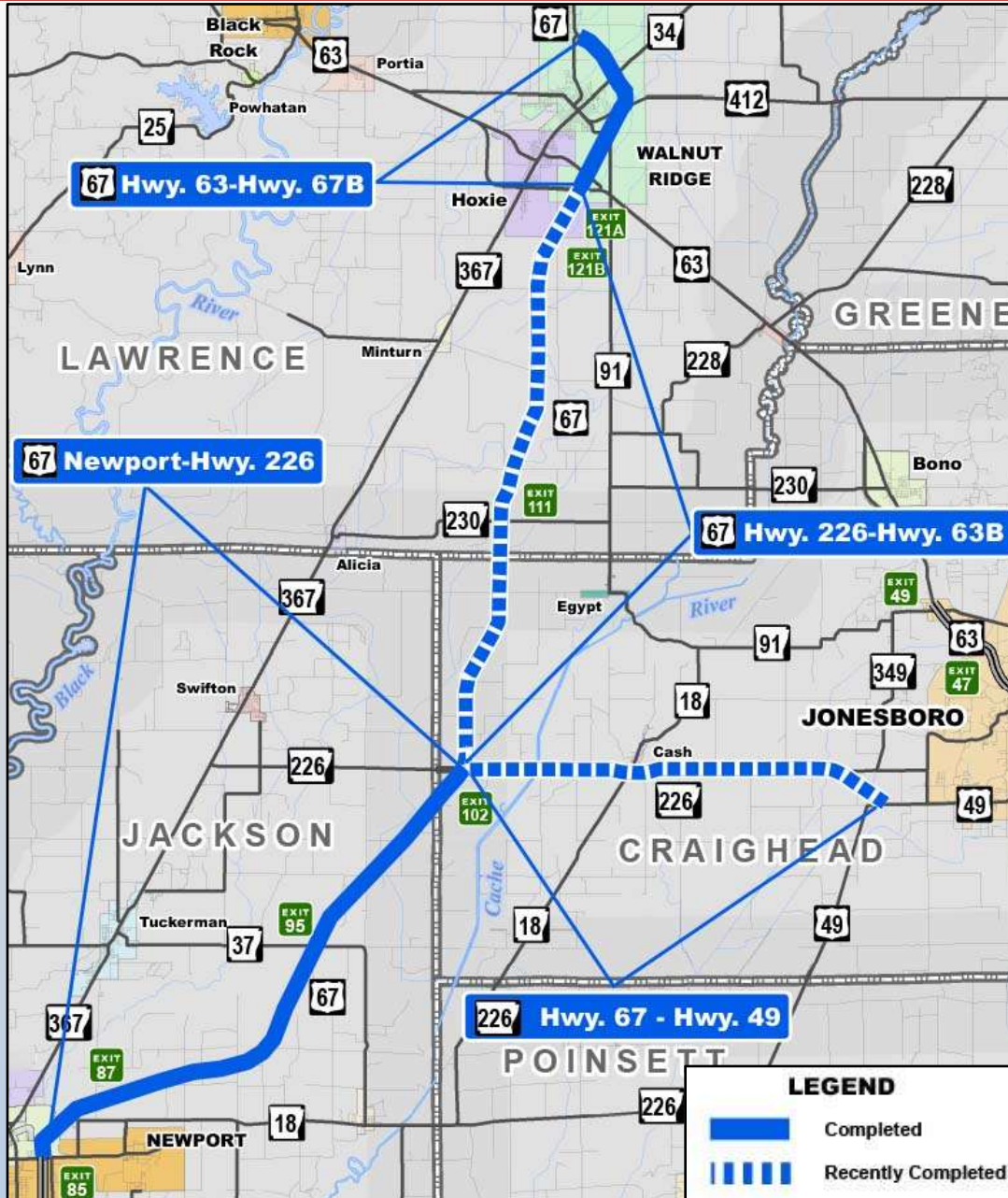
- 16.0 miles
- \$80.8 million







# U.S. Hwy 67 & State Hwy 226





# Jonesboro & Craighead County



## Projects in the Future



# State Highway 1-B



## Programmed

- 3.1 miles
- \$1.8 million





# State Highway 18



**Programmed**  
➤ **\$14.5 million**



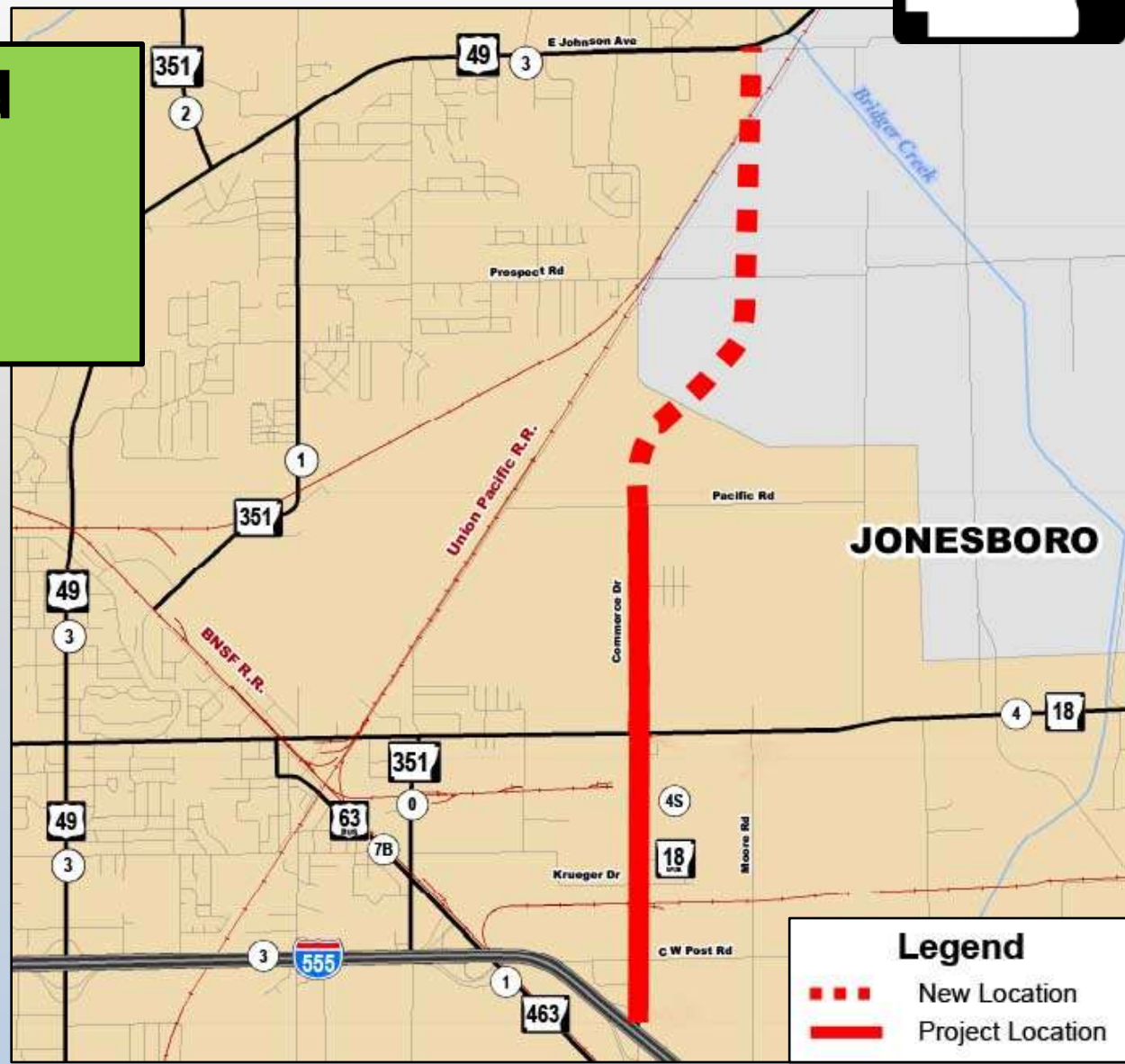


# State Highway 18S



**Programmed**

- 4.34 miles
- \$5-10 million





# U.S. Highway 49



**Programmed**

➤ **\$9 million**





# U.S. Highway 49



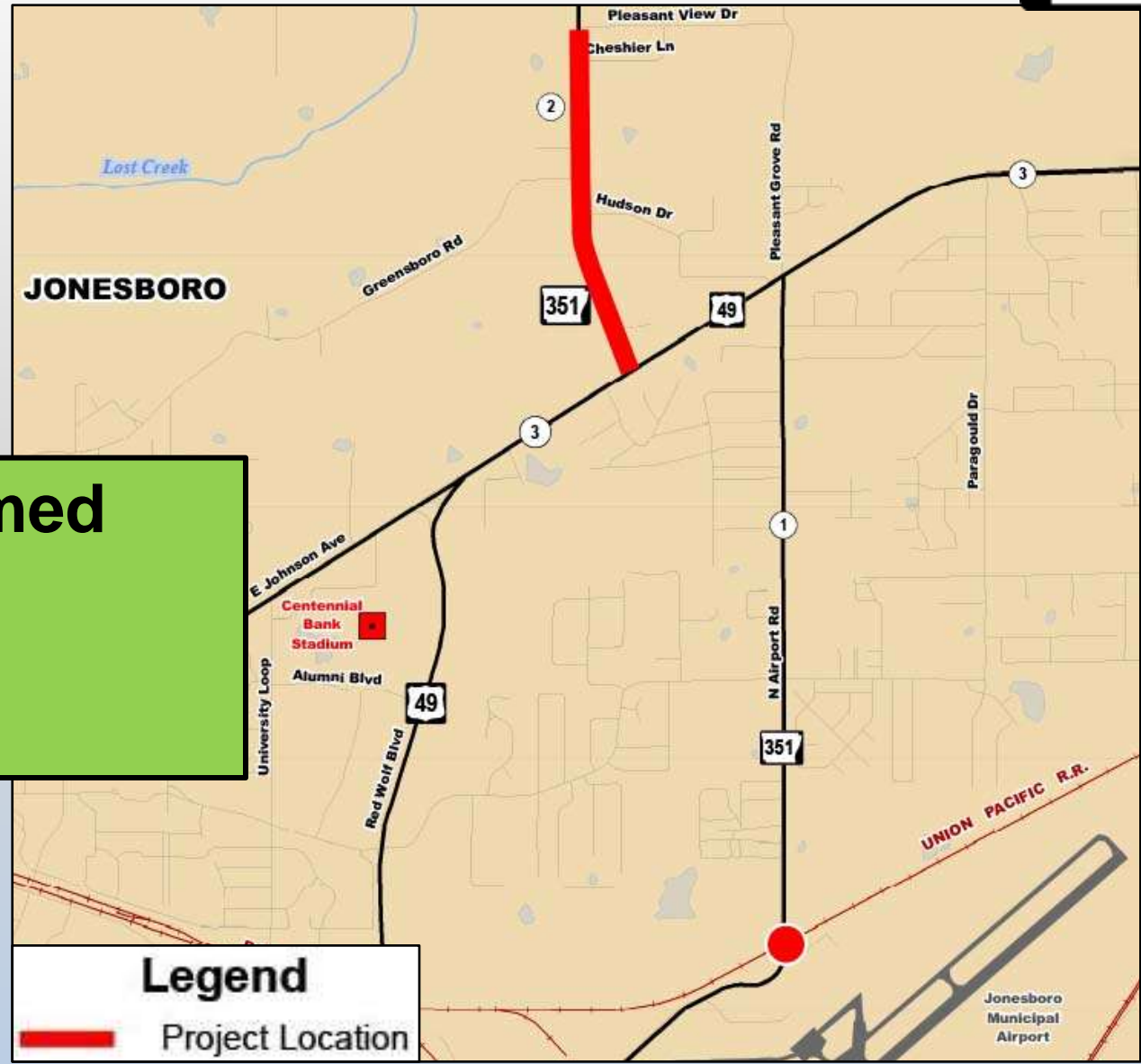
## Programmed

- 1.35 miles
- \$20.4 million





# State Highway 351



**Programmed**

- **0.9 miles**
- **\$14 million**

**Legend**

 Project Location





# Jonesboro North-South Connector

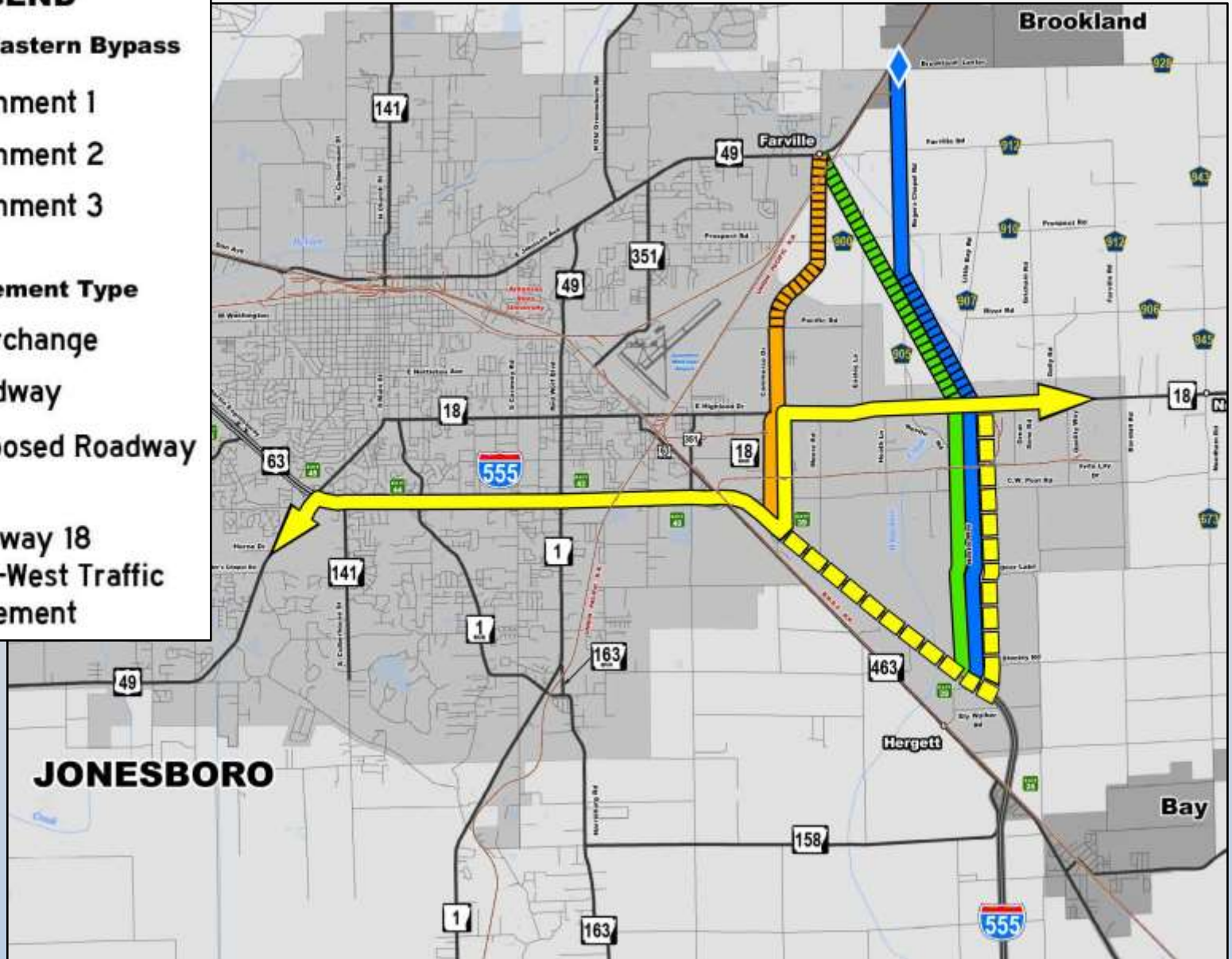
## LEGEND

### Jonesboro Eastern Bypass

- Alignment 1
- Alignment 2
- Alignment 3

### Improvement Type

- Interchange
- Roadway
- Proposed Roadway
- Highway 18 East-West Traffic Movement





# Jonesboro North-South Connector

## Jonesboro North-South Connector Comparison

March 6, 2017

Alignment	Description	Length (miles)	Construction Cost	Design Right of Way Utility CENG Costs (x \$1 million)	Total Cost	Traffic Diversion from Highway 49 (Stadium Blvd.) (vehicles per day)
1	Interstate 555 - Highway 49 Improve Highway 18 S (5-lane typical section) and extend along Commerce Drive north to Highway 49 (3-lane typical section)	4.4	\$23	\$7	\$30	5,000
<p><u>Jonesboro North-South Arterial Connector Study - August 2013</u>            Findings:            The proposed arterial connector would divert some traffic from Highway 49 (Stadium Blvd.). Highway 49 has four travel lanes, carries in excess of 30,000 vpd and operates at Level of Service (LOS) D. It is forecast to increase to more than 40,000 vehicles per day (vpd) by 2033 and operate at LOS E, which is considered unacceptable. With the estimated traffic reduction on Highway 49, the traffic would continue to operate at LOS D through 2033.            This alignment will provide an improved north south connection and also improve east west travel on Highway 18 when compared to Alignment 2 by reducing approximately 2.0 miles from the length of travel.  <i>This project is currently scheduled in the STIP for 2020 - \$10 M set aside for construction. An additional \$13 million is needed to fully fund construction this alignment.</i></p>						
2	Interstate 555 - Highway 49 Nestle Road and Nestle Way Improvements and extend to Highway 49 (3-lane typical section)	6.5	\$34	\$9	\$43	<1,000
<p><u>Jonesboro Highway 63-Highway 18 Connector Study - May 2007</u>            Findings:            This alignment was found not to be viable because it would result in a far more circuitous and far less appealing route for east-west traffic. To provide an equal comparison, this alignment was extended to Highway 49. Alignment 1, which would improve Highway 18S (Commerce Drive) between Interstate 555 and Highway 18, was brought forward as a viable option.</p>						
3	Interstate 555 - Highway 49 Nestle Road and Nestle Way Improvements and extend to Highway 49 (3-lane typical section)	7.5	\$51	\$13	\$65	<1,000
<p><u>Feasibility Study for the Jonesboro Northern Bypass from Highway 63 Northwest of Jonesboro to Highway 63 Southeast of Jonesboro - May 2003</u>            Findings:            Alignment 3 would connect Highway 49 to Interstate 555. An overpass would be provided over the Union Pacific (UP) Railroad tracks that parallel Highway 49. Because of the proximity of the tracks, an at-grade intersection with Highway 49 cannot be achieved. Therefore, an interchange would also be required at this location, which would entail extending the overpass over Highway 49 and providing ramps for traffic entering or exiting the bypass at Highway 49.</p>						





# Craighead System Preservation



## 14 Projects

- 32.88 Miles
- \$16.7 Million



- IRP
- CAP
- Bridge Preservation
- Safety
- Pavement Preservation
- Capital Improvement
- Capacity Improvement

# Funding



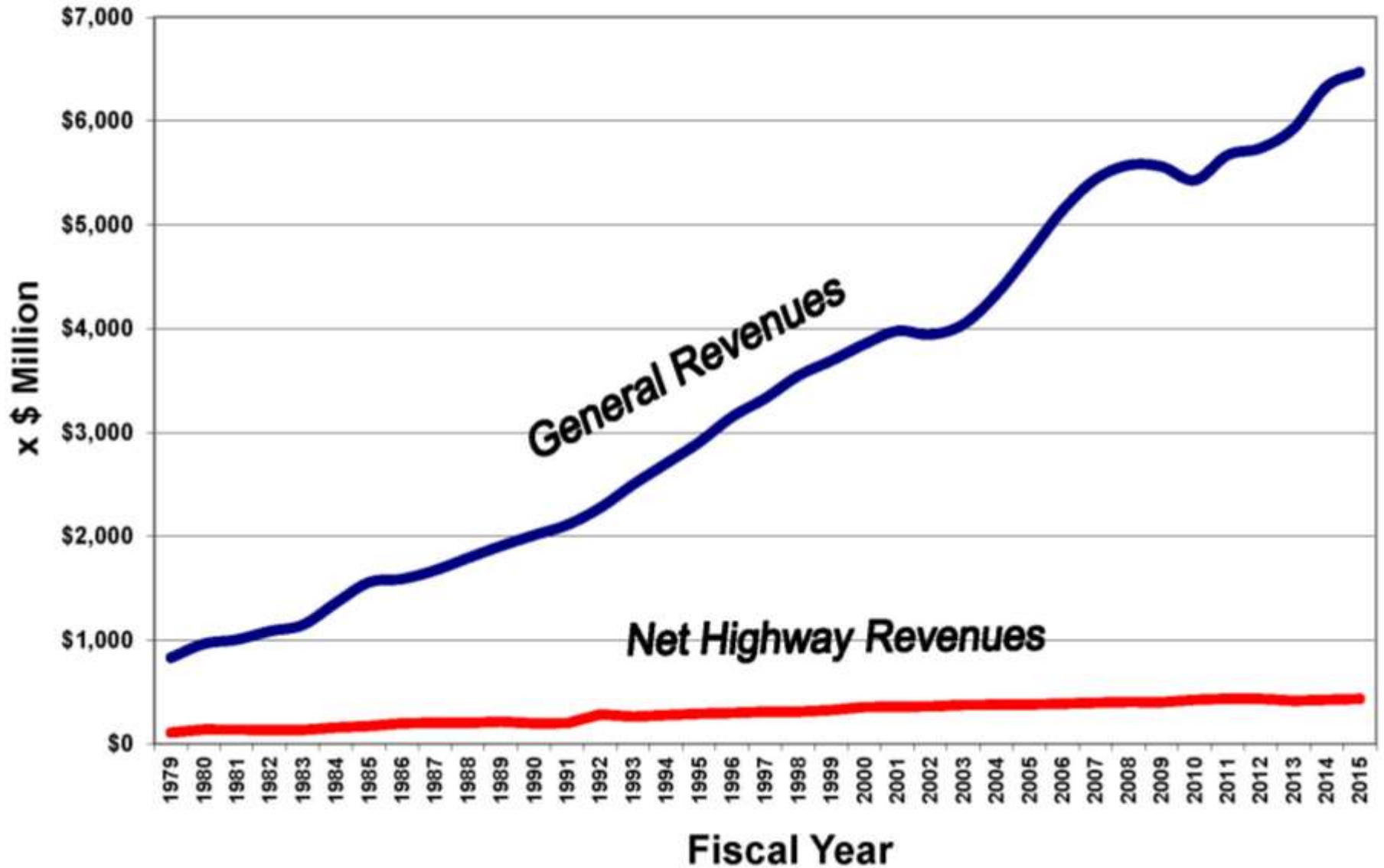


# Challenges

State	State Gas Tax	Rank	State Hwy. Miles	Rank	Population	Rank	State Hwy. Miles /Capita	Adm. Hwy User Rev. / Hwy Mile	Rank
Arkansas	\$ 0.2180	38	16,411	12	2,959,000	32	5.55	\$ 33,287.00	38
12th	\$ 0.3290		16,411		8,260,000		1.99	\$ 129,461.00	
32 <sup>nd</sup>	\$ 0.2400		7,766		2,959,000		2.62	\$ 46,068.00	
38th	\$ 0.2180		6,761		1,854,000		3.65	\$ 33,287.00	



# Arkansas State General Revenues vs AHTD Net Highway Revenues





# Road User Related Tax Revenue

SFY 2015

## Total Road User Revenue

**\$1,067.3 Million**

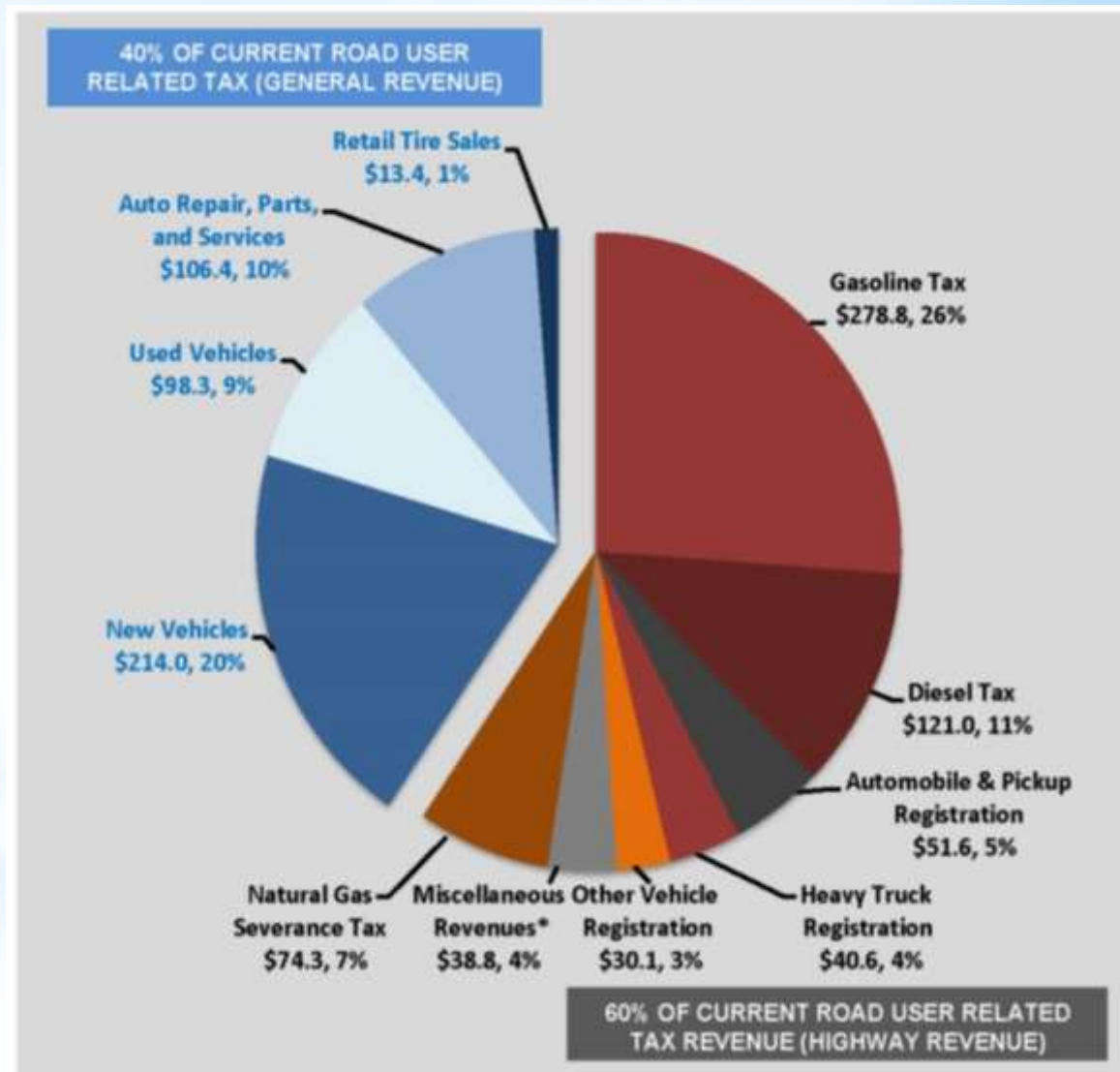
Distribution:

### General Revenue

**\$432.2 Million (40%)**

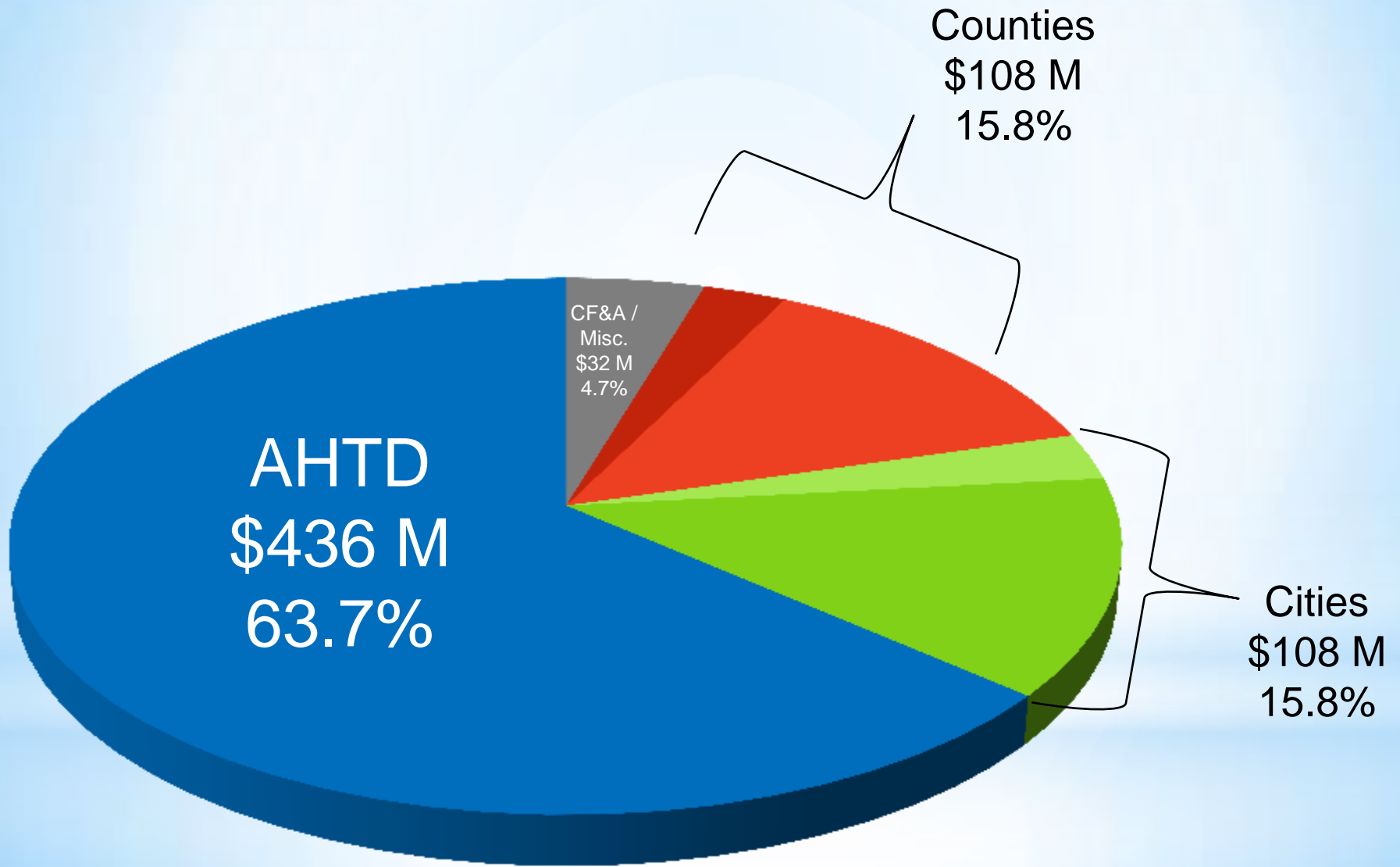
### Highway Revenue

**\$635.1 Million (60%)**





# Highway Revenue Distribution



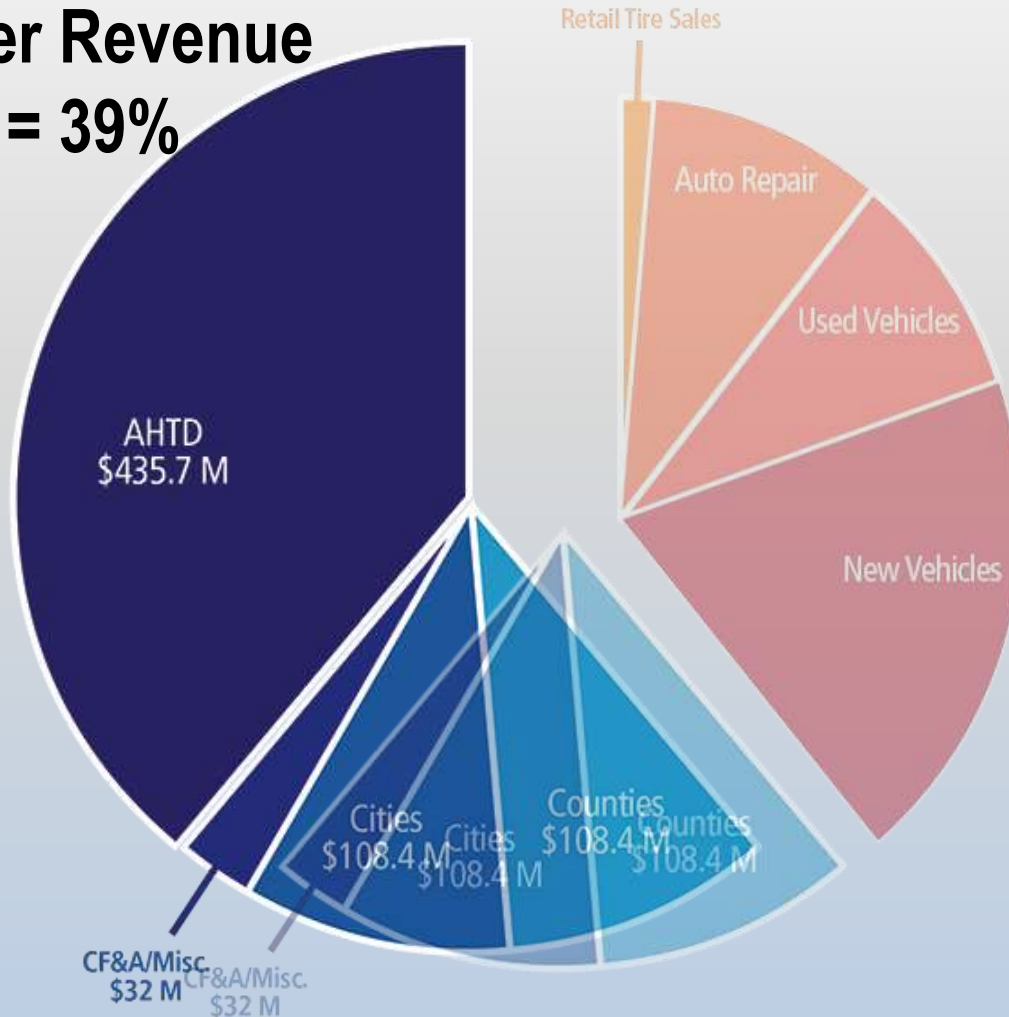




# 2015 Road User Related Tax Revenue

## Total Road User Revenue Collected = \$1.12 Billion

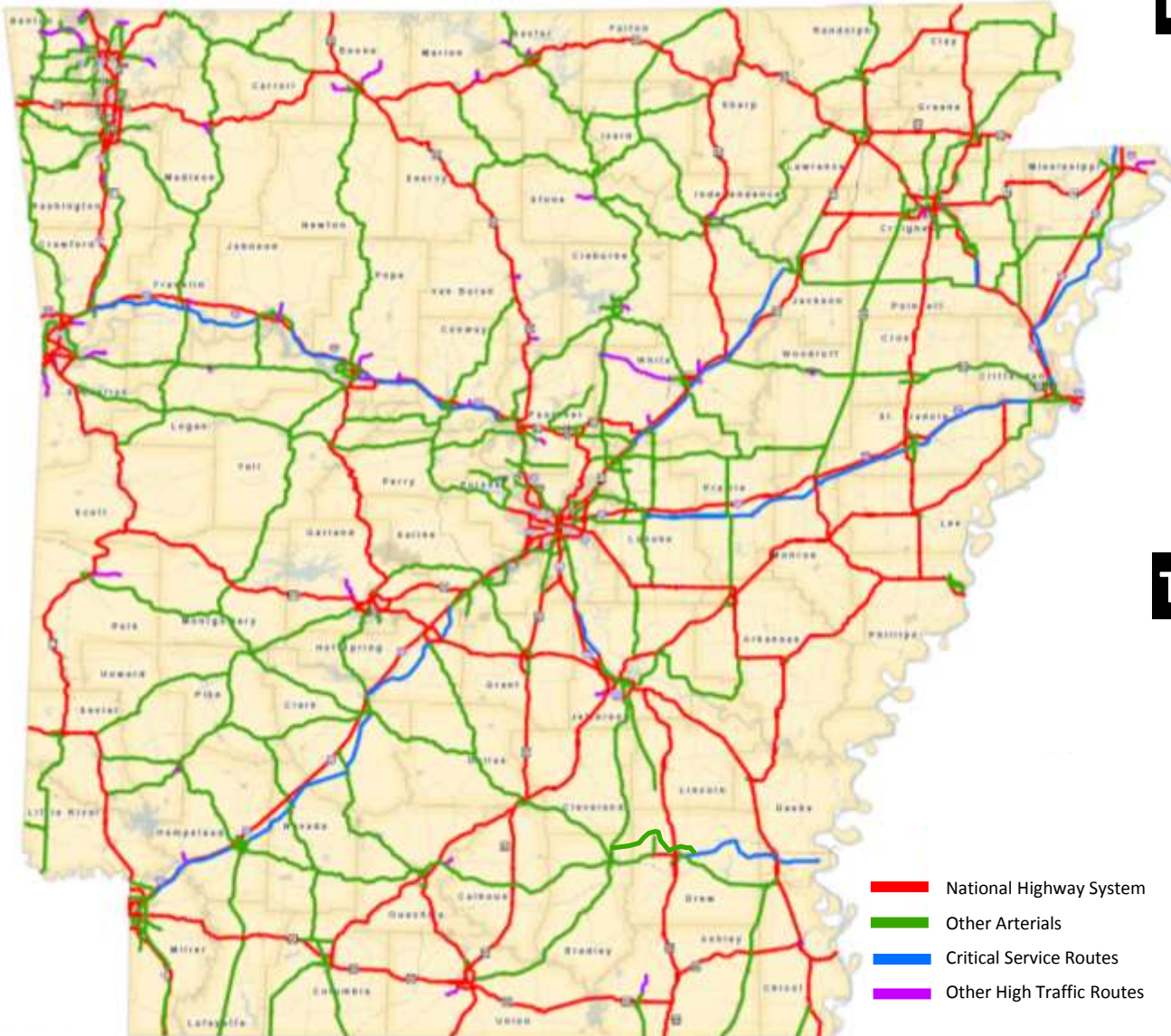
**AHTD Road User Revenue  
= \$435.7 M = 39%**



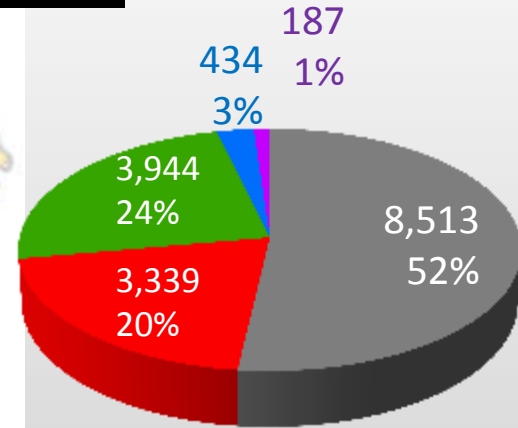


# All of the APHN

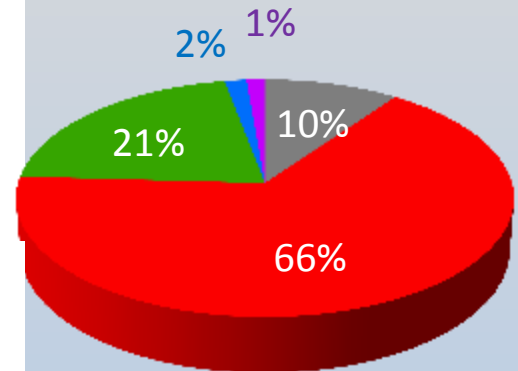
Arkansas Primary Highway Network



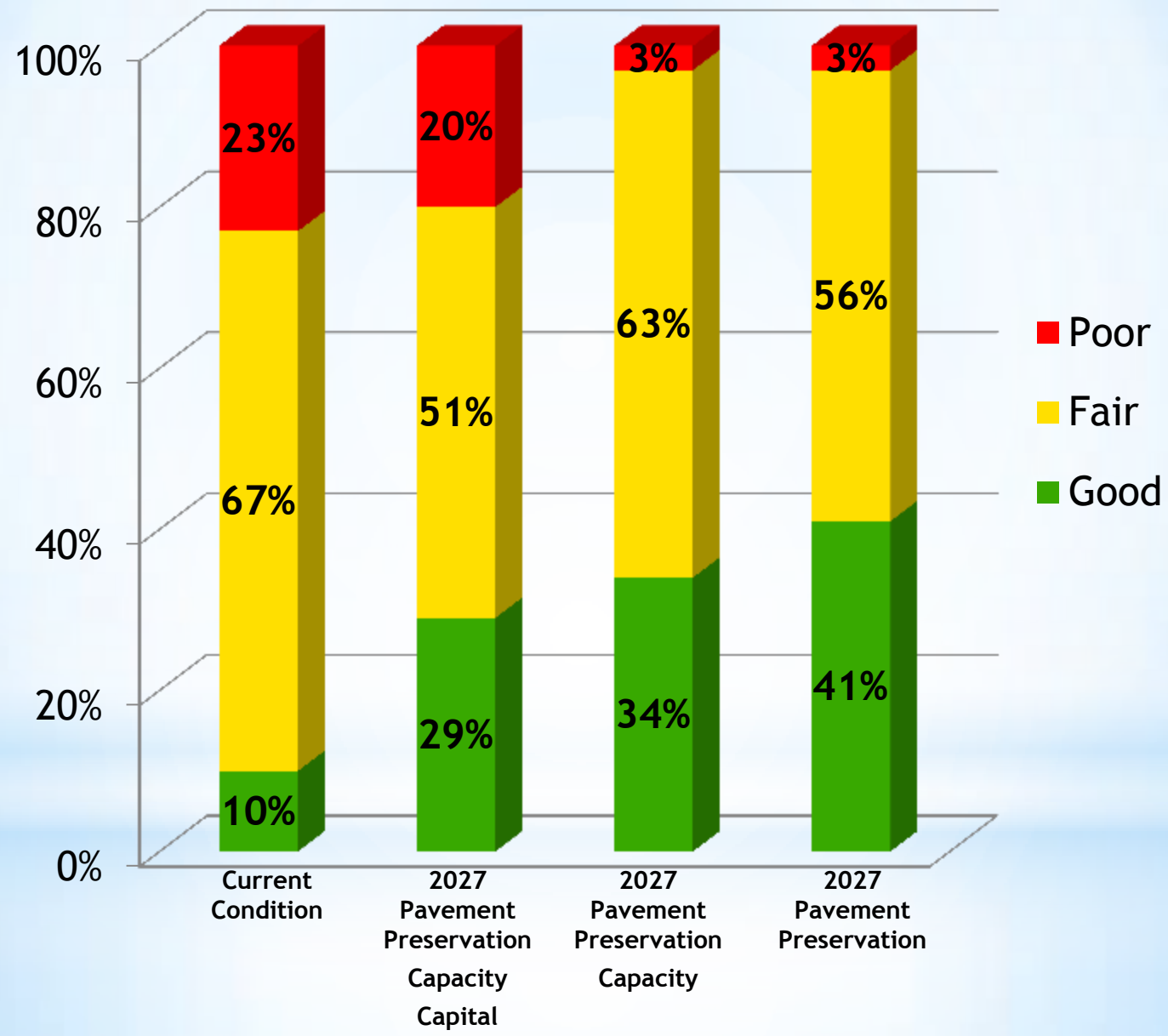
## Miles



## Traffic

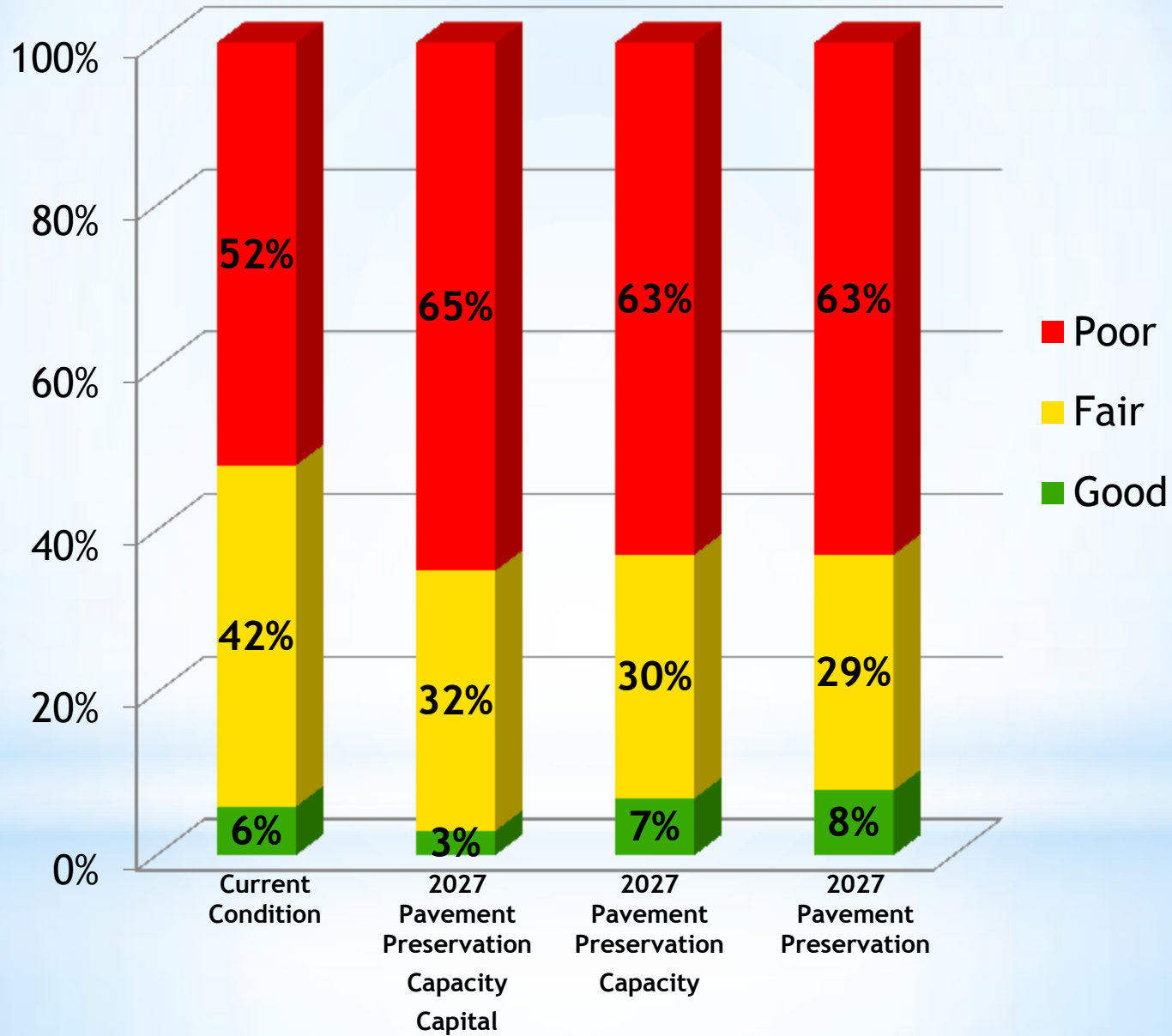


# Arkansas Primary Highway Network – State Highways

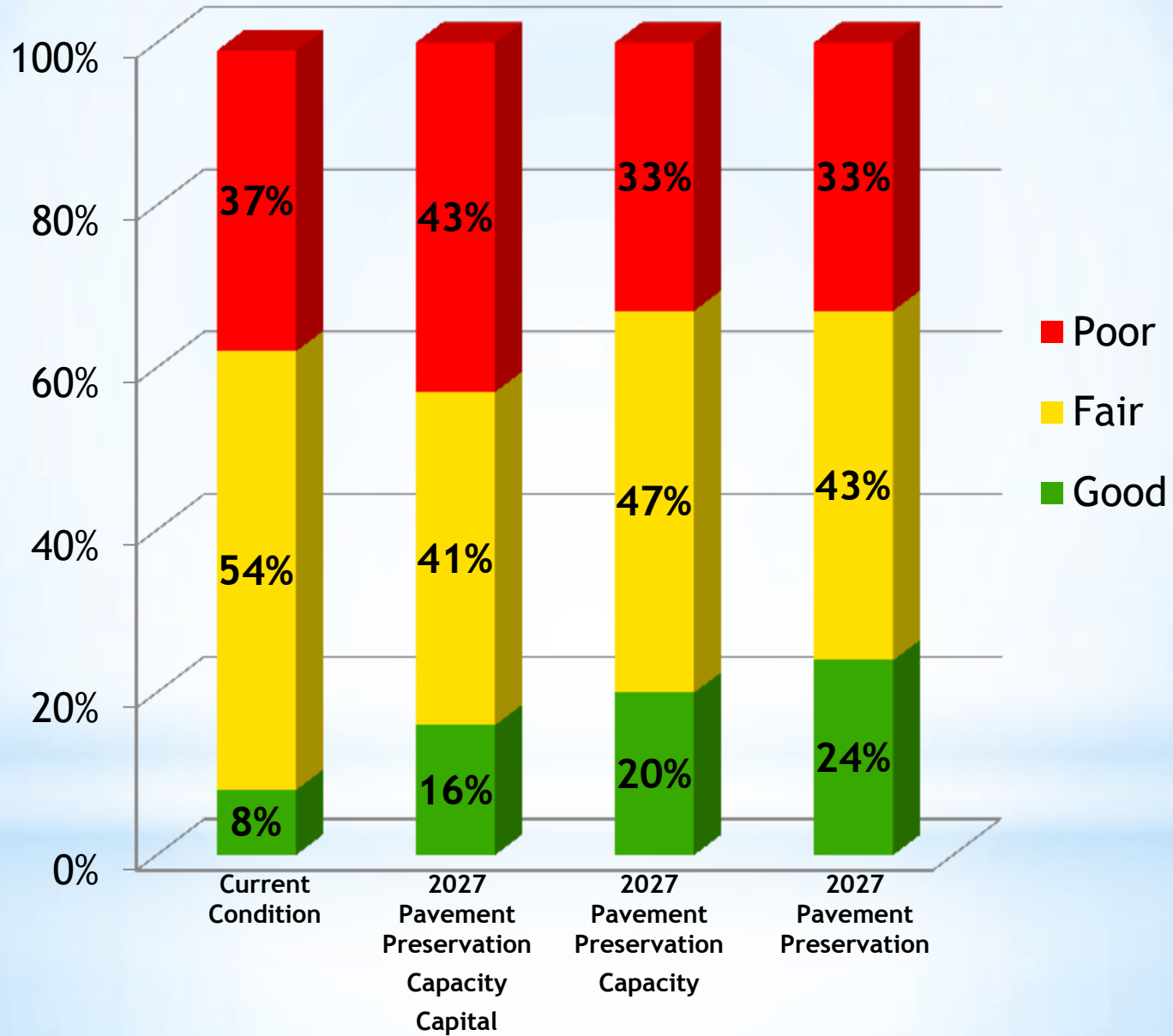




# Non-Arkansas Primary Highway Network – State Highways

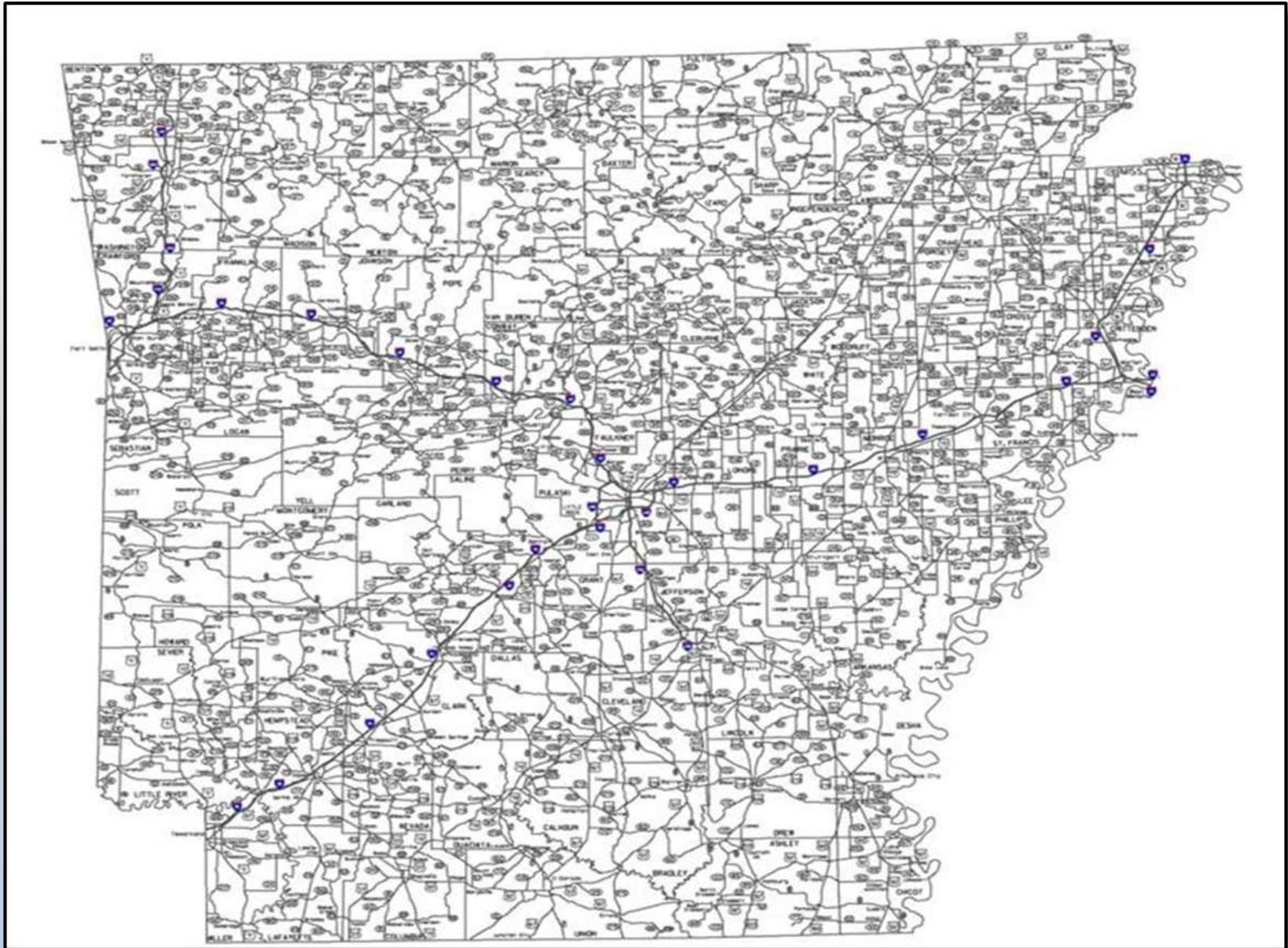


# All State Highways





# Map of Arkansas Highway System







- [ArkansasHighways.com](http://ArkansasHighways.com)
- [ConnectingArkansasProgram.com](http://ConnectingArkansasProgram.com)
- [Vimeo.com/AHTD](http://Vimeo.com/AHTD)
- [IDriveArkansas.com](http://IDriveArkansas.com)
- [Twitter.com @AHTD](https://twitter.com/AHTD)



@AHTD



# Questions?

