

**Scott E. Bennett, P.E.**

**Director**



**MOVITE Past Presidents' Breakfast**

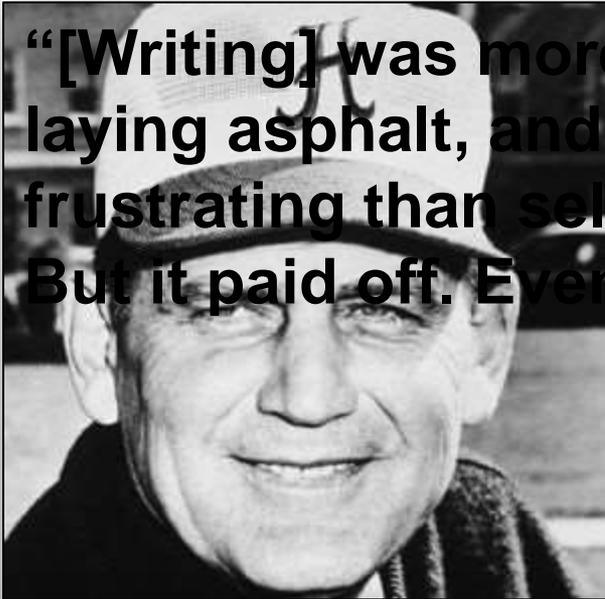
**Friday, October 6, 2017**

Thanks for Visiting!

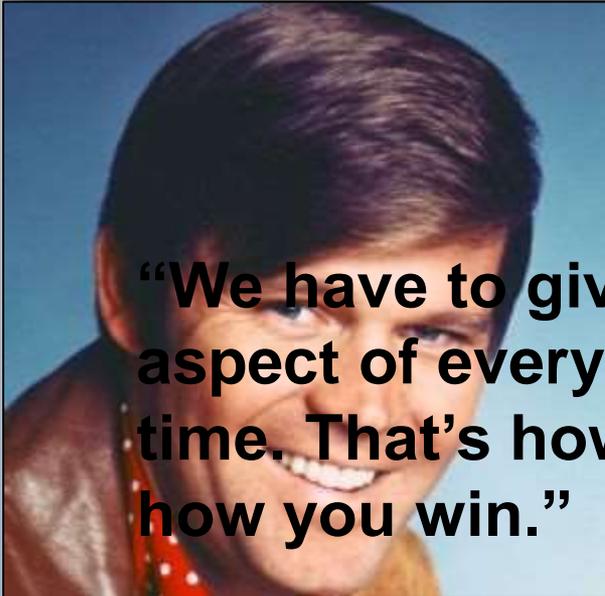


Arkansas<sup>®</sup>  
THE NATURAL STATE

# Famous Arkansans



“[Writing] was more difficult than laying asphalt, and at times more frustrating than selling and the without a But it paid off. Eventually ordinary student what it takes to v

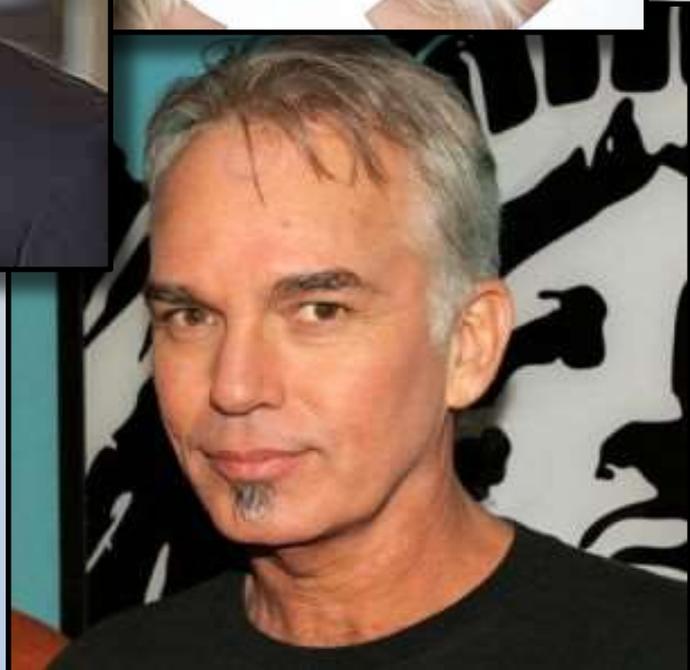


“We have to give 110% in every aspect of everything we do all the time. That’s how you do it. That’s how you win.”



“I like to start the me out of trouble

# Famous Arkansans



# Arkansas' Businesses

**Walmart** 

**J.B. HUNT** 

**Tyson** 

  
**MURPHY**  
OIL CORPORATION

**NUCOR** 

  
**LEXICON**  
Building Excellence

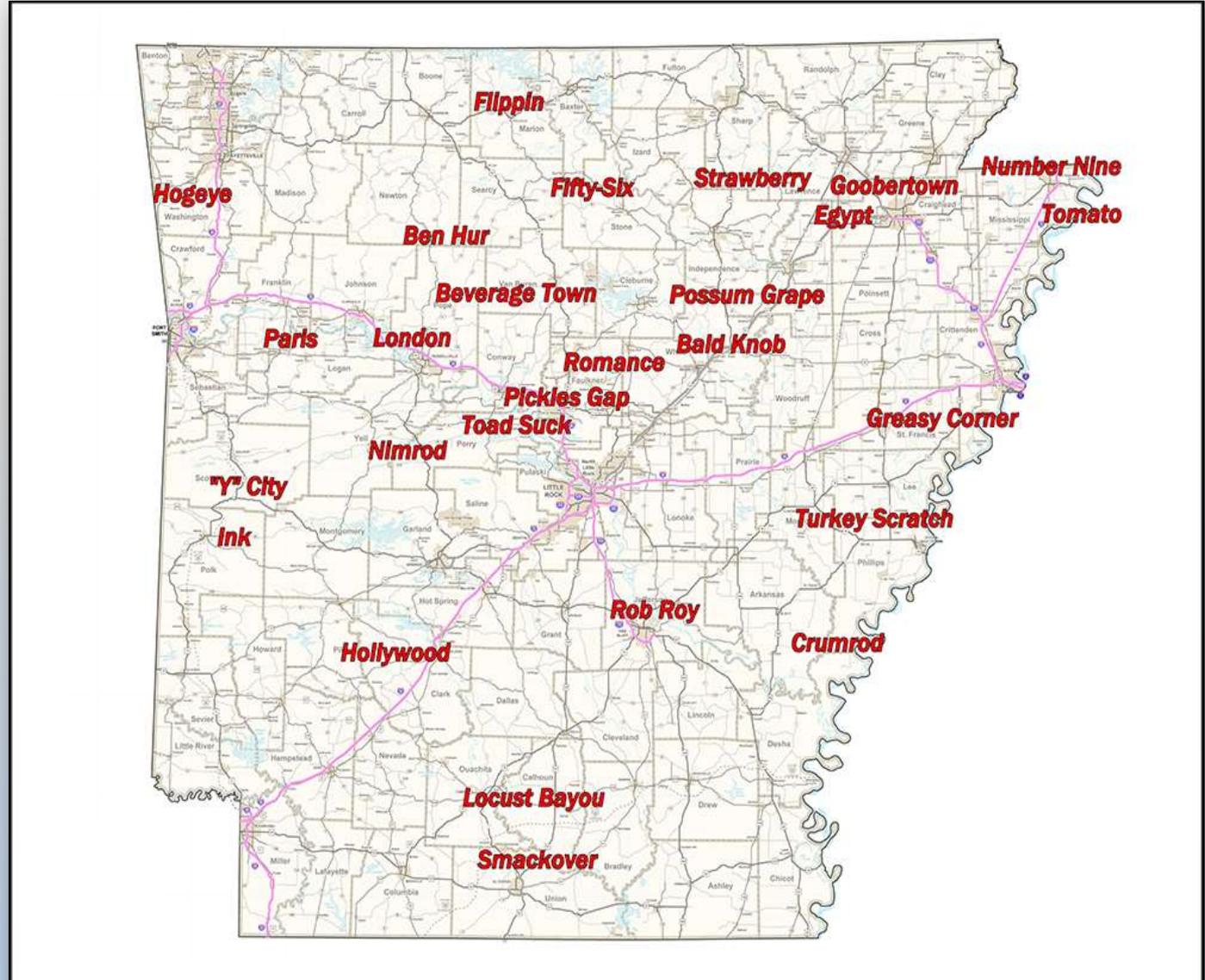
**BRS**   
BIG RIVER STEEL

**GO** 

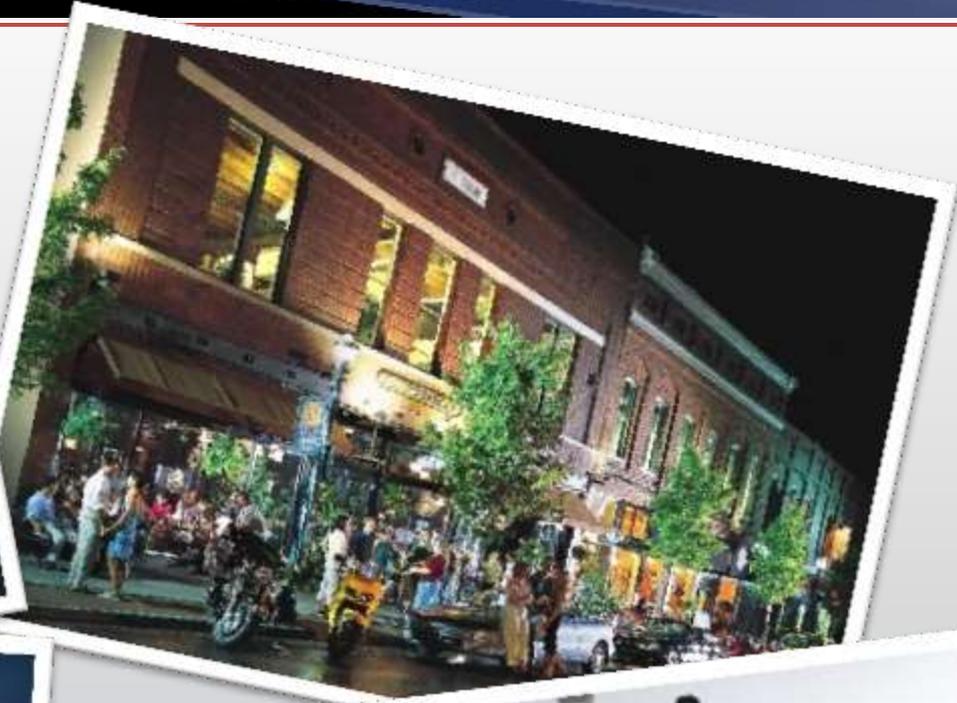
**GERDAU**

## 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



# Central Arkansas



# Central Arkansas



**Main Street Bridge**



**Junction Bridge**



**Clinton Presidential Park Bridge**

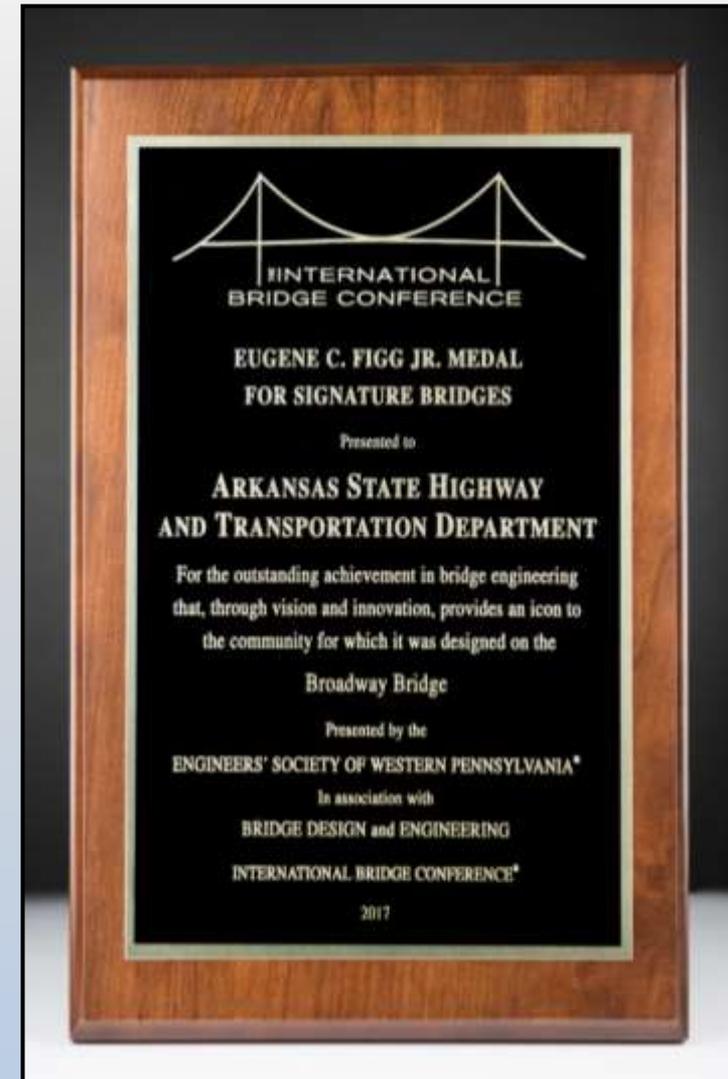
# Broadway Bridge

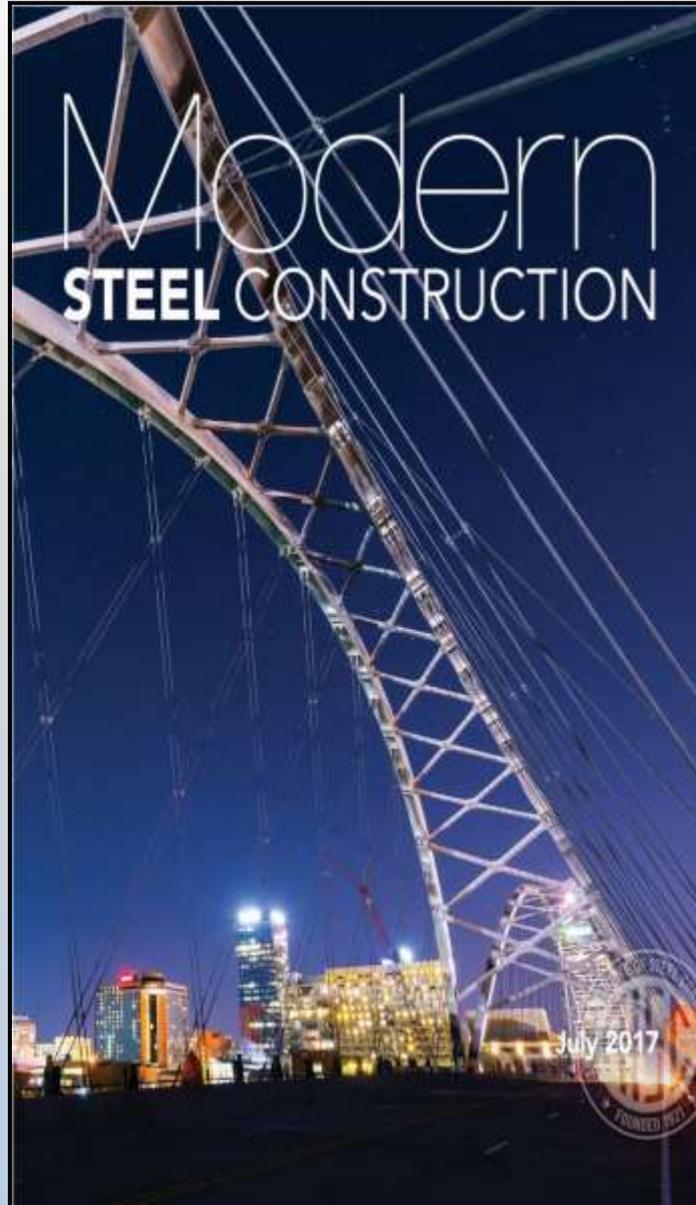
Replaced a bridge with almost 100 years in service

Partnered with Pulaski County



# International Bridge Conference Eugene C. Figg Jr. Medal for Signature Bridges





# Only in Arkansas...



**Clinton Presidential Center**



**Bathhouse Row, Hot Springs**



**Crater of Diamonds State Park**



**Buffalo National River  
America's 1<sup>st</sup> National River**

**Crystal Bridges  
Museum of American Art**





**University of  
Arkansas**

**Razorbacks**

**45 National  
Championships**



# History

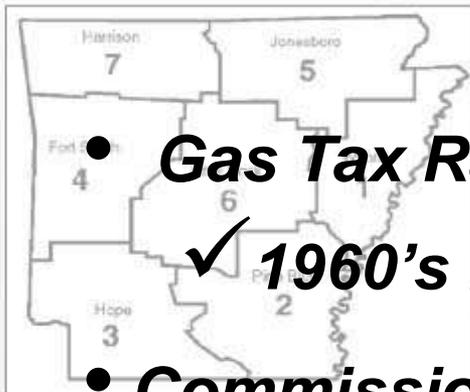
*“We are always yapping about the ‘Good Old Days’ and how we look away back and enjoy it, but I tell you there is a lot of hooley to it.”*

– 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**

- ✓ **1960's Before Next Increase**

- **Commission Structure Changed Two More Times**



Magnet Truck, Picked up an average of 100 lbs of metal per mile

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

State Highway Department HQ, 1939

- **Commission Structure Changed Two More Times**

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





- **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



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

- **No changes to Commission Structure**
- **Department became Debt Free**
- **Legislature transferred nearly 4,400 more miles of County Roads to Highway System**



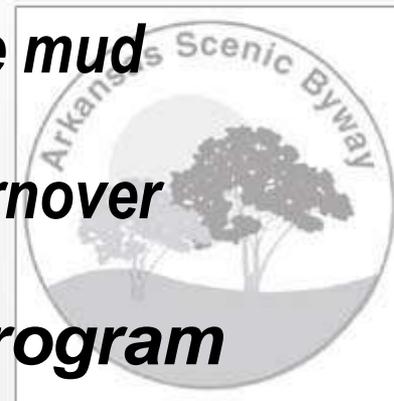
- **Department adds “Transportation” to its name – Authority Expanded**
- **1<sup>st</sup> State to Complete its Interstate System (1975)**
- **16,000 Highway Miles (15,000 Paved)**

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.

- **1999 – Last State Gas Tax Increase**

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

- **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**



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

- **Governor's Working Group on Highway Funding**

- **16,400 miles State Highways**



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





1929  
Arkansas  
Highway and  
Department of  
Lands

1977  
Arkansas State  
Highway and  
Transportation  
Department

2017  
Arkansas  
Department of  
Transportation



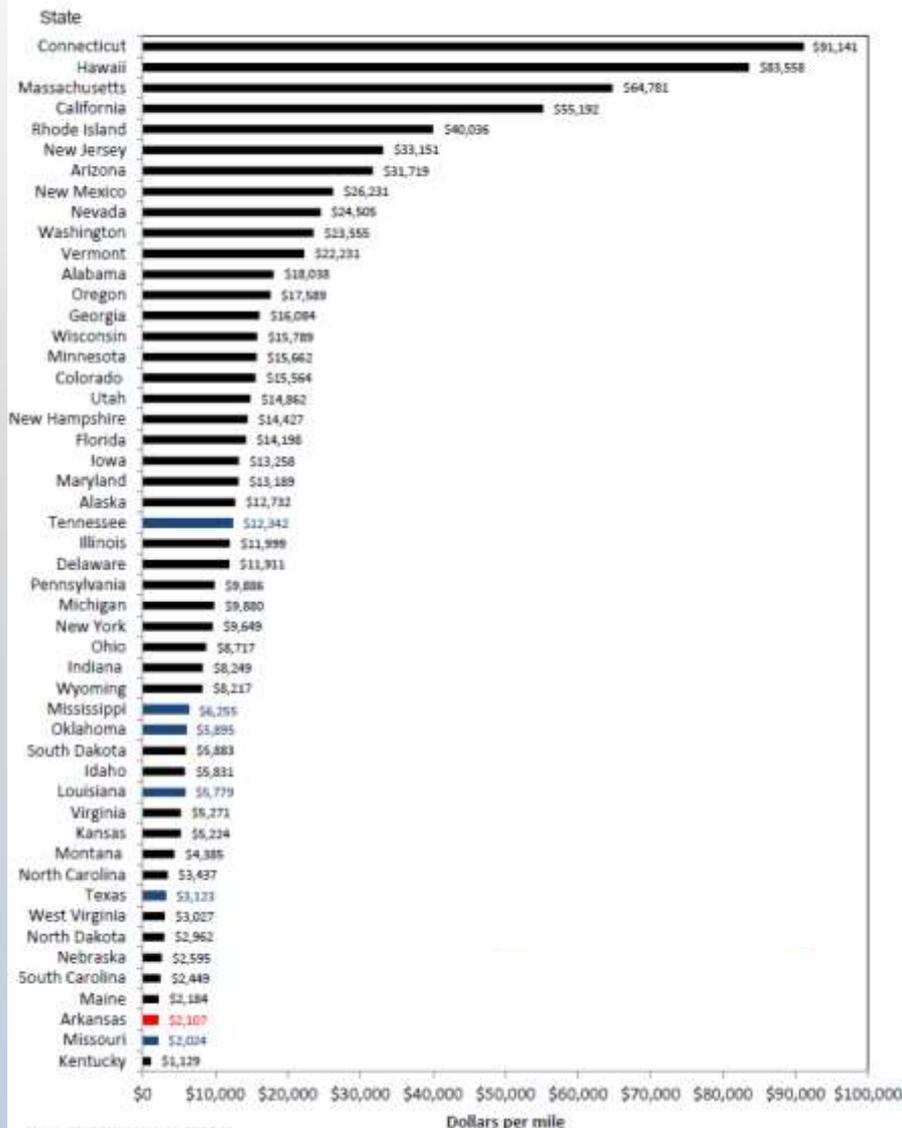
# New Name – New Identity

***Provide safe and efficient transportation solutions to support Arkansas' economy and enhance the quality of life for generations to come.***

**Adopted June 7, 2017**

## Administrative Cost Per Mile

Arkansas Ranks 48th in the Nation



Source: "2013 Federal Highway Statistics"  
Note: Excludes Toll Facilities

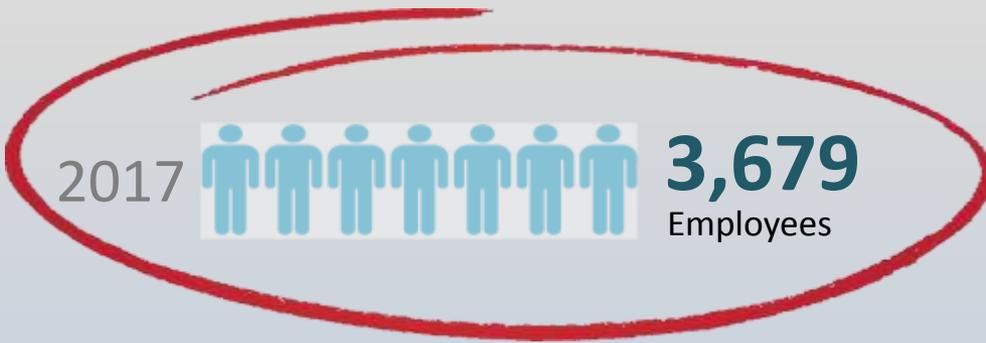
Arkansas = \$2,107

Surrounding States Average = \$4,334

National Average = \$9,224

Arkansas has the  
3<sup>rd</sup> Lowest  
Administrative Cost Per  
Mile  
in the Nation

# Employment Levels Efficiency



# Federal



# Update

- Federal Fiscal Year 2018
- No Budget Agreement
- Continuing Resolution Until December 8th
- Future Uncertainty



President Trump Abandons His \$1 Trillion Plan

White House Agrees Public-Private Approach Will Not Work

Senate Democrats Announce \$500 Billion Initiative



- **Administration's Guiding Principles for Infrastructure Initiative**

- ✓ Targeted Federal Investment
- ✓ Greater State and Local Investment Overall
- ✓ Leveraging Non-Federal Investment
- ✓ Environmental and Permitting Streamlining

- **Four Areas of Major Reform**

- ✓ Regulatory
- ✓ Policy
- ✓ Statutory
- ✓ Cultural



- ARDOT.gov
- ConnectingArkansasProgram.com
- Vimeo.com/myARDOT
- IDriveArkansas.com
- Twitter.com @myARDOT



@myARDOT



# Questions?

