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## Arkansas State Highway & Transportation Department



# 2008 Facts

Highway 63, Union/Bradley County Line, Arkansas

## Arkansas State Highway Commission

The first State Highway Commission was appointed in 1913. Amendment 42 of the Constitution of Arkansas, adopted in 1952, established the present five-member State Highway Commission. Under this authority, the

State Highway Commission is vested with powers and duties for administering Arkansas' State Highway System. Act 192 of 1977 created the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD), adding

responsibilities for coordinating public and private transportation activities and implementing a safe and efficient intermodal transportation system.

## Organization and Personnel

The Central Office is in Little Rock. Ten district headquarters, 85 county area maintenance headquarters, and 31 resident engineer

offices are located statewide providing consistent control over maintenance and construction activities. Streamlining efforts have

reduced the AHTD's full time workforce from approximately 4,000 in 1993 to 3,609 as of June 30, 2008.

### Topics:

- Arkansas State Highway Commission
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## Safety

The State Highway Commission adopted the Arkansas Strategic Highway Safety Plan in July 2007 as a planning guide for improving highway safety in the State. The Plan identified six emphasis areas and

recommended strategies for each emphasis area to reduce the number of fatal and serious injury crashes on the State's roadways. A goal was established to reduce the State's fatality rate to 1.8 fatalities per 100 million

vehicle miles traveled by the year 2010. In 2006, the State's fatality rate was 2.08 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled. In 2007, this decreased to 2.01 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled.

## State Highway System

As of January 1, 2008, the state-administered highway system totaled 16,438 miles or 17% of the 99,563 miles of public roads in Arkansas.

Nationally, the State Highway System ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in mileage and the State ranks 41<sup>st</sup> in total revenues per mile. During State Fiscal Year

2008, projects totaling approximately \$325 million were let to contract for state highways.

## Bridges

As of July 2008, the AHTD is responsible for maintenance, inspection, and load analysis for 7,157 state-owned bridges as well as inspection and load analysis of 4,323 county-owned bridges and 899 city-

owned bridges. Bridges are inspected every two years unless they have weight restrictions and/or poor conditions. These bridges are inspected at least annually and sometimes more often.

Only 8% of bridges in Arkansas and 4% of the bridges on Arkansas State highways are structurally deficient compared to 12% of the nation's bridges.

## State Funding

Road-user revenues are generated under tax laws governing motor fuels, special motor fuels, and motor vehicle registrations. After deductions for other programs, the AHTD receives 70%, and 30% is divided equally between cities and counties. Net State Highway Department funds, including

interest, in State Fiscal Year 2008 amounted to \$404 million. Cities and counties divided approximately \$82 million. Alternative fuels are assessed by a graduated scale based on annual registered vehicle users. Currently, an

Environmental Assurance Fee of \$0.003 per gallon is also collected for the Regulated Storage Tank Trust Fund. Current (6-30-08) State Motor Fuel Tax Rates per gallon are:  
 Gasoline - 21.5¢  
 Diesel - 22.5¢  
 Liquefied Petroleum Gas - 16.5¢

### Scenic Byways

Arkansas scenic byways include portions of Highways 5, 7, 10, 14, 21, 23, 71, 88, 96, and 309, Interstate 530, Interstate 540, the Great River Road, and Crowley's Ridge Parkway. The Great River Road, Crowley's Ridge Parkway, and Talimena Scenic Drive are National Scenic Byways.

## Federal Funding

On August 10, 2005, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) was enacted and established highway and transit programs and funding for a five-year period (2005-2009). Arkansas will receive

an estimated average annual amount of \$505 million for highway programs under the act.

The following taxes are levied on motor fuels per gallon with the revenues deposited in the Federal Highway Trust Fund -- Federal-aid Highway Account, Federal Mass Transit Account, and the Regulated Storage Tank Trust Fund (RSTTF):

Fuel	Highway	Transit	RSTTF	Total
Gasoline	15.44¢	2.86¢	0.1¢	18.4¢
Diesel	21.44¢	2.86¢	0.1¢	24.4¢

## State Aid County Road Program

The State Aid Road Division, authorized under Act 445 of 1973, administers the State Aid County Road Program.

The Division also administers Federal-aid highway funds available for county roads. In State Fiscal Year 2008,

95 projects on 271 miles and 7 bridges were contracted at a total cost of \$24.2 million.

### Travel

Travel across Arkansas highways, roads, and streets totaled 32 billion vehicle miles in 2007. Travel across the State Highway System totaled 25 billion vehicle miles or 78% of that total, including over 97% of all heavy truck travel in 2007.

## Typical Construction Cost Per Mile

Widening 2 to 5 Lanes (Urban)	\$5.6M
New Rural 2-Lane	\$3.3M
New Interstate Construction	\$8.0 - \$12.8M

## Public Transit

Six Federal Transit Administration programs administered by the AHTD total approximately \$13 million annually. These programs are supported by the Mass Transit Account that is funded by a 2.86¢ per gallon federal fuel tax and Federal General Revenues.

Act 949 of 2001 established the Arkansas Public Transit Fund, to be funded from a 5% tax on car rental rates, which generates approximately \$3.5 million yearly for transit activities. The funds generated by the tax on rental cars are used to match federal funds for the

purchase of public transportation vehicles, public transit equipment or facilities, and for the operation of the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration Assistance programs.