

2013 Facts



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Arkansas State Highway & Transportation Department



Arkansas State Highway Commission

The first Arkansas 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 (Department), 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 Department's full time workforce from approximately 4,000 in 1993 to 3,538 as of June 30, 2013.

Safety

The Arkansas State Highway Commission adopted the Arkansas Strategic Highway Safety Plan in February 2013 as a planning guide for improving highway safety in the State. The Plan identified eight primary emphasis areas and recommended strategies for each to reduce the number of fatal and serious injury crashes on the State's roadways. The primary goal is to reduce the number of roadway fatalities to 400 or fewer in Arkansas by 2017. The secondary goal is to reduce the fatality rate to 1.12 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles (MVM) traveled by 2017. Preliminary data from Arkansas State Police shows that the roadway fatalities in 2012 was 560, an increase from 551 in 2011. However, preliminary data indicates that the fatality rate is 1.67 fatalities per 100 MVM traveled, which is the same as the fatality rate in 2011.

State Highway System

As of January 1, 2013, the state-administered highway system totaled 16,398 miles, or 16.4%, of the 100,123 miles of public roads in Arkansas. Nationally, the State Highway System ranks 12th in mileage and the State ranks 43rd in total revenues per mile. During State Fiscal Year 2013, 139 projects totaling approximately \$758 million were let to on the highway system.

Bridges

As of July 2013, the Department is responsible for maintenance, inspections and load analysis for 7,273 state-owned bridges as well as inspections and load analysis of 4,313 county-owned bridges and 997 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 7% of bridges in Arkansas and 4% of the bridges on Arkansas highways are structurally deficient compared to 7% of the nation's bridges.

Public Transit

The Department administers seven Federal Transit Administration formula programs totaling \$19 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 annually 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.

Travel

- Travel across Arkansas highways, roads, and streets totaled 33 billion vehicle miles in 2012.
- Travel across the State Highway System totaled 25 billion vehicle miles, or 75% of the total.
- In 2012, over 95% of all heavy truck travel in Arkansas occurred on the State Highway System.

Motor Fuel Consumption

- Gasoline consumption was down for eight of the twelve months for SFY 2013 (July 2012 to June 2013) as compared to SFY 2012.
- Diesel consumption was down for seven of the twelve months during the same period.
- LPG total consumption in SFY 2013 was down more than 50% from SFY 2012.
- CNG total consumption was up 60% in SFY 2013 from SFY 2012.

LPG — Liquefied Petroleum Gas
CNG — Compressed Natural Gas

State Funding

Typical Construction Cost Per Mile	
Widening 2 to 5 Lanes (Urban)	\$4.7M
New Rural 2-Lane	\$2.8M
Rural Passing Lanes	\$1.9M
New Interstate Construction	\$6.8-\$10.9M
Interstate Mill & Overlay	\$3.1M

Road-user revenues are generated under tax laws governing motor fuels, special motor fuels, and motor vehicle registrations. After deductions for other programs, the Department receives 70% and 30% is divided equally between cities and counties. Net Department funds, including interest, in State Fiscal Year 2013 amounted to \$415 million. Cities and counties divided approximately \$84 million. Alternative fuels are assessed by a graduated scale based on annual registered vehicle users. House Joint Resolution (HJR) 1001 was adopted by the 2011 Arkansas General Assembly, and approved by the vote of the people on November 6, 2012, to provide a ½¢ temporary sales tax, a State Aid City Street Program, and the expansion of the Department's bonding capacity. In November 2011, the Arkansas Interstate Highway Financing Act of 2007 as amended was passed by a vote of the people. This action extends the Arkansas Highway Commission authority to issue up to \$575 million in Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle (GRAVEE) bonds to continue modernization of our Interstate highway system.

Currently, a State Environmental Assurance Fee of \$0.003 per gallon is also collected for the Regulated Storage Tank Trust Fund. Current (6-30-13) State Motor Fuel Tax Rates per gallon are:
 Gasoline - 21.5¢
 Diesel - 22.5¢
 Liquefied Petroleum Gas - 16.5¢
 Compressed Natural Gas - 5.0¢

Federal Funding

Scenic Byways

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

On July 6, 2012, the Moving Ahead for Progress for the 21st Century (MAP-21) was enacted and established highway and transit programs and funding for a two-year period (FFY2013-2014). Arkansas received approximately \$500 million in Fiscal Year 2013, and is projected to receive \$504 million in Fiscal Year 2014. Taxes are levied on motor fuels per gallon with the revenues deposited in the Federal Highway Trust Fund Federal-aid Highway Account and Mass Transit Account.

Fuel	Highway	Transit	RSTTF	Total
Gasoline	15.44¢	2.86¢	0.1¢	18.4¢
Diesel	21.44¢	2.86¢	0.1¢	24.4¢
LPG	16.17¢	2.13¢	0.0¢	18.3¢
CNG	15.43¢	2.86¢	0.0¢	18.3¢

LPG — Liquefied Petroleum Gas
 CNG — Compressed Natural Gas

State Aid County Road and City Street Program

The State Aid 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 2013, 68 projects on 201 miles and two bridges were contracted at a total cost of \$19.8 million. In the 2011 Arkansas General Assembly, HJR 1001 was adopted. This resolution, which reallocated 1¢ of the existing motor fuel tax to fund a State Aid City Street program, was approved by the vote of the people on November 6, 2012. A State Aid Street Committee consisting of nine mayors was appointed in accordance with Act 1032 of 2011 to establish procedures and guidelines for the State Aid City Street program and approve funding requests.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (as of 6-30-2013)	
Let to Contract	
133 Projects	
299 Miles	
\$437 Million*	
Completed	
131 Projects	
285 Miles	
\$391 Million*	

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provided \$379.8M to the state of Arkansas for transportation (includes funds for Transit). The funds were distributed as follows.

<u>Population greater than 200,000:</u>		<u>TIGER Discretionary Grants:</u>	
Little Rock/NorthLittle Rock Metro Area	\$14.2M	2009 TIGER GRANT (Bella Vista)	\$10.0M
West Memphis/Marion Metro Area	\$1.5M	2010 Ferry Boat Discretionary	\$350K
Population less than 200,000	\$77.8M	2010 TIGER GRANT (NWA Razorback Regional Greenway)	\$15.0M
Population less than 5,000	\$11.9M	2013 TIGER GRANT (Conway, Van Buren, Cleburne Counties)	\$4.96M
AHTD Discretionary	\$235.5M		
Transportation Enhancement	\$10.5M		
Transit	\$28.4M		
Total	\$379.8M		

*All ARRA funds have been expended. Amount is greater than ARRA funds available because projects are dual funded.