WRONG-WAY CRASH STUDY

INTERSTATES AND FREEWAYS | CALENDAR YEAR 2017

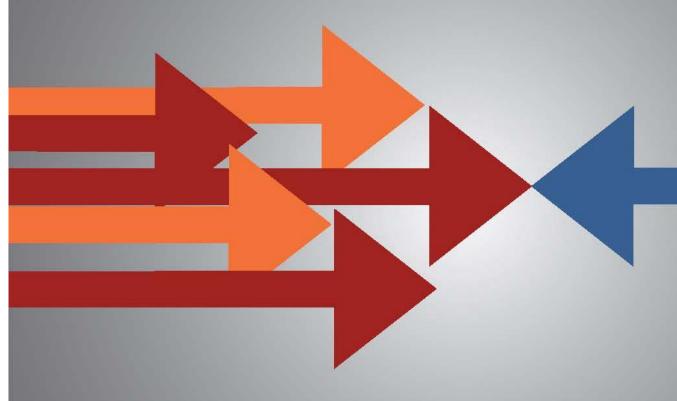




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This notice is available from the ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator in large print, on audiotape and in Braille.

Wrong-Way Crash Study Calendar Year 2017

Act 641 of the 87th Arkansas General Assembly requires the Arkansas Department of Transportation (Department) to analyze all wrong-way crashes on the Interstates and other freeways with full control of access and to prepare an annual report. Furthermore, the Act requires that based on the findings in the report, the Department is to implement appropriate countermeasures when warranted to reduce the possibility of wrong-way crashes. Accordingly, Minute Order 2009-035 was adopted by the Arkansas State Highway Commission on February 25, 2009. This Minute Order authorized an annual analysis of wrongway crashes on these routes to determine if additional traffic control devices are warranted. Copies of Act 641 and Minute Order 2009-035 are shown in Appendices A and B respectively.

An annual analysis of wrong-way crashes identifies the locations to be investigated. The investigation consists of reviewing the signing and striping for compliance with the minimum requirements of the <u>Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices</u> (MUTCD) as well as compliance with the current Department signing practices. The minimum requirements as specified in Section 2B.41 of the MUTCD 2009 Edition include the following:

- 1. At least one "ONE WAY" sign for each direction of travel on the crossroad shall be placed where the exit ramp intersects the crossroad.
- 2. At least one "DO NOT ENTER" sign shall be conspicuously placed near the downstream end of the exit ramp in positions appropriate for full view of a road user starting to enter wrongly from the crossroad.
- 3. At least one "WRONG WAY" sign shall be placed on the exit ramp facing a road user traveling in the wrong direction.

The previous Department practice was to install the minimum required signs and markings from the MUTCD plus additional optional signs and markings (see Figure 1). If necessary, the oversized signs as shown in Table 2B-1 in the MUTCD were installed. This practice enhanced the conspicuity of the signage and provided added protection to ensure that the minimum required signage was in place if one of the sign assemblies was damaged or destroyed.

The analysis of 2017 crash data showed that 13 wrong-way crashes occurred on the Interstates and other freeways with full control of access (see Figure 2). The crash analysis was conducted on those crashes that involved a vehicle entering or traveling in the wrong direction on the controlled access facility; crossover crashes were not included. These crashes are summarized in Table 1. Table 2 shows a comparison of the 2017 wrong-way crashes with 2015 and 2016 and Figure 3 provides an overview of wrong-way crash history since Calendar Year 2008.

Figure 2B-18. Example of Application of Regulatory Signing and Pavement Markings at an Exit Ramp Termination to Deter Wrong-Way Entry

Legend
Direction of Travel
Wrong-Way Arrows
Lane-Use Arrows
A Optional

Entrance Ramp

Notes: Modify as appropriate for multi-lane crossroads

Figure 1. Minimum Required Signs and Markings from the MUTCD

Source: Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways (MUTCD), 2009 Edition

Table 1. Summary of Wrong-Way Crash Analysis in Calendar Year 2017

Crash Severity 5 Fatal Injury Crashes (5 fatalities) 0 Suspected Serious Injury Crashes 3 Suspected Minor Injury Crashes 2 Possible		able 1. Summary of W	nong-wa	y Crasi	Allalysis II	i Galeridai Teal 20	17	
Crash Severity 5 Non-fatal Injury Crashes that include: 3 Suspected Minor Injury Crashes 2 Possible Injury Crashes Branch Frequency Crash Type Head On 7 7 Possible Injury Crashes Broad Surface Condition Dry 11 Wet 2 Wet 2 Single Vehicle 2 ***Alcohol 6 Daylight 3 Contributing ****Drugs 3		5 Fatal Injury Crashes (5 fa	atalities)			_		
2 Possible Injury Crashes 2 Possible Injury Crashes 3 No Apparent Injury Crashes 3 No Apparent Injury Crashes Head On 7		5 Non-fatal Injury Crashes that include:			0 Suspected Serious Injury Crashes			
Crash Type	Crash Severity				3 Suspected Minor Injury Crashes			
Crash Type Head On Angle Sideswipe Single Vehicle 7 Angle Condition Road Surface Condition Dry 11 Dark Daylight 7 Daylight 3 Contributing ***Alcohol ***Drugs 3					2 Possible Injury Crashes			
Crash Type Angle Sideswipe 4 Road Surface Condition Wet 2 Single Vehicle 2 ***Alcohol 6 Daylight 3 Contributing ***Drugs 3		3 No Apparent Injury Crashes						
Crash Type Sideswipe Single Vehicle Dark Daylight Single Vehicle Condition Wet 2 ***Alcohol ***Drugs 3 Contributing		Head On	7			Dry	11	
Sideswipe 4 Condition Wet 2 Single Vehicle 2 Dark 7 ***Alcohol 6 Daylight 3 ***Drugs 3	Crash Type	Angle	0					
Dark 7 Daylight 3 Contributing ***Alcohol 6 ***Drugs 3		Sideswipe	4			Wet	2	
Daylight 3 Contributing ***Drugs 3		Single Vehicle	2					
Light Conditions Contributing		Dark	7			***Alcohol	6	
I LIGHT CONDITIONS Let 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1		Daylight	3	Contributing		***Drugs	3	
Park but Lighted 2 Factors None 3	Light Conditions	Dark but Lighted	2		actors	*None	5	
Dawn 1 **Unknown 1		Dawn	1			**Unknown	1	
Illness or Fatigue 0		Dawii	ı			Illness or Fatigue	0	

^{*} Driver was not impaired

^{**}Not determined if driver was impaired

^{***}Two crashes involved drivers who were under the influence of alcohol and drugs

Figure 2. Wrong-Way Crash Locations in Calendar Year 2017

2017 Wrong Way Crashes



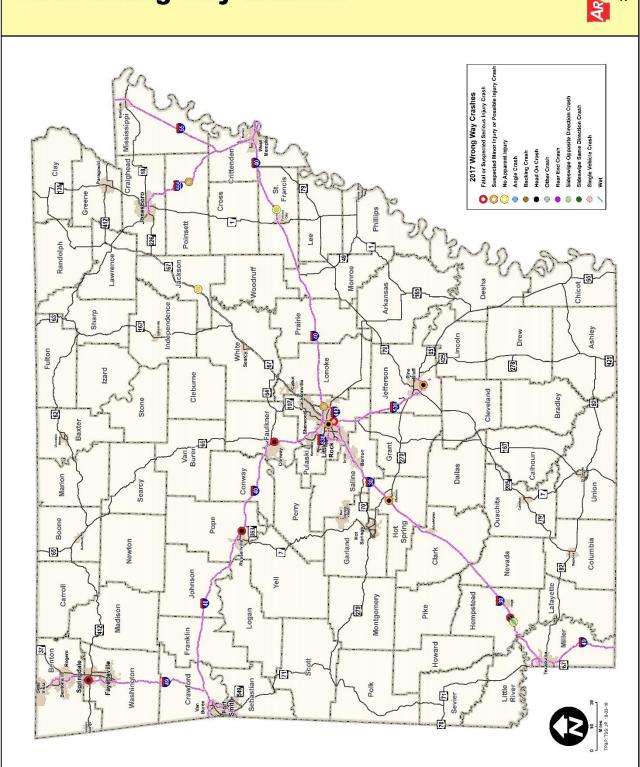
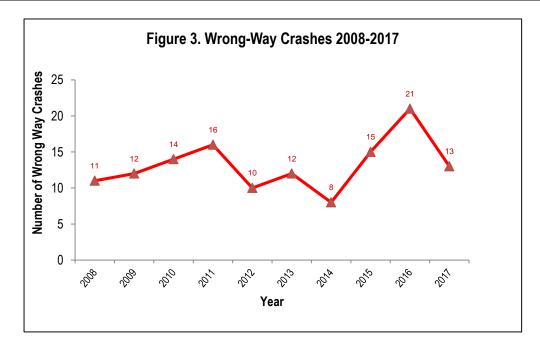


Table 2. Wrong-Way Crashes 2015-2017

Year	Total Wrong Way Crashes	Fatal Injury Crashes	Fatalities	Suspected Serious Injury Crashes	Number of Dark Crashes	Driver Impaired Drugs or Alcohol	Fatal Injury Crashes Driver Impaired on Drugs or Alcohol
2015	15	5	8	2	12	6	1
2016	21	5	7	4	10	11	4
2017	13	5	5	0	9	7	3



In January of 2017, the Department let a \$3.1 million contract for safety improvements (Job 012260), in an effort to reduce wrong-way incursions on Arkansas' freeways. Low-cost countermeasures, primarily signs, and pavement markings were chosen and applied on a statewide basis to maximize effectiveness. "WRONG WAY" and "DO NOT ENTER" signs were lowered with brighter sheeting and reflective post panels to increase the conspicuity of these important signs. Thermoplastic wrong-way pavement arrows were added to every exit ramp, and lane use arrows were applied to two-way frontage roads that intersected an exit ramp. Other pavement markings included stop and yield lines at every exit ramp, as well as "cat track" pavement markings to guide left-turning motorists to the correct ramp at side-by side-ramps. Lastly, red delineators were installed at every exit ramp to give potential wrong-way drivers more visual cues they were traveling the wrong direction. To further curtail wrong-way driving, the Department has incorporated these countermeasures into the previous standard as standard practice when building new ramps or rehabilitating existing ones.

Job 012260 was completed in March 2018 on all freeway/interstate exit ramps as shown in Appendix C; therefore, no signage investigation is necessary for this reporting period (see Appendix D). Investigations will resume for calendar year 2018 reporting period.

Table 3. List of Wrong-Way Crashes on Interstates and Other Freeways in Calendar Year 2017

County	Crash #	Route	Sec	LM	¹Crash Severity.	# Fat.	# Inj.	Туре	Date	Time	Urban/Rural	Light Condition	Surf. Cond.	Impaired	System
Faulkner	2017507294	40	320	128.341	1	1	0	Head On	2/23/2017	7:15:00	Urban	Dawn	Dry	No	Interstate
Hempstead	2017558726	30	120	22.434	5	0	0	Sideswipe Opp. Direction	12/18/2017	21:20:00	Rural	Dark	Wet	Alcohol	Interstate
Hempstead	2017558768	30	120	22.434	1	1	0	Head On	12/18/2017	21:25:00	Rural	Dark	Wet	Alcohol	Interstate
Hot Spring	2017515550	30	210	96.340	4	0	1	Head On	4/10/2017	1:14:00	Rural	Dark	Dry	No	Interstate
Jackson	2017537233	67	140	9.880	5	0	0	Single Vehicle Crash	9/4/2017	20:30:00	Rural	Dark	Dry	Drugs	U.S. Highway
Jefferson	2017505181	530	050	42.821	4	0	1	Head On	2/10/2017	9:15:00	Urban	Daylight	Dry	No	Interstate
Poinsett	2017524090	555	020	19.462	3	0	1	Sideswipe Opp. Direction	6/2/2017	23:01:00	Rural	Dark	Dry	Alcohol	Interstate
Pope	2017521424	40	220	85.706	1	1	1	Head On	5/20/2017	17:49:00	Urban	Daylight	Dry	Alcohol and Drugs	Interstate
Pulaski	2017543508	440	010	9.766	3	0	2	Sideswipe Opp. Direction	10/4/2017	7:09:00	Urban	Daylight	Dry	No	Interstate
Pulaski	2017548656	30	230	138.008	1	1	0	Single Vehicle Crash	11/5/2017	1:21:00	Urban	Dark - Lighted	Dry	Unknown	Interstate
Pulaski	2017550263	630	210	2.128	3	0	3	Head On	11/20/2017	5:43:00	Urban	Dark - Lighted	Dry	No	Interstate
St. Francis	2017514027	40	510	244.980	5	0	0	Sideswipe Opp. Direction	4/9/2017	1:48:00	Rural	Dark	Dry	Alcohol	Interstate
Washington	2017556644	49	280	72.262	1	1	1	Head On	12/13/2017	4:20:00	Urban	Dark	Dry	Alcohol and Drugs	Interstate

¹Crash Severity = 1-fatal injury crash; 2-suspected serious injury crash; 3-suspected minor injury crash; 4-possible injury crash; and 5-no apparent injury crash.

Wrong-Way Crash Study 2017 5

APPENDIX A

Act 641

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly. Act 641 of the Regular Session

1	State of Arkansas	A D'11		
2	87th General Assembly	A Bill		
3	Regular Session, 2009		HOUSE BILL	1961
4				
5	By: Representative Pyle			
6				
7				
8		For An Act To Be Entitled		
9	AN ACT	TO REQUIRE THE ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY	AND	
10	TRANSPO	DRTATION DEPARTMENT TO ANALYZE WRONG-WA	Y.	
11	CRASHES	S ON INTERSTATES AND OTHER FREEWAYS THA	T	
12	ARE A I	PART OF THE STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM; TO		
13	IMPLEM	ENT WARRANTED AND FEASIBLE COUNTERMEASU	RES	
14	THAT MA	AY REDUCE THE POSSIBILITY OF WRONG-WAY		
15	CRASHES	S; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.		
16				
17		Subtitle		
18	TO H	REQUIRE THE ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY		
19	AND	TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT TO ANALYZE		
20	WROI	NG-WAY CRASHES ON INTERSTATES AND		
21	OTH	ER FREEWAYS THAT ARE A PART OF THE		
22	STAT	TE HIGHWAY SYSTEM.		
23				
24				
25	BE IT ENACTED BY THE	GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANS	BAS:	
26				
27	SECTION 1. Ark	ansas Code Title 27, Chapter 65, Subcha	apter l is ame	nded
28	to add an additional	section to read as follows:		
29		itional annual reporting.		
30		as State Highway and Transportation Dep		i
31		wrong-way crashes on interstate highway		
32	127 139039 II O GOODEL	art of the state highway system to dete	44	
33	7	ional traffic control devices is warrar		<u>ble</u>
34		e possibility of future wrong-way crash		
35	<u>(b) Any additi</u>	onal traffic control devices installed	under subsect	<u>ion</u>



03-05-2009 11:39 JSE199

HB1961

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(a) of this section shall conform to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control
 1
    Devices for Streets and Highways, approved by the Federal Highway
 2
     Administration as the national standard in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 109(d),
 4
     23 U.S.C. 114(a), 23 U.S.C. 217, 23 U.S.C. 315, and 23 U.S.C. 402(a), 23
     C.F.R. 655, and 49 C.F.R. 1.48(b)(8), 1.48(b)(33) and 1.48(c)(2), and is the
 5
     manual adopted by the State Highway Commission under § 27-52-104.
 6
 7
           (c) A person may not file a legal action as a result of the
     implementation of any recommendations made from studies conducted under this
 8
 9
     section.
10
11
           SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. This act shall begin with a reporting
12
     period in 2009 and annually thereafter.
13
                                  APPROVED: 3/27/2009
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03-05-2009 11:39 JSE199

APPENDIX B

Minute Order 2009-035

MINUTE ORDER

Statewide District:

Page 1 of 1 Page

County:

Statewide

Category: Commission Policy

WHEREAS, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users of 2005 (SAFETEA-LU) requires each state to develop and implement a Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) that involves a comprehensive and collaborative approach to highway safety; and

WHEREAS, Minute Order 2007-091 adopted Arkansas' SHSP as a planning guide for improving highway safety in the State; and

WHEREAS, one emphasis area identified in Arkansas' SHSP is to reduce the number of head-on crashes; and

WHEREAS, head-on crashes occur from time to time on Interstates and other freeways as a result of wrong-way travel on these fully access controlled routes.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to conduct an annual analysis, beginning with the 2009 reporting period, of all reported wrong-way crashes on Interstate highways and other freeways that are a part of the state highway system to determine whether the installation of additional traffic control devices is warranted and feasible to reduce the possibility of future wrong-way crashes.

FURTHERMORE, any additional traffic control devices installed as a result of the annual analysis will conform to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Street and Highways, which is approved by the Federal Highway Administrator as the National Standard in accordance with Title 23 U.S. Code, Sections 109(d), 114(a), 217, 315, and 402(s), 23 CFR 655, and 49 CFR 1.48(b)(8), 1.48(b)(33), and 1.48(c)(2), and is the manual adopted by the Arkansas Highway Commission pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated Section 27-52-104.

Vice-Chairmar

Member

Member

Member

Minute Order No

Date Passed

Submitted B

FEB 2 5 2009

Form 19-456 Rev. 08/01/2007

APPENDIX C

Interoffice Memorandum to Deputy Director and Chief Engineer

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

December 9, 2015

TO:

Mr. Emanuel Banks, Deputy Director and Chief Engineer

THROUGH:

Kevin Thornton, Assistant Chief Engineer - Planning

FROM:

Jessie Jones, Division Engineer – Transportation Planning and Policy

SUBJECT:

Statewide Wrong-Way Crash Analysis

The Department is required by Act 641 of the 87th Arkansas General Assembly to conduct an annual wrong-way crash study on the freeway system. The Act also authorizes the Department to implement improvements to further discourage wrong-way driving. This analysis identifies low cost safety improvements aimed to reduce wrong-way crashes on Arkansas' interstates and freeways.

Background

Since 2010, the Department has reviewed wrong-way crashes on Arkansas' freeway system as required by Act 641. As part of the review, wrong-way crash locations and possible entry points are identified. Signs and markings are checked for compliance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), and are replaced or modified as needed.

However, the number of wrong-way crashes, including fatalities, has not decreased. Arkansas' 2013 Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) seeks to reduce roadway fatalities to 400 or fewer by 2017 as part of the overall Toward Zero Deaths vision. On average, four fatalities occur every year in Arkansas due to a wrong-way crash on the freeway system; however, eight fatalities have occurred so far in 2015.

Many of the wrong-way freeway crashes are largely random, although more common on higher-volume routes in urban areas. A total of 64 wrong-way crashes have occurred on Arkansas' freeways from 2009-2013 (Attachment A). Thirteen of those crashes were fatal resulting in 20 fatalities while another 25 were serious injury crashes. Further, approximately 70 percent of wrong-way crashes occur at night and 60 percent involve an impaired driver. For these reasons, a systemic approach to install low-cost safety improvements on Arkansas' freeways is warranted.

Recommendations

Low-cost safety improvements are recommended mainly to reduce the risk of impaired and night-time drivers entering the freeway system in the wrong direction. Traffic control devices that will more likely be

seen at night, particularly to impaired drivers with "tunnel vision", are considered effective and therefore recommended. A summary of these improvements are provided in Attachment B.

The total estimated cost for the recommended countermeasures is \$2.9 million, as shown in Attachment C. Upon your concurrence, a Minute Order will be prepared to program a project(s) using available Federal-aid Safety Funds and make distribution as shown below.

CONCUR: M. C. Box

ATTACHMENTS

A — Wrong-Way Crash Map

B — Low Cost Safety Improvement Recommendations

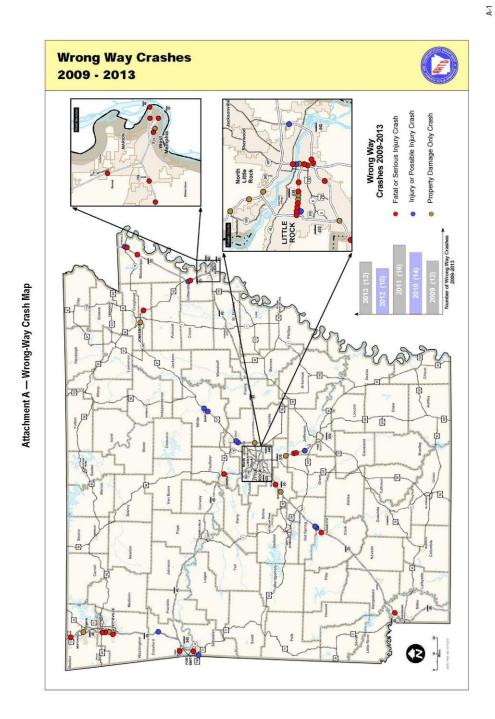
C — Cost Estimate

DISTRIBUTION

Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer Assistant Chief Engineer – Design Assistant Chief Engineer – Operations Program Management Roadway Design Maintenance All Districts

JXJ:ARQ:BW

\\Csd7\planning\Traffic\Studies\Annual Wrong Way Crash Studies\WWC Countermeasures\Memo_StatewideImprovement_WrongWayCrash.docx



Attachment B — Low Cost Safety Improvement Recommendations

COUNTERMEASURE	ILLUSTRATION	LOCATIONS	EXPLANATION AND PURPOSE
Sign Replacement and Lowered Signs	WAY	All exit ramps	All signs at exit ramps will be replaced. The DO NOT ENTER, WRONG WAY, and ONE WAY signs will have brighter, Type XI sign sheeting. DO NOT ENTER and WRONG WAY signs will be installed to a lower mounting height. Lowered signs are better illuminated by a vehicle's headlights making them more visible at night.
Retroreflective Sign Post Sheeting		All exit ramps	Retroreflective strips of material will be attached to the sign posts of DO NOT ENTER and WRONG WAY signs. At night, this enhanced conspicuity tends to bring a driver's eyes up to the sign, subsequently alerting the driver.
Thermoplastic Wrong-Way Pavement Arrows		All exit ramps near their termini	Installed near exit ramp termini, these pavement arrows indicate to wrong-way drivers that they are traveling in the wrong direction. They will be installed on all exit ramps.
Thermoplastic Directional Lane Arrows		Two-way frontage roads directly after an exit ramp	This will alert the exit ramp driver to keep to the right side of the roadway. Also, it will help those on the frontage road to know they must go straight, and not enter the exit ramp.

Attachment B — Low Cost Safety Improvement Recommendations

COUNTERMEASURE	ILLUSTRATION	LOCATIONS	EXPLANATION AND PURPOSE
Stop Lines		All exit ramp termini controlled by a stop sign	A Virginia study showed that adding stop lines at exit ramps was an effective wrong-way driving countermeasure. Additionally, the study stated that stop lines would probably discourage drivers on the cross-street from entering the exit ramp. Many exit ramps, especially in rural areas, do not have any transverse pavement markings at their termini.
Yield Lines		All exit ramp termini controlled by a yield sign	Yield lines are used to supplement yield signs. Additionally, these transverse pavement markings can deter a driver from entering a ramp in the wrong direction.
Line Extensions		Side-by-side ramps	Partial cloverleaf interchanges with side-by-side ramps can increase the risk of wrong-way entry. To help alleviate driver confusion, line extensions will be installed. Line extensions are pavement markings often used to guide left-turning motorists to the correct lane in an intersection. These markings will be installed at interchanges with side-by-side ramps to guide drivers to the correct ramp.
Ramp Delineation		All exit ramps	Ramp delineators will be added to both sides of off-ramps. Drivers traveling in the proper direction will see white delineators on the right side and amber delineators on the left. Drivers traveling in the wrong direction will see red delineators on both sides of the ramp. Side-by-side ramps with concrete barrier wall separation will also be delineated. Raised pavement markers will be installed on the concrete wall so that wrong-way vehicles will see a red reflection, while correct-way vehicles will see an amber reflection.

Attachment C — Cost Estimate

Sign Replacement and Lowered Signs

SIGN TYPE	TOTAL	COS	ST ESTIMATE
36" STOP	508	\$	71,000
48" STOP	232	\$	58,000
48" YIELD	436	\$	47,000
30" DO NOT ENTER	887	\$	86,000
36" DO NOT ENTER	433	\$	61,000
48" DO NOT ENTER	54	\$	13,000
12"x36" ONE WAY	1040	\$	48,000
18"x54" ONE WAY	868	\$	91,000
30"x42" WRONG WAY	1074	\$	146,000
24"x30" KEEP RIGHT	72	\$	6,000
Sign Post Sheeting	729	\$	30,000
	Total:	\$	657,000

Pavement Markings

COUNTERMEASURE	COST ESTIMATE				
Reflectorized Pavement Arrows	\$	147,000			
Directional Lane Arrows	21	N/A	Each	\$	4,000
Stop Lines	729	40	LF	\$	628,000
Yield Lines	500	12	LF	\$	218,000
Line Extension Pavement Markings	66	60	LF	\$	2,000
			Total:	\$	999,000

Ramp Delineation

COUNTERMEASURE AMOUNT DELINEATORS/RAMP UNIT COST ESTIMATE									
Ramp Delineation*	729	32	Each	\$	1,166,000.00				
Barrier Delineation** 35 100 Each \$ 28,000.00									
Total: \$ 1,194,000.00									
*Based on a 1600' ramp with a delineator e **Based on a 1000' wall with an RPM every									

COST ESTIMATE SUMMARY

CONTRACTOR OF ACTIVITIES AND ACTIVIT	000 (E00)(400)		
LOW COST SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS	COST ESTIMATE		
Signs	\$	657,000.00	
Pavement Markings	\$	999,000.00	
Ramp Delineation	\$	1,194,000.00	
Total:	\$	2,850,000.00	

C-1

APPENDIX D

Letter from State Maintenance Engineer



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ARDOT.gov | IDriveArkansas.com | Scott E. Bennett, P.E., Director

MAINTENANCE DIVISION

11300 West Baseline Road | P.O. Box 2261 | Little Rock, AR 72203-2261 | Phone: 501.569.2661 | Fax: 501.569.2014

September 24, 2018

TO:

Mr. Adnan Qazi, Traffic Safety Section Head

FROM:

Mr. Joe Sartini, State Maintenance Engineer

SER 25 2018

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING & POLICY

SUBJECT: Annual Analysis for Wrong-Way Crashes on Interstates and other Freeways

Job 012260, Statewide Wrong-Way Crash Freeway Impvts. (S), Federal Aid Project HSIP-0076 (121) was recently completed. This project made improvements in signing and striping at every intersection listed on the 2017 wrong way crash reports (details attached). Since these improvements were recently completed statewide, Maintenance feels that sending investigators to all of these locations would be redundant this year, since these statewide improvements have changed the intersection conditions of every one of these crash sites. Next year we will return to investigating these on a case by case basis, since these statewide improvements would have been in place for over a year at that point.

Joe Sartini

State Maintenance Engineer

Enclosure

c: Assistant Chief Engineer-Operations

