

**Arkansas State Highway
and Transportation
Department
2003
Annual Report**

Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department 2003 Annual Report





Highway 65 in McGehee

Contents

Arkansas Highway Commission	02
Highway Officials	04
R. Madison Murphy Named to AHC	06
Interstate Rehabilitation Program	08
North Belt Freeway	10
Interstates Receive Special Designation	12
Department Recognized	14
Commissioners Meet with Officials	16
Public Involvement	18
District Information	19

To provide a safe, efficient, and aesthetically pleasing and environmentally sound intermodal transportation system for the user.

Mission Statement of the AHTD

A photograph of the Interstate 40 Bridge in West Memphis, Tennessee, captured at sunset. The bridge's steel truss structure is silhouetted against a vibrant sky of orange, red, and purple. A series of small, warm-toned lights are strung along the top edge of the bridge's arch, creating a glowing outline. The bridge spans across the frame from the lower left towards the upper right. In the background, the silhouettes of trees and a street lamp are visible against the bright horizon.

**Interstate 40 Bridge
West Memphis**

Arkansas Highway Commission



Left to Right, Standing: R. Madison Murphy; Carl S. Rosenbaum
Left to Right Seated: Jonathan Barnett; Chairman J. W. "Buddy" Benafield;
Vice Chairman Mary P. "Prissy" Hickerson



Interstate 30 in Benton
Lane Widening

Department Officials



Left to Right; Phil McConnell, Asst. Chief Engineer - Design; Ralph Hall, Asst. Chief Engineer - Operations; Steve Teague, Asst. to the Director for Program Management; Dan Flowers, Director; Bob Walters, Chief Engineer; Robert L. Wilson, Chief Legal Counsel; Frank Vozel, Asst. Chief Engineer - Planning

R. Madison Murphy swearing in ceremony. (L to R) Circuit Court Judge, David Guthrie; Commission Vice Chairman Prissy Hickerson; Commissioner Jonathan Barnett; Mrs. Murphy; Director, Dan Flowers; Commissioner R. Madison Murphy; Commissioner Carl S. Rosenbaum and Commission Chairman Buddy Benafield.



R. Madison Murphy Named to Commission

R. Madison Murphy was appointed to a ten year term on the Arkansas State Highway Commission by Governor Mike Huckabee on December 17, 2002. He was sworn in as Commissioner on January 14, 2003. A native of El Dorado, Murphy graduated from Hendrix College in 1980. He is a board member for several businesses including Murphy Oil, Deltic Timber Corp. and Bancorp South, Inc. He also serves on the Hendrix College Board and is a member of the Board of the National Council on Economic Education. Murphy is the President of the Murphy Foundation, a non-profit organization that awards grants for education and the arts.

He joins fellow Commissioners J. W. “Buddy” Benafield, who is the current Chairman of the Commission; Mary P. “Prissy” Hickerson, Vice Chairman; Jonathan Barnett and Carl S. Rosenbaum. Murphy will serve on the Commission until January 2013.



Work on Interstate 40 in Conway under the Interstate Rehabilitation Program

Interstate Rehabilitation Program

Notable improvements were seen on Arkansas' roadways as the Interstate Rehabilitation Program moved through its third year. Fifty projects totaling approximately 356 miles and \$969.9 million had been let to contract since the program began. In December, 2003, approximately 248 miles of Interstate were complete and another 108 miles were under construction.

To enhance safety, the Department installed Automated Work Zone Information Systems, or AWIS, in three central Arkansas work zones. These AWIS systems utilize roadway sensors to send traffic speeds and expected delays to electronic signs and Highway Advisory Radios. Travel information and live video of the work zones were sent to the AHTD website to offer a real-time traffic resource.



Interstate 30 in Benton



**Changeable message board
Part of the AWIS system**



**Interstate 30 Baseline Overpass
Little Rock**



**The first vehicles to travel the North Belt Freeway
January 30, 2003**

First Segment of North Belt Freeway Opens to Traffic

Governor Mike Huckabee joined Highway Commissioners, AHTD staff and local officials for a ribbon cutting on January 30, 2003, to open the first section of the North Belt Freeway, designated State Highway 440. This five-mile, six-lane highway extends from the I-40/440 Interchange northward to U.S. Highway 67/167.

The first segment of I-440, the East Belt, opened in 1987. It connects the I-30/I-530 interchange to I-40, past the airport, around the east side of Little Rock.

The end result, when all segments are complete, will be a northern loop around Little Rock.

Although it serves as an extension of I-440, the section cannot carry the Interstate designation because it does not meet Federal-numbering criteria. Upon completion, all sections may officially carry the Interstate Designation.



photo on left: Governor Mike Huckabee, AHTD Director Dan Flowers and Commission Chairman Buddy Benafield at the North Belt Ribbon Cutting.

photo on right: State and local officials cut the ribbon on the new North Belt Freeway, January 30, 2003.

Veterans Memorial Highway



Carl Rosenbaum, Highway Commissioner, and Dan Flowers, Director AHTD, with local officials at the Veterans Memorial Highway Sign on Interstate 40 near Conway

Interstates Receive Special Designation

On Memorial Day weekend, six signs along I-40 were unveiled to commemorate the contribution of our armed forces. Signs indicating the Veterans Memorial Highway are found on I-40 from Oklahoma to Tennessee. Signs recognizing the Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways have been installed at rest areas and tourist information centers on our Interstates.

The naming ceremony of the I-530 Pine Bluff Bypass to honor the memory of Wiley Branton was Labor Day weekend. Branton was a civil rights activist and attorney from Pine Bluff. He gained prominence during the Central High School desegregation crisis in 1957. Branton served as executive secretary of President Lyndon B. Johnson's Council on Equal Opportunity and later served as Dean of Howard University's School of Law.



**Unveiling of the
Branton Highway sign
Pine Bluff, Arkansas**



**Members of the
Branton family
pose in front of the
Wiley A. Branton Sr.
Highway sign**



**ROADEO participants from
Mississippi's DOT and
AHTD**

Department Recognized for Achievements

Awards were received by individuals and groups representing AHTD during 2003. The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials presented the Pave The Way campaign with an award; a job from Cass to Oark received an award from the Federal Highway Administration; and Sergeant Sammy Brown of the Arkansas Highway Police was recognized by the Drug Enforcement Agency.

Johnnie Parks was awarded the “Service to the Citizens” award from Governor Mike Huckabee and William Caton was named the 2002 Jefferson Award Regional Winner. Inspector Jay Thompson received the John Youngblood Award from the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance.

The team from AHTD won the first ever Regional Equipment Operator’s ROADEO after competing with the Mississippi DOT in September.

Sandy Otto of FHWA presents Director Dan Flowers, and Dave Fintel and Chris Loeffler of Gilbert Central Contractors, Awards of Excellence for the Oark to Cass job.



**AHTD
Regional
ROADEO
Team
Champions
2003**

**U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta,
speaks at the I-30/Baseline Road
Overpass in Little Rock.**



Highway Commissioners Meet with State and National Officials

In February, Highway Commissioners were able to spend time with the Arkansas Congressional Delegation. This meeting gave the group an opportunity to discuss the future of transportation in the state and to outline Arkansas' priorities.

In March, the Commission met with Governor Huckabee, who signed Act 296. This new tolling legislation combines and amends three previous toll road laws and allows the state to utilize toll roads. It was sponsored by Senator Dave Bisbee of Rogers and Representative Johnnie Bolin of Crossett.

In December, U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta attended a press conference atop a new bridge on Interstate 30 in southwest Little Rock. He continued his visit to the state in northwest Arkansas at a meeting to discuss long-range transportation needs.

Highway 167 near Sheridan in Grant County



Public Involvement

The Highway and Transportation Department held several public hearings during 2003. The meetings, held in Flippin, Monticello, Mountain Home, Gilmore, Sonora, Tyrone, Conway and Sherwood, allowed the Department to exchange information with the general public.

The Department encourages early and ongoing input from citizens. Forty one informal public involvement meetings were held around the state. Thousands of citizens and local officials attended the public meetings and hearings to voice their opinions and offer comments.



Citizens examine a map at a Public Involvement Session



Residents participate in a written survey



The public has the opportunity to discuss upcoming projects at a Public Hearing

AHTD Districts

District 1

Ray Woodruff - District Engineer
P.O. Box 278
Wynne, AR 72396
870-238-8144

District 2

James House - District Engineer
P.O. Box 6836
Pine Bluff, AR 71611
870-534-1612

District 3

Don Donaldson - District Engineer
P.O. Box 490
Hope, AR 71802
870-777-3457

District 4

Harold Beaver - District Engineer
P.O. Box 1424
Fort Smith, AR 72902
479-646-5501

District 5

Lyndal Waits - District Engineer
P. O. Box 2376
Batesville, AR 72503
870-251-2374



**First segment of
Forrest City Bypass
opened**



**Highway 16-Edgemont Bridge
Cleburne County**



**Interstate 440
North Little Rock**

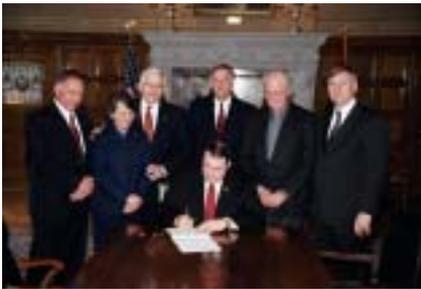
District 6
David Lambert - District Engineer
P.O. Box 190296
Little Rock, AR 72219
501-569-2266

District 7
Carl Bachelor - District Engineer
P.O. Box 897
Camden, AR 71711
870-836-6401

District 8
Frank Russenberger - District Engineer
P.O. Box 70
Russellville, AR 72811
479-968-2286

District 9
Ralph Fulton - District Engineer
P.O. Box 610
Harrison, AR 72602
870-743-2100

District 10
Joe Barnett - District Engineer
P.O. Box 98
Paragould, AR 72451
870-239-9511



**Governor Signs
Toll Road Legislation**



**Interstate 30
Little Rock**



**U.S. Scenic Highway 412
Washington County**



AHTD Central Office
10324 Interstate 30
P.O. Box 2261
Little Rock, AR 72203
501-569-2000

**Interstate 30
Little Rock**