



INFORMATION RELEASE

Office of the Director

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND
P. O. Box 2261 – Little Rock, Arkansas
Telephone (501) 569-2227

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
ArkansasHighways.com
Twitter: @AHTD

Contact:
Randy Ort/Danny Straessle

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AHTD KICKS-OFF SERIES OF MEETINGS TO UPDATE STATE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

LITTLE ROCK (3-27) – The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) has announced it will hold a series of Public Involvement Meetings across the state to obtain input from the public as it works to update the Arkansas State Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan.

The first meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 1st, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Legends Room of the Jack Stephens Center (UALR Trojans basketball arena) on the campus of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. A formal presentation will begin at 6:15 p.m. and will focus on Central Arkansas issues.

The second meeting will be held on Thursday, April 3rd, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Sam's Club Community Room of the Arvest Ballpark (enter through front gate) in Springdale. A formal presentation will begin at 6:15 p.m. and will focus on West and Northwest Arkansas issues.

Additional meetings in other areas of the state will be announced as they are scheduled. Additional information can be found at arkansasbikepedplan.com.

These are among the first in a series of statewide meetings designed to gather input from the public as AHTD prepares to incorporate updated policies and best practices into the plan, which was originally published in 1998. The plan serves as a blueprint for state agencies, local governments and affiliated organizations to work toward improving the environment for both cyclists and pedestrians.

Silver Spring, Maryland-based Toole Design Group is a national planning firm that has been hired by AHTD to help the Department conduct public involvement meetings and update the plan.

Last year, Arkansas moved up 13 spots in a survey conducted by the League of American Bicyclists to rank 37th among the 50 states for bicycle friendliness. The ranking was based on a number of key indicators, including infrastructure and funding that provide bicycle facilities; education and programs that promote cycling; and passage and enforcement of bicycle-friendly laws that make it safe and comfortable for people of all ages to ride a bike.

“Arkansas has made great strides toward becoming a bicycle friendly state,” says Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department Director Scott Bennett. “Although our resources are extremely limited, we will continue to play a role in this progress toward providing a convenient and safe infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians in the Natural State.”

