

INFORMATION RELEASE



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AHTD CONTINUES SERIES OF MEETINGS TO UPDATE STATE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

LITTLE ROCK (5-6) – The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) has announced additional 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 next meeting will be held Thursday, May 8th, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Cooper Alumni Center (2600 Alumni Blvd.) on the Arkansas State University Campus in Jonesboro. Parking is free. A formal presentation will begin at 6:15 p.m. and will focus on northeast Arkansas issues.

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

This is a continuation of the 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.”

