



INFORMATION RELEASE

Office of the Director

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
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NEWS EVENT NOTIFICATION

WHAT: The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department will kick off “Work Zone Safety” month with a news conference in Texarkana that will also include a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the new Highway 71 (Hickory Street) Broad Street railroad overpass.

WHO: AHTD officials, construction industry representatives, local elected officials and area business leaders. Also expected are Senator Jimmy Hickey and Representative Prissy Hickerson.

WHEN: **Monday, April 11 11:00 am**

WHERE: The event will take place on Broad Street under the new overpass. Officials will be on site to direct traffic and parking.

WHY: Each April highway construction officials around the country emphasize work zone safety. The 2016 theme is “Don’t Be THAT Driver,” a reference to those that drive while using their phone, eat, put on make-up or yell at people.

According to the most recent national figures (2014) driver and vehicle accidents accounted for 82 percent of work zone fatalities, 669 fatalities occurred and 31,251 work zone accident occurred.

ALSO to celebrate the completion of the \$11.6 million Highway 71 Broad Street overpass project. Manhattan Road and Bridge was awarded the contract and began work in early 2014. The new bridge, that also features bike lanes, replaced the old bridge that had become labeled structurally deficient (no longer met today’s standards).

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