



# INFORMATION RELEASE

## Office of the Director

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### **I-69 Coalition to Meet in Arkansas This Week**

**DESHA COUNTY (6-7)** – The I-69 Coalition will meet this week in Southeast Arkansas, according to Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) officials. The Coalition is made up of representatives from the eight states along the existing and proposed I-69 Corridor from Michigan to Texas.

The meeting will take place at 1:00 p.m. on June 9 at the Delta Conference Center, located 6.5 miles north of McGehee on State Highway 1. Jeff Lindley, Associate Administrator for Operations at the Federal Highway Administration in Washington, D. C. will be the guest speaker. He will discuss the new Federal-aid Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) and the opportunities available for the I-69 effort under provisions of the Act.

Others on the program include State Representative Lane Jean – Chair of the Arkansas I-69 Legislative Caucus; Mike Preston – Executive Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission; Chris Masingill – Federal Co-Chair of the Delta Regional Authority; Gene Higginbotham – Executive Director of the Arkansas Waterways Commission; Dan Flowers – former AHTD Director and Arkansas vice president for the I-69 Mid-Continent Highway Coalition; Arkansas Highway Commissioner Robert S. Moore, Jr.; and Scott Bennett – AHTD Director and Chairman of the eight-state I-69 Steering Committee.

“Thanks to the 2015 FAST Act, now is the best opportunity we’ve had in a while to further construction of I-69 through Southeast Arkansas,” stated Arkansas Highway Commissioner Robert S. Moore, Jr. “As a result, we have submitted a very important grant application that, if successful, will help make this a reality. Local leaders throughout Southeast Arkansas will want to attend the meeting and learn how they can encourage our Congressional delegation to support this grant application.”

Through the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, Congress designated Corridor 18 (Indianapolis to Memphis) as a High Priority Corridor. In 1993 Corridor 18 was extended from Memphis to Houston. The I-69 Steering Committee was established at this time with Arkansas being named the lead state.

Congress further expanded Corridor 18 in 1998, officially designating the route as I-69 and adding connections to Pine Bluff and Chicago. In 2007, the USDOT selected I-69 as one of six “Corridors of the Future.”