



The CenterLine

Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department

May 22, 2003

\$57 Million Widening of I-40 Begins

Work to widen a section of Interstate 40 began on April 30. The roadway will be increased to six lanes from Interstate 430 just west of North Little Rock to the Interstate 30 interchange. The \$57 million project involves the construction of an additional travel lane in each direction, a concrete barrier wall in the median and several reconstructed bridges. These include the Levy interchange,

Shilcutt's Bayou and Valley View bridges, and replacing the John F. Kennedy (J.F.K.) Blvd. overpass (Highway 107). The job is a joint venture between Weaver-Bailey Contractors, Inc., of North Little Rock and Jensen Construction of Des Moines, Iowa.

The Interstate 40 project is very similar in scope to the widening taking place on Interstate 30 between Little Rock and Benton. In both projects, additional travel lanes are being constructed in the median area of the Interstate. It is expected that some area of lane closure is likely within the I-40 project limits until the end of 2003.

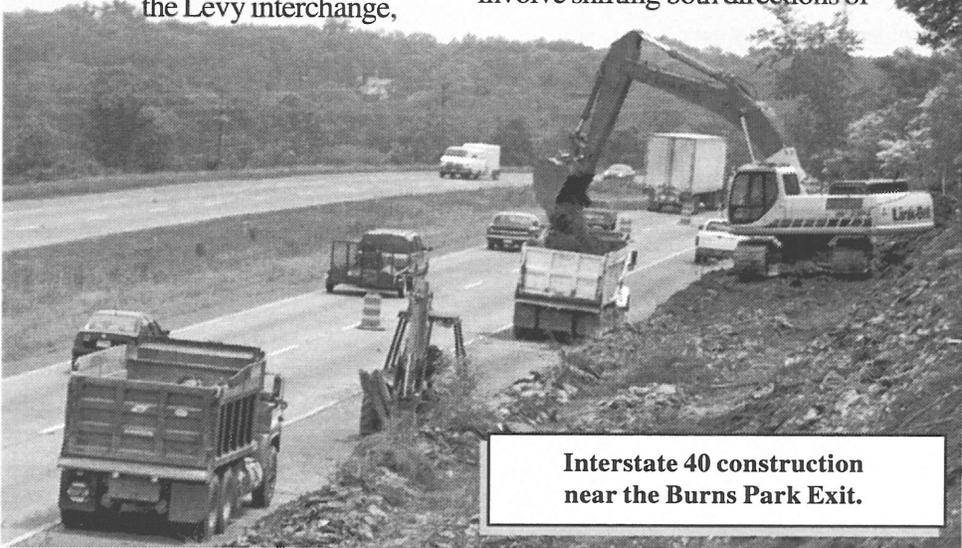
The first phase of the project will involve shifting both directions of

traffic to the outside lane and shoulder to accommodate construction in the median. After the shift, project engineers anticipate that two lanes will remain open during daytime hours in both directions for the remainder of the project. Nighttime closures may be scheduled throughout the duration of the project.

Bridge construction within the I-40 widening project will be done while maintaining two travel lanes in each direction. Eastbound bridges will be rebuilt first, followed by both directions of traffic being crossed over to the new structures while crews rebuild the westbound bridges.

The contractor will also begin replacing the J.F.K. Blvd. (Hwy. 107) overpass in late-May. One northbound and two southbound lanes will remain open during construction with completion estimated by the summer of 2004.

Motorists are encouraged to think ahead to a wider, safer and more pleasant drive on Interstate 40 in the future. Estimated completion for the entire widening project is late 2005. All dates are subject to change based on weather and other unforeseen variables.



Interstate 40 construction near the Burns Park Exit.

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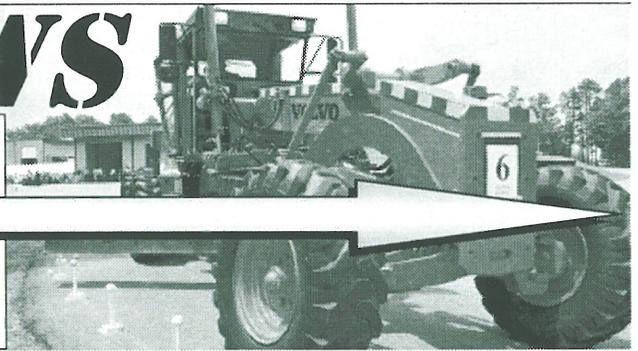
MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY

Monday, May 26, 2003 is Memorial Day, a state holiday for Highway and Transportation Department employees. All work will be suspended except in cases of emergency.

ROADEO NEWS

Semi-final competitions have been held for the 2003 AHTD Equipment Rodeo Finals

Districts 4, 5, 7, 9 & 10 results next page. See March and April issues of CenterLine for results in other districts.



New Deputy Chief Counsel

Maria Schenetzke, Staff Attorney, has been promoted to Deputy Chief Counsel in the Legal Division.

Schnetzke has been with the Department for nearly 19 years. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Hendrix College, and her Juris Doctorate from the University of Arkansas School of Law.

She was born in Jasper, Indiana, but after her family moved to Arkansas, she spent her teenage and early adult years in Hot Springs.

When asked what she likes about working for the Department, Schnetzke offered, "I have always had an interest in politics, public policy and the law. I enjoy working for an organization that performs work vital to the State of Arkansas for the good of all citizens. The Department is focused on the public good, and as a lawyer for the Department I believe I am doing something to help build the economy of the state."



Other Promotions

John James, Assistant Resident Engineer, is being promoted to Resident Engineer in Yellville. James has a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. He is a Registered Professional Engineer. James began his career with the Department in 1985 as a Civil Engineer IV. In 1986, he was promoted to Advanced Research Study Engineer and was promoted to the title of Assistant Resident Engineer in 1988.

David Walker, Assistant Resident Engineer, is being promoted to Resident Engineer in North Little Rock. Walker has a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. He is a Registered Professional Engineer. Walker began his career with the Department in 1977 as a Civil Engineer II. In 1981, he was promoted to Construction Project Supervisor and Advanced Design Engineer in 1986. He advanced to his current title of Assistant Resident Engineer in 1987.

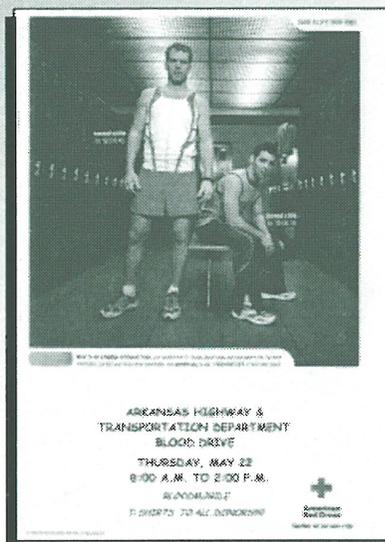
Blood Drive May 22

The Bloodmobile will be in the front parking lot of the Central Office from 8am until 2pm to take blood donations.

Sign up in advance with your Donor Coordinator:

1st Floor - Tara Robinson, **2nd Floor** - Mary Morton, **3rd Floor** - Judy Manes, **4th Floor** - Judy Prewitt, **5th Floor** - Katherine Hamilton, **6th Floor** - Julie Coffman, **7th Floor** - Sheryl Fletcher, **8th Floor** - Shirley Henry, **9th Floor** - Sandra Bivins, **10th Floor** - Doris Mixon, **Planning Annex** - Sheila Neighbors, **Highway Police** - Judi Hatcock, **Materials Annex** - Bobbie Jordan, **District Six** - Angela Reddoch, **Sign Shop** - Bobbie Kraehmer, **Equipment Annex** - Guy Ashenberger

When you see this sign...



Sign this.

American Red Cross 

I want to donate blood.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

DATE _____

Signature _____

DATE _____

SEMI-FINALS RESULTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

District 4, April 7th, 2003:

Tractor/Lowboy

1st Place - Johnny Carte
2nd Place - Terrial Scroggins
3rd Place - Terrell Moore

Tandem Axle Dump Truck

1st Place - Tim Henretty
2nd Place - Allen James
3rd Place - Joe Eyeran

Single Axle Dump Truck

1st Place - Fred Ridenhour
2nd Place - Michael Pennington
3rd Place - Anita Jordan

Tractor/Mower

1st Place - Fred Ridenhour
2nd Place - Allen James
3rd Place - Johnny Carte

Backhoe

1st Place - Dan Mowrey
2nd Place - Peggy Scott
3rd Place - Anita Jordan

Motor Patrol

1st Place - Robin Tune
2nd Place - David Gregory
3rd Place - Eric Fannon

District 5, April 24th, 2003:

Tractor/Lowboy

1st Place - Daniel Recker
2nd Place - Elvis Garrett
3rd Place - Bill Barker

Tandem Axle Dump Truck

1st Place - Cavin Hall
2nd Place - Todd Bolin
3rd Place - Ruth Moody

Single Axle Dump Truck

1st Place - Chris Clark
2nd Place - Charles Hamilton
3rd Place - James Moody

Tractor/Mower

1st Place - Keith Skelton
2nd Place - Randy Rector
3rd Place - Amanda Knapp

Backhoe

1st Place - Donie Bray
2nd Place - Bill Barker
3rd Place - Tim Hurtt

Motor Patrol

1st Place - Eric Mitchell
2nd Place - Jason Seaton
3rd Place - Bryant Cain

District 7, March 20th, 2003:

Tractor/Lowboy

1st Place - Jeremy McKelvy
2nd Place - Bryan Ryder
3rd Place - Travis Bell

Tandem Axle Dump Truck

1st Place - Kyle Ritchie
2nd Place - Greg Bird
3rd Place - Justin Green

Single Axle Dump Truck

1st Place - Jeremy Evans
2nd Place - Audrey Myers
3rd Place - Jeff Pennington

Tractor/Mower

1st Place - David Grice
2nd Place - Charlotte Quimby
3rd Place - Robert Glover

Backhoe

1st Place - David Culp
2nd Place - Trent Vanderzwaln
3rd Place - David Crawford

Motor Patrol

1st Place - David Denson
2nd Place - William Hickman
3rd Place - Duel Fendley

District 9, May 6th, 2003:

Tractor/Lowboy

1st Place - Sam Bray
2nd Place - Jeff McFall
3rd Place - Greg Criner

Tandem Axle Dump Truck

1st Place - Joey Fierro
2nd Place - Fay Walden
3rd Place - Joey Ragland

Single Axle Dump Truck

1st Place - Ronnie Friddle
2nd Place - Rosie Blansett
3rd Place - Brad Cline

Tractor/Mower

1st Place - Jeff Miles
2nd Place - Mike Crow
3rd Place - Doug Austin

Backhoe

1st Place - Kenny Riley
2nd Place - Bobby Kelley
3rd Place - Russell Morgan

Motor Patrol

1st Place - Lance Baker
2nd Place - Darvin Barrett
3rd Place - Bo Bailey

District 10, May 1st, 2003:

Tractor/Lowboy

1st Place - Tony Nicely
2nd Place - David Wagster
3rd Place - David McPherson

Tandem Axle Dump Truck

1st Place - Tony Ruhl
2nd Place - Matt Larue
3rd Place - Cathy Hollowell

Single Axle Dump Truck

1st Place - Sammy Parrish
2nd Place - James Miller
3rd Place - Greg McAnally

Tractor/Mower

1st Place - Josh Musick
2nd Place - David Pratt
3rd Place - David Wagster

Backhoe

1st Place - Rick Hale
2nd Place - Jade Price
3rd Place - Jeff Rawls

Motor Patrol

1st Place - Gerald Ellis
2nd Place - Darrell Campbell
3rd Place - Jerry Reeves

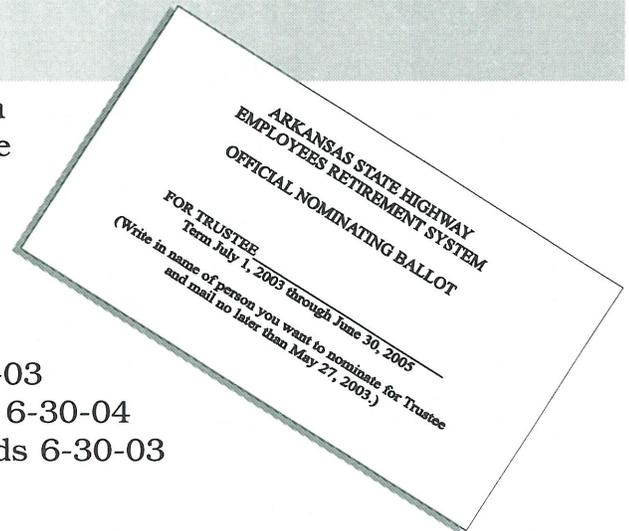
The Finals will be held at the Central Shops in Little Rock on June 12, 2003.

Retirement Board Elections

It's the time of year when you're getting Nomination Ballots in the mail to specify your choice of someone to serve on the Board of Trustees.

Members currently serving on the Retirement Board are as follows:

- Mr. Ralph J. Hall, Chairman, term ends 6-30-03
- Mr. Teddy Widner, Vice-Chairman, term ends 6-30-04
- Mr. James Chaney, Retiree Member, term ends 6-30-03
- Mr. Bob Walters, Member
- Mr. Larry Dickerson, Executive Secretary



Employee Members will nominate a fellow employee, while a Retiree Member will be nominated by fellow retirees and members enrolled in the DROP.

Deadline to mail your nomination card is Tuesday, May 27, 2003.

An Election Ballot will be mailed to all Members after the nominating vote tabulation.

Click It or Ticket



The seatbelt campaign known as *Click It or Ticket* is underway nationwide. It is an effort by law officials to reduce automobile injuries and fatalities through enforcement of seatbelt use. According to Arkansas Highway Police Chief Ron Burks, more than 12,000 municipal and military law enforcement agencies participate in the effort.



The campaign runs for two weeks near Memorial Day and Thanksgiving. It began in 1997 to decrease the number of children being killed in automobile accidents due to improper safety restraint. The campaign is part of Buckle Up America, an ongoing national initiative to increase seatbelt use and save lives.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, if every state conducted high visibility enforcement, 5,000 to 7,000 lives could be saved each year.

For information on *Click It or Ticket* in Arkansas, see www.nhtsa.dot.gov

Project Management Teams Recognized

In recent years, several states across the country, including Arkansas, have initiated a new concept in project development called "Project Management Teams."

The teams are charged with the responsibility of assuring that all pre-construction phases of a project are accomplished in time to meet a prescribed contract letting date. Each team is responsible for establishing a time-line schedule of activities necessary to meet the proposed letting date.

The team consists of staff members working directly on a project and a Project Manager serving as the team coordinator. The approach results in less

chance of slippage or delays due to decisions or actions not being taken in a timely manner.

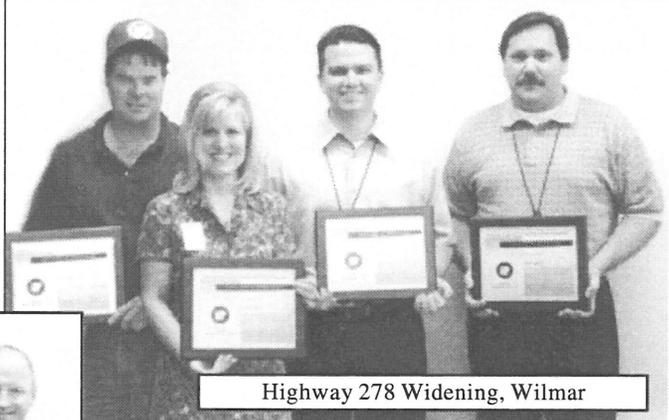
Three AHTD Project Management Teams were recognized on May 5. Team members were presented certificates for their work on



Highway 1 Improvements, Marianna

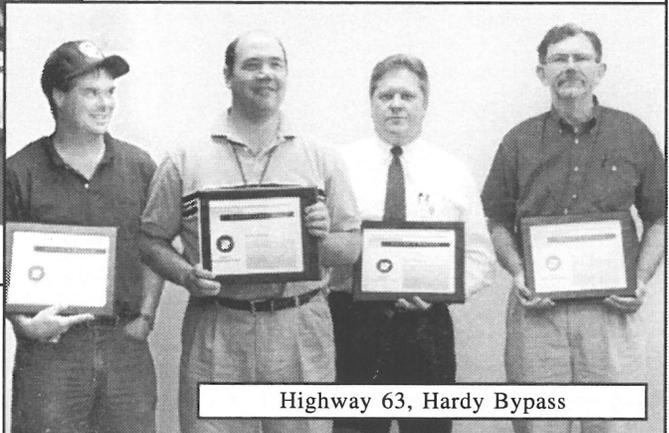
l. to r.: John Isom, Dorothy Rhodes, Brian Freyaldenhoven, John Mathis and not shown, Farrell Adams, Will Holt.

the following projects: Highway 1 Improvements, Marianna; Highway 278 Widening, Wilmar; and Highway 63, Hardy Bypass.



Highway 278 Widening, Wilmar

Above, l. to r.: John Baber, Lori Tudor, Phillip Rye, Mike Fugett and not shown, Randy Lewis.



Highway 63, Hardy Bypass

l. to r.: John Baber, David Henning, Perry Johnston, Bob Green and not shown, Carl Lindstrom, Gary Ashley.

AHTD People

NEW EMPLOYEES

COMMUNICATIONS

Robert Allison, III, Comm. Maint. Specialist

COMPUTER SERVICES

Charlie Frame, Quality Assurance Spec. II

CONSTRUCTION

Richard Champion, Construction Helper II

Terry Standard, Jr., Const. Materials Insp.

Michael Clark, Construction Helper I

T. Ellis, Construction Helper I

C. Brasher, Civil Engineering Technician

ENVIRONMENTAL

Stella Loya, Environmental Analyst I

PLANNING & RESEARCH

Xuyang Li, Civil Engineer I

DISTRICT 1

Shannon Smiley, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 4

George Whigham, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 5

Byron Bristow, Mechanic

Blake Smith, Mechanic

DISTRICT 6

Phillip Spence, Single Axle Truck Driver

Keith Spurgeon, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 7

Jeffrey Burnett, Single Axle Truck Driver

Donald Green, General Laborer

DISTRICT 8

Michael Bunton, Single Axle Truck Driver

Michael Sherrill, Single Axle Truck Driver

Curtis Watkins, General Laborer

DISTRICT 9

Ronald Collins, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 10

Darrell McDowell, Single Axle Truck Driver

Allen Buchanan, Single Axle Truck Driver

PROMOTIONS

BRIDGE

Aileen Schubel, Staff Bridge Design Engineer

COMPUTER SERVICES

Hanbing Li, Programmer III

HEAVY BRIDGE

Clinton Melton, Bridge Repairer II

INTERNAL AUDIT

Qiwei Li, Senior Internal Auditor

PLANNING & RESEARCH

Marty Bevens, Data Collection Technician

SURVEYS

Angie Carter, Surveys Aide III

Anthony Cunningham, Surveys Aide III

Charles Greenway, Surveys Aide III

Mitchell Roberts, Surveys Aide II

Brian Robinson, Surveys Aide II

Thomas Stephens, Surveys Aide II

DISTRICT 1

Russell Curbo, Backhoe/Fr End Loader Opr

Julius Myers, Jr., Maintenance Aide I

DISTRICT 2

Joseph Hargrave, Construction Aide I

George Holcombe, Single Axle Truck Driver

Edward Mason, Single Axle Truck Driver

Ronnie Smith, Single Axle Truck Driver

AHTD People

PROMOTIONS (Cont.)

DISTRICT 3

Earnest Edney, Crew Leader
Johnny Johnson, Construction Aide II

DISTRICT 4

Leatrice Knight, Construction Aide III
E. Warren, Storeroom Assistant II

DISTRICT 6

Johnny Hadley, Single Axle Truck Driver
Douglas Hicks, Shop Supervisor
Leardis McBride, Single Axle Truck Driver
Russell McNeill, Const. Materials Inspector

DISTRICT 7

Ronald Gorman, Crew Leader

DISTRICT 8

Randy Harman, Maintenance Aide I
Steven Pierce, Distributor/Roller Operator
Marty Powell, Backhoe/Front End Loader Opr

DISTRICT 10

Elaine Bryant, Maintenance Aide I
Tony Crafton, Civil Engineer I
Cathy Hollowell, Multi-Axle Truck Driver
Irven Reece, Maintenance Aide I
Ronnie Richardson, Bridge Repairer I
Larry Ryan, Lowboy or Float Truck Driver

RETIREMENTS

EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT

W. Luce, Ofc Adm Asst I, 14+yrs

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE

Jerry Wylie, Corporal, 16+yrs
Thomas Meador, Corporal, 18+yrs

DISTRICT 2

Danny Lawson, Multi-Axle Truck, 27+yrs

DISTRICT 4

James Goff, Senior Inspector, 26+
William Martin, Sr Const Mail Ins, 34+yrs

DISTRICT 6

Charles Fowler, Motor Patrol Operator, 22+
Freddie Hall, Motor Patrol Opr, 34+yrs

DISTRICT 7

Percy Walker, Senior Inspector, 33+yrs

DISTRICT 8

Nancy Kennedy, Office Admin Asst V, 29+
Gary Burnett, Single Axle Truck Dr, 27+yrs
Robert Turner, Maint Aide II, 23+yrs
Bobby Reynolds, Multi-Axle Truck Dr, 30+yrs
Rayburn Gibson, Distrib/Roller Oper, 29+yrs

DISTRICT 9

Gerald Wilkerson, Senior Mechanic, 30+yrs
Edith Korcheck, Ofc Admn Asst V, 15+yrs

DISTRICT 10

Robert Bynum, Lowboy/Float Truck, 16+yrs

SERVICE

30 YEARS

Debra E. Sain, Records Supervisor
Edd Cooper, Hydraulic Excavator Operator
John A. Turner, Distributor/Roller Operator
Larry G. Neff, Crew Leader
Thomas E. Inman, Crew Leader
James D. Washington, Crew Leader
Debra K. Meyer, District Office Manager

25 YEARS

Clarence Polk, Backhoe/Front End Loader Opr
Homer L. Huneycutt, Lowboy/Float Truck Dr
Mike Limbird, Staff Materials Engineer
Harold Banks, Materials Technician IV
Paul F. Lasater, Senior Inspector
Stephen W. Morgan, Senior Inspector
Glenda M. Gramling, Senior Inspector
Cindy Webb, Office Administrative Asst V

20 YEARS

Kenneth Campbell, Hwy Police Patr Ofer 1CL
Brenda C. Guest, Beautification Coordinator II
Roy L. Porter, Maintenance Aide II

15 YEARS

Alan W. Whitley, Budget & Expend. Control
Linda K. Connell, Permit Technician
Richard W. Lowe, Rest Area Attendant
Richard E. Bailey, Area Maint. Supervisor
John G. Rose, Bridge Repairer II
Douglas G. Jones, Station Attendant II
James L. Irving, Multi-Axle Truck Driver
Kenny R. Riley, Area Maintenance Supervisor
Brigitte G. Roberson, Construction Helper II
John H. McMickle, Resident Engineer

10 YEARS

Elmarie Barnes, Data Base Librarian
Charles L. White, Bridge Repairer II
Marion F. Shepherd, Maintenance Aide II
Randy R. Wesley, Maintenance Aide I
Karen J. Wasson, Personnel Clerk
David L. McPherson, Bridge Repairer
Sandra K. Chapman, Construction Aide II
Donald R. Norris, Striping Crew Supervisor

5 YEARS

Charles W. Ashmore, Jr., Computer Tech III
Ptosha D. McGregory, Distributor/Roller Opr
Michael C. Norris, Maintenance Aide I
Dorothy J. Childs, Maintenance Aide I
Charlie R. Morrison, Bridge Repairer II
Tim L. Sanders, Senior Mechanic
Kenneth Studyvin, Backhoe/Fr End Loader Op
Kevin W. Walden, Single Axle Truck Driver
Ronald L. Fields, Transp. Information Analyst
Charles E. Greenway, Surveys Aide II

MEMORIALS

RETIRED

Scott Gram, D9, April 13, 2003
Will A. Gill, D1, April 16, 2003
Thomas T. Rotton, D2, April 21, 2003

ACTIVE

Howard Sims, Ark Hwy Police, Feb. 1, 2003

ACTIVE DUTY

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE

James Clark, November 1, 2002
Shawn Foust, February 5, 2003
Danny Williford, March 19, 2003

MAINTENANCE

Michael Brown, January 28, 2003

PERMITS

Henry Lewis, January 28, 2003

PLANNING AND RESEARCH

Kimberly Sanders, December 9, 2002
Reggie Smith, February 10, 2003

DISTRICT 1

Lenora Wilson, October 4, 2002
Gary Morton, January 30, 2003

DISTRICT 2

Andrew Maddox, January 30, 2003
Larry Crow, February 11, 2003

DISTRICT 4

Brandon Bowen, September 3, 2002
Marvin Risley, September 3, 2002

DISTRICT 6

Andre Jackson, February 12, 2003

DISTRICT 8

Cecil Long, January 22, 2003
William Alvey, March 15, 2003
Donnie Duvall, March 15, 2003

DISTRICT 9

Nathaniel Day, January 28, 2003
Ronald Sligar, October 7, 2002
Ashley Hale, March 15, 2003
Larry Richard, March 15, 2003
Steven Halsted, March 15, 2003
Randall Williams, March 15, 2003

DISTRICT 10

Rufus Mitchell, February 10, 2003
Willie Mitchell, February 10, 2003
Elvis Richmond, February 10, 2003
W. C. Tobar, February 10, 2003

The CenterLine



Correspondence should be directed to:
AHTD Public Affairs Office,
P.O. Box 2261
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

J.W. "Buddy" Benafield, Chairman
Mary P. "Prissy" Hickerson, Vice Chair
Jonathan Barnett Carl S. Rosenbaum
R. Madison Murphy
Dan Flowers, Director