

CenterLine

OCTOBER 2009



AHTD Wins 7th Annual Regional Rodeo

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department served as host for the 7th Annual Southeastern Regional Equipment Operators Rodeo this month. The event was held in Hot Springs at the Magic Springs Theme Park on October 1st.

The competition is open to member states of the Southeastern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (SASHTO). This year's field of teams was limited to just two, due to the ailing economy. Despite that, the competition was as fierce as ever.

"We welcome our neighbors from the state of Mississippi and look forward to an exciting day of competition," AHTD Director Dan Flowers stated as events got underway.

As in the individual statewide competitions, events were held in six categories: Backhoe, Motor Grader, Single Axle Dump Truck, Tandem Axle Dump Truck, Tractor/Lowboy and Tractor/Mower.

As results started coming in, it was clear this was going to be a closely fought Rodeo. Once all of the points were totaled, the AHTD had

come out on top and reclaimed the Rodeo Trophy for Arkansas. This is the fifth top finish for Arkansas since the competition began. It also marks the seventh year that the AHTD has finished with a top-three finish.

"As always, we are very proud of the way this team represented the AHTD," stated Flowers. "The level of skill for both teams was impressive and we are excited to bring the trophy home this year. Congratulations to everyone from Arkansas and Mississippi that made this such a successful event this year."

Members of the AHTD team included Darrell Barnes, Jimmy Brooks, Keith Carpenter, Ricky Cummings, Danny Duvall, Randall Edgmon, Heath Eubanks, Chad Foster, Jeremiah Jackson, Jerry Langley, Derrick Marshall, Jerry Mitchell, David Pruitt, Fred Ridenhour, Kenny Riley, Bucky Sawyer, Mark Standridge and Jamie Wheeler.

Next year's Regional Rodeo will be hosted by the Mississippi Department of Transportation.



TRACTOR/LOWBOY

1st Place	Willie Butler	Mississippi
2nd Place	Darrell Barnes	Arkansas
3rd Place	Jason Moak	Mississippi

MOTOR GRADER

1st Place	Jeremy Hankins	Mississippi
2nd Place	Randall Edgmon	Arkansas
3rd Place	Jerry Mitchell	Arkansas

TANDEM AXLE DUMP TRUCK

1st Place	Keith Carpenter	Arkansas
2nd Place	Scott Horton	Mississippi
3rd Place	David Pruitt	Arkansas

TRACTOR/MOWER

1st Place	Vincent Necaise	Mississippi
2nd Place	Fred Ridenhour	Arkansas
3rd Place	Jeremiah Jackson	Arkansas

SINGLE AXLE DUMP TRUCK

1st Place	John Richmond	Mississippi
2nd Place	Bucky Sawyer	Arkansas
3rd Place	Jamie Wheeler	Arkansas

BACKHOE

1st Place	Kenny Riley	Arkansas
2nd Place	Heath Eubanks	Arkansas
3rd Place	Thomas Goode	Mississippi

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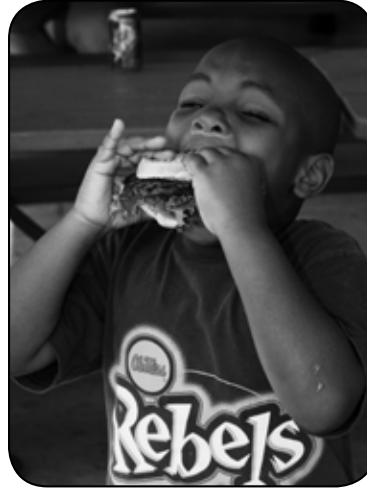
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2009

REGIONAL EQUIPMENT OPERATORS ROADEO

MAGIC SPRINGS

Hot Springs, Arkansas





U.S. DOT and Arkansas General Assembly Join To Combat Distracted Driving

A two-day summit was held in Washington D.C. this month to address the growing problem of distracted driving. The meeting was held to find ways to reduce drivers' use of mobile devices used for telephoning and texting. The two-day Summit brought together safety experts, researchers, industry representatives, elected officials and members of the public to share their expertise, experiences and ideas for reducing distracted driving behavior and addressing the safety risk posed by the growing problem across all modes of transportation.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood challenged participants to help put an end to distracted driving.

"Every single time someone takes their eyes or their focus off the road - even for just a few seconds - they put their lives and the lives of others in danger," said Secretary LaHood. "Distracted driving is unsafe, irresponsible and in a split second, its consequences can be devastating."

Secretary LaHood announced new research findings by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) that show nearly 6,000 people died in 2008 in crashes involving a distracted or inattentive driver, and more than half a million were injured. On any given day in 2008, more than 800,000 vehicles were driven by someone using a hand-held cell phone.

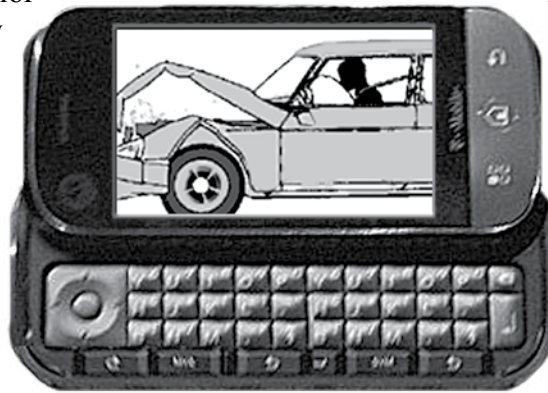
The Secretary also called on state and local governments to work with the USDOT to reduce fatalities and crashes by making distracted driving part of their state highway plans, and by continuing to pass state and local laws against distracted driving in all types of vehicles, especially

school buses. He asked states and local governments to back up public awareness campaigns with high-visibility enforcement actions.

In Arkansas, the General Assembly passed an act in its 2009 session to improve the safety of roads for all drivers and passengers by prohibiting drivers of motor vehicles from using hand-held wireless telephones to engage in text messaging or emailing while driving. The act, called "Paul's Law" went into effect on October 1st. It is named after Paul Davidson, of Jonesboro, who was killed when his car was hit by a vehicle whose driver was texting. The act also restricts wireless phone use by people younger than age 18. The first offense results in a written warning. Subsequent violations would warrant tickets.

Arkansas joins 18 other states and the District of Columbia in banning texting while driving. The President issued an executive order on October 1st banning all federal workers from texting while driving on government business, driving government vehicles or using government equipment.

"Keeping Americans safe is without question the federal government's highest priority - and that includes safety on the road, as well as on mass transit and rail," said Secretary LaHood. "I'm greatly encouraged by the work accomplished at this summit. Working together, we're going to make sure that traveling in America is as safe as it can possibly be and I strongly encourage the public to take personal responsibility for their behavior and show a healthy respect for the rules of the road."





Employee:

Jim Getson, Crew Leader
 Sharp County Crew, District Five

Length of Service:

30 years

Job Duties:

I supervise and do job tasks to complete the daily work schedule. I make sure the work area is safe and that work signs are in place. I work with three to five crew members a day, doing maintenance on road surfaces, shoulders and drainage ditches.

Favorite part of the job:

It's a good feeling to start a project and see it through until it is finished. I like working on problem areas we run into and repairing them so they don't occur as often.

Background:

I started working for the Department in August 1979 in the District 10 Paragould Resident Engineers office as a Construction Helper. In 1982, I transferred to the Greene County Maintenance Crew. I was a Maintenance Aide I in 1988, and then transferred to the District 10 Sign Crew. In March 1990, I transferred to the District 5 Sharp County Crew as a Maintenance Aide II. I've been Crew Leader since 2003. While working for the Department, I was in the Army National Guard for 21 years as a Heavy Equipment Operator. I retired in 2005 as a Heavy Equipment Supervisor at the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Family:

I've been married to my wife and best friend, Debbie, for 31 years. We have a son, Matt; a daughter, Misty; a son-in-law, Mike; and two granddaughters.

Hobbies: I like riding my motorcycle on weekends, camping and spending time with my grandkids.

Service Recognition Payments

The Arkansas Highway Commission has authorized Service Recognition payments for 2009. AHTD employees with at least 10 years of qualifying state employment receive the annual service bonuses.

All eligible Department employees will receive a lump sum payment. The state's accounting system (AASIS) requires that the payment of the service award be the same method of payment as the employee's check. If an employee's paycheck is direct deposited, the service payment will also be direct deposited. If the paycheck is mailed, then the service payment will also be mailed.

Social Security, federal and state taxes and retirement are withheld from the service bonuses. The payment is based on the total years of state service as of December 31, 2009.

As established by the laws of Arkansas, the amount of an employee's annual service bonus is as follows:

10 – 14 years	\$600
15 – 19 years	\$700
20 – 24 years	\$800
25 years and up	\$900

The service bonuses will be mailed from the State Capitol on November 18th and direct deposited no later than November 19th.

If you are in arrears on your child support, up to 50% of the net lump sum payment of the Service Recognition can be withheld in order to satisfy the past due child support.

Where Is This?
 See answer at bottom of last page.



CONSTRUCTION CORNER



Construction is underway in Craighead and Lawrence Counties on the next section of Highway 67 that is to be widened to four lanes. This grading and structures project extends from Highway 226 northward to Highway 230. The Department opened a new stretch of Highway 67 on new location from Newport to Highway 226 on October 15th. This project will extend those improvements for another 6.4 miles. The project was let to contract in July of 2008 for \$11 million and was awarded to Dumey Contracting, Inc. of Benton, Missouri. Work began in September of 2008. Ongoing work includes earthwork, drainage structures and bridge construction. The job is past the halfway point and should be completed in the summer of 2011. The Resident Engineer for the project is David Pierce in Jonesboro. The Project Coordinator is Bobby Wade. Ultimately, Highway 67 will be four lanes from Little Rock northward to Hoxie. To the north of Hoxie, Highway 67 is four lanes up to the city of Pocahontas.



DISTRICT 10

Four Day Work Week Ends Next Month

AHTD employees currently working the four-day work schedule will return to the normal five-day, eight-hour work schedule beginning on Thursday, November 5th.

Those affected include: Area Maintenance Superintendents, District Equipment & Maintenance Supervisors, District Shop Crews, Equipment & Procurement Shop Personnel, Facilities Management Personnel, Field Maintenance Personnel, Heavy Bridge Maintenance Crews, Job Superintendents, Profiling, Radio Maintenance Specialists, Safety Inspection Officers, Shop Supervisors, Sign Shop Personnel, Storeroom Personnel, Striping & Signing Crews, Surveys Division Survey Parties, Technical Services Section and Field Personnel.

November Holidays

The following are state holidays for AHTD employees during the month of November. All work will be suspended except for cases of emergency.

Veterans Day

Wednesday, November 11

Thanksgiving

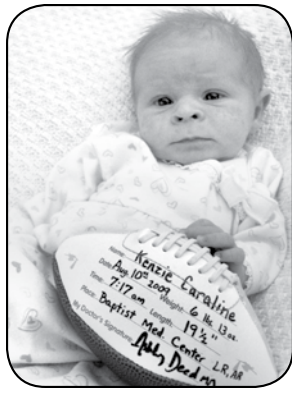
Thursday, November 26

Friday, November 27

Thank You State Fair Volunteers

A special thank you to all of our AHTD staff members who volunteered at our booth at the State Fair this year. We had a great response and lots of interest in our display of the stimulus projects across the state. Congratulations to our volunteers on a job well done.

Those working at the booth included: Brian Berthiaume, Shelly Bradley, Ronnie Brewer, Edwina Briggs, Lynn Caple, Laura Carter DeBro, Dnka Chaba, Karen Colclasure, Karen Davis, Sharon Doss, Daniel Eutsler, Patricia Fletcher-Kester, Tammy Goshien, Stephanie Howard, Robert Jones, Timothy Madison, David Mayo, James Moore, Margarita Olive, Sandy Pendergrass, Dorothy Rhodes, Jerry Rogers, Gail Scott, Gina Simpson, Patricia Slater, Freida Summerville, Lyndsey Taylor, Maddison Walker, Kenjuan Washington, Lanecia Weston, Terry Wright, Don Young, PFC Dan McArthur, CPL Clyde Crookham, PFC Robert Johnson, PFC Ron Burnett, CPL Mark Willis, PFC John Lamb, and CPL Brad Perkins.



Equipment & Procurement: Kenzie Caraline Hunt, born August 10th, is the daughter of Becky Hunt, Office Manager.



Highway Police: (l. to r.) Capt. Jay Thompson presents Sherry Kling, Administrative Aide V, with her 15-year service award.



Legal (l. to r.) Robert Wilson, Chief Legal Counsel, presents Bill Wharton, Staff Attorney, with his 15-year service award.



Public Affairs: (l. to r.) Clay Bolick, son of Glenn Bolick, Public Affairs Specialist, receives a \$32,000 scholarship to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, from Dr. Charles Donaldson, Vice Chancellor.



District 3: Receiving their 5-year service awards were (l. to r.) Paul Gray, Maintenance Aide I; Heather Simmons, Maintenance Aide I; Brad McJunkins, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator; Cayetano Aguirre, Senior Mechanic; and Johnny Muldrow, Distributor Roller/Operator.



District 3: (l. to r.) Kenny Bennett, District Maintenance Engineer, presents Richard Kidd, Roller Operator, with his 20-year service award.



District 3: (l. to r.) Kenny Bennett, District Maintenance Engineer; presents George Graves, District Station Attendant; and Jackie Allen, District Welder, their 15-year service awards.



District 3: (l. to r.) Kenny Bennett, District Maintenance Engineer, presents David Stevenson, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, with his 25-year service award.



District 4: Laken Mulder, two months old, is the grandson of Dee Carr, Field Clerk II.



District 4: Blaike Langham, seven months old, is the granddaughter of Dee Carr, Field Clerk II.



District 6: (l. to r.) Jerry Zuber, Maintenance Job Superintendent, presents Walter Diamond, Roller Operator, with his 10-year service award.



District 9 (l. to r.) David Clark, Senior Mechanic, receives his 5-year service award from Joe Davidson, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor.

new employees

BRIDGE - Robert Reese, Engineer I

RIGHT OF WAY - Regina Kuca-Sikora, Plans Des. I

DISTRICT 1 - Michael Avant, Station Att. - David Carden, Sgl. Axle Truck Driver - James Moore, Mechanic

DISTRICT 4 - Russell Jones, General Laborer

DISTRICT 5 - Chanda Horton, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 9 - Dustin Cline, Single Axle Truck Driver - Dallas Hill, Single Axle Truck Driver

promotions

MAINTENANCE - Franklin Monroe, Lowboy or Float Truck Driver - Cary Snyder, Lowboy or Float Truck Driver

MATERIALS - David Allen, Geotechnical Aide II

PLANNING & RESEARCH - Sandra Busby, Advanced Research Assistant

SURVEYS - William Allen, Surveys Crew Chief - Robert Blankenship, Surveys Crew Chief - Evan Scott, Surveys Crew Chief - Sam Sharp, Surveys Aide I - Nicholas Wommack, Surveys Aide I

DISTRICT 1 - Jeffery Corbit, Single Axle Truck Driver, Woodruff Co.

DISTRICT 2 - Sharetha Buckner, Maint. Aide I, Chicot Co.

DISTRICT 3 - William Ryan, Const. Project Coord., RE 31

DISTRICT 4 - Stanley Arocha, Distributor/Roller Operator, Polk Co. - Jeremy Bowles, Bridge Repairer II - Douglas Edwards, Maintenance Aide I, Washington Co. - Travis Evans, Bridge Repairer II - Jerry Keen, Distributor/Roller Operator, Washington Co. - Jeffrey Sims, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, Scott Co.

DISTRICT 5 - Ronnie Martin, Inspector, Ouachita Co. - Ronnie Sutherland, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, Fulton Co.

DISTRICT 6 - Kevin Busick, Distributor Operator - John Grounds, Resident Engineer, RE 61

DISTRICT 7 - Aaron Vanderzwaln, Backhoe/Front End Loader Op., Ouachita Co.

DISTRICT 8 - Anthony Derrick, Storeroom Supervisor - Jimmy McNutt, Finish Carpenter

DISTRICT 9 - Justin Choate, Crew Leader - Karen Leonard, District Bookkeeper

DISTRICT 10 - James Campbell, Single Axle Truck Driver, Mississippi Co. - Levi Campbell, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, Mississippi Co. - Charles Schroeder, Maintenance Aide I, Mississippi Co.

service

CONSTRUCTION - Gary Franks, Construction Aide III, 10 yrs., RE 55 - Joseph Fullen, Inspector, 15 yrs., RE 65 - William Granderson, Engineer I, 5 yrs., RE 24 - Logan Hardin, Construction Field Eng. II, 5 yrs., RE 13 - Kyle Lasater, Construction Aide I, 5 yrs., RE 92 - Ronnie Martin, Construction Aide III, 25 yrs., Ouachita Co. - Joshua Nicholson, Construction Aide II, 5 yrs., RE 11 - Teresa Wright, Staff Construction Engineer, 5 yrs.

EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT - Melissa Bradford, Division Bookkeeper, 30 yrs. - Mark Holloman, Buyer, 30 yrs.

HIGHWAY POLICE - Eddy Bush, 1LT, 30 yrs. - Stanley Griffin, SGT, 25 yrs. - Renee Hill, Data Collection Technician, 15 yrs. - Sherry Kling, Administrative Aide V, 15 yrs. - Ned Ward, PFC, 25 yrs.

LEGAL - Bill Wharton, Staff Attorney, 15 yrs.

MATERIALS - Steve Harris, Testing Equipment Specialist, 30 yrs.

PLANNING & RESEARCH - Kennie Birch, Data Collection Tech., 35 yrs. - Michael Magnuson, Data Collection Technician, 5 yrs.

RIGHT OF WAY - Mike Hiley, Relocation Coordinator II, 35 yrs. - Donna McCloud, Abstractor, 5 yrs.

STATE AID - Rick Rainey, Senior Designer, 35 yrs.

DISTRICT 1 - Andrew Blocker, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 5 yrs. - Larry Hall, Maintenance Aide II, 30 yrs. - Thomas Rooks, Backhoe/Front End Loader Op., 10 yrs.

DISTRICT 2 - Larry Alexander, Maint. Aide II, 30 yrs. - David Alverson, Motor Patrol Operator-Finish, 20 yrs. - Rickie Bratton, Jr., Asst. Bridge Insp., 5 yrs. - Vernon Fisher, Crew Leader, 30 yrs. - Dorothy Hargraves, Distrib./Roller Operator, 15 yrs. - John Haynes, Motor Patrol Operator-Finish, 15 yrs. - Willie Patrick, Paver Operator, 20 yrs. - Christopher Penny, Sign Crew Supv., 15 yrs. - Lashawn Rose, Area Hq. Att., 15 yrs. - Jackqualin Sterrett, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 15 yrs. - Craig Uranga, Crane Operator - Finish, 5 yrs.

DISTRICT 3 - Chris Clayton, Multi-Axle Truck Dr., 5 yrs. - Bradley McJunkins, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 5 yrs.

DISTRICT 4 - Jimmie Jetton, Motor Patrol Operator, 5 yrs. - Nathan Reed, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 5 yrs.

DISTRICT 5 - Rodney Barnett, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 5 yrs. - Anthony Cossey, Storeroom Assistant I, 10 yrs. - Thomas Fife, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 30 yrs. - Kevin Hardaway, Maintenance Aide II, 20 yrs. - Howard McLaughlin, Single Axle Truck Driver, 5 yrs. - Doris Phillips, Area Headquarters Attendant, 5 yrs.

DISTRICT 6 - Eric Bearfield, Guard, 5 yrs. - Sheri Carter, Personnel Clerk, 5 yrs. - Walter Diamond, Roller Operator, 10 yrs. - Janet Harris, District Receptionist, 5 yrs. - Anja Stokes, Maintenance Aide I, 5 yrs. - Terry Trotter, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 15 yrs.

DISTRICT 7 - Robert Berry, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 10 yrs. - Lane Brian, Spreader Operator, 10 yrs. - Cedric Burris, Motor Patrol Operator-Finish, 20 yrs. - Ray Hughes, Jr., Maintenance Aide II, 35 yrs.

DISTRICT 8 - James Rankin, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 20 yrs.

DISTRICT 9 - Kit Core, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 35 yrs. - Willard Crow, Area Headquarters Attendant, 15 yrs. - Angela Harris, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 5 yrs. - Robert Massengale, Crew Leader, 30 yrs. - Keith Maupin, Elec. Pl. & Mech. Repairer, 20 yrs. - Ronald Stanfill, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 35 yrs.

DISTRICT 10 - Levi Campbell, Single Axle Truck Driver, 10 yrs. - Ricky Hale, Hydraulic Excavator Op.-Fin., 20 yrs. - Wilford Heggins, Motor Patrol Operator-Finish, 10 yrs. - Dennis Herren, Sealing Job Superintendent, 35 yrs. - Melissa McFall, Maintenance Aide I, 5 yrs.

retirement

ENVIRONMENTAL - Donna Gardner, Env. Analyst I, 21+ yrs.

FISCAL SERVICES - Varyne Beckett, Adm. Aide I, 6 yrs.

HIGHWAY POLICE - Kenneth Campbell, PFC, 26+ yrs. - Martin Nunnery, CPL, 18+ yrs.

PLANNING & RESEARCH - Kennie Birch, Data Collection Technician, 35+ yrs.

RIGHT OF WAY - Gary Bulloch, Relocation Coordinator II, 35+ yrs.

DISTRICT 6 - Arvin Shuffield, Const. Proj. Coord., 45+ yrs.

DISTRICT 7 - Michael Jester, Senior Insp., 31+ yrs.

DISTRICT 8 - David Roush, Asst. Bridge Insp., 18+ yrs.

DISTRICT 9 - Marvin Sims, Storeroom Asst. I, 34+ yrs.

DISTRICT 10 - Dennis Herren, Sealing Job Superintendent, 35+ yrs. - Terry Miller, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 21+ yrs. - Lula Varvil, Janitor, 22+ yrs.

memorials

HIGHWAY POLICE - Miles Pangle, 9/17/09, retired

ROADWAY DESIGN - Charles Rain, Jr., 9/28/09, retired

DISTRICT 2 - George Holcombe, 10/17/09, active - Lester Rabb, 9/21/09, retired

DISTRICT 4 - James Jones, 10/16/09, retired

DISTRICT 5 - Howard Morehead, 9/19/09, retired

DISTRICT 9 - Joe Roger Fowler, 10/15/09, retired

DISTRICT 10 - Nancy Mahan, 9/17/09, retired

active duty

As of 10/16/09, the AHTD had 10 employees serving active duty in the United States military. Dates denote deployment.

HUMAN RESOURCES - Travis Nelson, Safety Inspection Officer, 7/15/09

DISTRICT 4 - Nathan Reed, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 10/3/05 - Jacky Baldwin, District Permit Officer, 7/7/09 - Christina Simmons, General Laborer, 4/15/09

DISTRICT 6 - Shirley Hammett, Area Headquarters Attendant, 7/20/04

DISTRICT 7 - Abel J. Ayala, Single Axle Truck Driver, 1/27/09

DISTRICT 8 - James Harris, Motor Patrol Operator, 10/1/07

DISTRICT 9 - Ashley Hale, Ferry Boat Pilot, 9/5/07 - Douglas Henry, Single Axle Truck Driver, 10/1/07

DISTRICT 10 - Robert Martin, General Laborer, 5/28/09

"Where Is This?"

Highway 300 near Pinnacle Mountain, Little Rock.



The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (Department) complies with all civil rights provisions of federal statutes and related authorities that prohibited discrimination in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. Therefore, the Department does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, national origin, religion or disability, in the admission, access to and treatment in Department's programs and activities, as well as the Department's hiring or employment practices. Complaints of alleged discrimination and inquiries regarding the Department's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to James B. Moore, Jr., Section Head - EEO/DBE (ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator), P. O. Box 2261, Little Rock, AR 72203, (501) 569-2298, (Voice/TTY 711), or the following email address: james.moore@arkansashighways.com. This notice is available from the ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator in large print, on audiotape and in Braille.