

CenterLine

MARCH 2009



Governor Beebe Meets with Highway Commission

Governor Mike Beebe visited the AHTD Central Office recently to meet with the Arkansas Highway Commission regarding the Economic Stimulus Package. Beebe began his visit by touring the office and visiting with employees in many of the Divisions. He viewed plans for several upcoming projects before joining the Commission for their monthly business meeting.

Known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the stimulus program will bring approximately \$351 million to the state to be used on road projects.

Beebe had recently returned from Washington D.C. where he and the nations' Governors met with President Obama at the White House. The Economic Stimulus Package was included on the agenda at the meeting.

Governor Beebe told the Commissioners that he wanted to be kept informed about how the funding would be spent because the President is holding the nation's Governors responsible for the program.

In Arkansas, the first 27 projects to utilize the funding will be resurfacing projects and will be let to contract on April 8th. The resurfacing projects will total more than 80 miles of roadway.

In all, more than 100 projects within the state are to be included in the program. Among the projects included are the second phase of the Interstate 630/430 interchange, construction of a segment of Highway 67 north of Newport, work on the Russellville and Vilonia Bypasses, work on future Interstate 49, widening on Highway 167 in El Dorado and work on Highway 71 in Texarkana.

The Commission must obligate at least \$123 million of the funding by June 30th. The remaining balance must be obligated by March 2, 2010.



Governor Beebe (2nd from right) looks over plans for the Interstate 630/430 Interchange in Little Rock.



Robert L. Wilson, Chief Legal Counsel, welcomes Governor Beebe to the Central Office.



Governor Beebe meets with Gina Simpson, Central Office Receptionist.

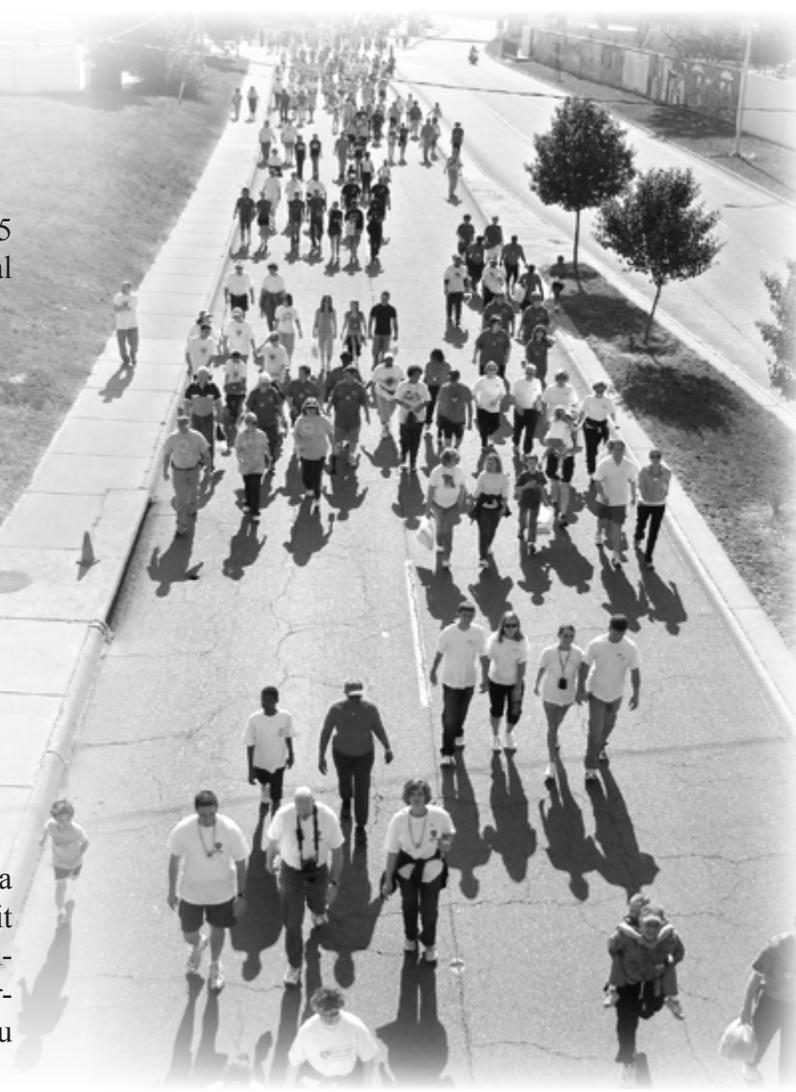
2009 Central Arkansas Heart Walk Is April 4th.... Plan To Join Us!

Get ready AHTD employees....here are the top 5 reasons to participate in this year's Start! 2009 Central Arkansas Heart Walk:

- Heart disease and stroke kill 910,000 Americans each year.
- The walk raises money to fight heart disease and stroke.
- Regular walking makes you more heart healthy.
- The AHTD employee to raise the most money wins a prize basket.
- You'll be doing your part to promote a healthier lifestyle.



If you want to have fun and help raise funds for a worthy cause, join us on April 4th! To join a team, visit <http://tinyurl.com/CentralArkHeartWalk>, click on "Company Rank" and then click on "more." Scroll down to Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department and you are ready to join a team!



CONSTRUCTION CORNER

A major widening project is underway on Highway 167 in the city of El Dorado.

The project is widening Highway 167 to four lanes in the southeast area of town. The contract was awarded to M.J. Lee Construction Company of Tulsa, Oklahoma, for \$41,824,191 in June of 2008.

Once completed, the new roadway will be approximately two-and-a-half miles in length and will extend from Highway 63 southward to Highway 82. The project will connect with the existing four lane north of Highway 63.

Completion of the job is expected in the summer of 2011.



DISTRICT 7



Employee: Chester Allwhite, District One Permit Officer

Length of Service: 26 years this April.

Job Duties: I review for approval, and make recommendations on special permit applications and utility permit requests. I also inspect and monitor all permit activities to assure compliance with the approved permit. In addition, I review and check compliance on house-moving permits and outdoor advertising signs. I also perform other duties as assigned.

Favorite part of job: Inspection of our approved permits gives me the opportunity to travel, meet people and estab-

lish a working relationship with others in the District.

Background: I started with the Highway and Transportation Department in 1970 on a survey crew from the West Helena Resident Engineer Office. I also did inspection work, worked at the asphalt batch plant and did other activities involved with construction jobs.

I left the Department after three years to work for the Corp of Engineers and other construction related jobs, and then returned to the Department in August of 1985 as a Permit Officer.

Family: I got married in June of 1978 at the First Baptist Church in Cotton Plant and have been happily married to my wife, "Honey," ever since. We have one daughter, Tiffany, and are looking forward to the birth of our first grandchild in October.

Hobbies: My favorite hobbies are hunting, target shooting, fishing and just about any other outdoor activity.



Hitch a Ride Online

Arkride.com is a new online ride matching system that allows central Arkansas commuters to quickly and securely find rideshare partners.

The state-of-the-art arkride.com system matches commuters based on proximity to origin, destination and travel route, as well as time schedules and rideshare preferences.

Arkride.com is a free public ride matching service that can be used to –

- Find others to carpool with
- Find a transit, bike or walk buddy
- Request vanpool service

You're eligible to use arkRide.com if you're at least 18 years old and have an origin or a destination in Pulaski, Faulkner, Lonoke or Saline County.

To learn more or to register and find a rideshare partner, visit www.arkride.com.

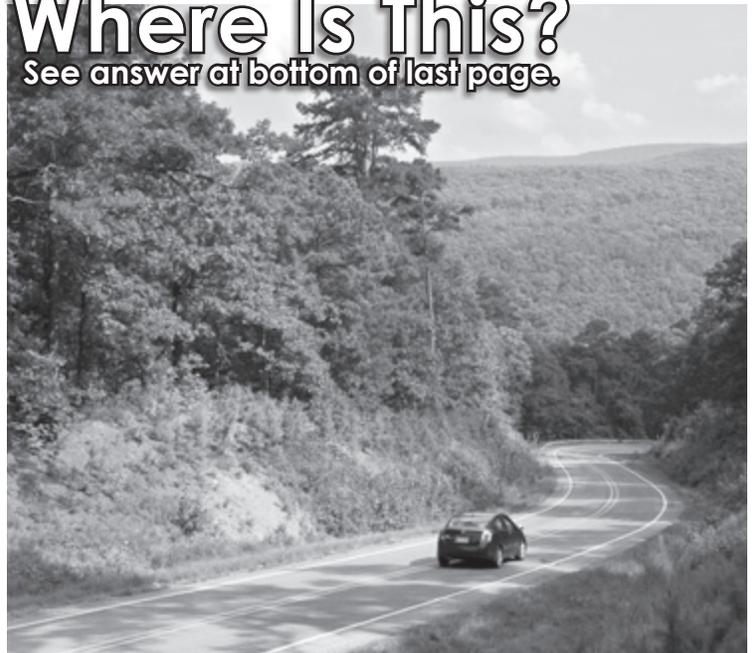
arkRide.com

Remember to submit your graduation photos...

...before **5 P.M., APRIL 1ST** for the "2009 Graduates" issue of the May CenterLine. Include: Student name, school name (high school, college or military only), relation to employee, employee name, and employee District/Division. Submit to: Shelli Russell, Public Affairs Office, 10324 Interstate 30, Little Rock, AR 72209, 501-569-2573, shelli.russell@arkansashighways.com

Where Is This?

See answer at bottom of last page.



AHTD Crew Discover Stranded Bald Eagle

What had been a somewhat routine day for AHTD employees Kevin Smith, Kim Harmon, Sam Parrish and Marsha Vowell of the Clay County crew in District Ten turned into something much more interesting recently.

While out trimming limbs in southwestern Clay County, they discovered an adult Bald Eagle tangled in a tall tree and hanging upside down near the area where they were working.

“I just happened to look up and saw the eagle up in the tree,” stated Kevin Smith.

The crew quickly got in touch with Corporal Mike Ryan, a wildlife officer, and John Day, a wildlife technician. Ryan and Day decided the only way to get the stranded bird down was to shoot the limb down that it was tangled in. As the tree limb was falling the bird fluttered its wings indicating it was still alive.

Once recovered, the team discovered the eagle had leather straps (jesses) tied to each of its legs. The

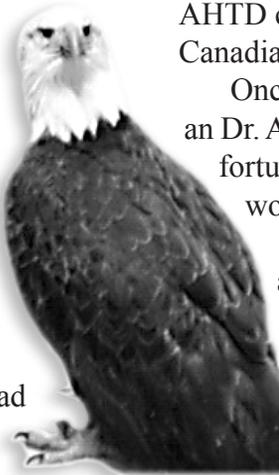
straps are usually used by falconers who use the birds of prey to hunt. Jesses are also used by persons in charge of captured birds who use the animals for educational purposes.

In the United States, it is against the law to use eagles for hunting. However, in Canada, using bald eagles for falconry is permitted. It is possible that the eagle the AHTD crew found migrated south to Arkansas from a Canadian province.

Once recovered, the eagle was taken to veterinarian Dr. Archie Ryan in Jonesboro. Ryan stated that it is fortunate the bird was found when it was because it would not have lived long hanging upside down.

Dr. Ryan said the eagle is expected to make a full recovery and will be released back into the wild.

Smith stated that a second bald eagle watched the rescue from its perch high in a tree nearby.



Employee Assistance Available For Times of Grief

Each and every one of us will experience loss and grief at some time in our life. Whether it is the expected death of a dear grandparent, the sudden tragic death of a family member, friend or co-worker, or the devastation of a natural disaster, we will all be faced with getting through one of life's most difficult challenges.

Each of these losses can trigger feelings of shock, sadness or numbness. It can also lead to restlessness, changes in our appetite and a loss of interest in activities.

LifeSynch offers AHTD employees services for the treatment of loss and grief. If you, as an individual or as part of your family, feel like you could benefit from seeing an Employee Assistance Program counselor, call the LifeSynch office and make an appointment.

Additionally, LifeSynch offers Crisis Intervention Services when a tragedy or loss affects an entire office or group of people. LifeSynch has specially trained counselors that can come immediately to meet with affected employees.

LifeSynch Employee Assistance Program counselors are available to assist in any way possible when the need arises. Please contact their office at 866-378-1645 or visit www.LifeSynchEAP.com.

Changing behaviors, improving lives

LifeSynch



Arkansas Highway Police: (center) Cpl. Sammy Smith receives his 25-year service award from (l.) Director Dan Flowers and (r.) Commissioner Carl Rosenbaum.



Arkansas Highway Police: (center) 2nd Lt. Eddie Boone receives his 25-year service award from (l.) Director Dan Flowers and (r.) Commissioner Carl Rosenbaum.



Arkansas Highway Police: (center) Sgt. James Boyce, now retired, receives his 30-year service award from (l.) Director Dan Flowers and (r.) Commissioner Carl Rosenbaum.



Arkansas Highway Police: (center) Capt. Ronnie Anderson receives his 30-year service award from (l.) Director Dan Flowers and (r.) Commissioner Carl Rosenbaum.



Bridge: (l. to r.) David Ball, Staff Structures Engineer, receives his 30-year service award from Phil Brand, Division Head.



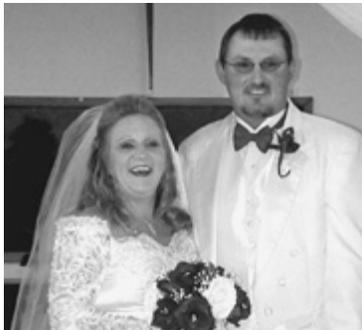
Equipment & Procurement: (l. to r.) Danny Keene, Division Head, escorted his daughter, Kylie, as homecoming queen at Benton High School, along with his wife, Tracy.



Maintenance: (l. to r.) Bobby Allison, Communication Maintenance Specialist, receives his 5-year service award from Kevin Purifoy, Section Head - Communications.



Surveys: Jim Tadel, Staff Land Surveyor, presents Brian Bass, Surveys Technician II, with his 10-year service award.



District 1: (l. to r.) Pamela Frazier, Distributor/Roller Operator, married Lilburn Morelock, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, on February 14th.



District 2: (l. to r.) Ezra McFadden, Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents Donnie Burns, Backhoe Operator, with his 5-year service award.



District 4: (l. to r.) Teresa Maze, Office Tech, receives her 30-year service award from Jeff Stroud, Resident Engineer.



District 4: Jacky "Jeb" Baldwin, Permit Officer, received his 15-year service award.



District 9: Samuel David Raney, grandson of Kenneth Booth, Station Attendant II, was born December 23rd. He weighed 8 lbs. and measured 20 3/4 inches.



District 9: Mark Van Aalsburg, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, received his 5-year service award.



District 10: Jade Price, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, killed this 8-point deer with a bow and arrow in November.

new employees

CONSTRUCTION - Jim York, Construction Helper I, RE 34

RIGHT OF WAY - William Kirk, Const. Helper I - Pettyjohn Dawn, Const. Helper I

DISTRICT 1 - Keenan James, Station Att.

DISTRICT 3 - John Hampton, Mechanic - Wren Billy, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr.

DISTRICT 4 - Willie Love, Jr., General Laborer

DISTRICT 6 - Calvin Ashcraft, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr. - Stanley Clark, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr. - Curtis Miller, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr. - Nakia Neal, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr. - Paul Smith, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr.

DISTRICT 7 - Douglas Brumley, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr.

DISTRICT 8 - Darby Grimes, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr. - Thomas Hays, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr.

DISTRICT 9 - Allan Carmichael, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr. - Joseph Coulter, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr. - Jackie Janes, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr. - William Keeton, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr.

promotions

HEAVY BRIDGE - Alan Truong, Bridge Repairer I - Kenny Voss, Bridge Repairer I

MATERIALS - David Allen, Geot. Aide I - Dan DeVore, Materials Area Eng. - Troy Frazier, Geotechnical Aide I

PLANNING & RESEARCH - Andrew Brewer, Transportation Planning Engineer

ROADWAY DESIGN - Micah Bryant, Advanced Design Engineer

DISTRICT 1 - Ivan Coburn, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr., Crittenden Co. - David Dorsey, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr., Crittenden Co. - John Holcombe, Jr., Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr., Crittenden Co. - Linda Sims, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr., Crittenden Co. - Aaron Vowell, Construction Field Engr. II, RE 14

DISTRICT 2 - Linsley Adams, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr., Ashley Co. - Jose Huante, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr., - Justin Witcher, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr., Desha Co.

DISTRICT 3 - Kenny Fincher, Inspector, RE 32 - Tammy Muldrow, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr., Miller Co.

DISTRICT 4 - Steven Cole, Dist./Roller Op., Polk Co. - Angela Crossland, Multi-Axle Tr. Dr., Sebastian Co. - Douglas Edwards, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr., Washington Co. - Anthony James, Multi-Axle Tr. Dr. - Joseph Lindsey, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr. - Gary Seaton, Jr., Maint. Aide II, Sebastian Co.

DISTRICT 6 - Michael Byrd, Construction Proj. Coord., Arkansas Co. - Francisco Freeman, Rest Area Att., Prairie Co.

DISTRICT 7 - Johnny O'Neal, Inspector - Stephanie Cummings, Fuel Clerk - Curtis Hamilton, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr., Columbia Co. - Karen Hammonds, Multi-Axle Tr. Dr., Clark Co. - Lowell Jones, Backh./Fel. Op., Calhoun Co. - Patrice Nichols, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr., Union Co. - James Reynolds, Const. Proj. Coord.

DISTRICT 8 - Dennis Loven, Dist./Roller Op., Van Buren Co. - Billy Sampley, Const. Proj. Coord., RE 82 - Raymond Tinsley, Adv. Const. Fld. Eng., RE 84

- James Williams, Distributor/Roller Operator, Faulkner Co.

DISTRICT 9 - Paul Deitrich, Distributor/Roller Op., Boone Co.

DISTRICT 10 - Jennifer Powell, Construction Aide I, RE 06

service

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE - Charles Tripp, Corporal, 20 yrs.

BRIDGE - Dale Heft, Adv. Structures Eng., 5 yrs.

CONSTRUCTION - Thomas Green, Construction Aide II, RE 23, 5 yrs. - Teresa Maze, Resident Office Tech., RE 43, 30 yrs. - Earl McMahan, Sr. Inspector, RE 74, 35 yrs. - Brenda Morris, Construction Aide I, RE 14, 15 yrs. - Larry Wilkins, Senior Inspector, RE 65, 35 yrs.

HUMAN RESOURCES - Johnny Cia, Safety Inspection Officer, 20 yrs.

MAINTENANCE - Richard Strasburg, Sr. Inspector, 25 yrs.

ROADWAY DESIGN - Frank Bray, Jr., Staff Design Engineer, 20 yrs.

SURVEYS - Brian Bass, Surveys Tech. II, 10 yrs.

DISTRICT 1 - Lowell Cooper, Jr., Crew Leader, 10 yrs. - James Corley, Dist./Roller Op., 10 yrs. - Robert Doss, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr., 5 yrs. - Eli Moore, Sr., Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr., 5 yrs. - Donald Nelson, Distributor Op., 5 yrs.

DISTRICT 2 - Linda Mack, Area Hq. Att., 15 yrs. - Robert Thompson, Area Maint. Supv., 30 yrs.

DISTRICT 3 - Lonnie Hazel, Area Maint. Supv., 25 yrs. - Linda Shelton, Maint. Aide II, 15 yrs. - Richard Wheeler, Area Maint. Supv., 25 yrs.

DISTRICT 4 - Angela Garner, Rest Area Attendant, 10 yrs.

DISTRICT 5 - James Morgan, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 30 yrs.

DISTRICT 6 - Wilhelmina Dotson, Area Hq. Att., 5 yrs. - Rhonda Gray, Rest Area Att., 20 yrs. - Timothy Morrison, Sr. Body Rep. & Painter, 5 yrs. - Michael York, Sr. Mechanic, 5 yrs.

DISTRICT 7 - James Finks, Motor Patrol Operator-Finish, 15 yrs.

DISTRICT 8 - Barry Clark, Area Maint. Supv., 25 yrs. - Pierce Steven, Dist./Roller Op., 10 yrs.

DISTRICT 9 - Kenneth Booth, Station Att. II, 30 yrs. - Darren Ramsey, Bridge Repairer I, 5 yrs. - Mark Van Aalsburg, Multi-Axle Tr. Dr., 5 yrs.

DISTRICT 10 - Greg Bailey, Motor Patrol Op.-Finish, 15 yrs.

retirement

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE - James Boyce, Sergeant, 30+ yrs.

HUMAN RESOURCES - Johnny Cia, Safety Inspection Officer, 20+ yrs.

MATERIALS - Richard Martin, Geotechnical Aide II, 7+ yrs.

SURVEYS - Terry Gaither, Photogrammetry Lab Supv., 26+ yrs.

DISTRICT 10 - Carl White, Maintenance Aide II, 40+ yrs.

memorials

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE - Harold S. Spraggins, 2/23/09, Retired - Samuel E. Pack, 3/4/09, Retired

TRAFFIC MAINTENANCE - William F. Blalock, 2/20/09, Retired

DISTRICT 1 - William E. Bundren, 2/7/09, Retired

DISTRICT 4 - Clifton R. Yates, 2/15/09, Retired

DISTRICT 6 - Thomas E. Whitaker, 2/24/09, Retired - Fritz Lokey, 3/6/09, Retired

DISTRICT 8 - James C. Gipson, 2/14/09, Retired

DISTRICT 9 - Clarence W. Ward, 2/7/09, Retired - Robert L. Pinson, 2/26/09, Retired

DISTRICT 10 - Glenda Gramling, 2/17/09, Retired - Emma M. Barbee, 3/7/09, Retired - William R. Henry, 2/27/09, Active

active duty

As of 3/15/08, the AHTD had 19 employees serving active duty in the United States military. Dates denote the deployment date.

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE - Shawn Foust, Sergeant, 8/4/07

MATERIALS - David Kraft, Geot. Drill Party Chief, 1/2/08

DISTRICT 1 - James Barte, Senior Inspector, 2/19/08

DISTRICT 4 - Nathan Reed, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 10/3/05 • Kevin Tucker, Bridge Repairer I, 10/1/07

DISTRICT 5 - Greg Hellmann, Inspector, 10/1/07 • David Smith, Inspector, 10/1/07

DISTRICT 6 - Shirley Hammett, Area Hq. Att., 7/20/04

DISTRICT 8 - Michael Bunton, Asphalt Tank Truck Driver, 10/1/07 • James Harris, Motor Patrol Operator, 10/1/07 • Cornell Newsome, Single Axle Truck Driver, 05/07/08

DISTRICT 9 - Ashley Hale, Ferry Boat Pilot, 9/5/07 • Douglas Henry, Single Axle Truck Driver., 10/1/07 • Joseph Ragland, Maintenance Aide I, 10/1/07 • Cameron Whitney, Sign Erector, 10/9/07 • Randall Williams, Ferry Boat Pilot, 9/10/07

DISTRICT 10 - Donald Evance, Con. Aide I, 10/1/07 • Rufus Mitchell, Rest Area Att., 10/1/07 • Elvis Richmond, Sr. Construction Mat. Inspector, 10/1/07

"Where Is This?"

Highway 27 in Pope County.



The Arkansas State Highway and Trans. Department complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other federal equal opportunity laws and therefore does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, national origin, religion or disability, in admission or access to and treatment in Department 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.