

EASTERN NORTH-SOUTH CORRIDOR (FAYETTEVILLE - ROGERS)
JOB 012126
BENTON AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES
OCTOBER 2011 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Why are we here?

At the request of the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC), the Arkansas State Highway Commission authorized a study of a north-south corridor from Highway 16 in Fayetteville to Highway 62 in Rogers. Public input was gathered at two public meetings in August 2010, and the study was completed and adopted in July 2011. We are presenting the findings of this study, while gathering input for the environmental study.

What was the purpose of the study?

The purpose of this study was to determine the need for improvements to an eastern north-south corridor from Highway 16 in Fayetteville to Highway 62 in Rogers, with a possible extension to Bentonville. The main purpose of this proposed eastern corridor is to alleviate the traffic congestion on the existing north-south routes, especially Highway 71B.

What did the study conclude?

The study determined that there is a need for an improved eastern north-south route between Highway 16 in Fayetteville and Highway 62 in Rogers. More specifically, the study concluded the following.

- *Highway 265 in Fayetteville* – Minor intersection improvements, such as turn lanes, may be appropriate to consider in the future along Highway 265.
- *Highway 265 in Springdale* – Highway 265 should be improved from Highway 412 to near Mountain Road in Springdale. This includes construction of a continuous center turn lane, bicycle lanes, and sidewalks.
- *Highway 265 from Highway 264 to Highway 62 in Rogers* – Highway 265 currently ends at Highway 264 in Springdale. Highway 265 should be extended to Highway 62 in Rogers along one of the corridors examined in the study, shown as Alternatives B2 and B3.
- *Highway 265 north of Highway 62* – The NWARPC 2035 Regional Transportation Plan shows the Eastern Corridor continuing north of Highway 62 as a “bypass” around Rogers to connect to Highway 71 in Bentonville. This study determined that, although an extension would draw some east-west traffic away from Highway 62, it would require the extension of Highway 265 to be east of the Rogers Airport and would attract less traffic at higher cost.
- *Cross sections for Highway 265 extension* – An extension of Highway 265 with four lanes would likely best meet the future traffic needs in the area. Also, the Eastern Corridor is on the NWARPC 2035 Regional Transportation Plan bicycle plan, which means cyclists and pedestrians will be accommodated.
- *Construction phasing of Highway 265 extension* – If an extension of Highway 265 proceeds to project development, any new location portions should be constructed as a two-lane facility while acquiring right-of-way for a four-lane facility.

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