Vice-Chairman Alec Farmer

Rotary Club of Jonesboro

May 17, 2022
History of ARDOT
Highway 71 near Bella Vista

• First Commission created
  – No Highway Department
  – No Highway System
• 3,600 Vehicles
• $72,000 total budget
Nine Legislative Acts restructured Commission since 1913

No stability or continuity

Mack Blackwell Amendment in 1952
- 75% FOR 25% AGAINST

The advice, counsel and expert know-how which is available from the Department’s own technical and administrative staffs bear scant weight indeed when they are in conflict with the political pressures and political promises of the moment.

— Highway Audit Commission Report, 1951
ARDOT Quick Facts

• 3rd Largest State Agency
• Approximately 3,700 Employees
• Maintain 16,418 miles of Highway and 7,335 Bridges
• Central Offices in Little Rock
• 10 Districts Statewide
Every Arkansan Wins!

ACT 416 of 2019

Maintain Existing Highways

- $95 million – State Highways
- $13 million – County Roads
- $13 million – City Streets

ISSUE 1

- Highways, Roads, and Bridges
- 70% ($206 M) State Highways
- 15% ($44 M) County Roads
- 15% ($44 M) City Streets
2024-2033
Preservation Projects
(Pavement & Bridges)
Second Connecting Arkansas Program

- Capital and Congestion Relief
- $3.6 Billion - 20 years
- July 2023
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

- IIJA enacted on November 15, 2021
- Spending authority for FFY 2022 enacted on March 15, 2022
- Community Funded Projects
- IIJA Grant Information
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

- Roads and Bridges: $110B
- Electric Grid Upgrade: $73B
- Passenger and Freight Rail: $66B
- Broadband: $65B
- Improved Water Quality: $55B
- Climate Change Protection: $50B
- Airports & Ports: $42B
- Public Transit: $39B
- Environmental Clean-Up: $21B
- Electric Vehicles: $15B
- Transportation Safety: $11B
- Reconnecting Communities: $1B
TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

EXECUTIVE ORDER TO ESTABLISH THE GOVERNOR’S INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHEREAS: President Joe Biden signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act into law on November 15, 2021; and

WHEREAS: The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provides $1.2 trillion in both grants and dedicated spending for infrastructure projects, capital assets, and workforce development; and

WHEREAS: The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act includes provisions that allow for disbursements to entities and individuals through various programs operated by agencies of the State of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: It is in the best interest of the state and its citizens to identify best practices and procedures for ensuring that the State of Arkansas, its citizens, and businesses realize the maximum relief and benefits available under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act;
Arkansas ranks 12th in number of miles at 16,411 miles.
Craighead County Project Summary

• Completed:
  • $240 million
  • 216 miles

• Under Construction:
  • $70 million
  • 20 miles

• Scheduled:
  • $110 million
  • 50 miles
Partnering in Jonesboro

The City has committed $7.8M for 11 Projects.

• Four Projects Completed
• Two Under Construction
• Five Projects Scheduled
BNSF Railroad Overpasses

- RR Grade Separation

- Two New Overpasses
  - Highway 18
  - Watt Street
Highway 18

- Intersection Improvements
- Highway 18/Main Street/Highland Drive
- City Paying for Construction
I-555 – Highway 49

• New Location

• City to take Ownership Highway 141 south of (I-555) and Highway 226 southwest upon completion of project

• Commerce has changed to MLK
Route 351

- Railroad Overpass (Airport Road)

- City will Match Federal Funds up to $1,400,000
Highway 49 – Parker Road

- Intersection Improvements
- Design handled by the City
- Scheduled to be let in late 2022
Route 1B

- Major Widening
- City will match federal funds
- Scheduled for late 2022
Highway 49 – Highway 91

- 4.7 miles
- $38.1 million
- Est. Completion: Late 2023
Highway 351

- Improvements to both Hwy. 351 Inters.

- Major Widening – Hwy. 351 North
Hwy. 1: Caraway Rd. – I-555

- Major Widening
- 2.8 miles
- $15 - $20 million
Interstate 555 Study
South and West Arterial Study
NORTHEAST ARKANSAS RIBBON CUTTING EVENTS

18 & 412
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