



# CABLE MEDIAN BARRIERS

## SAFETY NEED

Traffic fatalities and serious injuries often occur when a vehicle departs the travel lanes of a divided highway, crosses the median, and strikes a vehicle traveling in the opposing direction. These types of crashes present the highest risk of fatal and serious injuries among all highway collision types. Installing Cable Median Barriers (CMB) in strategic highway locations can help prevent these types of crashes and is an effective method to save lives.

## HISTORY

- ARDOT has been using CMB to help prevent cross median crashes and other median related crashes on divided highways for years.
- Approximately 700 miles of CMB have been installed on Arkansas' highway system, which has successfully reduced median-crossover crashes.
- ARDOT is currently prioritizing CMB projects for the remaining approximately 350 miles of freeways and expressways that do not have a median barrier.
- A multi-state study determined that the addition of a median barrier, including cable median style barriers, on a rural divided highway can be expected to reduce fatal or injury cross median crashes by up to 96 percent.<sup>2</sup>

## BENEFITS

Cable Barriers have been proven to:

- Prevent median-crossover crashes
- Reduce fatalities
- Reduce disabling injuries
- Benefit all motor vehicles, including motorcyclists, by keeping other vehicles from crossing the median into their path.

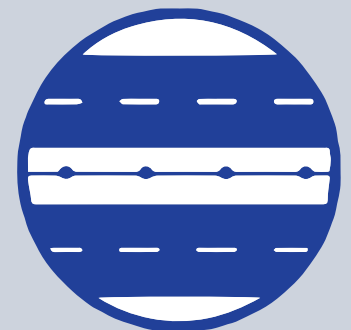
**CMBs are safe, effective, cost efficient, and have proven results.**

### SIDEBAR SOURCES:

1. Fatality Analysis Reporting System. (nhtsa.gov)
2. NCHRP Report 794: Median Cross-Section Design for Rural Divided Highways, (2014), CMF Clearinghouse ID7042.

# 8%

of all fatalities in the nation on divided highways are due to head-on crashes.<sup>1</sup>



Median Barriers, including cable median, installed on Rural Four-Lane Freeways contributed to a

# 96%

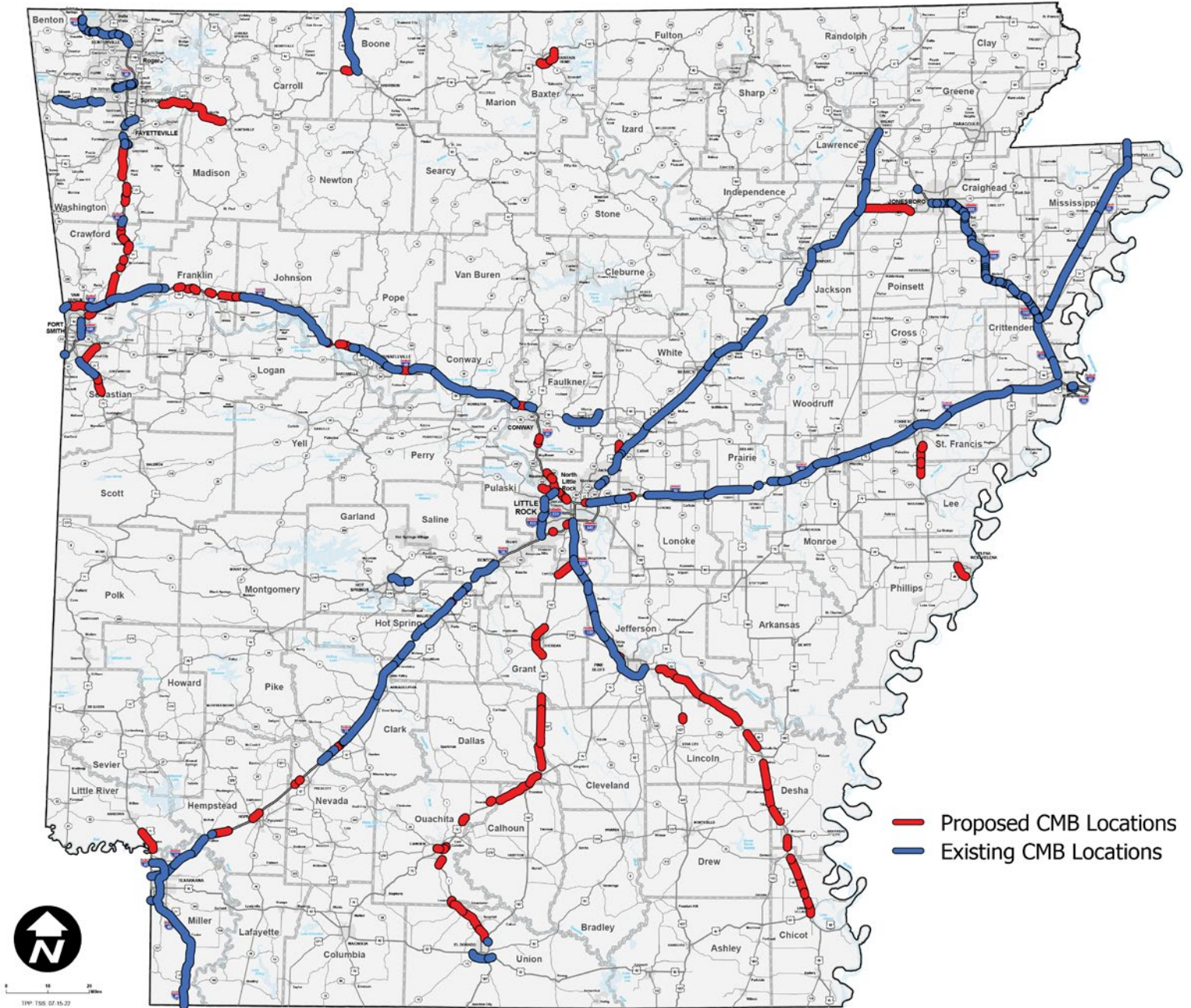
reduction in cross median crashes.<sup>2</sup>



Transportation Planning & Policy Division  
Traffic Safety Section

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Existing and proposed locations



  
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