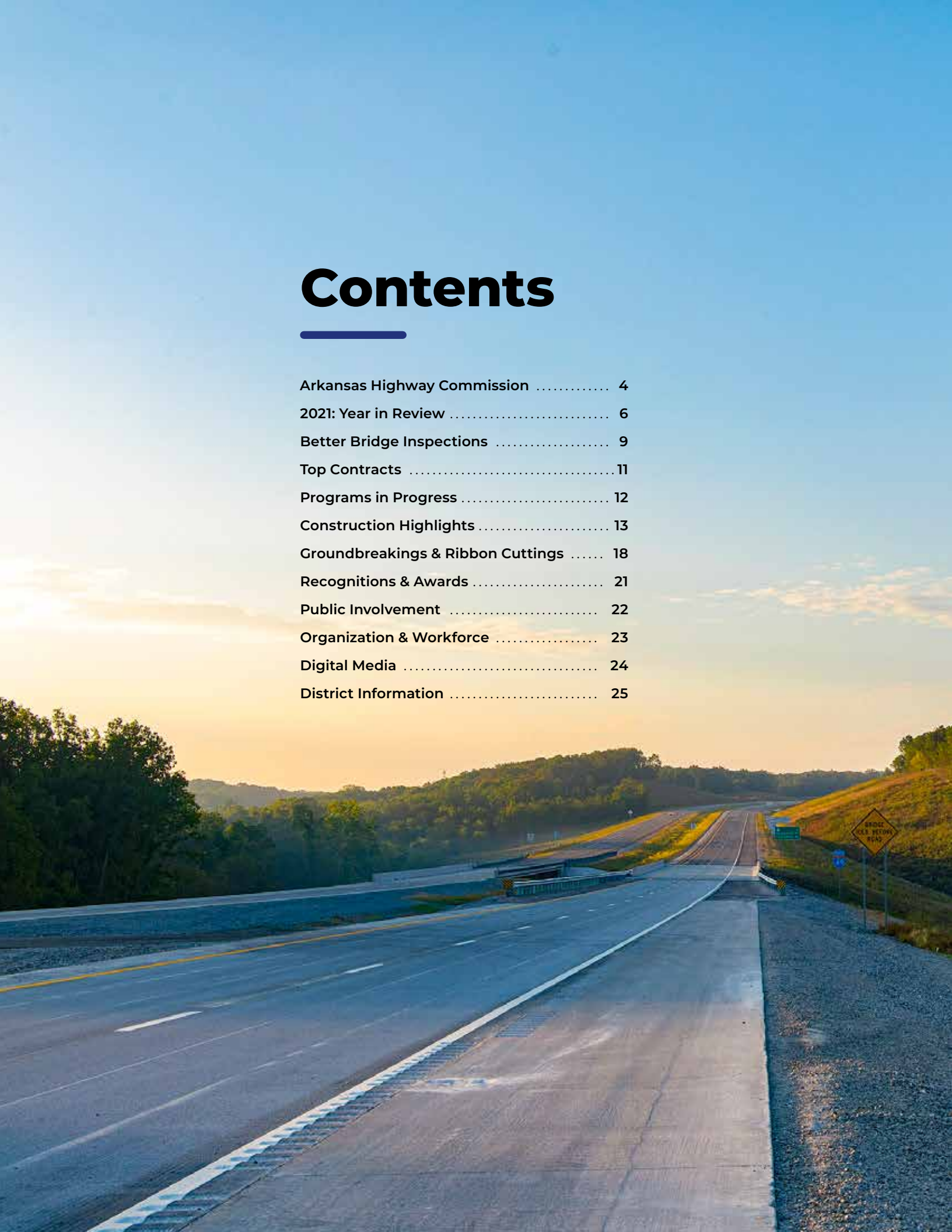

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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WELCOME TO

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THE NATURAL STATE

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Commission Members



Commission Chairman Robert S. Moore, Jr., of Arkansas City, was appointed by Governor Mike Beebe effective January 22, 2013. Moore is a three-term member of the Arkansas House of Representatives and represented the 12th District. He served as Speaker of the House in 2011. He is the owner/operator of Moore Farms. He had his own private law practice from 1981 to 1985. Governor David Pryor appointed Moore as chairman of the Arkansas Transportation Commission in 1977. He served on the staff of Governor Bill Clinton and served two decades as Director of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. He is a member of the American Legion, the Arkansas City Chamber of Commerce, Vice Chairman of the Desha County Historic Preservation Society and Vice Chairman of the John H. Johnson Cultural and Entrepreneurial Center Board. His term on the Arkansas Highway Commission will expire in January 2023.



Commission Vice Chairman Dalton A. Farmer, Jr., of Jonesboro, was appointed by Governor Asa Hutchinson effective January 27, 2015. He is owner/operator of Farmer Enterprises, Inc., a family-owned farm and property investment and management company. He is also a licensed attorney in the state of Arkansas. Farmer serves on the boards of Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield, E.C. Barton & Company, Childress Gin and Elevator Company and the Craighead Conservation District Board. He has served on many other local boards and commissions including a term on the Jonesboro City Council. Farmer is an inductee into the AACD Arkansas Conservation Hall of Fame and a recipient of the Arkansas State University Distinguished Alumni Award. His term on the Arkansas Highway Commission will expire in January 2025.



Commissioner Philip Taldo, of Springdale, was appointed by Governor Asa Hutchinson effective January 14, 2017. Taldo started his real estate career in 1978 and began working with Gary Griffin in 1980, becoming a partner in 1983. He is co-owner of Weichert-Griffin Realtors, Partners Construction and Colonial Properties. In addition, he is the President of One Springdale, Inc., a development corporation. He is a Hope Cancer Resource Foundation Trustee and also serves as an Arvest Bank Director, a board member of NWA Regional Airport Authority and the UAMS Northwest Advisory Board. He also served as an Arkansas Economic Development Commissioner. Taldo is also a member of the Arkansas Realtors Association and the Rotary Club of Springdale. His term on the Arkansas Highway Commission will expire in January 2027.



Commissioner Keith Gibson, of Fort Smith, was appointed by Governor Asa Hutchinson effective January 15, 2019. Gibson is the former president and chairman of the board of directors of Lavaca Telephone Company, Inc., an independent local exchange company serving rural areas in western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma with broadband and landline telephone service. He was also president of Pinnacle Telecom which provides broadband, voice and other telecom and internet access services in Arkansas and Oklahoma. Pinnacle Communications/Telecom merged with Dobson Fiber in 2021. He was co-founder and a member of the board of directors of Benefit Bank in Fort Smith (now Armstrong Bank) where he also served on the audit committee. He is past president of the Arkansas Telecommunications Association, the Oklahoma Telephone Association and the Lavaca Industrial Development Corporation. Gibson is also licensed to practice law in Arkansas. His term on the Arkansas Highway Commission will expire in January 2029.



Commissioner Marie Holder, of Little Rock, was appointed by Governor Asa Hutchinson to fulfill the term of the late Commissioner Tom Schueck, and to serve a second term. Her service began when she took the Oath of Office in March 2020. Before joining the Highway Commission, Holder proudly served Arkansas as a member of the Arkansas State Medical Board. Currently, she is a member of the Arkansas Women's Commission which was created by Governor Asa Hutchinson to analyze the role of Arkansas women in the labor market and economy. Commissioner Holder is retired from her consulting and fundraising firm. She worked as Finance Director of Governor Hutchinson's 2018 re-election campaign and is a former Executive Director of the Republican Party of Arkansas. Commissioner Holder has been an active member of the Central Arkansas community for over 20 years. She is an ordained elder of Second Presbyterian Church where she has also served as Deacon. Her term will expire in January 2031.

2021: Year in Review



FOR THE YEAR 2021, THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CONTINUED AT FULL OPERATIONS IN AN ENVIRONMENT CHALLENGED BY COVID-19. DESPITE THE HURDLES, IT WAS A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL YEAR.

The first months brought Arkansas its share of winter precipitation.

More than 20 inches of snow blanketed the state in a one-week period making February one of the snowiest months on record. ARDOT was ready with more equipment, better equipment, a good reserve of salt and materials and additional staff to battle the inclement weather. A more efficient way of tracking snowplows by using GPS technology was also utilized. The Department's successful removal of snow from Arkansas' highways was acknowledged not only by statewide media, but national media as well.

For the first time in ARDOT's history, Interstate travel lanes were completely shut down for an extended period of time for a construction project. The road closure on Interstate 430 in Little Rock occurred in March and allowed structural steel to be erected for a new ramp overpass crossing the Interstate. The weekend closure permitted the contractor to maximize the amount of work

that could be done and maximize safety for motorists. A successful media campaign aided motorists in finding alternate routes. The construction was completed hours earlier than planned.

With safety being a top priority at ARDOT, the Department kicked off a statewide “Share the Road” campaign in April. The goal of the campaign is to provide travelers with information on laws, policies, maps and resources to commute safely on Arkansas’ roadways, whether by walking, cycling or driving.

On May 11, a fracture was discovered in the Interstate 40 Hernando De Soto Bridge over the Mississippi River between West Memphis and Memphis. The subsequent repair was the catalyst for building a better bridge inspection program at ARDOT. See the full story on page 8.

A celebration took place in September in northwest Arkansas as ARDOT and Missouri Department of

Transportation officials came together on the Arkansas-Missouri state line to celebrate the completion of the 19-mile Bella Vista Bypass. The bypass included six construction projects totaling \$220 million and fills the missing link of Interstate 49 between Bentonville, Arkansas and Pineville, Missouri. Since completion, the new bypass has relieved congestion by taking up to 10,000 vehicles a day off of Highway 71 in the area. The bypass also completes 265 miles of continuous Interstate between Fort Smith, Arkansas, and Kansas City, Missouri.

Because Arkansas has more than 16,000 miles of roadway to maintain and keep litter-free, the Department unveiled its new “Keep it Clean” campaign in October. The goal is to educate the public about the long-term damage caused when litter hits the highway. For every mile of road, Arkansas averages 2,000 pieces of trash. The campaign challenges everyone to do their part.

For the year 2021, ARDOT opened bids on 195 new construction projects. Details on a number of those jobs are included within this publication.

The hard work and dedication of the members of the Arkansas State Highway Commission and Department staff are reflected in the pages of this report. ARDOT is thankful to the people of Arkansas for their continued support as we work to provide the best highway system possible for our motorists.



Interstate 49 Bella Vista Bypass ribbon cutting

Better Bridge Inspections

On May 11, 2021, contracting company Michael Baker International discovered a fracture in the Interstate 40 Hernando De Soto Bridge between West Memphis, Arkansas, and Memphis, Tennessee, while conducting a routine inspection of the bridge's cabling system. Michael Baker notified first responders and both ARDOT and the Tennessee Department of Transportation immediately. Authorities closed the bridge, coordinated with U.S. Coast Guard to stop Mississippi River traffic and diverted drivers to use the Interstate 55 Bridge.



Inspecting the Interstate 40 Hernando DeSoto Bridge

For a program that has always been compliant with Federal bridge inspection requirements, the findings were eye opening when ARDOT discovered that the fracture was overlooked during a Department inspection; that mistake has become the catalyst for an improved, more thorough bridge inspection program.

The Inspection Program Today

ARDOT is responsible for inspecting 12,776 bridges within the state, 7,360 of which are state-owned. The remainder are located on roads owned by local cities and counties.

In many ways, ARDOT's bridge inspection program exceeds the minimum Federal requirements to maintain compliance. For example, structures with reduced load postings and structures in poor condition are only required to be inspected every two years; ARDOT, however, inspects them annually.

"We had been working toward improving the bridge program before the Memphis event," shared Rex Vines, ARDOT's Deputy Director and Chief Engineer. "We are constantly looking for ways to make the program



ARDOT crew members use a Snoopers on the Interstate 40 Hernando de Soto Bridge

better. For example, six years ago, we had one statewide bridge inspection team. Since then, we have added two additional teams to increase our quality control program.”

ARDOT’s statewide bridge inspection teams are responsible for large structures (like the Hernando De Soto Bridge). In addition, there are 24 teams throughout the Department’s ten Districts across the state. Each team consists of a lead bridge inspector and an assistant bridge inspector and reports to the District Construction Engineer. Each person must have a minimum of five years’ experience in structures, at least two and a half years specifically in bridge inspection and completion of a two-week National Highway Institute safety course.

“A majority of our bridge inspectors are very conscientious, very efficient and do a great job,” Vines stated. “One employee failed to do his job. I believe this is a very isolated event but it has shed a light on a weak-

ness in our program. We examined the situation and learned from it in order to make our program better.”

More Thorough Inspections Moving Forward

ARDOT is well on the way to building a better bridge inspection program. The Federal Highway Administration has completed a review of the Department’s inspection procedures.

ARDOT has hired a consulting firm to do an objective analysis of the program and make recommendations.

“Our goal is to increase our quality control and quality assurance,” Vines shared. “The Highway Administration has made recommendations and that includes some best practices from other DOTs across the nation that we can adopt. Initially, we will use the consultant inspection team to provide our immediate quality control improvements. Their recommendations will make our processes better.”



A closer look translates into more efficient inspections

Supplemental to improvements to the inspection program, ARDOT will also be adding a fleet of drones out in the field to assist on location.

“We will be adding drones in each of our 10 Districts and our Heavy Bridge teams will utilize them as well,” Vines shared.

An Investment in Safety

ARDOT has already committed to increasing its Heavy Bridge Maintenance budget from \$3.5 million to \$6.4 million annually. A total of \$152 million has been set aside for rehabilitation of bridges over the next four years. In addition, \$502 million is in place for bridge replacements over the next four years.

“There is so much we have learned and are continuing to learn from this crisis,” stated Lorie Tudor, ARDOT Director. “This has been a huge challenge for all of us and especially for motorists out on the roads. We really understand what they have been through. I want to ensure them that from this experience, we will have a better program, and not just in Arkansas. This is going to make the whole inspection program across the nation better.”

As crews completed repairs on the Hernando Desoto Bridge in July of 2021, a great deal was learned that will benefit the Department in the future.

“We have recognized we have a problem, and we are meeting that problem head on to find a solution moving forward,” Vines shared. “We are going to see this as an opportunity to improve our quality control and grow a better inspection program. This will not just take place in the bridge program; improvement will find its way into other divisions at ARDOT as well.”

Top Contracts

Keeping Arkansas' highway system in the best condition possible is always a top priority at ARDOT. Crews worked in all 75 counties within our borders in 2021 to provide a highway network that is safe for motorists traveling across the state.

Top Contracts Awarded in 2021 by Amount

Project	County	Amount
Interstate 555	Craighead	\$38,133,950.35
Interstate 49	Washington	\$37,640,417.00
Highway 270	Garland	\$22,614,576.73
Specialized Bridge Deck Rehabs	Various	\$19,162,120.70
Interstate 40	Lonoke & Pulaski	\$18,175,107.79
Highway 79	Arkansas & Jefferson	\$17,496,155.99
Interstate 55	Crittenden	\$16,455,403.75
Highway 278	Desha	\$14,688,400.00
Highway 70	Monroe & St. Francis	\$ 9,932,016.76
Highways 71 & 71B	Sebastian	\$ 9,577,741.69

Total Amount by Year

Year	Projects	Amount
2014**	270	\$916,223,363
2015**	198	\$670,032,356
2016**	263	\$1,212,817,331
2017**	249	\$512,101,932
2018**	268	\$878,178,919
2019**	201	\$664,716,322
2020**	271	\$883,184,382
2021**	195	\$487,220,765

** Includes IRP and CAP projects authorized by a half-cent sales tax increase in 2012.

Programs in Progress

Interstate Rehabilitation Program

On November 8, 2011, Arkansans voted to allow the Arkansas Highway Commission to issue up to \$575 million in Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle (GARVEE) bonds to help finance improvements and repairs to existing Interstates in Arkansas.

The Interstate Rehabilitation Program (IRP) underway today is identical to the 1999 IRP, and in combination with existing federal and state revenues, is expected to support more than \$1 billion in construction on our Interstate highways over the life of the program.

The newest program includes 54 road projects. At the close of 2021, a total of 52 IRP projects had been completed equaling 354 miles of construction at a cost of approximately \$1 billion. The final two projects are under construction at a cost of approximately \$127 million that will, when completed, add an additional 3.5 miles of improvements to the total of Interstate miles completed.

Connecting Arkansas Program

In 2012, through a voter-approved constitutional amendment, the people of Arkansas passed a 10-year, half-cent sales tax to improve highway and infrastructure projects throughout the State. The result-



A CAP project at the Highway 71 Interchange on the Bella Vista Bypass

ing Connecting Arkansas Program (CAP) is one of the largest highway construction programs ever undertaken by ARDOT. Thirty-one projects in 19 corridors will improve Arkansas' transportation system by expanding selected two-lane roadways to four-lane highways and adding new lanes to identified Interstate highways.

In 2021, nine projects were under construction. Those jobs are improving 59 miles of highway at a cost of \$421 million. At year's end, 21 projects were completed improving approximately 104 miles of highway at a cost of \$870 million. A total of 6 projects remain scheduled with start dates to be determined, representing 23 miles of improvements.

Construction Highlights

District One

COUNTIES: CRITTENDEN, CROSS, LEE, MONROE, PHILLIPS, ST. FRANCIS, WOODRUFF

Crews completed surface improvements on Interstate 55 in Crittenden County in 2021. Atlas Asphalt, Inc. was awarded the \$1.34 million pavement and bridge preservation project in March 2021. Crews laid a new 4.8-mile ultrathin bonded wearing course pavement on August 6. The improvements began near the Interstate 55/Interstate 555 interchange near Turrell and extended northward to the Crittenden/Poinsett County line. One bridge overpass received a polymer overlay. The project also included pavement preservation on two ramps at the Interstate 55/Interstate 555 interchange and on a section of Gilmore Road. The contractor completed the job nine days early. R.L. Persons Construction Company was awarded a \$1.1 million project on Highway 118 in West Memphis in May 2019. Safety and traffic mobility at the intersection with Interstate 40 improved after a new signal installation and lane reconfiguration were completed. Work was completed in June 2021.



Interstate 55 at Turrell



Construction on a Highway 79 passing lane

District Two

COUNTIES: ARKANSAS, ASHLEY, CHICOT, DESHA, DREW, GRANT, JEFFERSON, LINCOLN

A construction project in Arkansas and Jefferson Counties is constructing 2.6 miles of passing lanes on Highway 79. The passing lanes are located between Wabbaseka and Stuttgart. Phillips Hardy, Inc. was awarded a \$17.5 million contract for the job in April 2021. Improvements are expected to be complete in late summer of 2023. Crews in Drew County are replacing a bridge on Highway 277 over Bayou Bartholomew. The

improvements are located near the Desha County line. W.L. Bass Construction, Inc. was awarded the \$4.6 million project in June 2020. The completion date on the project is set for September 2022.



Highway 70 Glenwood Bridge over the Caddo River

District Three

COUNTIES: HEMPSTEAD, HOWARD, LAFAYETTE, LITTLE RIVER, MILLER, NEVADA, PIKE, SEVIER

A large-scale construction project in District 3 is replacing three bridge structures in three separate locations. The first bridge is 382-feet in length and is being constructed on Highway 278 over the Saline River in Howard County. The second and third bridges are both underway on Highway 70. One is located over the Caddo River in Pike County and is 605-feet in length, and the other is being built over the Saline River in Howard and Sevier

Counties and is 467-feet in length. Manhattan Road & Bridge Company was awarded the contract for the work at \$20.5 million. The longest distance between construction sites is 40 miles and the distance has created many logistical challenges. The two Saline River bridges follow the same construction sequence: build the new bridge, transfer traffic and remove the existing bridge. The Caddo River Bridge differs from the other two as crews are constructing stage one of the new bridge, transferring traffic, removing the existing structure and constructing stage two. The new bridges are anticipated to be completed in the spring of 2023.

District Four

COUNTIES: CRAWFORD, FRANKLIN, LOGAN, POLK, SCOTT, SEBASTIAN, WASHINGTON

A \$44.2-million project in Crawford County has resurfaced Interstate 40 beginning at Alma and continuing eastward to Highway 164. Crews with Koss Construction Company milled and resurfaced the top four inches of asphalt. The project also rehabilitated 18 bridge decks that involved hydro-demolition, latex modified concrete overlay, polymer overlay, joint repair and backwall repair. Work was substantially completed in November 2021.

A project in Sebastian County resurfaced approximately 10.5 miles of Highway 71 near Fort Smith. Forsgren, Inc. was awarded the \$9.6 million contract in January. The improvements stretch from Fort Smith southward to Greenwood. Improvements were completed in late July.



Improvements on Interstate 40 near Alma



Strawberry River Bridge, Highway 56

Sons are at work on a \$20.9 million project that will rehabilitate 25 miles of pavement on the main lanes and shoulders of Highway 67 in White County. Improvements begin at Judsonia and continue southward to the Lonoke County line. The work also includes rehabilitation of most of the bridge decks on the highway. The contract was awarded in July 2019 and improvements should be completed in the spring of 2022.

District Five

COUNTIES: CLEBURNE, FULTON, INDEPENDENCE, IZARD, JACKSON, SHARP, STONE, WHITE

Work is underway in Fulton County to replace an existing truss bridge on Highway 289 over English Creek with a re-enforced concrete box culvert. West Plains Bridge & Grading was awarded the contract for \$2.7 million. The historic truss bridge has been given to Independence County officials with the intent that it will be erected on an area county road in the future. Improvements were completed in January 2022. Crews with Emory Sapp &

District Six

COUNTIES: GARLAND, HOT SPRING, LONOKE, PRAIRIE, PULASKI, SALINE

A joint construction project got underway as Kiewit Infrastructure South Company and Massman Construction Company were awarded ARDOT's largest contract to date: 30 Crossing located in Little Rock and North Little Rock. The contract was awarded March 2019 for \$577,415,233. The project includes widening, reconstruction and other improvements to Interstate 30 beginning at Interstate 530 in Little Rock and extending northward to the split at Interstate 40 and Highway 67/167 in North Little Rock. The work includes replacement of the Arkansas River Bridge. Completion is set for January 2025. Johnson Brothers Corporation, a Southland Company, is widening 5.4 miles of Interstate 30 to six lanes, reconstructing three interchanges and replacing five bridge structures between Highway 70 and Sevier Street in Saline County. Work began in February 2019 after Johnson Brothers was awarded the \$188,714,385 contract. The estimated completion date is mid 2023.



Work underway on the Interstate 30 Bridge



Highway 167 improvements near Hampton

District Eight

COUNTIES: CONWAY, FAULKNER, JOHNSON, MONTGOMERY, PERRY, POPE, VAN BUREN, YELL

Bobby Kennedy Construction Company completed a widening on Highway 65 between Clinton and Botkinburg. The contract was awarded for \$37.2 million; work began in March 2019 and was completed in January 2022. The construction of a new railroad overpass and the replacement of a bridge structure with a box culvert on Highway 89 in Mayflower got underway in February. Emery Sapp & Sons, Inc. was awarded the \$26.5 million contract in November 2020. Estimated completion is set for February 2023.

District Seven

COUNTIES: BRADLEY, CALHOUN, CLARK, CLEVELAND, COLUMBIA, DALLAS, OUACHITA, UNION

Work was substantially completed in August 2021 on Highway 167 in Calhoun County. W. G. Yates & Sons began widening 3.9 miles of roadway that includes 12-foot lanes, an 11-foot painted median and eight-foot shoulders in August 2016. The \$17,355,502 project was officially completed in February 2022. Crews resurfaced eight miles of Interstate 30 between Caddo Valley and Highway 26 in Clark County. Redstone Construction Group, Inc. completed the \$9.3 million contract in August 2021.



A new Highway 89 overpass over Interstate 40 at Mayflower



Improvements at the Interstate 49 and Highway 71B interchange

making improvements to the Interstate 49 and Highway 71B intersection in Benton County. The project replaces the Interstate 49 overpass bridge and modifies roadway approaches to a Single Point Urban Interchange system at the Highway 71B intersection. The contract included widening Highway 71B to six lanes and installing new traffic signals at the entrance/exit ramps at Moberly Lane and N. 46th Streets. The contractor began work on the \$28.6 million project in September 2018 and completion is expected in the summer of 2022.

District Ten

COUNTIES: CLAY, CRAIGHEAD, GREENE, LAWRENCE, MISSISSIPPI, POINSETT, RANDOLPH

Crews with White River Materials, Inc. are reconstructing approximately five miles of Interstate 555 in Craighead County. The \$38 million project extends along the western edge of the city of Jonesboro. Safety improvements on the project include guardrails, a wire rope safety fence and rumble strips along the shoulders. Work is expected to be complete at the end of 2023. Delta Asphalt of Arkansas, Inc. crews are adding shoulders to

selected locations on approximately 24 miles of Highway 25 in Lawrence County. The improvements begin at Black Rock and continue southward to Saffell. The \$8.2 million project will be completed in mid-2022. Work was completed in Mississippi County on a new bridge on Highway 14 located west of Marie. The 332-foot bridge crosses over Interstate 55. The \$4.9 million project was awarded to Asphalt Producers, LLC and was substantially completed in March 2021.

District Nine

COUNTIES: BAXTER, BENTON, BOONE, CARROLL, MADISON, MARION, NEWTON, SEARCY

Emery Sapp & Sons completed work on the Interstate 49 Bella Vista Bypass in September. The work included constructing 2.7 miles of new four-lane roadway with bridge structures on the newly designated highway. This project was opened to traffic in October 2021. The improvements were constructed at a cost of \$71.6 million and was part of the \$220 million Bella Vista Bypass. APAC-Central, Inc. continued



Highway 25 passes by the old Lawrence County Courthouse

Groundbreakings & Ribbon Cuttings



UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD OVERPASS | *Mayflower*

Congressman French Hill joined Arkansas Highway Commissioners and local dignitaries at a May 25 ground-breaking for the Union Pacific Railroad Overpass project in Mayflower. On new location, the new facility replaces an at-grade crossing on Highway 89 that is ranked in the top 10 percent of the most dangerous crossings in the state. Awarded to Emery Sapp & Sons for \$26.3 million, the project is the result of a partnership between ARDOT, the City of Mayflower, Metroplan and Faulkner County. Work began on the project in early 2021.



HIGHWAY 195 | *Washington*

Old Washington State Park was the location for a ribbon cutting on June 21 celebrating the resurfacing of 13 miles of Highway 195 between Washington and Fulton. Redstone Construction Group, Inc. completed the \$9.5 million project in late April. The improvements are the result of a partnership between ARDOT, Tyson

Foods, Inc., the Arkansas Economic Development Commission and Hempstead County. The partnership was formed when representatives of Tyson approached ARDOT about proposed plans for a new feed mill on Highway 195. Wanting to be good stewards of Highway 195, Tyson was curious if the roadway would stand up to the weight of the trucks that would be traveling the highway to reach the new plant. An ARDOT study followed and indicated additional asphalt would be needed to support the trucks traveling Highway 195. As a result, the partners stepped up to make the new roadway and the Tyson plant a reality.



INTERSTATE 49 BELLA VISTA BYPASS | Arkansas/Missouri Stateline

ARDOT and Missouri Department of Transportation officials joined Governor Asa Hutchinson and Missouri Governor Mike Parson on September 30 to cut a ribbon on the 19-mile Bella Vista Bypass. Construction on the Arkansas side of the bypass consisted of six projects totaling more than \$220 million. Contractors included Emery Sapp & Sons, Kolb Grading and APAC-Central. Work on the project began in 2011. The newest section of Interstate 49 opened to traffic on October 1. When all segments of Interstate 49 are complete across the United States, the corridor will extend 1,630 miles and link the Gulf Coast, around New Orleans, with south-central Canada, near Winnipeg.



HIGHWAY 270 | Hot Springs

Ground was broken in Hot Springs on October 12 for a \$22.6 million project that will widen Highway 270 to five lanes. The improvements begin at the intersection with Highway 227 and extend westward for 1.5 miles to Fleetwood Drive. The project also includes bike lanes and reconstruction of the intersection with Highway 227. These improvements are part of the future widening of U.S. Highway 270 from Hot Springs to the west. McGeorge Contracting Company was awarded the project for \$22.6 million. Construction began in September and is funded through ARDOT's Connecting Arkansas Program.



HIGHWAY 62 | Piggott

A crowd that included local dignitaries, ARDOT staff and Highway Commissioners gathered for a groundbreaking in Piggott on November 18 to officially begin safety improvements on Highway 62 through town. The project will construct three roundabouts and improve one traffic signal.

The \$3.8 million contract was awarded to R.L Persons Construction, Inc. in September 2021. Roundabouts prove safer than traditional intersections in some locations because they reduce crashes, resulting in fewer injuries and fatalities.



HIGHWAY 18 | Manila

The northeast Arkansas town of Manila was the site of a ribbon cutting on November 18. The ceremony officially opened 1.8 miles of Highway 18 that had been widened from two to five lanes. The improvements on this job extend from southeast of Manila eastward through the Big Lake National Wildlife Refuge. With this project completed, motorists now have two travel lanes in each direction stretching from Interstate 55 at Blytheville westward to Jonesboro. W.G. Yates & Sons completed the improvements for \$35.5 million. Construction was funded through ARDOT's Connecting Arkansas Program.

Recognitions & Awards

AISC Prize Bridge Award

The Broadway Bridge (Highway 70), spanning the Arkansas River between Little Rock and North Little Rock, was recognized by the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) with a Merit Award as part of their Prize Bridge Award Competition.

“These projects are tributes to the creativity of the designers and the skills of the constructors who collaborated to make them reality,” said AISC President Charles J. Carter, SE, PE,



PhD. “Steel shines and soars on their talents and we celebrate the accomplishments these projects represent.”

The team of HNTB Corporation and Garver, LLC, was chosen to

design the replacement of the old Broadway Bridge. Prime contractor for construction was Massman Construction Company of Overland Park, Kansas. The bridge was completed in 2017.

Perpetual Pavement Award

ARDOT received a Perpetual Pavement Award from the Asphalt Pavement Alliance for a two-mile section of U.S. Highway 79 in Jefferson County, near Altheimer.

The award celebrates long-life asphalt pavements that reflect the characteristics of a Perpetual Pavement design. To earn the award, the pavement must have not suffered a structural failure, and should have

an average interval between resurfacing of no less than 12 years. The road must demonstrate excellence in design, quality in construction and value to taxpayers. This is ARDOT's 10th Perpetual Pavement Award.

Hermes Award

ARDOT received a Hermes Creative Award for its recently redesigned website at ardot.gov.

Hermes Creative Awards honor the creators of the information revolution.

The redesigned website combines curated content from all ARDOT Divisions, Districts and programs into one streamlined user experience, accessible from any device.

Chosen among 5,000 entries worldwide, ardot.gov was recognized with the Award of Distinction in the Government Website category and received an Honorable Mention for Website Design.

Public Involvement

For ARDOT to construct the best highways possible, the planning process must include communication with the public to gain local feedback on upcoming projects.

There is already a great deal of planning that goes into building new roadways. Among the considerations are the terrain, environmental issues, existing structures in the path of a new highway, connecting roadways and construction costs.

ARDOT believes that involving citizens in local communities across the state is an important part of that planning process.

The Department makes it a point to hold public meetings across Arkansas. The purpose is to share design plans for new projects with residents who, in return, share their ideas and opinions because, after all, nobody knows the local area better than those that live there. Public feedback is an important part of the equation. The public meetings are also an opportunity for ARDOT staff to answer any questions residents may have and address any concerns.

Due to COVID-19, the Department continued to hold Virtual Public Involvement meetings (VPI). Utilizing the Webex platform, virtual meetings allow citizens the opportunity to interact with Department staff, voice their questions and concerns over planned road projects, and participate in the decision-making process.

The Department's VPI program has become very successful over the past year. Citizens now can view and comment on project information at their leisure. The future is likely to see a hybrid public meeting scenario featuring both in-person meetings and virtual meetings.

On-location public meetings were held in Pankey and Siloam Springs in 2021. The remaining meetings were presented utilizing VPI.



2

Number of on-location public meetings



102

Attended in-person meetings



31

Additional meetings presented utilizing virtual public involvement



1,521

Attended virtual meetings

Organization & Workforce



Dating back to the Mack-Blackwell Amendment of 1953, the goal of the Arkansas State Highway Commission and the Arkansas Department of Transportation has been to provide Arkansans with the best transportation system possible.

Under that amendment, each of the five Arkansas Highway Commissioners serves a 10-year, staggered term with a new commissioner appointed by the Governor every two years.

The Commission is assigned all powers necessary to fully and effectively administer Arkansas laws and regulations related to ARDOT operations.

The Department Director is appointed by the Commission to develop a professional staff and to manage the day-to-day operations needed to oversee maintenance on Arkansas' highway network.

2021 WORKFORCE

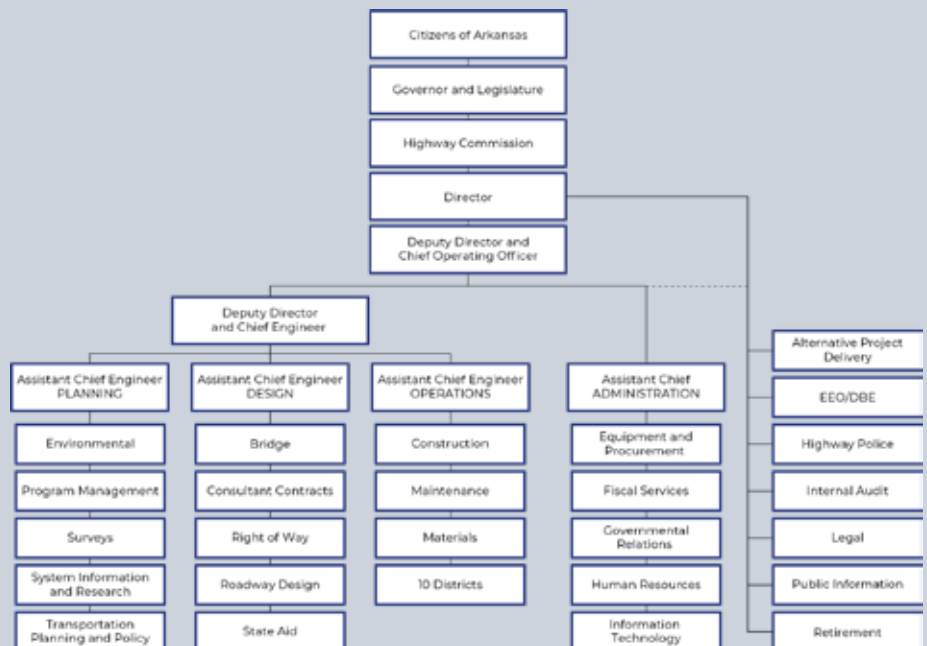
3,629 Full-time regular employees



689 Females
2,940 Males



690 Minority
2,939 Non-Minority



Digital Media

iDriveArkansas.com

1,545,681

Audience

70%

Percentage of first time visits

10,995,459

Number of pages viewed

7,730,187

Number of sessions

11.3

Average session length in minutes

DEVICE USED

64%

Mobile

34%

Desktop

2%

Tablet

Twitter

@myARDOT

53,107

Audience

1,203

New followers

701,000

Impressions

2,000

Number of Tweets

7,100

Number of Tweets liked by users

@iDriveArkansas

3,864

Audience (*account re-launched Jan. 2021*)

3.5 million

Impressions

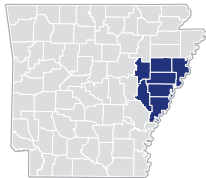
15,000

Number of Tweets

1,600

Number of Tweets liked by users

District Information



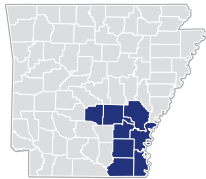
DISTRICT ONE

Counties: Crittenden, Cross, Lee, Monroe, Phillips, St. Francis and Woodruff

Engineer: Cannon Callicott · Email: stephen.callicott@ardot.gov

2701 Highway 64 · P.O. Box 278, Wynne, AR 72396-0278

Telephone: (870) 238-8144 · Fax: (870) 238-2994



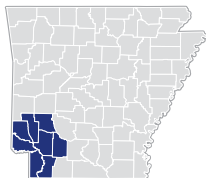
DISTRICT TWO

Counties: Arkansas, Ashley, Chicot, Desha, Drew, Grant, Jefferson and Lincoln

Engineer: Deric Wyatt · Email: deric.wyatt@ardot.gov

4900 Highway 65 South · P.O. Box 6836, Pine Bluff, AR 71611-6836

Telephone: (870) 534-1612 · Fax: (870) 534-2038



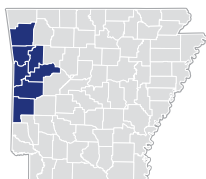
DISTRICT THREE

Counties: Hempstead, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Nevada, Pike and Sevier

Engineer: William Cheatham · Email: william.cheatham@ardot.gov

2911 Highway 29 North · P.O. Box 490, Hope, AR 71802-0490

Telephone: (870) 777-3457 · Fax: (870) 777-3489



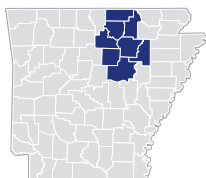
DISTRICT FOUR

Counties: Crawford, Franklin, Logan, Polk, Scott, Sebastian and Washington

Engineer: Chad Adams · Email: chad.adams@ardot.gov

808 Frontier Road, Barling · P.O. Box 11170, Fort Smith, AR 72917-1170

Telephone: (479) 484-5306 · Fax: (479) 484-5300



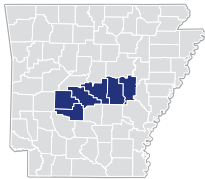
DISTRICT FIVE

Counties: Cleburne, Fulton, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Sharp, Stone and White

Engineer: Bruce Street · Email: bruce.street@ardot.gov

1673 Batesville Boulevard · P.O. Box 2376, Batesville, AR 72503-2376

Telephone: (870) 251-2374 · Fax: (870) 251-2393

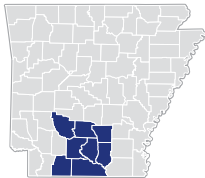
**DISTRICT SIX**

Counties: Garland, Hot Spring, Lonoke, Prairie, Pulaski and Saline

Engineer: Mark Headley · Email: mark.headley@ardot.gov

8900 Mabelvale Pike · P.O. Box 190296, Little Rock, AR 72219-0296

Telephone: (501) 569-2266 · Fax: (501) 569-2366

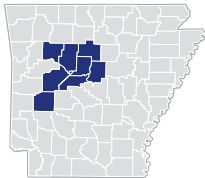
**DISTRICT SEVEN**

Counties: Bradley, Calhoun, Clark, Cleveland, Columbia, Dallas, Ouachita and Union

Engineer: David Archer · Email: david.archer@ardot.gov

2245 California Avenue · P.O. Box 897, Camden, AR 71711-0897

Telephone: (870) 836-6401 · Fax: (870) 836-4864

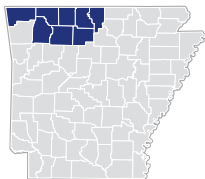
**DISTRICT EIGHT**

Counties: Conway, Faulkner, Johnson, Montgomery, Perry, Pope, Van Buren and Yell

Engineer: Jason Hughey · Email: jason.hughey@ardot.gov

372 Aspen Lane · P.O. Box 70, Russellville, AR 72811-0070

Telephone: (479) 968-2286 · Fax: (479) 968-4006

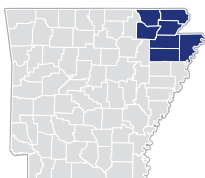
**DISTRICT NINE**

Counties: Baxter, Benton, Boone, Carroll, Madison, Marion, Newton and Searcy

Engineer: Steve Lawrence · Email: steve.lawrence@ardot.gov

4590 Highway 65 · P.O. Box 610, Harrison, AR 72602-0610

Telephone: (870) 743-2100 · Fax: (870) 743-4630

**DISTRICT TEN**

Counties: Clay, Craighead, Greene, Lawrence, Mississippi, Poinsett and Randolph

Engineer: Brad Smithee · Email: mark.smithee@ardot.gov

2510 Highway 412 West · P.O. Box 98, Paragould, AR 72451-0098

Telephone: (870) 239-9511 · Fax: (870) 236-1156

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