

Alec Farmer

Arkansas Highway Commissioner



**Northeast Arkansas
Board of Realtors**

Thursday, September 15, 2016

AHTD & AHC



History



Prior to 1913

“We are always yapping about the ‘Good Old Days’ and how we look away back and enjoy it, but I tell you there is a lot of hoey to it.”

– Will Rogers





The Teens

- ***First Commission Created***
 - ✓ ***No Highway Department***
 - ✓ ***No Highway System***
- ***3,600 Vehicles - \$72,000 Total Budget***
- ***36,000 Miles of Public Roads***

Highway 71 near Bella Vista



The Twenties



Repair Shop of State
Highway Department,
Little Rock, early 1930s



- **Highway System Created**

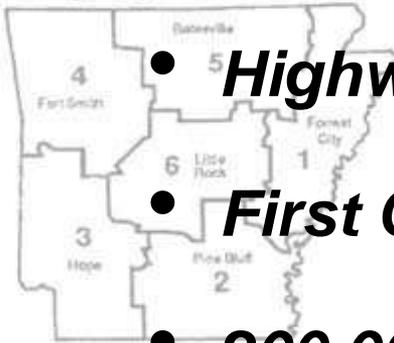
- **Highway Department Created**

- **First Gas Tax – 1 cent per gallon**

- **200,000 Vehicles/8,800 highway miles (1,400 Paved)**

- **Highway Commission Structure Changed Twice**

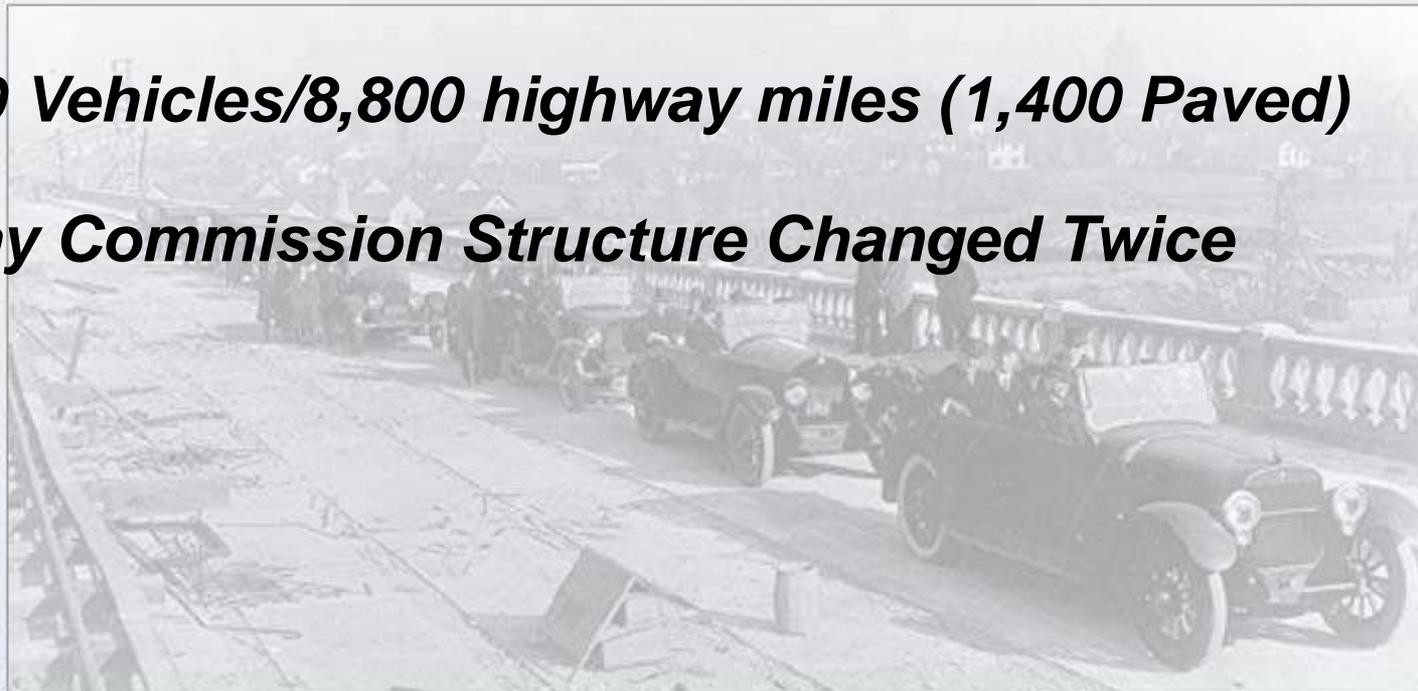
Highway Districts 1923



Highway Districts 1925

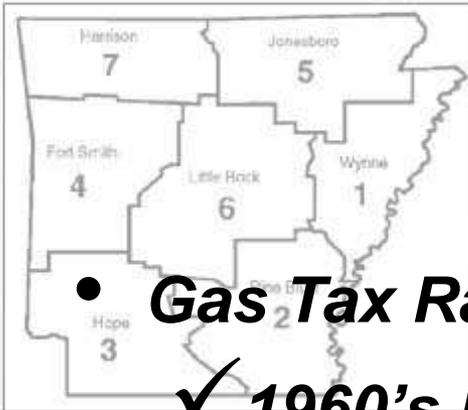


Broadway Bridge dedication,
1922. View is looking towards
North Little Rock





The Thirties



- **Gas Tax Raised to 6.5 cents per Gallon**
✓ **1960's Before Next Increase**

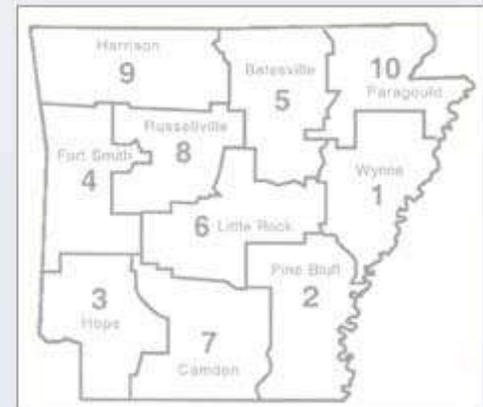


Magnet Truck. Picked up an average of 20 lbs of metal per mile

- **255,000 Vehicles; 9,300 Highway miles (3,000 Paved)**
- **Commission Structure Changed Two More Times**



State Highway Department HQ, 1939





The Forties

- ***World War II – Major Influence***
- ***455,000 Vehicles; 9,700 Highway Miles (4,900 Paved)***
- ***Commission Structure Changed Two More Times***
- ***Too much Political Influence on Highways – Growing Discontent***

Operation of the Henderson Ferry at Norfolk Lake cost \$117,981 for 1947-48. During this period 189,856 vehicles were ferried over at an average cost of 62¢

Dillard's Ferry, a hand-cranked operation, crossed the Buffalo River at Highway 14 from 1929-1958.





The Fifties



- **1951 - Highway Audit Commission Report**

- ✓ **“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.”**
- **Interstate Era**
- **750,000 Vehicles**
- **11,000 Miles State Highways (8,800 Paved)**

- **9 Legislative Acts Restructured Commission since 1913**
- **1952 – Mack Blackwell Amendment**

Widening Hwy 67 near Malvern, 1956





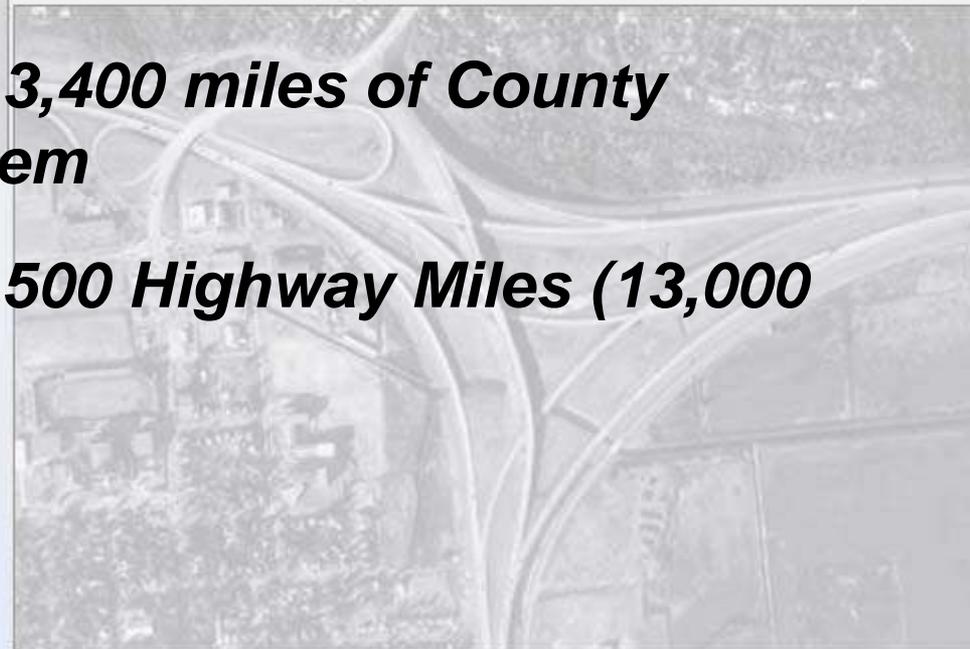
The Sixties

- **No changes to Commission Structure**
- **Arkansas - National Forefront in Interstate Construction/Completion**
- **Legislature transferred 3,400 miles of County Roads to Highway System**
- **1.1 million Vehicles; 14,500 Highway Miles (13,000 Paved)**

Highway
Department
Complex at I-30
/ Hwy 338, late
1960s



Weights & Standards Division, AHD



North Terminal Interchange, 1962



The Seventies

- **Department became Debt Free**
- **Legislature transferred nearly 1,000 more miles of County Roads to Highway System**

South Terminal Interchange



AHC Lawrence Blackwell burning ceremonial check at a ceremony in 1975.

- **Department adds “Transportation” to its name – Authority Expanded**

- **1st State to Complete its Interstate System (1975)**
- **1.7 million Vehicles; 16,000 Highway Miles (15,000 Paved)**



Toad Suck Ferry on Arkansas River at Highway 60, 1970

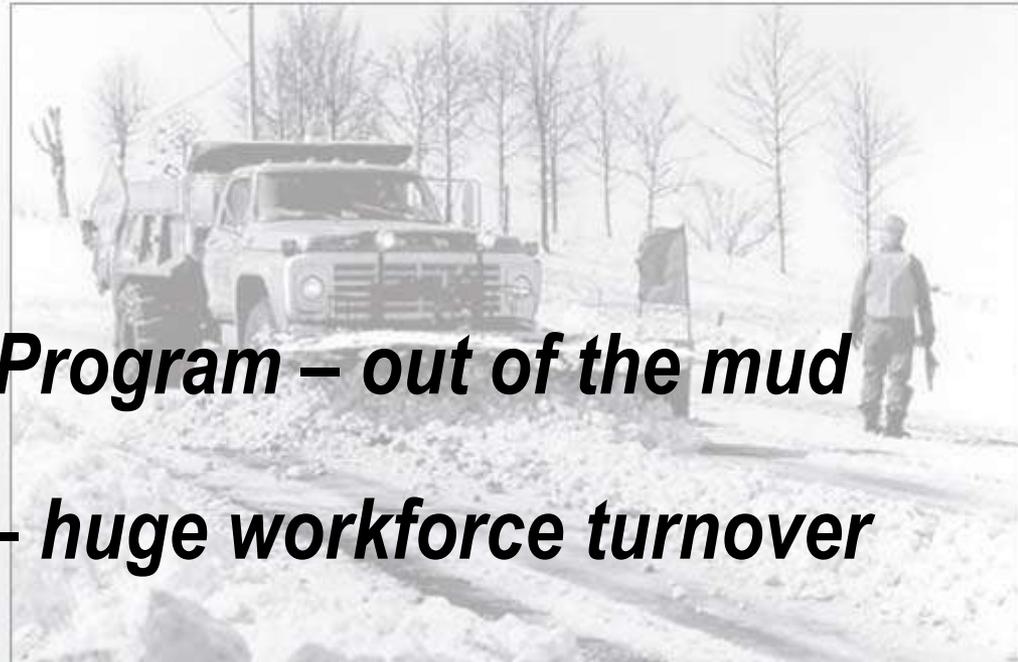


I-430 River Bridge, 1973



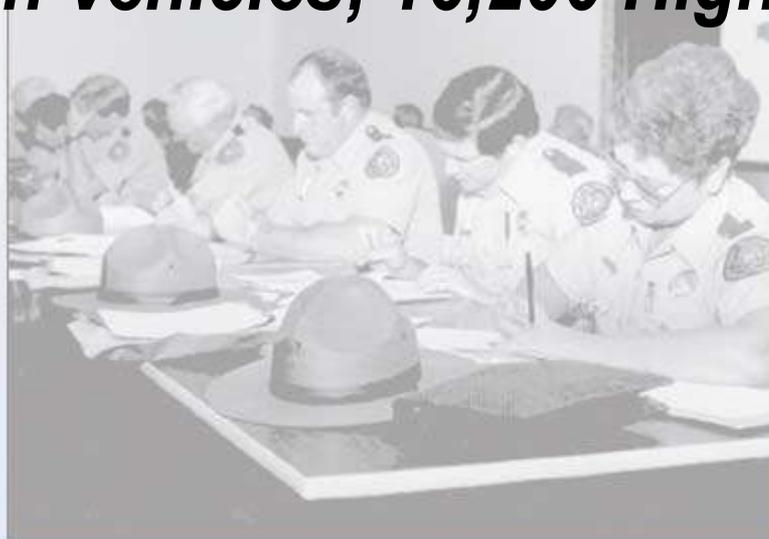


The Eighties



- **1985 – Rural Road Program – out of the mud**
- **Early Retirements – huge workforce turnover**
- **2.0 million Vehicles; 16,200 Highway Miles**

East-West Alignment linking Hwy 270 W and Hwy 70 W in Hot Springs.



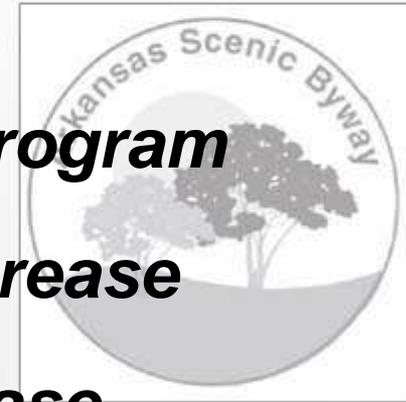
Removal costs reached \$4 M, 1984

Transportation Safety Agency, 1989



The Nineties

- **1991 – Highway Improvement Program**
- **1993 – Last Federal Gas Tax Increase**
- **1999 – Last State Gas Tax Increase**
- **1999 – Interstate Rehabilitation Program –**



Section of Hwy 7
named first Scenic
Byway in Kansas.

First Highway Bond Issue in 50 years

1991 Highway Improvement Program planned to improve or replace approximately 560 bridges.

- **I-540 (now I-49) and I-530 Completed**
- **2.1 million Vehicles; 16,400 Highway Miles**



Dedication of I-540 and Bobby Hopper Tunnel, 1999



The New Millennium



- **2011 – 2nd Interstate Rehabilitation Program**
- **2012 – Connecting Arkansas Program**



Winter Weather in Dec 2000 and Jan 2001 cost almost \$10 M.

- **2016 – Arkansas Highway Improvement Plan**

Governor's Working Group

- **3.0 million Vehicles; 16,400 miles State Highways**



New White River Bridge on Hwy 64 at Augusta opened in 2001.



Today and



Tomorrow



Matters of Scale

Menu icon

Craighead

Craighead, Arkansas

★ SAVE

Photos

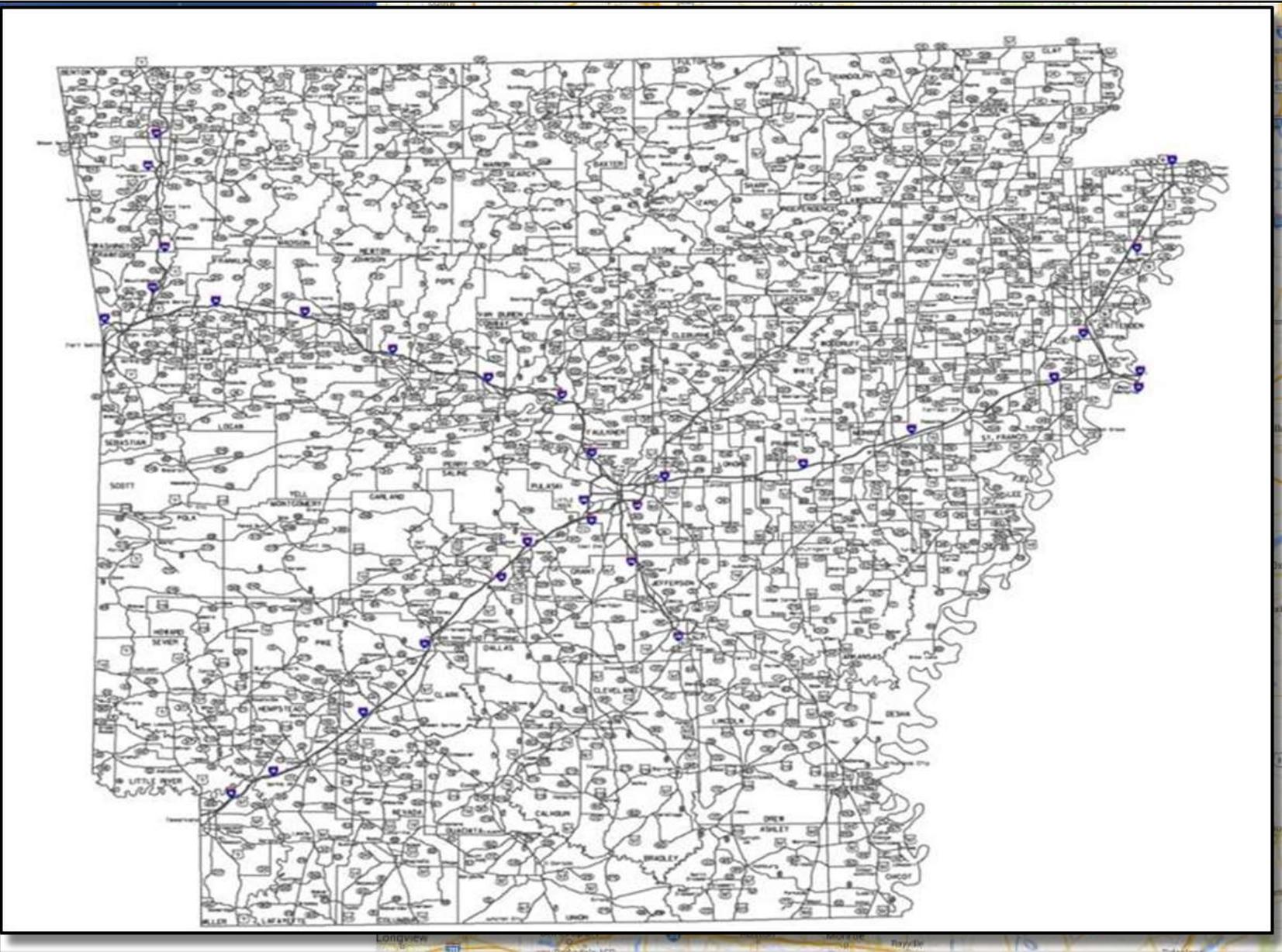
Quick facts

Craighead, Arkansas, Arkansas, Arkansas. A city in Craighead County, Arkansas. The county seat is Craighead. City. [Wikipedia](#)

Population: 1,847

Area: 1,847

Founded: February 18, 1882



Cardwell

Caraway

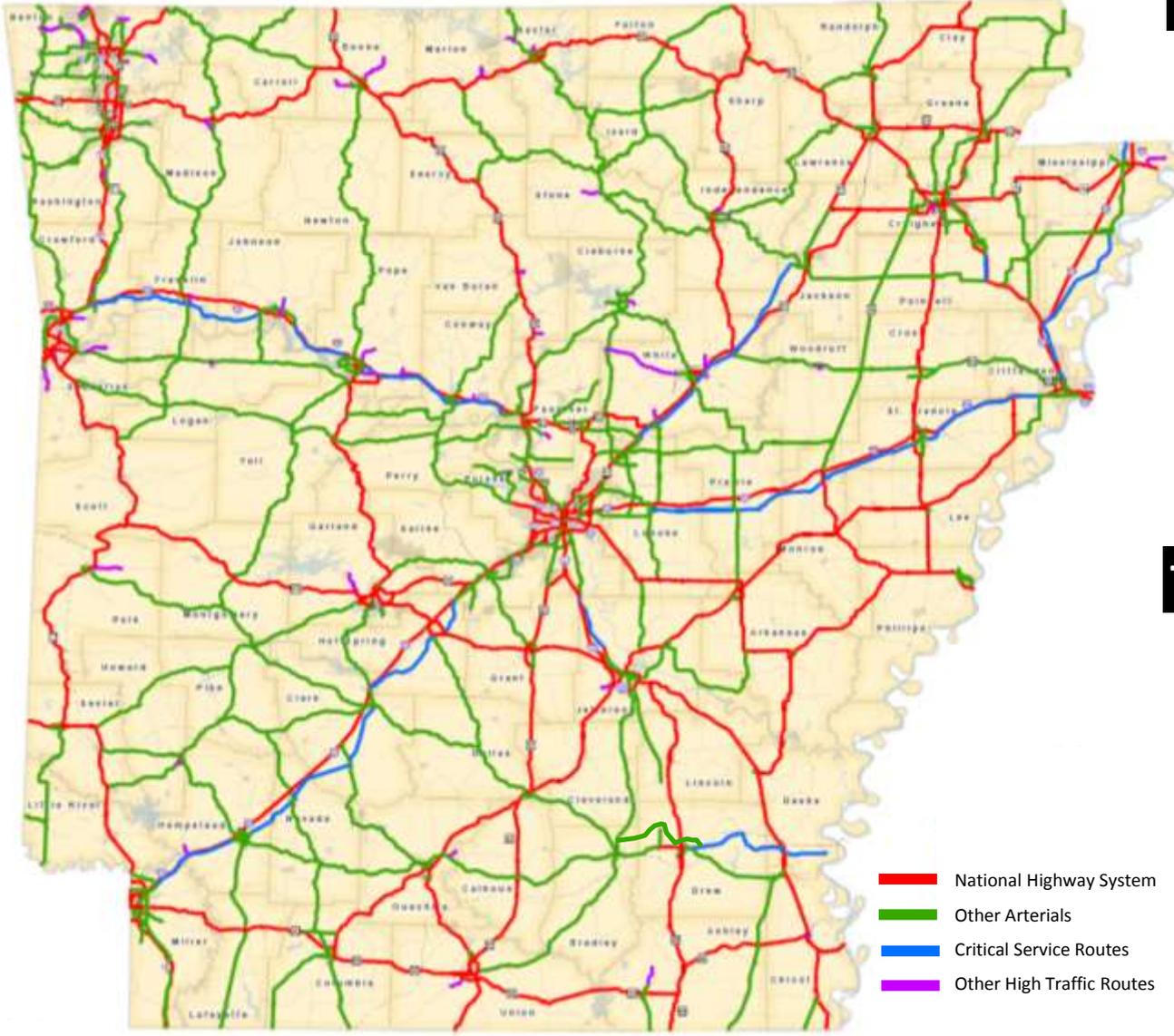
Caraway

Scale: 0, 1, 2 miles

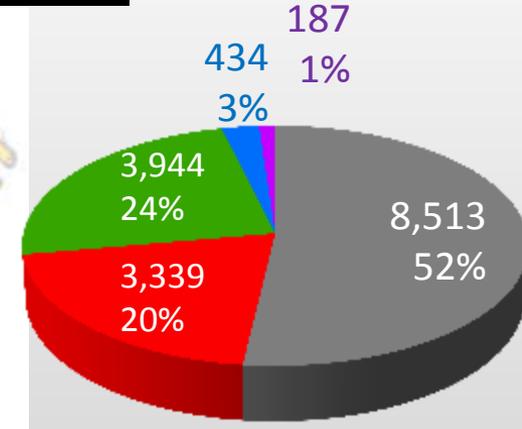


All of the APHN

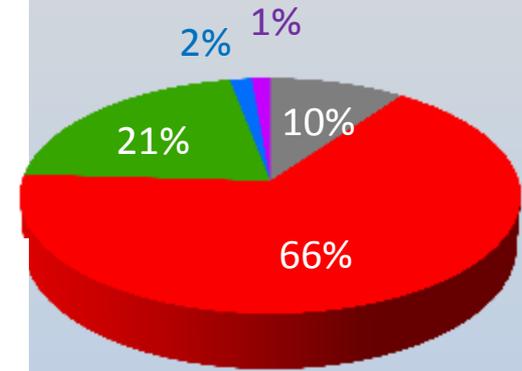
Arkansas Primary Highway Network



Miles

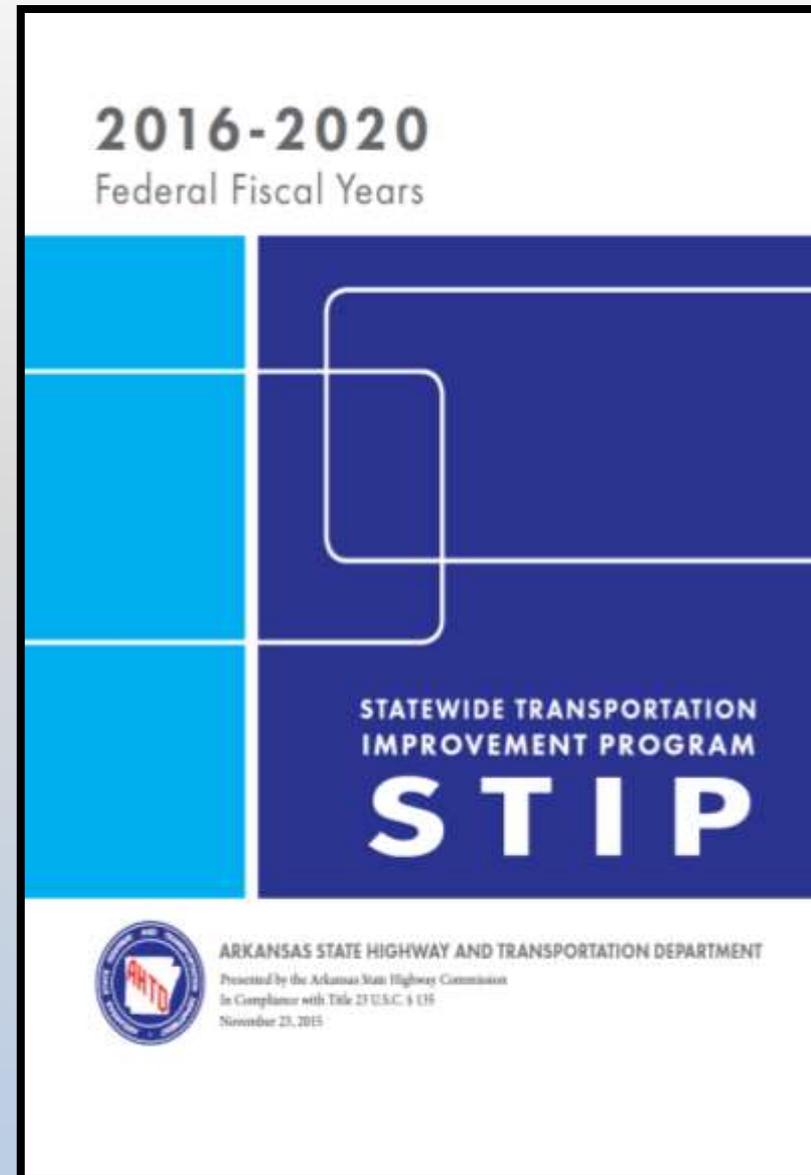


Traffic

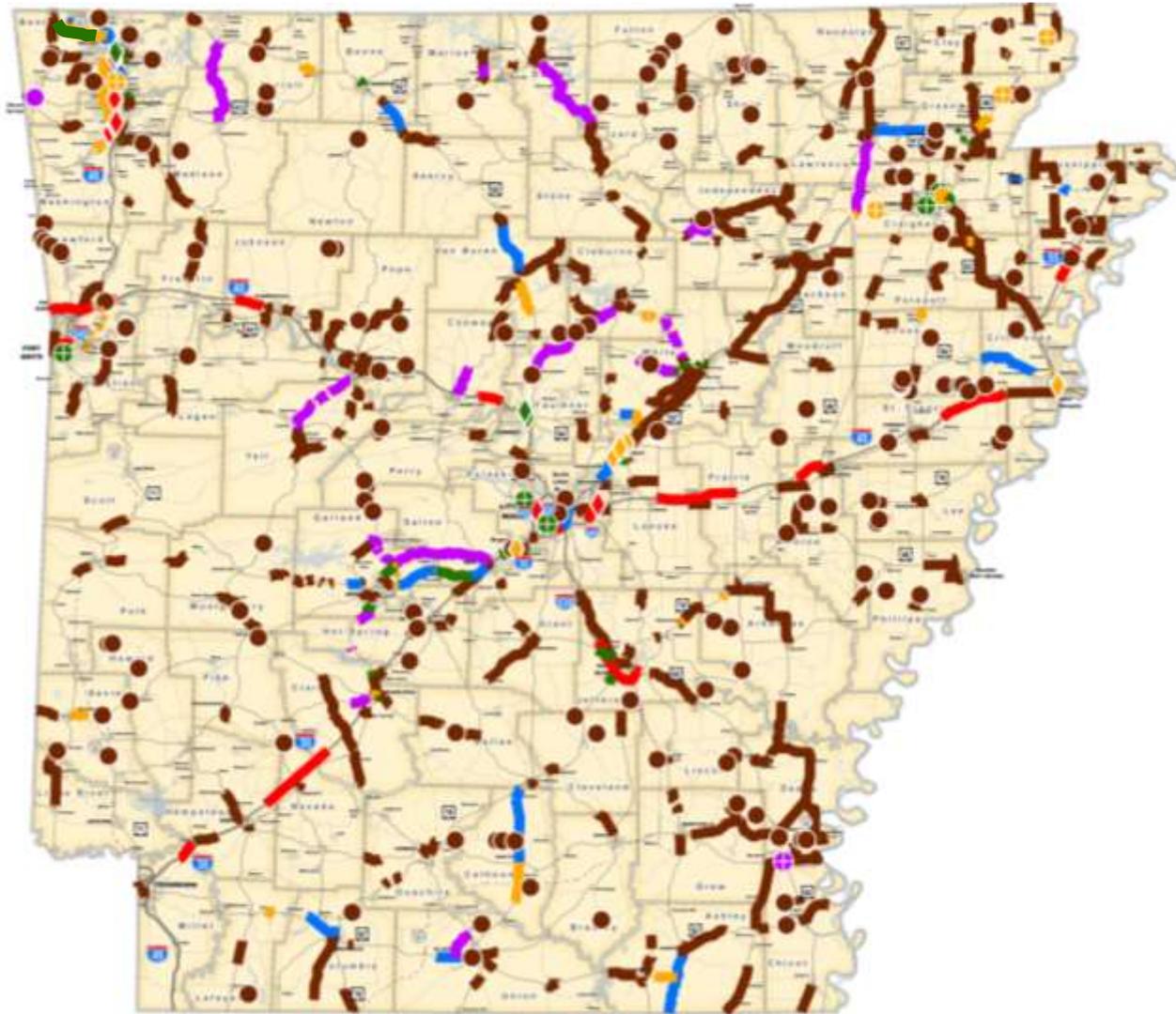


Statewide Transportation Improvement Program for Federal Fiscal Years 2016-2020 (STIP)

- Federal Requirement for Federally Funded and Regionally Significant Transportation and Transit Projects
- 4-Year Minimum
- Required Components:
 - ✓ Demonstration of Financial Constraint
 - ✓ Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Coordination
 - ✓ Public Involvement
 - ✓ Performance Management



Draft 2016-2020 STIP



LEGEND

Job Type

- Bridge
- ◆ Interchange
- ⊕ Intersection
- ▬ Roadway
- New Location

- IRP
- CAP
- Bridge Preservation
- Safety
- Pavement Preservation
- Capital Improvement
- Capacity Improvement



Regional Projects





Interstate 555



Bridge Maintenance and System Preservation

- Selected sections of I-555 from I-55 to Jonesboro
- Just under 39 miles
- Estimated between \$45 and \$50 Million



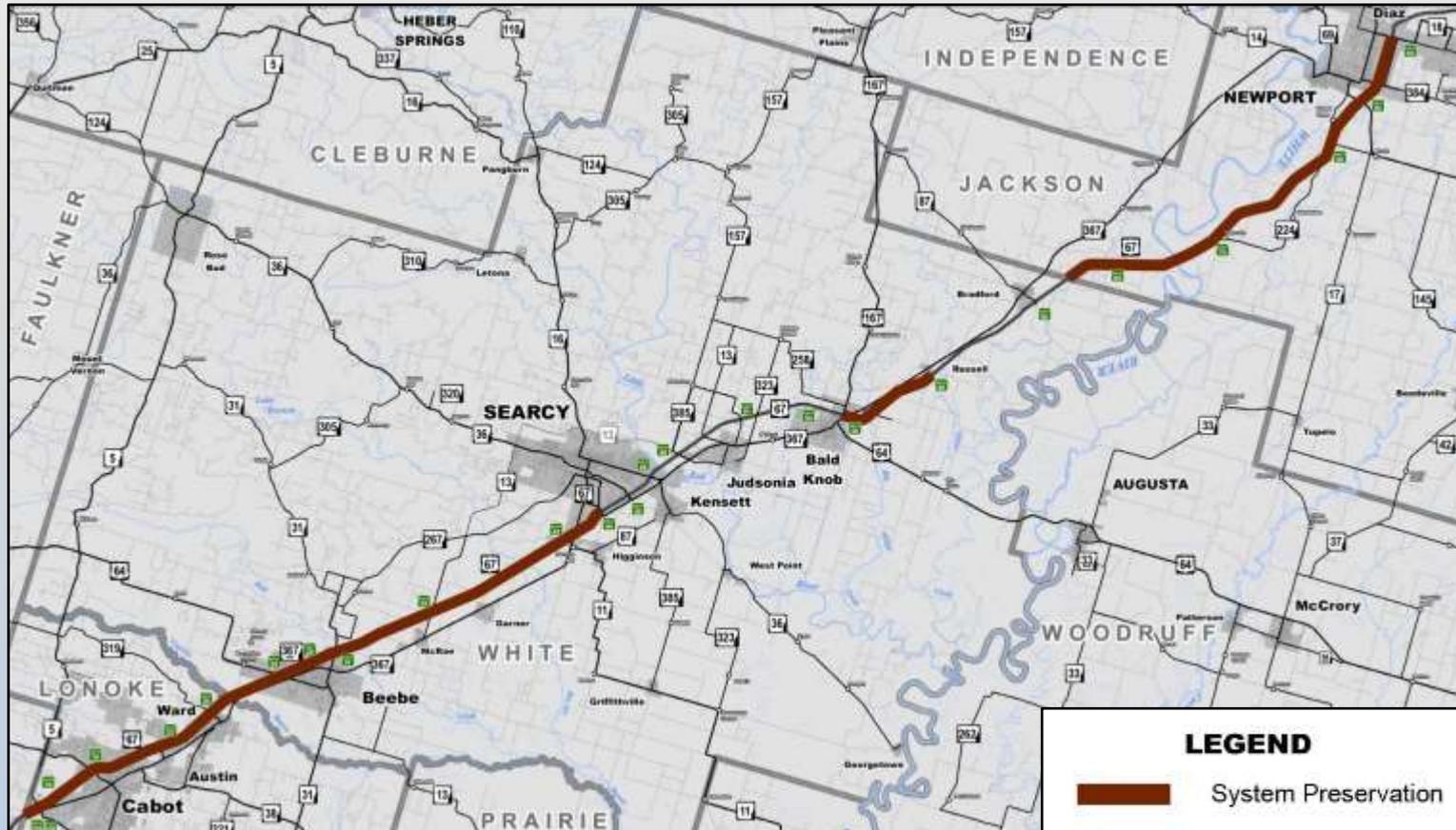


U.S. Highway 67



System Preservation from Cabot to Newport

- Selected sections of U.S. Highway 67 from Cabot to Newport
- Just under 59 miles
- Estimated between \$65 and \$70 Million





State Highway 18



Recently Completed

- 7.1 miles
- \$23 million

Under Construction

- 14.2 miles
- \$45.3 million

Scheduled

- 2.4 miles
- \$35-40 million



Jonesboro & Craighead County



Projects in the Future



State Highway 1-B



Programmed

- 3.1 miles
- \$1.8 million





State Highway 18



Programmed
➤ **\$14.5 million**



LEGEND

Job Type

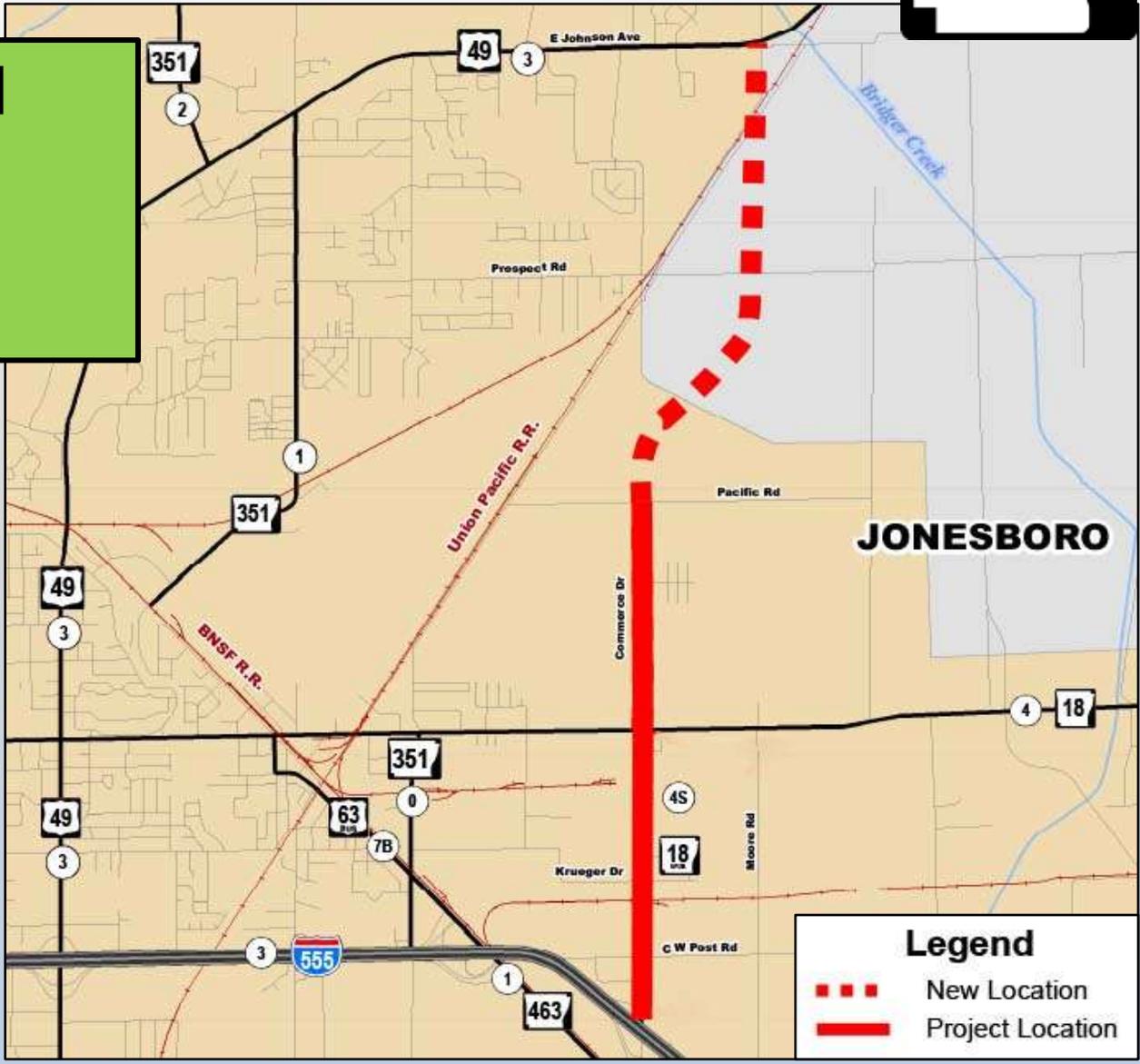
- Overpass
- ⊕ Interchange Impvt.
- Programmed
- Completed

State Highway 18S



Programmed

- 4.34 miles
- \$5-10 million





U.S. Highway 49



Programmed

➤ **\$9 million**



U.S. Highway 49



Programmed

- 1.35 miles
- \$20.4 million





State Highway 351



Programmed

- **0.9 miles**
- **\$14 million**

Legend

 Project Location



Craighead System Preservation



14 Projects

- 32.88 Miles
- \$16.7 Million

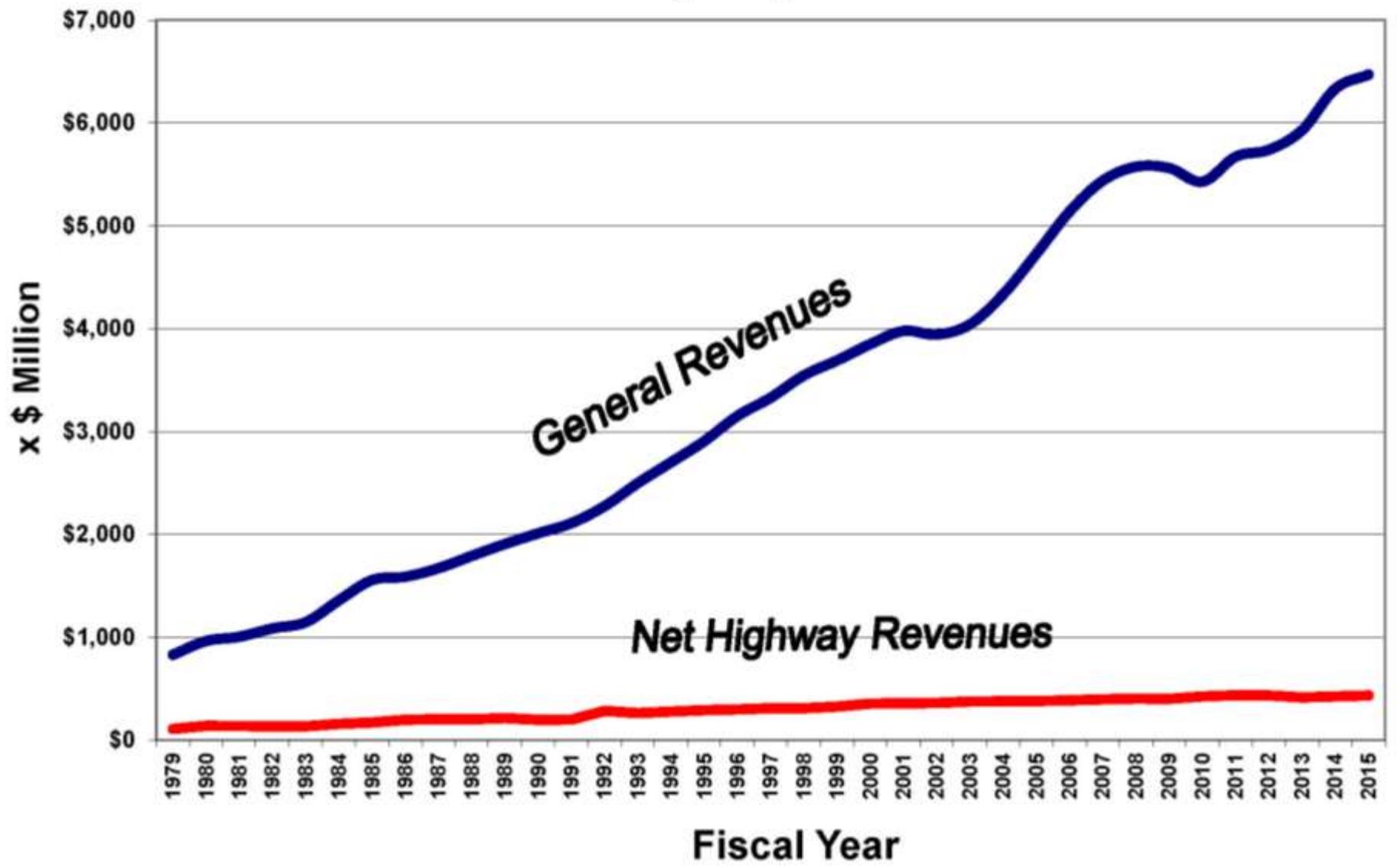


- IRP
- CAP
- Bridge Preservation
- Safety
- Pavement Preservation
- Capital Improvement
- Capacity Improvement

Funding

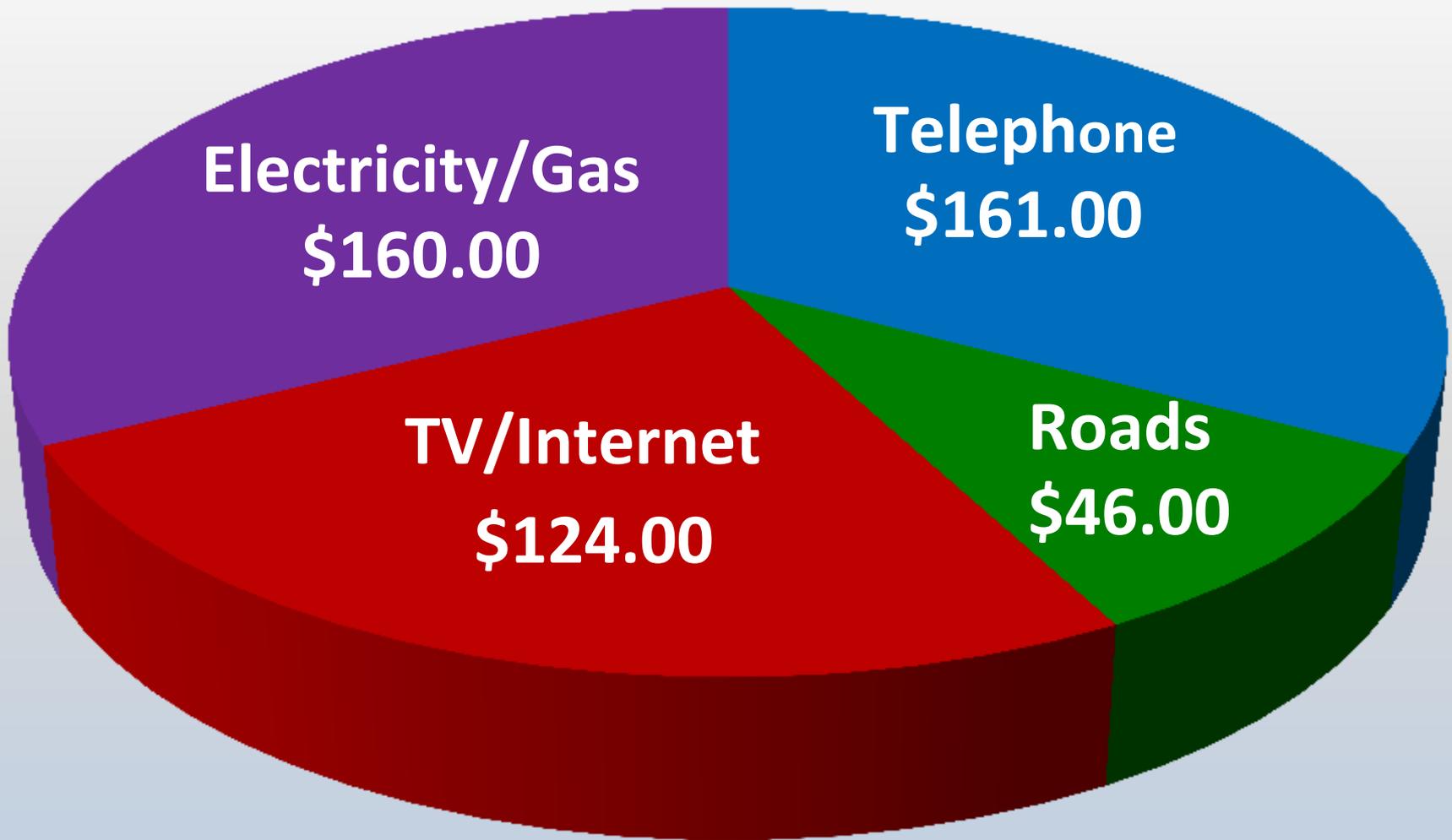


Arkansas State General Revenues vs AHTD Net Highway Revenues





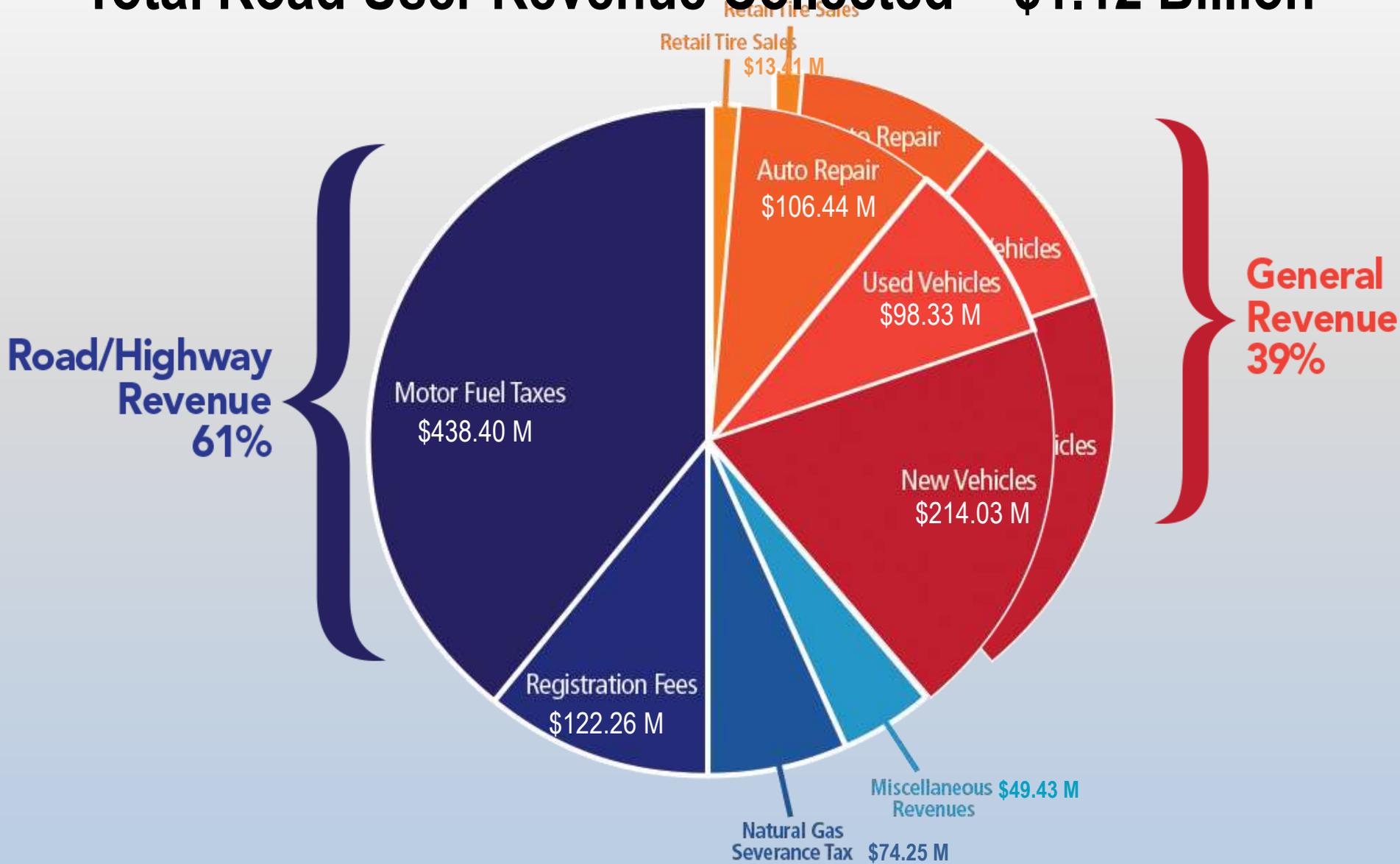
Average Monthly Household Expenditures





2015 Road User Related Tax Revenue

Total Road User Revenue Collected = \$1.12 Billion

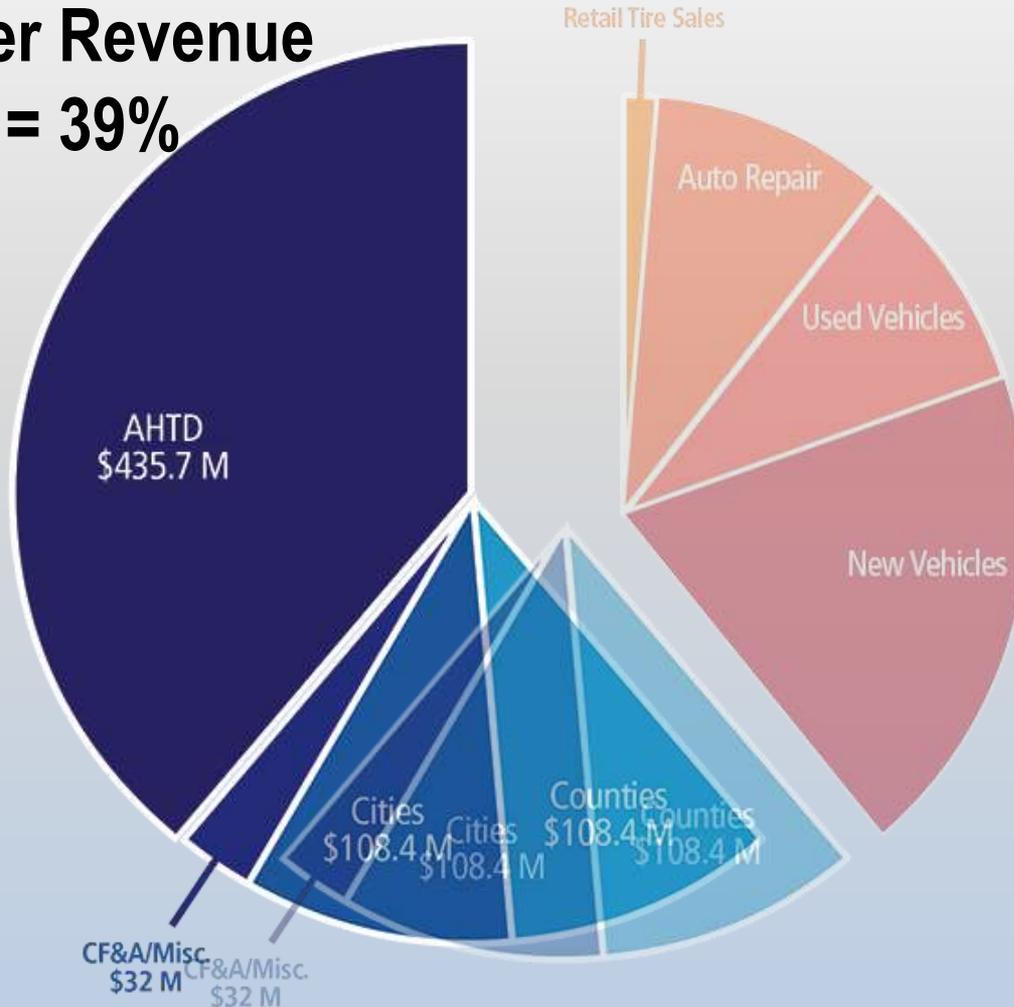




2015 Road User Related Tax Revenue

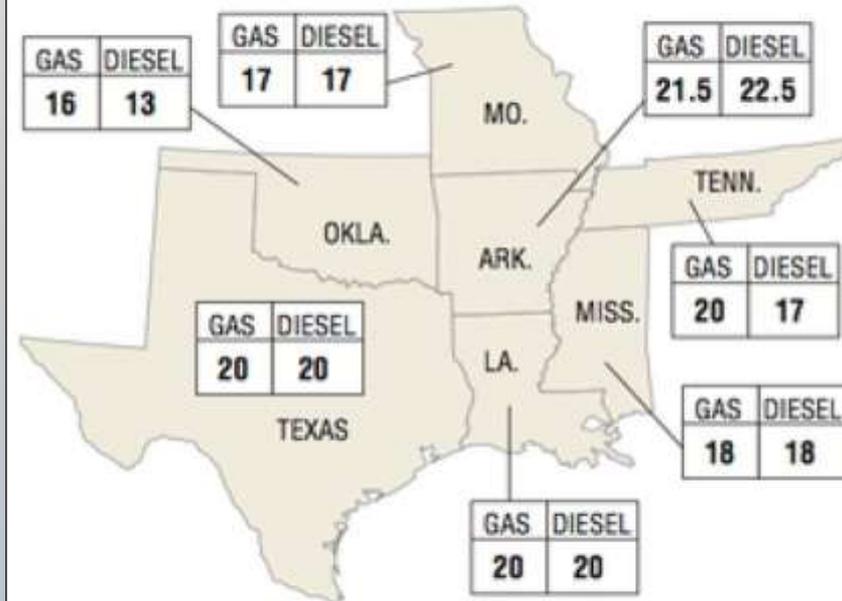
Total Road User Revenue Collected = \$1.12 Billion

**AHTD Road User Revenue
= \$435.7 M = 39%**



Fuel excise taxes

Highway programs are funded in part with revenue from per-gallon excise taxes on gasoline and diesel. Arkansas and surrounding states also use general revenue on highways. This map shows the gasoline and diesel excise taxes per gallon in Arkansas and surrounding states.



FEDERAL EXCISE TAX

Gasoline: 18.4 cents per gallon
 Diesel: 24.4 cents per gallon

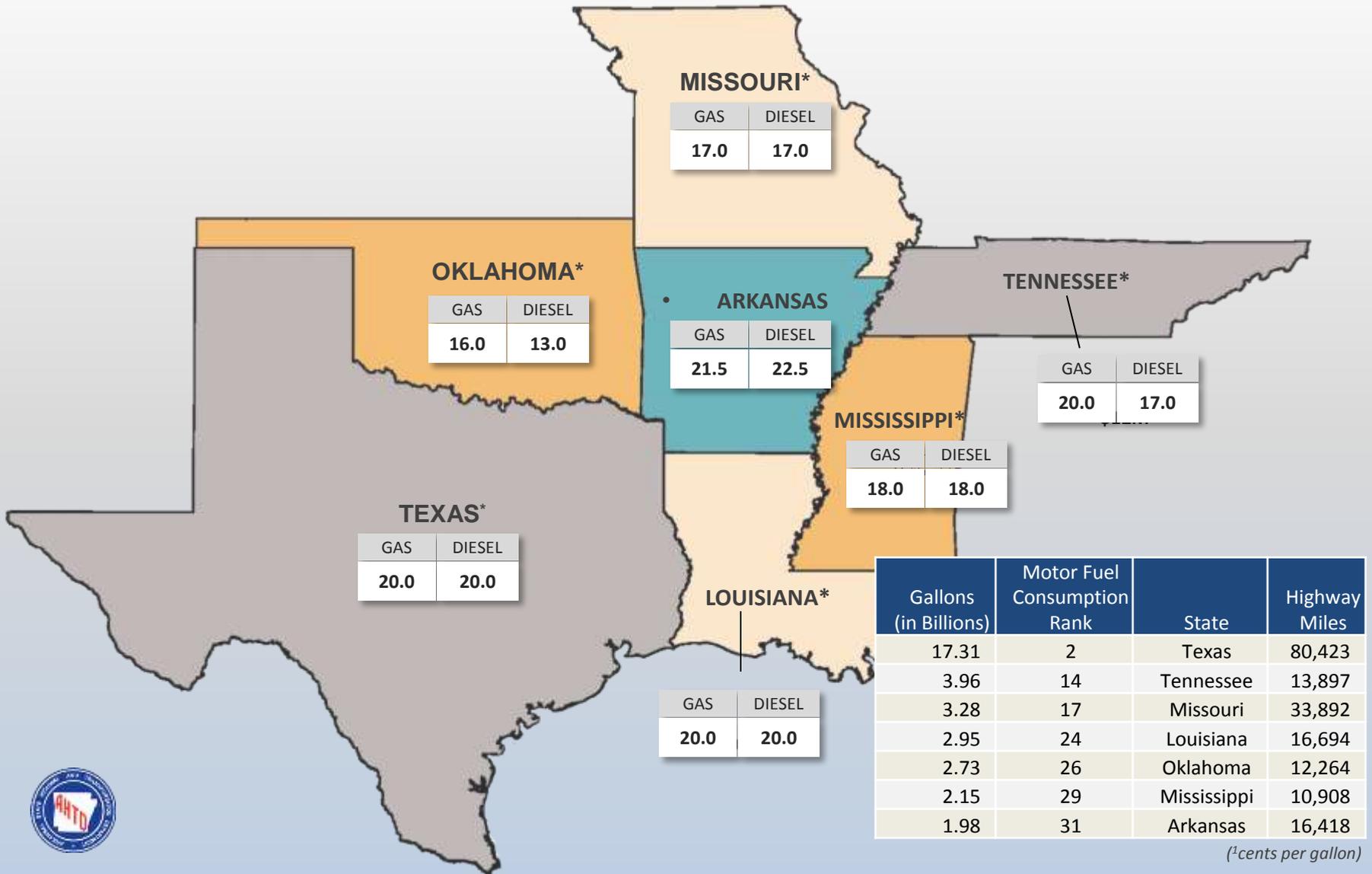
NATIONAL AVERAGE EXCISE TAX

Gasoline: 23 cents per gallon
 Diesel: 24 cents per gallon

SOURCES: Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department, U.S. Energy Information Administration



Funding



*Indicates receipt of revenue from sources other than motor fuel taxes, registration fees, or severance tax. Does not include temporary ½ cent sales tax.



- ArkansasHighways.com
- ConnectingArkansasProgram.com
- Vimeo.com/AHTD
- IDriveArkansas.com
- [Twitter.com @AHTD](https://twitter.com/AHTD)



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Questions?

