

Infrastructure Quick Fact Sheet

It's not news that highway funding is a big issue not only in Arkansas but across the nation. But how can we educate those not involved in the industry? Here are a few facts you can use to help others understand the need for increased highway funding to maintain roads.

1. Maintaining roads makes them safer.
2. Arkansas has the 12th largest highway system in the country, with over 16,400 miles of roads, but ranks 43rd in revenue received to maintain roads.
3. Every dollar spent on infrastructure goes around in the economy 3-5 times – a great investment.
4. Every billion dollars spent creates and maintains approximately 21,000 jobs.
5. A recent independent study from an Arkansas Independent Legislative Audit found that Arkansas needs an additional \$478 million annually just to maintain the roads at an average level, not gold standard.
6. Over 70% of our funding comes from a non-indexed fuel tax; however, the overall goal is to use less fuel, and we are. It has not increased since the 90s.
7. Trump is promoting Public-Private Partnership for future state funding; this is not a good formula for a rural state like Arkansas. We simply do not have enough traffic for tolls and private roads.
8. To make matters worse, we receive over 54% of our funding from the federal government due to declining local money available. In the 90s we only needed 36% to maintain roads. The forecast at this point is for 40% less funding after 2020.
9. 82% of Arkansas roads are in poor or fair condition. Only 18% are considered good.
10. Letting roads deteriorate costs much more than proper maintenance. An overlay costs \$100,000 per mile vs. \$1.5 million per mile for reconstruction.
11. Between 1980 and 2016, highway funding compared to the State's General Revenue has decreased from over 14% to 6% of the General Revenue.
12. If highway funding in Arkansas had remained at 14%, we would have the \$478 million currently needed as found in the recent Independent Legislative Audit.
13. Coming up with enough money to federal matching funds has become very difficult. If we do not have enough money for matching funds, it will be hard to get that money back in the future. We need to have matching money.