

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

EO 15-08

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME -- GREETINGS:

**EXECUTIVE ORDER TO CREATE THE GOVERNOR'S WORKING GROUP
ON HIGHWAY FUNDING**

WHEREAS: *An efficient transportation system is critical for Arkansas's economy and the quality of life of the state's residents. Well-maintained roadways are necessary for economic development in this state; and*

WHEREAS: *The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department along with various independent studies have found and determined that the highways, roads, streets and bridges of this state are in dire need of construction, reconstruction and maintenance; and*

WHEREAS: *The revenues currently available for highways and local roads are inadequate for the preservation and maintenance of the existing infrastructure and for improvements that would reduce congestion and improve service. The tax structure on motor fuel in the state is currently inadequate to meet Arkansas's long-term revenue needs because as motor vehicles become more fuel efficient and alternative sources of fuel are identified the motor fuel tax will steadily generate less revenue. Further, the future of the Federal Highway Trust Fund is uncertain; and*

WHEREAS: *It is in the best interest of the state and its citizens to explore alternative means and strategies to fund the construction, reconstruction and maintenance of our transportation infrastructure;*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, acting under the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Arkansas by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby order the following:

1. *There is hereby created the Governor's Working Group on Highway Funding (the "Working Group"), which shall serve as an investigative and advisory body of the Governor.*
2. *The Working Group shall be composed of twenty (20) members which shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. All members shall be selected by the Governor. The Governor hereby appoints the Budget Director of the Office of the Governor to serve as the chair of the Working Group. The Working Group shall be composed of:*
 - a. *The Director, or designee, of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department;*
 - b. *A member of the Arkansas State Highway Commission;*
 - c. *A member of the House Public Transportation Committee and a member of the Senate Transportation, Technology and Legislative Affairs Committee;*
 - d. *A member of the Joint Budget Committee;*
 - e. *One county wide elected official;*
 - f. *One municipal elected official;*
 - g. *One designee from the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce;*
 - h. *One designee from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission;*
 - i. *One designee from the State Department of Higher Education;*
 - j. *One designee from the Department of Finance & Administration; and*
 - k. *Eight at-large Governor appointees that have knowledge of the transportation and/or finance industries.*

The Governor shall appoint the members. The appointments shall be made within six (6) weeks after the effective date of this Order.

3. The Working Group shall seek to actively involve the public as full and valued partners in determining adequate financing of the present and future needs of the state highways, county roads and city streets within the state.
4. The Working Group shall provide recommendations to the Governor for the state to create a more reliable, modern, and effective system of highway funding by December 15, 2015.
5. This Executive Order shall become effective upon its signing, and shall remain in full force and effect until the Governor announces completion of the Working Group's purpose.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 23rd day of April, in the year of our Lord 2015.


Asa Hutchinson, Governor



Attest:


Mark Martin, Secretary Of State