

Highway Funding 1A & 1B MEH 3/12 (Tues PM & Wed AM)

After getting final legislative approval last week, today (Tues) Governor Asa Hutchinson signed his \$95 million dollar highway plan into law. He was joined by transportation officials for a signing ceremony at the Capitol, calling it unlike any previous plan in the state.

News15 0:14 "...the state's history."

It will raise fuel taxes by 3 cents a gallon for gasoline and 6 cents a gallon on diesel. Hutchinson noted the plan will also raise money from other sources.

News16 0:14 "...and electric cars."

A second part of the highway plan involves letting voters decide whether to permanently extend a half-cent sales tax that would raise just over \$200 million annually for highways. The governor said that will let Arkansans ultimately have the final word on whether they're willing to support highway construction and maintenance.

Highway Funding 2 MEH 3/12 (Tues PM & Wed AM)

A \$95 million dollar highway funding bill, which will raise Arkansas fuel taxes for the first time in 20 years, has been signed into law. At a ceremony today (Tues) at the Capitol, Governor Asa Hutchinson called the plan historic in its breadth, size and what it will accomplish. Fuel taxes will increase by 3 cents a gallon for gasoline and 6 cents a gallon for diesel. Voters will also decide next year whether to make permanent a half-cent sales tax for highways. Hutchinson called it a diverse way to fund construction and maintenance of state roads.

News17 0:26 "...highways in the future."

The law also taps into at least \$36 million in expected revenue from casinos and imposes additional registration fees on electric and hybrid vehicles.