

Counties on Highway Plan CC SKK/NV 02/18/19 MPM/TAM

While Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced a \$300 million plan for the state's highways, that total does not include the additional funding that will be going to cities and counties. From the money raised by both an increase in the existing tax rates for gas and diesel and an extension of the current half-cent sales tax on fuel, 15 percent of that goes to cities, while the other 15 percent goes to counties.

While the extension of the gas tax is reliant on the approval of voters, Chris Villines (vi-LINES), executive director for the Association of Arkansas Counties, believes it will pass again.

AR Counties on Highway CC :13 "...for the state"
"I think it was pretty overwhelming a few years ago that the voters of Arkansas think roads are important, not just for themselves and for their personal driving, but also for the economic development for the state."

According to Villines, the money that will go to each county depends on a formula that takes into account factors like population and mileage of roads, so the split will not be exactly even between counties. While this additional funding will help quite a bit, Villines says it is not enough to pay for all of the repairs the state needs.

AR Counties on Highway CC2 :17 "...those problems"
"We have, I think 800 plus bridges that are structurally deficient or structurally obsolete that need to be repaired and replaced across the state. So it begins to help with those problems, but it will not be enough to fix those problems."

Villines says he hopes the legislation will go through the legislature without any obstacles.