

**Creating awareness among Arkansans
of the many benefits gained from
better roads and bridges.**

Better Roads Mean Safer Travel

Approximately 43,000 people are killed, and 3.5 million injured, in highway crashes each year in the United States. Highway crashes are the leading cause of death of people six to 28 years of age and are the cause of more permanent impairments than any other type of accident. Highway fatalities nationwide have increased by 10 percent since 1992.

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Statistics show that increased investment in road and bridge improvements saves lives. Making road lanes and shoulders wider, adding medians and improving bridges are just a few of the improvements that have been shown to significantly reduce fatalities. Highway safety information on this page is based on data obtained

by The Road Information Program, from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. (NHTSA).

- ✚ Every \$100 million invested in highway safety improvements will result in approximately 145 fewer traffic fatalities over a 10-year period.
- ✚ Approximately 500 people are killed annually in crashes at rail-highway crossings.
- ✚ Approximately 12,000 people are killed annually in traffic crashes involving collisions with a fixed object such as a tree, light or support pole, guardrail, utility pole or curb.

The following are key road and bridge improvements and corresponding fatality rate reductions as evaluated over a 20-year period by FHWA.

Improvements at Intersections	Reduction in Fatality Rate
Sight distance improvements	56 percent
New traffic signals	53 percent
Turning lanes and traffic channelization	47 percent

Bridge Improvements	Reduction in Fatality Rate
New bridge	86 percent
Upgrade bridge rail	75 percent
Widening a bridge	49 percent

Roadway Improvements	Reduction in Fatality Rate
Construct median for traffic separation	73 percent
Realign roadway	66 percent
Groove pavement for skid treatment	33 percent
Widen or improve shoulder	22 percent

Roadside Improvements	Reduction in Fatality Rate
Upgrade median barrier	66 percent
New median barrier	63 percent

