**HISTORY OF I-49**

1991 Arkansas Highway Commission (AHC) adopts the Kansas City, Missouri to Shreveport, Louisiana Feasibility Corridor Study as a guide for improvements within the US 71 Corridor.

1992 AHC, approves planning study for US 71 between McKisic Creek and the Missouri state line.

1995 The Bypass study completed.

2000 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approves the location of the Bypass.

2001 The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) conducts the Arkansas Statewide Preliminary Toll Road Feasibility Study. AHC authorizes design consultant for the bypass. The results of the planning-level assessment for the project indicates that the bypass is feasible for tolling.

2003 Act 296 passed to allow the AHC to be a toll authority and issue bonds for construction of toll projects.

2004 Bella Vista Bypass Traffic, Revenue and Toll Feasibility Study considers the feasibility of constructing the US 71 Bypass using toll financing. Missouri voters approve Amendment 3 for the Smoother, Safer, Sooner program, which allowing funding for the Missouri portion of the Bypass.

2006 The Bypass is included in the MoDOT STIP. The Bypass Toll Study updated with findings from the Bypass Traffic, Revenue and Toll Feasibility Study (2004). ARDOT hires Toll Facility Advisor, Financial Advisor, Toll Counsel, and Bond Counsel.

2007 The Bypass is included in the AHTD 2007-2010 STIP as a toll facility and in the MoDOT STIP. Right-of-way acquisition services begin in Arkansas. Toll Facility Advisor and Financial Advisor reports and in the planning-level assessment for the project indicates that the bypass is feasible for tolling.

2009 Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) Loan Letter of Interest submitted. AHC and Missouri Highway Commission (MHC) conduct joint meeting in Bella Vista to endorse the ARRA TIGER Discretionary Grant application. Draft Bella Vista Bypass Traffic and Revenue Report Submitted. Final environmental documentation is submitted to FHWA.

2010 Notification of Grant Award by USDOT $10,000,000 (Bella Vista Bypass from AR 72 S to AR 72 N).

2011 Construction of TIGER I Project in Arkansas begins.

2012 Arkansas voters pass a 0.5 % sales tax increase (Connecting Arkansas Program).

2014 Tiger I Project substantially complete and open to traffic.

2015 AR 72 N-Co. Rd. 34 completed in Arkansas.

2017 US 71B-AR 72 S completed in Arkansas.

2018 NWARPC receives BUILD Grant $25,000,000 for the remaining MO 4.8 mile gap.

2019 ARDOT awards bids to complete I-49 in AR.

2022 Bella Vista Bypass to open by ARDOT and MODOT, completing I-49 between Fort Smith, Arkansas and Kansas City, Missouri.