

BRUCE WESTERMAN
4TH DISTRICT, ARKANSAS

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0404

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March 31, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for U.S. Highway 82 Improvements in Fiscal Year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Arkansas Department of Transportation/Arkansas State Highway Commission, located at P.O. Box 2261, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72203-2261. The funding would be used to improve a 32.8 mile stretch of U.S. Highway 82 in Ashley, Chicot, Columbia, and Union counties. Specifically, the funding will be used for the following:

1. Union Pacific Railroad Grade Separation in western Columbia County – ArDOT Job #070458. Construct a new railroad overpass about one mile east of the Lafayette County line in Columbia County. Highway 82 passes underneath the railroad tracks and there are significant safety concerns due to low vertical clearance, frequent flooding, and an elevated vehicle crash history. The project will realign the highway and construct the new overpass just south of the existing roadway and track.
2. Cornie Bayou, Harper, and Lapile Creeks Structures and Approaches in Columbia and Union Counties – ArDOT Job #070471. Replacing three, aging, two-lane structures with wider, modern structures. The project will improve safety and accommodate a planned future four-lane widening of the highway.
3. Hamburg to Montrose Widening in Ashley County – ArDOT Jobs #020770, 020676, 020771, 020772, and 020773. This project will widen 20 miles of highway from 2 lanes to 5 lanes from Hamburg to Montrose. This project, when connected with other widening projects already in construction in the 1st Congressional District, will complete the Highway 82 widening from Crossett to the Mississippi state line.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will improve safety, decrease traffic, and ensure that motorists on U.S. Highway 82 can seamlessly travel across Arkansas and into neighboring states, thereby supporting economic growth. In addition, the project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 23 U.S.C. 133(b) to improve a federal highway.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce Westerman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress