

**JONESBORO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
AGREEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING**

BETWEEN

The City of Jonesboro, Arkansas; the City of Brookland, Arkansas; the City of Bono, Arkansas; the City of Bay, Arkansas; the City of Lake City, Arkansas; and the County of Craighead, Arkansas; and the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department and other jurisdictions or agencies that may, in the future, be admitted to this agreement.

RELATIVE TO

The responsibilities and functions of the participating agencies in the maintenance of a continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative transportation planning process under the direction of the Jonesboro Area Transportation Study Policy Committee, which is the forum for transportation policy decision-making for the metropolitan planning area in cooperation with the State of Arkansas.

WHEREAS; it is the desire of the participating agencies that there be a continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative transportation planning process pursuant to Titles 23 and 49 United States Code and Federal policies which is responsive to the needs of the Jonesboro Urbanized Area and to changes in the area; and

WHEREAS; the goal of this planning process is an approved Jonesboro Area Transportation Study Long-range Plan accepted by all participating agencies and formally approved as a plan for implementation; and

WHEREAS; it is understood that this agreement does not transfer any constitutional or legislative authority possessed by the participating agencies.

NOW THEREFORE; it is agreed that the City of Jonesboro, the City of Brookland, the City of Bono, the City of Bay, the City of Lake City, the County of Craighead, and the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department shall be jointly responsible for the operation of the continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative transportation planning process pursuant to the U.S. Department of Transportation regulations and policies and in accordance with United States Code. The Jonesboro Area Transportation Study Policy Committee shall provide policy guidance for the transportation planning process and shall annually approve the Unified Planning Work Program, and documents necessary for certification of the transportation plan, and shall at least bi-annually approve a Transportation Improvement Program. Policy Committee membership shall be comprised of the representatives of the following entities: the City of Jonesboro-3 members; the City of Brookland-1 member; the City of Bono-1 member; the City of Bay-1 member; the City of Lake City-1 member; the County of Craighead-2 members and the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department-2 members; and other local governments that may be included in the future metropolitan area boundary. All member entities shall have membership on the Policy Committee. Except as agreed upon, the Craighead County representatives shall represent the unincorporated areas within the Study Area. The organization, composition, responsibilities, and functions of the Technical Advisory Committee and other committees as appropriate shall be specified in the By-laws of the Jonesboro Area Transportation Study.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that all existing master street plans, areawide road, highway, or transit plans, or any such plans for improvement of transportation facilities within the Jonesboro Area Transportation Study area shall be consistent with the approved Jonesboro Area Transportation Study Long-range Plan.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that the approved Jonesboro Area Transportation Study Long-range Plan will contain appropriate development standards for all types of major transportation facilities which are included in the Plan, and all building permits, right-of-way acquisitions, site acquisitions, utility locations, and easements affecting the Plan will be in accordance with the applicable development standards required by the Plan unless a participating local government grants a variance.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that before any significant proposed changes in the participating agencies' major street or other transportation plans are made, the changes will be submitted to the Jonesboro Area Transportation Study Policy Committee for review and comment. The Policy Committee shall reciprocate by submitting proposed changes in the approved Jonesboro Area Transportation Study Long-range Plan to each agency for review and comment.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that this Agreement and the by-laws can be modified by mutual agreement between the participants and that any action to substantially change the scope of the planning process or boundary of the planning area shall be subject to the approval of the Jonesboro Area Transportation Study Policy Committee.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that the Jonesboro Area Transportation Study Policy Committee shall reaffirm this agreement.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, we, the parties hereto, having been duly authorized to sign the Agreement on behalf of the cooperating participating governments and agencies, officially execute this Agreement this ____ day of _____, 2003.

COOPERATING AGENCIES

Arkansas State Highway and
Transportation Department

City of Jonesboro, AR

By _____
Assistant Chief Engineer – Planning

By _____
Mayor

City of Brookland, AR

Craighead County, AR

By _____
Mayor

By _____
County Judge

City of Bono, AR

City of Bay, AR

By _____
Mayor

By _____
Mayor

City of Lake City, AR

By _____
Mayor