

# The Complexity of Large Infrastructure Projects

*THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT FORT SMITH, JULY 14, 2022*

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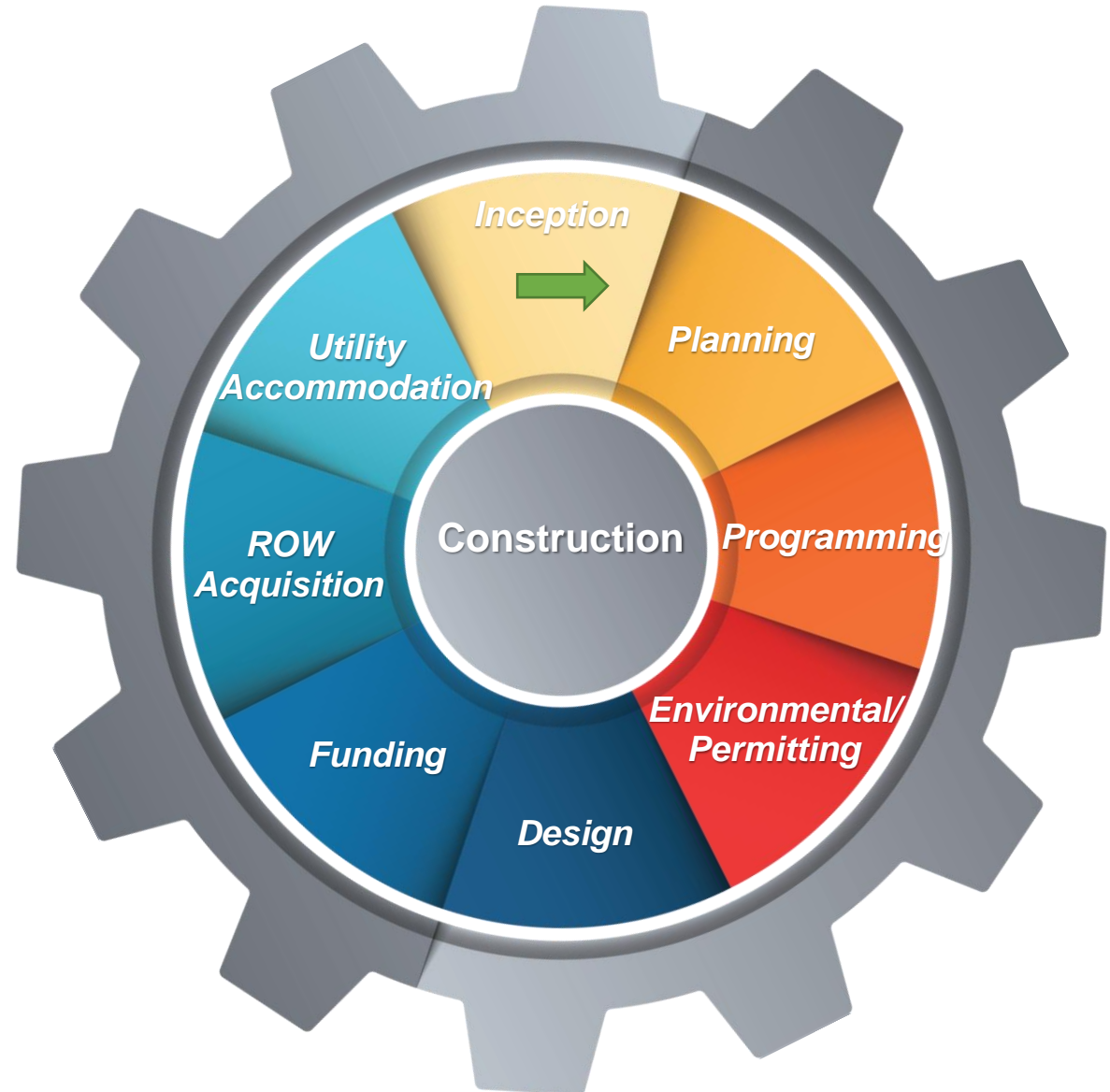


*“The Key to Success is to  
Focus on Goals,  
Not Obstacles”*



## Project Lifecycle

- Planning
  - ✓ Public Involvement
- Programming
- Environmental Handling
  - ✓ Public Involvement
- Design
  - ✓ Public Involvement
- **Funding**
  - ✓ Public Involvement
- Right-of-Way
- Utilities
- Construction



# Status of Improvements





# Remaining

Fort Smith to Texarkana



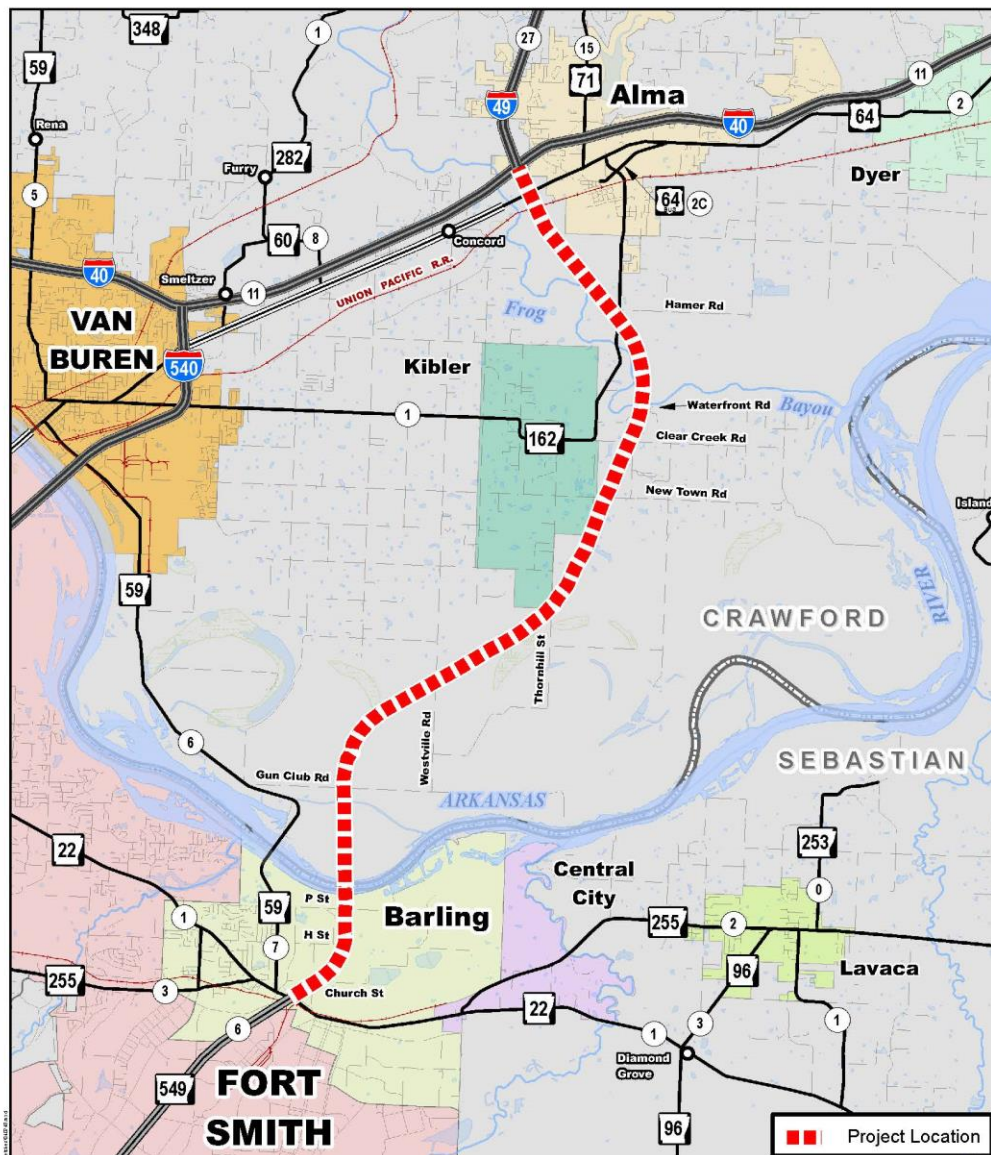


# Major Past Milestones



## Major Past Milestones for Future I-49 from Highway 22 to I-40:

- Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision *December 1997*
- Alternative Delivery and Toll Feasibility Study *Completed November 2018*
- Environmental Re-Evaluation and Preliminary Design *Began Fall 2020*
- Issue #1 Approved by Voters *November 2020*





# March 2022 Public Meeting



- March 17, 2022
- Positive Feedback
- Need for I-49

## PUBLIC MEETING ATTENDANCE



1,000+ views online



300+ total people  
in attendance at the First  
Baptist Church in Alma

33

# comments  
received



## ▪ Regulatory Permitting

- ✓ Springhill Park (Section 4(f))
- ✓ McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System
- ✓ Crawford County Levee District (Section 408)
- ✓ Flowage Easements (Section 408)
- ✓ Waters of the US, including Wetlands (Section 404)

## ▪ Archeological Survey

- ✓ 3+ months of field survey
- ✓ Approximately 600 acres assessed in field

## ▪ Agency Coordination

- ✓ US Army Corps of Engineers
- ✓ US Coast Guard
- ✓ US Fish and Wildlife Service
- ✓ Federal Highway Administration
- ✓ Federal Emergency Management Administration
- ✓ Arkansas Army National Guard



- Arkansas River Crossing
- Minimizing and Mitigating Impacts
- I-40 Interchange





# ROW Acquisition Challenges



- 600 Acres Right-of-Way
- 100 Parcel Acquisitions



- \$10 Million - Environmental and Design
- \$800 Million Plus – ROW and Construction
- Funding Sources:
  - ✓ Issue 1
  - ✓ Federal Funds / State Funds
  - ✓ IIJA Grants
  - ✓ Community Project Funding












# Preliminary Construction Phasing



Segment	Major Work Scope Items
	Clearing and Grubbing <i>(Highway 22 to East H Street)</i>
	River Bridge and Approach Grading/Paving <i>(Highway 22 to Gun Club Road)</i>
	I-40/I-49 Interchange Bridges and Approach Grading/Paving
	Grading, Paving, Grade Separations and Cross Drainage Structures <i>(Gun Club Road to Clear Creek Road)</i>
	Grading, Paving, Grade Separations and Cross Drainage <i>(Clear Creek Road to I-40/I-49 Interchange)</i>



# Slow Down, Phone Down

# Statewide Work Zone Safety Campaign



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**Arkansas**<sup>®</sup>  
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BUCKLE UP FOR SAFETY

