



Inspiration Point Rural Fire Protection District

31 Ozark Automotive Road, Eureka Springs, Arkansas 72632

www.ip-fire.org

FAX: 479-253-7881

In case of EMERGENCY dial 911

Western Carroll County Ambulance District

Mr. Steve Lawrence
District Engineer
Arkansas Highway and Transportation Dept.
P.O. Box 610
Harrison, AR 72602

Date: March 7, 2013

Subject: Hwy 62 West Safety

Mr. Lawrence

We are writing this letter to inform you of a public safety concern in your district, on Hwy 62 west of Eureka Springs, more particularly the section of the highway between Gateway and Eureka Springs. Eureka Springs enjoys a large volume of tourists every year. Many of those tourists are from out of state and travel to Eureka Springs on Hwy 62 west from Rogers AR. Between Rogers and Eureka Springs there are many hills, sharp turns, and very few land marks and road signs. This highway is a well known scenic route for motorists and particularly motorcycle enthusiasts.

Every year there are numerous vehicle accidents on Hwy 62 west. Motorists will call 911 to report the accidents, but not be able to give 911 operators an accurate location, due to the lack of land marks and road signs. It is also difficult for 911 operators to determine in which county the accident occurred, Carroll or Benton. This makes it difficult for 911 operators to dispatch to correct county's emergency responders to get to the accident site in a timely manner.

Inspiration Point Rural Fire Protection District is responsible for responding to incidents covering a considerable part of this section of Hwy 62, between Eureka Springs and the Carroll-Benton County line. Within the last 2 1/2 years, IPRFPD has responded to approximately 90 incidents in this area. In many cases, all we had was a general description of the location of the incident, and we had to search to find it. Several of these accidents were actually in Benton County, but due to poor landmarks and limited signage, IPRFPD has had to respond to these incidents, locate them, and then relay information to Benton County officers and medical personnel. These delays, due to the uncertainty of the accident location, can increase the time it takes to provide care for injured motorists.

In an effort to resolve these delays and associated problems, we are requesting that the highway department install mileage signs that indicate each one tenth (1/10) of a mile between Rogers and Eureka Springs or, at a minimum, from Gateway AR to Eureka Springs. This will facilitate the response

of emergency and law enforcement personnel to the correct location of the accident, and insure that victims reach medical facilities in the minimum amount of time. We are aware that these types of markers are not usually installed on 2 lane U.S. Highways, but this section of highway represents an unusual case.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Ed Thompson
Fire Chief, EMT
Inspiration Point Rural Fire Protection District

Charles Olson
Chairman
Western Carroll County Ambulance District



ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY
AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
DISTRICT NINE

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April 4, 2013

Mr. Ed Thompson, Fire Chief, EMT
Inspiration Point Rural Fire Protection District
Mr. Charles Olson, Chairman
Western Carroll County Ambulance District
31 Ozark Automotive Road
Eureka Springs, AR 72632


Dear Mr. Thompson and Mr. Olson:

Reference is made to your letter dated March 7, 2013, requesting additional log mile signs on Highway 62 between Gateway and Eureka Springs in Benton and Carroll County.

Our Department's Maintenance Division has reviewed your request and unfortunately, we will be unable to install any additional log mile signs. As you stated in your letter, our policies allow this type of signage only on fully controlled access facilities, which are typically numbered continuously along the route. Since the log miles are not numbered continuously, we do not believe this type of signage would be appropriate for this area.

Please be assured that we are also very concerned about the safety of our Highway System and that of the traveling public. If you have any more questions or concerns about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Steve Lawrence
District 9 Engineer
MLA

c: Maintenance Division
AMS
File