

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

June 16, 2017

ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR NO. 2017-07

TO: ALL DIVISION HEADS AND DISTRICT ENGINEERS

We are transmitting herewith for your information and records a copy of the Minutes of the Commission Meeting in Little Rock, AR on June 7, 2017.

After making a careful review of these proceedings, please take appropriate action through designated lines of authority to forward the carrying out of any orders applying to your respective divisions and districts.



Scott E. Bennett  
Director of Highways  
and Transportation

c: Commission

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

June 7, 2017

Following is the record of proceedings of the Arkansas State Highway Commission in Little Rock, Arkansas, June 7, 2017. Members present were:

Dick Trammel, Chairman  
Thomas B. Schueck, Vice Chairman  
Robert S. Moore, Jr., Member  
Alec Farmer, Member  
Philip Taldo, Member

2017-048                   IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be opened at 10:00 a.m., June 7, 2017.

2017-049                   WHEREAS, the Purchasing Committee has awarded purchases on April 13 and 19, 2017, and May 12, 2017, in the amount of \$802,059.00, \$1,105,969.65 and \$305,934.00, respectively, totaling \$2,213,962.65, and supply and service contracts, in accordance with authority previously conveyed, all of which have been documented by official minutes which are of record in the files of the Commission and Equipment and Procurement Division.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the action of the Purchasing Committee be ratified and confirmed in all particulars.

2017-050                   WHEREAS, the Great Arkansas Cleanup is an important anti-litter program which contributes to the appearance of the State's highways; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department spends approximately \$5 million annually to remove litter from State Highways; and

2017-050 - Continued

WHEREAS, the Department's previous contributions to the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Foundation have been helpful in continuing the Great Arkansas Cleanup.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to make a contribution of \$25,000 this year to the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Foundation for use in conducting the Great Arkansas Cleanup Campaign.

2017-051

WHEREAS, the planning and design of highways in Arkansas accounts for future traffic demand and behavior; and

WHEREAS, connected and autonomous vehicle (CAV) technologies are expected to continue to advance within the next 20 years, resulting in changes to travel behavior and vehicle operating capabilities; and

WHEREAS, a need exists to evaluate how CAV technologies will impact traffic operations on the highway system; and

WHEREAS, a pooled fund study has been established to allow participating states to provide input in developing methodologies to estimate how CAV technologies will impact traffic operations as well as provide feedback on priority needs; and

WHEREAS, participation in this pooled fund study will be highly beneficial to the Department.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to participate in this pooled fund effort and enter into the necessary agreements to fulfill the Department's commitment.

2017-052

WHEREAS, the Commission acquired property in fee for the original Clark County Area Headquarters from Mrs. C. E. (Willie) Thompson, surviving spouse of Carter E. Thompson, for the Area Yard Site, Tract known as Clark County Yard Site, at the Junction of Arkansas State Highway 51 and Arkansas State Highway 8, Clark County, Arkansas, by Deed dated May 2, 1961, and filed for record on May 2, 1961, in Book

238 on Page 552 in the real estate records of the office of the Circuit Clerk, Clark County, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the Commission acquired its original property for the Clark County Area Headquarters from Mrs. C. E. (Willie) Thompson for TWO THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$2,000.00); and

WHEREAS, the Commission has converted 5,009 square feet of land to right of way and encumbered a 1,924 square foot portion of the remainder with a Permanent Drainage Easement; and

WHEREAS, Robert G. Thompson, heir to the original owner, has offered to purchase the remaining 78,770 square foot property for ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$120,000.00), and the District Engineer for District 7 has determined that this tract is not now needed, nor in the foreseeable future will be needed for highway purposes. The Clark County Area Headquarters Surplus Tract is more particularly described as follows:

Part of the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 24, Township 7 South, Range 20 West, Clark County, Arkansas, more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at a half inch rebar with cap being used as the Center West Sixteenth corner of Section 24; thence North 02° 02' 36" East along the West line of the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 24 a distance of 637.78 feet to a point on the Southeasterly prescriptive right of way line of Arkansas State Highway 51 as established by Arkansas State Highway Affidavit dated May 23, 2013; thence North 46° 30' 59" East along said right of way line a distance of 160.65 feet to a point; thence South 71° 26' 58" East a distance of 23.98 feet to a point on the Southeasterly right of way line of Arkansas State Highway 51 as established by AHTD Job 070364 for the POINT OF BEGINNING; thence North 45° 52' 28" East along said right of way line a distance of 151.06 feet to a point; thence North 52° 20' 52" East along said right of way line a distance of 88.89 feet to a point; thence South 71° 34' 37" East a distance of 324.16 feet to a point; thence South 18° 31' 02" West a distance of 208.80 feet to a point; thence North 71° 26' 58" West a distance of 443.06

feet to the point of beginning and containing 1.86 acres (80,694 sq. ft.) more or less as shown on plans prepared by the AHTD referenced as Job 070364.

RA 12/6/16

Subject to the following Permanent Drainage Easement:

Part of the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 24, Township 7 South, Range 20 West, Clark County, Arkansas, more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at a half inch rebar with cap being used as the Center West Sixteenth corner of Section 24; thence North 02° 02' 36" East along the West line of the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 24 a distance of 637.78 feet to a point on the Southeasterly prescriptive right of way line of Arkansas State Highway 51 as established by Arkansas State Highway Affidavit dated May 23, 2013; thence North 46° 30' 59" East along said right of way line a distance of 304.72 feet to a point; thence North 47° 42' 05" East along said right of way line a distance of 92.48 feet to a point; thence South 71° 34' 37" East a distance of 156.49 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING; thence continue South 71° 34' 37" East a distance of 61.72 feet to a point; thence South 42° 29' 37" East a distance of 37.16 feet to a point; thence South 47° 30' 23" West a distance of 30.00 feet to a point; thence North 42° 29' 37" West a distance of 91.10 feet to the point of beginning and containing 0.04 acres (1,924 sq. ft.) more or less as shown on plans prepared by the AHTD referenced as Permanent Drainage Easement 67E-2 on Job 070364.

NOW THEREFORE, the above-described property is declared surplus and upon receipt and consideration of the sum of ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$120,000.00) from Robert G. Thompson, the Chairman of the Commission is authorized and directed to execute a Quitclaim Deed conveying the right, title, interest or equity of the above-described property to Robert G. Thompson, a married man; and hereby releasing the same from the State Highway System, that the Right of Way Division is directed and authorized to record a copy of this Minute Order and the Quitclaim Deed in the records of Clark County, Arkansas; and, if necessary, the right of way shall be remonumented to reflect the boundaries designated herein. Any federal funds from this disposal shall be credited to federal funds or otherwise credited as permitted by federal law.

2017-053

WHEREAS, IN DALLAS COUNTY, Job 070291, Saline River-South is complete; and

WHEREAS, the construction bypassed portions of Highway 48, Sections 1 and 1Y.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that upon official notification by the Deputy Director and Chief Engineer, the following changes are hereby made to the State Highway System as shown on the attached sketch.

- The obliterated portions of Highway 48, Sections 1 and 1Y bypassed by Job 070291 are hereby removed from the State Highway System.
- The newly constructed portion of roadway built by Job 070291 is hereby added to the State Highway System as a part of Highway 48, Section 1.

2017-054

WHEREAS, IN WHITE COUNTY, IN THE CITY OF KENSETT, the at-grade railroad crossings of Dandridge Street and Dr. M.L. King Drive have been identified as having high Hazard Ratings; and

WHEREAS, Minute Order 2016-006 authorized the Director to upgrade the flashing lights and install gates at Dandridge Street, and to install flashing lights and gates at Dr. M.L. King Drive; and

WHEREAS, cost estimates for this work received from the Union Pacific Railroad indicate these improvements can only be made if the grade crossing circuitry at two adjacent crossings, Searcy Street and Highway 36, is upgraded; and

WHEREAS, Federal-aid Rail-Highway Crossing Safety funds are eligible for these improvements.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to establish one Kensett railroad corridor project to improve the two previously authorized crossings and to upgrade the circuitry at the two adjacent crossings as funds become available subject to the following conditions:

2017-054 - Continued

- Maintenance of the signals and surfaces shall be performed by the Railroad Company at no cost to the state.
- No additional right-of-way shall be needed.

2017-055

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway Commission will accept bids on the following projects at the July 19, 2017 letting; and

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
110661	01	CRITTENDEN	I-40 – NORTH (HWY. 77) (S)	77	Y
BB0203	02	JEFFERSON	HWY. 65B – HWY. 65 (F)	530	Y
020647	02	JEFFERSON	BRYANT ST. – CONVENTION CENTER DR. (PINE BLUFF) (S)	65B	Y
040749	04	FRANKLIN	I-40 SLIDE REPAIR (OZARK) (S)	40	Y
050369	05	FULTON	IZARD CO. LINE – HWY. 62 (S)	9	Y
050376	05	CLEBURNE	HWY. 25 – HWY. 225 (QUITMAN) (S)	356	N
050381	05	FULTON	HWY. 289 – WEST (S)	62	Y
050386	05	INDEPENDENCE	HWY. 14 – NORTH (S)	122	N
061434	06	PULASKI	MILITARY RD. RR SIG. UPGRADE & TRAFFIC SIG. (NLR) (S)	---	-
CA0702	07	CALHOUN	HAMPTON – HWY. 274 (WIDENING) (S)	167	Y
080548	08	PERRY	NEW DIXIE – SWEET HOME (S)	60	Y
080555	08	JOHNSON	FRANKLIN CO. LINE – COAL HILL (SEL. SEC.) (S)	64	Y
080559	08	YELL	DALE BEND RD. – REDBUD LN. (OLA) (SEL. SECS.) (S)	10	Y
090492	09	BENTON	HWYS. 94 & 264 (SEL. SECS.) (S)	94 & 264	Y
090501	09	NEWTON	HWY. 7 SLIDE REPAIR (NEWTON CO.) (S)	7	Y
100915	10	GREENE	CRAIGHEAD CO. LINE – NORTH (S)	135	Y
100916	10	CLAY	HWY. 90 – NORTH (S)	139	N
100921	10	POINSETT	HWY. 14 – HWY. 214 (S)	163	N

2017-055 - Continued

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
100922	10	MISSISSIPPI	HWY. 136 – EAST (S)	140	Y
100928	10	POINSETT	HWY. 140 NORTH & SOUTH (LEPANTO) (S)	135	Y
100938	10	CRAIGHEAD	JONESBORO CITY LIMITS – HWY. 63 (JONESBORO) (S)	226	Y
012287	05 & 01	WHITE, WOODRUFF & CROSS	HWY. 367 – CRITTENDEN CO. LINE (S)	64	Y
012289	04 & 09	FRANKLIN & MADISON	HWY. 23 SLIDE REPAIR (FRANKLIN & MADISON COS.) (S)	23	Y
C04011	09	BENTON	LITTLE FLOCK RUSTIC DR. OVERLAY & SURF. (SEL. SEC.) (S)	---	-
C12003	05	CLEBURNE	HEBER SPRINGS OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C16005	10	CRAIGHEAD	CASH OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C17006	04	CRAWFORD	ALMA & KIBLER OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C18007	01	CRITTENDEN	CLARKEDALE CLARKDALE RD. OVERLAY (SEL. SEC.) (S)	---	-
C28003	10	GREENE	OAK GROVE HEIGHTS OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C34005	05	JACKSON	JACKSONPORT & TUCKERMAN OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C54002	01	PHILLIPS	MARVELL QUARLES ST. OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C69002	05	STONE	FIFTY-SIX SURFACING (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C71002	08	VAN BUREN	SHIRLEY OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C76039	10	CRAIGHEAD & POINSETT	BLACK OAK, LEPANTO & TYRONZA OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C76040	06	GARLAND & HOT SPRING	LONSDALE & ROCKPORT OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
GF5110	05	STONE	HWY. 14 – NORTHEAST (OVERLAY) (S)	---	-
SA0358	09	BAXTER	HWY. 201 – EAST (OVERLAY) (S)	---	-
SA0558	09	BOONE	BOONE COUNTY SURFACING NO. 9 (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA1839	01	CRITTENDEN	CRITTENDEN CO. OVERLAY NO. 3 (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA1935	01	CROSS	CO. RD. 73 SURFACING (SEL. SEC.) (S)	---	-



2017-055 - Continued

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
SA2133	02	DESHA	DESHA COUNTY OVERLAY (S)	---	-
SA2544	05	FULTON	BYRON – WEST (OVERLAY) (S)	---	-
SA3458	05	JACKSON	HWY. 367 – CO. RD. 311 (OVERLAY) (S)	---	-
SA4343	06	LONOKE	HWY. 5 – HWY. 319 (OVERLAY) (S)	---	-
SA4835	01	MONROE	HWY. 49 – WEST (OVERLAY) (S)	---	-
SA5026	03	NEVADA	NEVADA CO. OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA5643	10	POINSETT	POINSETT CO. SURFACING (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA5859	08	POPE	POPE CO. OVERLAY NO. 2 (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA6049	06	PULASKI	PULASKI CO. SURFACING NO. 10 (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA6254	06	SALINE	SALINE CO. OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA6440	09	SEARCY	SEARCY CO. PAVEMENT MARKINGS (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA6942	05	STONE	STONE CO. OVERLAY & SURFACING (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA7297	04	WASHINGTON	HWY. 265 – SOUTH (SEL. SEC.) (BASE) (S)	---	-
SA7392	05	WHITE	HWY. 87 – WEST OVERLAY (S)	---	-
SA7631	08 & 05	VAN BUREN & STONE	HWY. 110 – SOUTH (OVERLAY) (S)	---	-

WHEREAS, a thorough bid review and analysis is undertaken by the Department to ensure that only those projects are awarded which are judged to be in the best interests of the State; and

WHEREAS, the right is retained to reject any or all proposals, to waive technicalities, or to advertise for new proposals, also as judged to be in the best public interests of the State; and

WHEREAS, the Commission desires to expedite work on these important projects; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Amendment 42 of the Arkansas Constitution, Section 6, as well as other laws of this State, the Commission has the authority to delegate certain powers to the Director of Highways and Transportation.

NOW THEREFORE, upon the contractors furnishing the necessary performance and payment bonds and submitting all additional information required for the above mentioned projects, the Director is hereby authorized to enter into contracts and supplemental agreements for any projects deemed to be in the best interests of the State.

FURTHERMORE, the Director is authorized to reject any or all proposals, to waive technicalities, and/or to advertise for new proposals whenever deemed to be in the best interests of the State.

MOTION Commissioner Philip Taldo moved, Commissioner Robert Moore seconded and the motion passed to approve the Minutes from the previous Commission Meetings of March 6, 2017, and April 26, 2017.

MOTION Commissioner Robert Moore moved, Vice Chairman Tom Schueck seconded and the motion passed unanimously to adopt the new Mission Statement presented by the Staff - ***Provide safe and efficient transportation solutions to support Arkansas' economy and enhance the quality of life for generations to come.***

MOTION Vice Chairman Tom Schueck moved, Commissioner Robert Moore seconded and the motion passed unanimously to approve the 2017-2018 Operating Budget, including funds for a 1% Cost of Living Raise and Career Service Recognition Payments, as presented by Department Staff.

MOTION Vice Chairman Tom Schueck moved and Commissioner Robert Moore seconded a motion to pursue a ballot measure for a highway program for the November 2018 election. The motion passed unanimously. It was clarified that this action includes evaluating both an Initiated Act and a Constitutional Amendment.

MOTION                   The Commission approved Minute Order 2016-092 on September 14, 2016, to authorize the Department to advertise for consultant services for Future Interstate 49 Alternative Delivery Study. Commissioner Philip Taldo moved, Commissioner Robert Moore seconded and the motion passed unanimously to accept the Staff's recommendation to enter into negotiations with the firm of HNTB Corporation of Plano, Texas.

MOTION                   The Commission approved Minute Order 2016-100 on October 19, 2016, to authorize the Department staff to advertise for consultant services for Transportation Asset Management Plan (TAMP). Commissioner Alec Farmer moved, Commissioner Philip Taldo seconded and the motion passed unanimously to accept the Staff's recommendation to enter into negotiations with the firm of Spy Pond Partners, LLC of Arlington, Massachusetts.

MOTION                   Vice Chairman Tom Schueck moved, Commissioner Robert Moore seconded and the motion passed unanimously to have the Department conduct a study of the Bella Vista Bypass designating it as a State Scenic Byway.

MOTION                   Commissioner Philip Taldo moved, Vice Chairman Tom Schueck seconded and the motion passed unanimously to expunge the Motion, in its entirety, passed on April 26, 2017, allocating Commission flexible funding for Pavement Preservation and for Congestion Relief and/or Capital Improvements.

MOTION                   Commissioner Alec Farmer moved, Vice Chairman Tom Schueck seconded and the motion passed unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 2:10 p.m. to discuss the Director's annual performance evaluation.

MOTION                   Vice Chairman Tom Schueck moved, Alec Farmer seconded and the motion passed to reconvene at 2:55 p.m. Chairman Trammel stated that Director Bennett's review was satisfactory and the Commission was very satisfied.

## OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Robert Phelps, Executive Director of the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission, made a presentation on the "2017 Great Arkansas Cleanup" and on the litter control activities of KArB. KArB requested that the Highway Commission consider a contribution to the "2017 Great Arkansas Cleanup" as has been provided in past years. The adoption of a Minute Order authorizing contribution to the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Foundation was approved.

Director Bennett presented Robert Phelps with a Proclamation for his upcoming retirement. The members of the Arkansas State Highway Commission and the Director of the Department appointed Mr. Phelps a "Goodwill Ambassador" for the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, and thanked Mr. Phelps for his years of public service to Arkansas and recognized his tireless efforts and contributions over the past 19 years to keeping Arkansas beautiful.

Steve Thweatt, Chairman of the Arkansas Asphalt Pavement Association, presented the Department with the 2016 Perpetual Pavement Award. The award celebrates long-life asphalt pavements that reflect the characteristics of a Perpetual Pavement design. The 2016 winners included AHTD for a 2-mile stretch of U.S. Highway 167 in Sharp County between Cave City and Ash Flat. This is the seventh Perpetual Pavement award for AHTD.

Director Bennett gave an update on AHTD's (ARDOT's) Strategic Plan Development for 2017-2022, including the Department's Mission Statement, Vision Statement, Core Values, and Strategic Goals. A motion was passed to adopt the new Mission Statement.

Director Bennett provided the latest information on the Federal highway and transit funding issues. Director Bennett noted that the passage of the FAST Act, passed in December 2015, provided increased funding over its five year term. After three Continuing Resolutions, Congress was able to pass a budget for Federal Fiscal Year 2017. The budget will provide full funding for the FAST Act until September 30,

## Discussion Item - Continued

2017. On May 23, 2017, President Trump released his full budget proposal for Federal Fiscal Year 2018 entitled "The New Foundation for American Greatness". This budget would provide full funding for the FAST Act in Federal Fiscal Year 2018. However, beginning in Federal Fiscal Year 2021, funding would be limited to revenue that is deposited into the Highway Trust Fund. This would result in a 40% reduction in the Federal-aid Highway Program.

In closing, Director Bennett stated that not only are there questions regarding future Federal-aid funding, but the source of dependable long-term State revenue to provide the match for Federal-aid funds beyond 2017 and the additional State revenue needed to adequately maintain and improve Arkansas' transportation system have not been identified.

Mike Boyd, Chief Fiscal Officer, provided the April 2017 update on state highway revenue. Mr. Boyd noted that state highway revenues to the Department from traditional sources are up a total of 0.7% (\$2.2 million) in the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2017 compared to the same period for SFY 2016. With the revenue from the Natural Gas Severance Tax coming in higher for this year compared to last year, total revenues available are 1.0% (\$3.4 million) higher for this year. Actual state revenue received is 4.9% (\$15.7 million) above projected (budgeted) revenue for this year.

In closing, Mr. Boyd stated that April revenue from the 0.5% General Sales Tax for the Connecting Arkansas Program was 2.03% lower, (\$300,232) than projected by the Department of Finance and Administration (DF&A). Current Fiscal Year to date revenues are below the forecast by 2.1% (\$3.1 million). Since inception this revenue source is 0.47%, or \$3.0 million, under DF&A's projections.

Director Bennett presented the proposed Operating Budget for 2017-2018. In summary, the budget for SFY 2018 (July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018) is increased \$9.2 million or 2.5%. A motion was passed approving the proposed budget.

Director Bennett gave an update on the status of the 2011 Interstate Rehabilitation Program (IRP) and Connecting Arkansas Program (CAP). The 2011 Interstate Rehabilitation Program was approved by Arkansas voters in November 2011. Under this program, the Commission has the authority to issue up to \$575 million in GARVEE bonds for Interstate rehabilitation. Three series of bonds have been issued. The first was sold in September 2012 at a par value of \$197 million (true interest cost of 1.6%) with a premium of \$33 million (total of \$230 million available for construction). The second was sold in October 2013 at a par value of \$172 million (true interest cost of 2.2%) with a premium of \$29 million (total of \$201 million available for construction). The third was sold in November 2014 at a par value of \$206 million (true interest cost of 2.1%) with a premium of \$37 million (total of \$243 million available for construction).

The Connecting Arkansas Program was approved by Arkansas voters in November 2012. Under this program, the Commission has the authority to issue up to \$1.3 billion in revenue bonds for four-lane highway construction. The first series of bonds was sold in September 2013 at a par value of \$469 million (true interest cost of 3.1%) with a premium of \$25 million (total of \$494 million available for construction). No other bond sales under this program are expected.

Director Bennett gave a brief presentation of transportation news and information on current transportation related topics of high interest or significant impact around the nation which included 2017 Transportation Funding Related Bills from 28 states.

Director Bennett presented a summary of the apparent low bids and bidders from the May 31, 2017, Bid Lettings.


Director Bennett presented a list of upcoming meetings and events that the Commissioners and Director will be attending.

Director Bennett presented a summary of highway needs from around the state with the point being made that the Department does not have enough funding to take care of the entire highway system.

2017-056

IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be closed at 3:10 p.m., June 7, 2017.

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true record of the proceedings taken by the Arkansas Highway Commission at its meeting on June 7, 2017.

  
Lindy H. Williams  
Commission Secretary