

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

June 19, 2014

ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR NO. 2014-08

TO: ALL DIVISION HEADS AND DISTRICT ENGINEERS

We are transmitting herewith for your information and records a copy of the Minutes of the Commission Meetings in Little Rock, AR on June 4, 2014.

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 4, 2014

Following is the record of proceedings of the Arkansas State Highway Commission in Little Rock, Arkansas, June 4, 2014. Members present were:

John Ed Regenold, Chairman  
Dick Trammel, Vice Chairman  
Thomas B. Schueck, Member  
Robert S. Moore, Jr., Member  
Frank D. Scott, Jr., Member

2014-058                   IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be opened at 10:30 a.m., June 4, 2014.

2014-059                   WHEREAS, the Purchasing Committee has awarded purchases on April 8, 21 and 30, 2014, and May 6, 12 and 20, 2014, in the amount of \$514,703.00, \$308,493.00, \$1,637,954.06, \$180,998.00, \$2,261,574.07, and \$892,555.40, respectively, totaling \$5,796,277.53, 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.

2014-060                   WHEREAS, the Department utilizes automated planning, design, proposal management, letting and bid management, and construction pay estimate management systems to provide technical support in the development of highway projects; and

WHEREAS, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' AASHTOWare software products provide the needed systems required by the Department.

2014-060 - Continued

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to enter into the annual licensing agreement for the AASHTOWare products.

2014-061 WHEREAS, the Department has owned and operated a 1979 Cessna 206 aircraft for aerial photography for the past 35 years; and

WHEREAS, this aircraft is flown exclusively for the location selection and the design of highways all across the state; and

WHEREAS, the aircraft has accumulated more than 4,440 hours of flight time and is in some need of repair and updating; and

WHEREAS, an evaluation has been made and it has been determined that upgrading the aerial photography aircraft to a 2010 model year or newer will be advantageous to the Department for years to come.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to seek a replacement Cessna 206 for the existing aircraft and advise the Commission on the purchase of the newer model aircraft and the sale of the existing one.

2014-062 WHEREAS, the Evaluation of Low Cost Safety Improvements Pooled Fund Study (ELCSI-PFS) is being conducted and supported by the Federal Highway Administration; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the study is to provide reliable crash modification factors for evaluating low cost safety improvements; and

WHEREAS, the completed study will serve as a resource for the Highway Safety Manual (HSM) and other technical publications; and

WHEREAS, member states provide technical feedback on priority safety improvement evaluations for the study; and

WHEREAS, participation in this pooled fund study is highly beneficial to the Department's safety program.

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

2014-063

WHEREAS, Act 1176 of 2013 enacted a 15% registration fee increase on certain commercial vehicles registered under the International Registration Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Act provides for the first \$2 million collected under the fee increase each year to be set aside for a Commercial Truck Safety and Education Fund; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this program is to advance state interests in roadway safety by improving the safety of the commercial truck industry through cooperative public-private programs that focus on increased enforcement, regulatory compliance, industry training, and educational programs to ensure the safe movement of goods on Arkansas' roadways.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to implement the Arkansas Commercial Truck Safety and Education Program as follows:

- Eligible recipients of funds will include public and private, not-for-profit entities;
- Eligible projects or programs will advance commercial truck safety, enforcement, regulatory compliance, industry training, and/or educational programs in Arkansas;
- Proposals for projects or programs will be solicited at least biennially;
- A review committee will be established to include the Chief and the Major of the Arkansas Highway Police Division of the Department, the Department's Assistant Chief Engineer for Planning, the President of the Arkansas Trucking Association or his/her designee, and one representative of the trucking industry to be appointed by the Director; and

2014-063 - Continued

- The review committee will review and evaluate proposals and recommend the award of funding to the Director for presentation, consideration, and approval by the Commission.

2014-064

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway Commission (Commission) acquired property known as Tract No. 5XR in fee from Grantors, Carroll David Kellum and his wife, Kathy J. Kellum, by warranty deed filed for record on November 17, 2010, in the Circuit Clerk's office of Drew County, Arkansas in connection with Job No. 020471, Highway 425 – Highway 278 East, Monticello Bypass, Drew County, Arkansas;

WHEREAS, the above named Grantors assigned their rights to re-acquire Tract No. 5XR to Christie Daniels, on December 22, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Christie Daniels has asked to repurchase Tract No. 5XR which the District Engineer for District 2 has determined is not now, nor in the foreseeable future will be, needed for highway purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Commission acquired Tract No. 5XR for FIFTY-TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$52,500.00), which the tract is more particularly described as follows:

Job No. 020471, Tract No. 5XR

Part of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 4, Township 13 South, Range 6 West, Drew County, Arkansas, more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at a 1 inch Pipe being used as the Center East Sixteenth Corner of Section 4; thence South 89°43'36" East along the North line of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 4 a distance of 673.85 feet to a point on the Southeasterly right of way line of Interstate Highway 69 as established by AHTD Job 020471 for the POINT OF BEGINNING; thence continue South 89°43'36" East along the North line of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 4 a distance of 217.75 feet to a point; thence South 05°21'50" East a distance of 283.53

feet to a ½ inch rebar; thence North 68°43'39" West a distance of 216.46 feet to a ½ inch pipe; thence South 00°44'32" East a distance of 395.91 feet to a point on the Northwesterly right of way line of Arkansas State Highway 35 as established by AHTD Job 020471; thence North 67°24'55" West along said right of way line a distance of 144.90 feet to a point; thence North 53°32'30" West along said right of way line a distance of 73.70 feet to a point on the Southerly right of way line of Interstate Highway 69 as established by AHTD Job 020471; thence North 23°01'16" East along said right of way line a distance of 267.17 feet to a point; thence North 09°06'17" East along said right of way line a distance of 258.59 feet to the point of beginning and containing 2.44 acres, more or less, (106,187 square feet, more or less) as shown on plans prepared by the AHTD referenced as Job 020471.

RA 10/26/10 RS REV. 11-29-12

WHEREAS, the property has no access to a public road as all access is controlled. There has been some water damage to the structure as it has been vacant for more than three years. In November, 2012, after the Commission's 2010 acquisition for Job No. 020471, a revision was made by the AHTD, reducing the Tract No. 5XR by 83 square foot, more or less. The current fair market value of Tract 5XR is less than the 2010 appraised value; therefore, the FHWA has approved a request to dispose of the property at current market value, in accordance with departmental policy.

WHEREAS, Christie Daniels has requested that the Commission convey Tract No. 5XR for Job No. 020471, by Quitclaim Deed. In accordance with Ark. Code Ann. §27-67-322(c)(3), three certified or licensed appraisers have made a determination that the current market value of said tract is FORTY-FOUR THOUSAND AND NO/100 (\$44,000.00). The Section Head of Appraisal in the Right of Way Division, a qualified appraiser, has specifically opined that this reduction in the sum of EIGHT THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$8,500.00) from the acquired purchase price is acceptable.

NOW THEREFORE, the above-described property is declared surplus for highway purposes and upon receipt and consideration the sum of FORTY-FOUR THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$44,000.00) from Christie Daniels, the Chairman of the Commission is authorized and directed to execute a Quitclaim Deed conveying Tract No. 5XR, Job No. 020471 to Christie Daniels, as reflected on the Right of Way Maps as Exhibit "A" which are attached hereto; and hereby releasing 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 Drew County, Arkansas; and, if necessary, the right of way shall be remonumented to reflect the boundaries designated herein. Any Federal-aid funds from this disposal shall be credited to Federal Funds or otherwise credited as permitted by Federal Law.

2014-065

WHEREAS, the Commission acquired right of way for Job No. 11228, more commonly known as St. Francis River – Kokomo Road, Route 79 Section 16, Lee County, Arkansas, by Lee County Court Order dated October 27, 1947, and being recorded in County Court Records of Lee County, AR County Court Record Book "K", inclusive; and

WHEREAS, the District Engineer for District 1 has determined that an area inside the existing right of way is not now needed, nor in the foreseeable future will be needed, for highway purposes and recommends that these areas of the right of way be abandoned and the areas of the right of way to be abandoned are more particularly described below:

From designated Centerline Station 553+50.00 to Station 571+00.00 of the originally executed Court Order for Job 11228, dated October 27, 1947 and being recorded in County Court Records of Lee County, AR County Court Record Book "K", inclusive of said records shall hereby be revised, for reduction of Right of Way.

The width of the right of way conveyed to the left and right of the herein above described centerline shall be as follows.

NOTE: In all other respects the original Court Order shall remain as is.

2014-065 - Continued

FROM STATION	TO STATION	LIN. FT.	WIDTH LEFT	WIDTH RIGHT	TOTAL WIDTH
553+50.00	571+00.00	1,750	60'	110'	170'

D.H. 04/20/12

NOW THEREFORE, the above described right of way is hereby released to Lee County; that the Right of Way Division is authorized and directed to record a copy of this Minute Order with the Recorder of Lee County; and, that the right of way shall, if necessary, be remonumented to reflect the new boundaries after the release of the above designated tracts. Federal Aid Funds, if any, from this disposal shall be credited to Federal Funds or otherwise used or credited as provided by Federal Law.

2014-066

WHEREAS, the Commission acquired right of way for Job No. 11212, more commonly known as Hughes-Chatfield Road, Highway Job No. 11212, Federal Aid Project Nos. 183(15)R-47(10) State Highway 79, Section 17, in Sections 1, 2, 10, 11, 15 and 16 Township 4 North, Range 6 East and Section 36 Township 5 North, Range 6 East, St. Francis County, Arkansas, by St. Francis County Court Order dated July 21, 1950, as it appears in record of Page 341 of Book "R" and being recorded in County Court Records of St. Francis County, AR; and

WHEREAS, the District Engineer for District 1 has determined that an area inside the existing right of way is not now needed, nor in the foreseeable future will be needed, for highway purposes and recommends that these areas of the right of way be abandoned and the areas of the right of way to be abandoned are more particularly described below:

SUPPLEMENTAL REVISED  
CENTERLINE DESCRIPTION  
JOB 11212  
HUGHES-CHATFIELD  
STATE HWY. 79  
ST. FRANCIS COUNTY



From designated Construction Centerline Station 215+00.00 to Station 245+00.00 of the originally executed Court Order for Job 11212, dated July 17, 1950 and being recorded in County Court Records of St. Francis County, Ar. In Book "J", Page "535" inclusive of said records shall hereby be revised, for reduced Right of Way on the Right, as follows:

The width of the right of way conveyed to the left and right of the herein above described centerline shall be as follows:

FROM STATION	TO STATION	LIN. FT.	WIDTH LEFT	WIDTH RIGHT	TOTAL WIDTH
215+00.00	243+00.00	2800	95'	60'	155'
243+00.00	245+00.00	200	120'	60'	180'

NOTE: In all other respects the original Court Order shall remain as is.  
D.H.:d.h. Typed: 4/23/14

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the above described right of way is hereby released to St. Francis County; that the Right of Way Division is authorized and directed to record a copy of this Minute Order with the Recorder of St. Francis County; and, that the right of way shall, if necessary, be remonumented to reflect the new boundaries after the release of the above designated tracts. Federal Aid Funds, if any, from this disposal shall be credited to Federal Funds or otherwise used or credited as provided by Federal Law.

WHEREAS, IN CARROLL COUNTY, a portion of Highway 62, Section 4S, has been relocated by Job 009901; and

WHEREAS, the construction of the relocated portion is nearing completion.

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 portion of Highway 62, Section 4S, is hereby removed from the State Highway System.

2014-067 - Continued

- The newly constructed portion is hereby added to the State Highway System as Highway 62, Section 4S.

2014-068

WHEREAS, IN DESHA COUNTY, the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism (ADPT) is currently developing the Delta Heritage Trail, which is a 73.2 mile rail to trail conversion of an abandoned railway line located in eastern Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, this trail is being extended an additional 14.7 miles beginning at the junction with Highway 1, in the vicinity of Rohwer, south to the junction of Sprague Street in Arkansas City; and

WHEREAS, this extension will provide additional access to recreation facilities, including facilities managed by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and also provide a link to a community with historical significance and heritage tourism opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the ADPT has requested that this 14.7 mile extension of roadway, which is associated with the Delta Heritage Trail and the Delta Heritage Trail State Park, be designated as part of the State Maintenance System per Arkansas Code Annotated § 27-67-204; and

WHEREAS, the ADPT has also requested that the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) provide inspection and oversight during construction.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to enter into a partnering agreement with the ADPT to construct this project.

FURTHERMORE, 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.

2014-068 - Continued

- The portion of roadway associated with the Delta Heritage Trail and the Delta Heritage Trail State Park, beginning at the junction with Highway 1, in the vicinity of Rohwer, south to the junction with Sprague Street in Arkansas City, is hereby designated as State Highway 600, Section 10.

2014-069

WHEREAS, IN LONOKE COUNTY, the Interstate 40 and Highway 89 Interchange built by Job 060897 is nearing completion; and

WHEREAS, the construction relocated a portion of Highway 89, Section 1; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lonoke has passed Ordinance No. 640, agreeing to accept all responsibility for maintenance of a portion of Highway 89, Section 1, beginning at the junction with Highway 31 and continuing west to the junction with Highway 89, Section 1 Spur.

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 portion of Highway 89, Section 1, relocated by Job 060897, is hereby removed from the State Highway System.
- The portion of Highway 89, Section 1, beginning at the junction with Highway 31 and continuing west to the junction with Highway 89, Section 1 Spur in the City of Lonoke, is hereby removed from the State Highway System.
- Highway 89, Section 1 Spur from the junction with Highway 70, north to junction with Highway 89 in the City of Lonoke, is hereby redesignated as Highway 89, Section 1.

2014-069 - Continued

- The newly constructed portion of road built by job 060897 is hereby added to the State Highway System as Highway 89, Section 1.

2014-070                    WHEREAS, IN MADISON COUNTY, Job 009951 (Hindsville - Huntsville Bypass) is nearing completion; and

WHEREAS, the construction bypassed portions of Highway 412, Section 3.

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 bypassed portions of Highway 412, Section 3, are hereby removed from the State Highway System.
- The newly constructed portion of roadway is hereby added to the State Highway System as a part of Highway 412, Section 3.

2014-071                    WHEREAS, IN MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (Department) plans to relocate a portion of Highway 18 to the south of Manila; and

WHEREAS, upon completion of this relocation, the Arkansas State Highway Commission plans to remove from the State Highway System the bypassed portions of Highway 18, Sections 5 and 6, Highway 18, Section 5B, and Highway 77, Section 2Y in the City of Manila and in Mississippi County; and

WHEREAS, the Department will resurface the subject routes prior to removing them from the State Highway System; and

WHEREAS, the City of Manila agrees to accept all responsibility, including ownership for the bypassed portions of Highway 18, Sections 5 and 6, Highway 18, Section 5B, and Highway 77, Section 2Y in the City of Manila, in accordance with Arkansas Code Annotated § 14-301-102; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi County agrees to accept all responsibility, including ownership for the bypassed portion of Highway 18, Section 6, in accordance with Arkansas Code Annotated § 14-301-102.

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 bypassed portions of Highway 18, Sections 5 and 6, are hereby removed from the State Highway System.
- The bypassed portion of Highway 18, Section 5B, is hereby removed from the State Highway System.
- The bypassed portions of Highway 77, Sections 2 and 2Y, are hereby removed from the State Highway System.
- The portion of Highway 18, Section 5, beginning at the junction with Highway 77 and continuing south to the junction with Highway 77 is hereby redesignated as Highway 18, Section 6.
- The existing portion of Highway 77, Section 2, is hereby redesignated as Highway 18, Section 6.
- The new location portion beginning at the junction with Highway 77 and continuing to the junction with new location is hereby added to the State Highway System as Highway 77, Section 2.

2014-071 - Continued

- The new location portion beginning at the junction with Highway 18 and continuing to the junction with the existing portion of Highway 18 is hereby added to the State Highway System as Highway 18, Section 6.

2014-072

WHEREAS, IN UNION COUNTY, three projects are scheduled to widen Highway 167 between El Dorado and the Ouachita River; and

WHEREAS, the Calion Waterworks and Quinn Water Association have water lines within the Department's right-of-way that need to be relocated before these widening projects can be implemented and the cost for this utility relocation is non-reimbursable; and

WHEREAS, it has been verified that these water associations do not have the available funds or the customer base to generate the funds needed for this work; and

WHEREAS, at the Commission's January 9, 2013 meeting, a motion was approved that allowed the Department to consider alternative methods to offset non-reimbursable costs for small water associations in order to prevent the delay or cancellation of important highway improvements; and

WHEREAS, one option to offset the cost of non-reimbursable utility relocation is to coordinate with local officials and transfer State Highway mileage to either the City or County for future maintenance responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the Union County Quorum Court has agreed to assume maintenance responsibility for Highway 335 as described in the attached Union County Court Order No. 2014-20; and

WHEREAS, removal of this route from the State Highway System is considered adequate compensation for the non-reimbursable utility costs as described above.

2014-072 - Continued

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to proceed with the non-reimbursable utility relocation at no cost to the Calion Waterworks and Quinn Water Association for the Highway 167 widening projects.

FURTHERMORE, 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 Exhibit "A".

- Highway 335, Section 1 is hereby removed from the State Highway System.

2014-073

WHEREAS, IN UNION COUNTY, Highway 335 is scheduled to be rehabilitated between Highway 82 and Highway 7; and

WHEREAS, the El Dorado Rural Public Water Authority, the Lisbon Public Water Authority and the Wildwood Water Association have water lines within the Department's right-of-way that may need to be relocated before this project can be implemented and the cost for this utility relocation is non-reimbursable; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that these water associations may not have the available funds or the customer base to generate the funds needed for this work; and

WHEREAS, at the Commission's January 9, 2013 meeting, a motion was approved that allowed the Department to consider alternative methods to offset non-reimbursable costs for small water associations in order to prevent the delay or cancellation of important highway improvements; and

WHEREAS, one option to offset the cost of non-reimbursable utility relocation is to coordinate with local officials and transfer State Highway mileage to either the City or County for future maintenance responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the Union County Quorum Court has agreed to assume maintenance responsibility for Highway 335 as described in the attached Union County Court Order No. 2014-20; and

WHEREAS, removal of this route from the State Highway System is considered adequate compensation for the non-reimbursable utility costs as described above.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to proceed, if necessary, with the non-reimbursable utility relocation at no cost to the El Dorado Rural Public Water Authority, the Lisbon Public Water Authority and the Wildwood Water Association for the Highway 335 rehabilitation project.

FURTHERMORE, 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 Exhibit "A".

- Highway 335, Section 1, is hereby removed from the State Highway System.

WHEREAS, IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, the Highway 62 Bypass (Prairie Grove), is nearing completion.

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 portion of Highway 62, Section 1, that was bypassed is hereby redesignated as Highway 62, Section 1B.
- The newly constructed portion of roadway is hereby added to the State Highway System as a part of Highway 62, Section 1.



2014-075

WHEREAS, during the August 7, 2012 Commission meeting, the Director was authorized to hire a consultant to study the feasibility of financing the proposed North Belt Freeway with tolls; and

WHEREAS, this study was included in the 2013-2016 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and was jointly funded with Metroplan; and

WHEREAS, Atkins North America, Inc. was selected to conduct the study; and

WHEREAS, the North Belt Freeway Tolling Feasibility Study has been completed and the analysis has determined tolling of the North Belt Freeway is currently not a fiscally viable option.

NOW THEREFORE, the study is adopted with no further action needed at this time.

2014-076

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Strategic Highway Safety Plan (2013) identified roadway departure crashes as a primary safety emphasis area; and

WHEREAS, an analysis of roadway departure crashes that occurred during 2009, 2010 and 2011 on rural two-lane highways has been completed; and

WHEREAS, shoulder widening and geometric improvements would enhance safety on these highways; and

WHEREAS, this work is eligible for Federal-aid safety funds.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to proceed with surveys, plans and construction of projects at the locations shown on the attached list and map as funds become available.

2014-077

WHEREAS, it has been determined that improvements are warranted to enhance safety at the five railroad crossings indicated on the attached list; and

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

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to proceed with improvements at these crossings subject to the following conditions:

- Maintenance of the signals and surfaces shall be performed by the Railroad Company at no cost to the State.
- All required right-of-way shall be furnished at no cost to the State.

2014-078

WHEREAS, IN CRAWFORD AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES, on Highway 220 between Lee Creek and Devil's Den, Job 040128 is being developed to reconstruct the existing gravel road and to replace two structures; and

WHEREAS, three federally listed endangered bat species have been identified, by recent and historical collections, in Crawford and Washington Counties; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the Department is prohibited from any action that would result in the "taking" of a listed species of endangered fish or wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements have the potential to "take" listed species; and

WHEREAS, surveys will be required to determine the presence or absence of federally listed bat species within the project limits; and

WHEREAS, the scope of project will necessitate the use of a qualified consultant to complete the project.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to request proposals, select a consulting firm, and enter into any necessary contracts and agreements needed to perform the bat survey for Job Number 040128.

2014-079

WHEREAS, IN DESHA COUNTY, on Highway 4 from Highway 65 in McGehee to Arkansas City, a distance of 10.6 miles, a pavement analysis has been completed; and

WHEREAS, based on this analysis, it is recommended that a project to improve this segment of Highway 4 be implemented to enhance safety and ride quality.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to proceed with surveys, plans and construction of this project.

2014-080

WHEREAS, IN FAULKNER COUNTY, in the City of Conway, a traffic study has been completed that has identified the need to improve traffic operations at the interchange of Interstate 40 and Highway 65B (Industrial Boulevard) and at Highway 286 (Dave Ward Drive) and East German Lane to reduce congestion and enhance safety; and

WHEREAS, the need to widen Highway 286 from East German Lane to Interstate 40 has also been identified to improve traffic operations along the Highway 286 Corridor; and

WHEREAS, the City of Conway has offered to partner with the Department to fund these needed improvements; and

WHEREAS, the City of Conway has offered to provide \$2 million of the project cost, plus finance the cost to relocate City utilities, and to assume maintenance of Amity Road; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that this partnering arrangement would be beneficial to the Department.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to enter into a partnering agreement with the City of Conway to fund this project.

FURTHERMORE, upon execution of the partnering agreement, the Director is authorized to proceed with surveys, plans and construction of this project.

2014-081

WHEREAS, IN FAULKNER COUNTY, in the City of Conway, construction of a new airport is nearing completion to replace the existing airport at Cantrell Field; and

WHEREAS, local officials have signed agreements to redevelop Cantrell Field into a major retail shopping center; and

WHEREAS, a traffic analysis has been completed that evaluated various options to improve access to this 151-acre site; and

WHEREAS, this analysis identified the need to improve traffic operations at the interchange of Interstate 40 and Highway 64 (Oak Street) to reduce congestion and enhance safety; and

WHEREAS, the City of Conway has offered to partner with the Department to fund these needed improvements; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that this partnering arrangement would be beneficial to the Department.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to enter into a partnering agreement with the City of Conway to fund this project.

FURTHERMORE, upon execution of the partnering agreement, the Director is authorized to proceed with surveys, plans and construction of this project.

2014-082

WHEREAS, IN PULASKI COUNTY, in the City of Little Rock, a traffic analysis has been completed that has identified the need to improve traffic operations at the Interstate 430 and Rodney Parham interchange to reduce congestion and enhance safety; and

WHEREAS, the City of Little Rock has offered to partner with the Department to finance this needed improvement by providing \$750,000 in local funds; and

WHEREAS, this improvement is eligible for the Interstate Rehabilitation Program; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that this partnering arrangement would be beneficial to the Department.

2014-082 - Continued

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to enter into a partnering agreement with the City of Little Rock to fund this project.

FURTHERMORE, upon execution of the partnering agreement, the Director is authorized to proceed with surveys, plans and construction of this project.

2014-083

WHEREAS, IN PULASKI COUNTY, in the City of Little Rock, a traffic safety study has been completed that has identified the need to improve traffic operations at the intersection of Highway 10 (Cantrell Road) and University Avenue to reduce congestion and enhance safety; and

WHEREAS, the need to install adaptive signal control and coordination for twenty-four signals between Kavanaugh Boulevard and Chenonceau Boulevard has also been identified to improve traffic operations along the Highway 10 Corridor; and

WHEREAS, the City of Little Rock has offered to partner with the Department to fund these needed improvements; and

WHEREAS, the City of Little Rock has offered to provide 80 percent of the project cost using Federal Surface Transportation Program Attributable funds and has requested that the Department provide the 20 percent matching share; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that this partnering arrangement would be beneficial to the Department.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to enter into a partnering agreement with the City of Little Rock to fund this project.

FURTHERMORE, upon execution of the partnering agreement, the Director is authorized to proceed with surveys, plans and construction of this project.

2014-084

WHEREAS, the roof on the Maintenance/Sign Shop Building has exceeded its serviceable life and is in poor condition; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the most feasible means of replacement for the existing interlocking metal roof will consist of an insulation board covered with a 45 mil ultra-ply thermoplastic membrane roof system.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to proceed with the required work to replace the roof on the Maintenance/Sign Shop Building.

Work to be done by contract as a Building Project.

2014-085

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway Commission received bids on the following projects at the June 4, 2014 letting;

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
BB0104	01	ST. FRANCIS	GOODWIN-FORREST CITY (S)	40	Y
BB0301	03	MILLER	TEXAS STATE LINE-HWY. 108 (S)	30	Y
040493	04	FRANKLIN	HILLBILLY LANE-HWY. 23 (OZARK) (S)	---	-
061276	06	PULASKI	REDMOND RD. & MAIN ST. STRS. & APPRS. (JACKSONVILLE) (F)	67	Y
061332	06	PULASKI	I-30/I-430 INTERCHANGE IMPVT. (L.R.) (S)	30 & 430	Y
061424	06	PULASKI & LONOKE	HWY. 67 INTERIM PVMNT. IMPVTS. (JACKSONVILLE-CABOT) (S)	67	Y
FS8040	08	VAN BUREN	HWY. 330 RESURFACING (VAN BUREN COUNTY) (S)	330	N
FS8041	08	VAN BUREN	HWY. 336 RESURFACING (VAN BUREN COUNTY) (S)	336	N
080483	08	VAN BUREN	HWY. 65/HWY. 124 SIGNAL (VAN BUREN CO.) (S)	65 & 124	Y
BB0901	09	BENTON	WAGON WHEEL RD. INTCHNG. IMPVTS. (S)	540	Y
100676	10	CRAIGHEAD	CASH BYPASS (BS. & SURF.) (S)	226	Y
C02002	02	ASHLEY	CROSSETT OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C04002	09	BENTON	BETHEL HEIGHTS, CENTERTON & GRAVETTE OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-

2014-085 - Continued

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
C05002	09	BOONE	HARRISON & VALLEY SPRINGS OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C08001	09	CARROLL	EUREKA SPRINGS OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C08002	09	CARROLL	GREEN FOREST OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C10001	07	CLARK	ARKADELPHIA OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C11002	10	CLAY	PEACH ORCHARD SURFACING & OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C18003	01	CRITTENDEN	ANTHONYVILLE & HORSESHOE LAKE OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C27001	02	GRANT	TULL OAK ST. OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C32002	05	INDEPENDENCE	BATESVILLE, CUSHMAN & NEWARK OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C37001	03	LAFAYETTE	STAMPS OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C46001	03	MILLER	TEXARKANA & FOUKE OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C47001	10	MISSISSIPPI	BLYTHEVILLE MOULTRIE DR. OVERLAY (SEL. SEC.) (S)	---	-
C60002	06	PULASKI	JACKSONVILLE JAMES & 1ST STS. OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C65002	04	SEBASTIAN	BONANZA STREET IMPROVEMENTS (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C74002	01	WOODRUFF	COTTON PLANT STREET IMPROVEMENTS (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C76011	09	BAXTER & MARION	BRIARCLIFF, FLIPPIN, LAKEVIEW & NORFORK OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA0242	02	ASHLEY	ASHLEY CO. OVERLAY NO. 4 (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA0554	09	BOONE	BOONE COUNTY SURFACING NO. 7 (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA0849	09	CARROLL	CARROLL CO. LEVELING & RESEAL (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA1353	07	CLEVELAND	CLEVELAND COUNTY SURFACING (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-

2014-085 - Continued

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
SA1552	08	CONWAY	HWY. 9-VAN BUREN CO. LINE (SURFACING) (S)	---	-
SA2245	02	DREW	DREW COUNTY OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA2450	04	FRANKLIN	FRANKLIN COUNTY SURFACING & OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA2743	02	GRANT	GRANT CO. RESEAL NO. 5 (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA2940	03	HEMPSTEAD	HWY. 195-HWY. 73 SURFACING (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA3646	08	JOHNSON	JOHNSON CO. SURFACING & RESEAL NO. 2 (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA4543	09	MARION	MARION COUNTY SURFACING NO. 2 (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA4933	08	MONTGOMERY	MONTGOMERY COUNTY RESEAL NO. 16 (S)	---	-
SA5553	03	PIKE	HWY. 8-CLARK CO. LINE (SURFACING) (S)	---	-
SA5735	04	POLK	POLK COUNTY SURFACING (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA5856	08	POPE	RUSSELLVILLE CITY LIMITS-HWY. 124 (OVERLAY) (S)	---	-
SA5945	06	PRAIRIE	PRAIRIE COUNTY SURFACING & RESEAL (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA6136	10	RANDOLPH	HWY. 115-HWY. 166 (OVERLAY) (S)	---	-
SA6340	04	SCOTT	SCOTT COUNTY SURF. & DRAINAGE (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA6545	04	SEBASTIAN	HWY. 96-HWY. 252 (OVERLAY) (S)	---	-
SA6732	05	SHARP	CAVE CITY-WEST (OVERLAY) (S)	---	-
SA6940	05	STONE	HWY. 66-EAST (BASE & SURFACING) (S)	---	-
SA7386	05	WHITE	HWY. 385-HWY. 36 BASE & SURFACING (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA7440	01	WOODRUFF	WOODRUFF CO. LEVELING & RESEAL (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA7532	08	YELL	HWY. 22-HWY. 155 OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-

and



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 Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 42, Section 6, as well as other laws of this State, the Commission has the authority to delegate certain of its 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. Further, 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 Vice Chairman Dick Trammel moved, Commissioner Frank D. Scott, Jr. seconded and the motion passed to approve the Minutes of March 11, 2014 and April 16, 2014.

MOTION Commissioner Robert S. Moore, Jr. moved, Commissioner Tom Schueck seconded and the motion passed to approve the 2014-2015 AHTD Operating Budget, including funds for cost of living adjustments and performance (merit) bonuses, as presented by Department Staff.

## OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Director Bennett provided the latest information on the Federal highway and transit funding issues. The President signed Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP-21) on July 6, 2012, authorizing funding for the final two months of FY 2012 plus two full fiscal years (FYs 2013 and 2014). MAP-21 expires in 117 days and the Highway Trust fund may run out of funds as early as August this year.

- On April 30, 2014 President Obama released a four-year **GROW AMERICA ACT** (or Generating Renewal, Opportunity, and Work with Accelerated Mobility, Efficiency, and Rebuilding of Infrastructure and Communities throughout America). Right now, based upon response in the House, it appears the Act is likely dead on arrival, although elements of the program may ultimately make it into any new reauthorization. The program seeks to pay for the reauthorization through a tax on funds held overseas by corporations (called “repatriation”), while allowing states to generate revenue through tolling. So far this is the only bill to specify “pay fors”.
- On May 12, 2014 the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, released a 6-Year bipartisan Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill – the **MAP-21 Reauthorization Act**.
  - The “big four” who wrote the legislation – EPW Chair Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and ranking member Senator David Vitter (R-LA) and transportation panel leaders Senator Tom Carper (D-DE) and Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) – are expected to stick together in an effort to avoid major changes to the legislation.
  - On May 15, the EPW Committee approved the bill by voice vote. This is only the first step in the reauthorization process in the Senate. The Senate Commerce, Senate Banking, and the Senate Finance Committees still need to act on their portions of the bill. Once all four Committees have acted, the bill can be considered on the Senate Floor. The House is yet to introduce its surface transportation reauthorization proposal.

- Right now, it is unknown how the EPW proposal will be funded, and no rumors have preceded its release. In the coming weeks the Finance Committee will be working on a funding solution. The EPW policy bill keeps transportation funding at current levels plus inflation and maintains the program reforms passed two years ago in MAP-21. It does not address tolling but orders Department of Transportation agencies to study other user fees that could help revitalize the Highway Trust Fund.
- On May 7, 2014, the **House Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Committee bill (THUD)** presented a spending (appropriations) bill for FY 2015. On May 21, the House Appropriations Committee approved 28 to 21 legislation that would fund the primary federal transportation construction programs at current levels during FY 2015. Committee leaders, however, readily acknowledged the measure's highway and public transportation investment levels are contingent on congressional action to both reauthorize the federal surface transportation programs and infuse additional revenues into the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) before the new fiscal year begins October 1.
  - It is reported that, although the THUD bill has been submitted unusually early, it will likely be one of the last appropriation bills to be passed since there is insufficient revenue in the Highway Trust Fund to fully fund programs. There is also some discussion that the THUD bill may be used as the legislative vehicle for a short-term transfer of General Funds to keep the HTF solvent for some period of time, speculated to be at least until after the November elections.

To date, the Department decided not to advertise nine Federal-aid projects totaling about \$60 million, and has borrowed State funds from the Budget Stabilization Trust Fund to cover the Federal-aid share of two projects in today's letting. In addition, both the City of Ozark and Van Buren County have agreed to provide the Federal funds "up front" in order to minimize case flow problems to the Department in the event of reduced reimbursements.

In closing, Director Bennett stated that prior to each future scheduled letting and until Congress acts to correct the funding shortfall, we will re-evaluate our State cash balance forecast and determine which, if any, federally funded projects may be advertised for bids and let to contract.

Director Bennett gave an update on the status of the 2011 Interstate Rehabilitation Program (IRP) and the Connecting Arkansas Program (CAP), and State Aid City Street Program. 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. Two 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 \$171 million (true interest cost of 2.2%) with a premium of \$29 million (total of \$200 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 general obligation 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).

With the approval of the 0.5% Sales Tax for the Connecting Arkansas Program, 1 cent in existing motor fuel tax revenue (approximately \$20 million annually) is being set aside for a State Aid City Street Program. Projects are selected by the State Aid City Street Committee and are designed, let to contract, and inspected by the Department.

Larry Dickerson, Chief Fiscal Officer, provided the April 2014 update on state highway revenue. Mr. Dickerson noted that state highway revenues to the Department from most traditional sources are down a total of \$7.3 million for the first ten months of State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2014 compared to the first ten months of SFY 2013. With the revenue from the Natural Gas Severance Tax coming in higher this year than last year, total revenues available are slightly higher for this year. Actual state revenue received is also slightly higher compared to projected (budgeted) revenue for this year.

In closing, Mr. Dickerson stated that April revenue from the 0.5% General Sales Tax for the Connecting Arkansas Program was 2.5% lower than projected by the Department of Finance and Administration (DF&A). This revenue source has now come in under DF&A's projections for eight of the ten months since the tax went into effect, and is cumulatively 3.0% under DF&A's projections for the year.

Larry Dickerson presented the highlights of the proposed 2014-2015 AHTD Operating Budget. Step increases are given to those employees in grades 1 through 8 when they reach one year of service with the Department. The practice of step raises was adopted by Commission Minute Order 2001-193 dated October 3, 2001. The cost for step raises is approximately \$600,000. Service recognition payments are authorized for all state employees. The cost of service recognition payments for AHTD employees is approximately \$1.7 million. This budget proposes increasing the Department's maintenance crew compliment from the current 85% level to 90%. This will increase maintenance crews by 200 employees. The additional cost for salaries and additives is \$5.8 million. The Operating Expense portion of the Budget reflects an increase of approximately \$24.2 million. The proposed increase is attributed primarily to the following:

- District expense budget is increased 10.0% or approximately \$6.5 million.
- A new Reserve was established in the 2015 budget to allow Districts to purchase materials used for clearing roads necessitated by inclement weather. This Reserve is \$3.0 million.
- The budgets for Transportation Planning & Policy and System Information & Research Divisions were increased \$0.4 million. The increase is attributed to Federal legislation, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP 2) that required additional responsibilities that include freight corridor activities and asset and performance management.
- Statewide Construction was increased by \$0.8 million to accommodate the additional work associated with the CAP and the IRP construction programs.
- \$2.7 million was added to the 2015 budget to allow for the expansion of the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS).
- There is a \$6.0 million increase for Road Machinery and Equipment.
- The Statewide Sealing Program was increased \$1.0 million to \$9.0 million.

- Building Maintenance and Construction was increased \$2.5 million. This is for building construction and renovation around the State.
- Mowing contracts were increased \$0.4 million.
- \$0.2 million is requested by Computer Services for additional software maintenance cost.

Projected State Highway Fund receipts with this budget are \$402.8 million.

Mr. Dickerson closed by stating that Acts 4 and 5 of the 1<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary Session, 2008, of the Arkansas General Assembly increased the natural gas severance tax. The Acts designated 70% of the net revenue to AHTD as highway revenues. The annual projection for FY 15, estimated by the staff, is \$46.4 million.

The net amount of state funds available for right-of-way and construction expenditures are forecasted at \$88.7 million. (Motion was passed).

Director Bennett provided an update on the highway system condition and needs. Arkansas' latest highway condition and needs assessment was last updated in 2007. Over the past few months, the Department has been updating this assessment. Previously, the highway condition and needs assessments have evaluated capacity and new location needs, system preservation needs (including bridges), economic development connectors, Congressionally-designated High Priority Corridors, and, to only a limited extent, maintenance. At the April 16, 2014 meeting, Director Bennett began to show the results of the 2014 highway system and needs assessment. Information was presented on system preservation for pavements, bridges, signing and striping, for capacity needs to address congestion, for Department equipment and some facilities, and for Intelligent Transportation Systems. Director Bennett presented other improvements such as an update on Arkansas' Congressionally-designated High Priority Corridors, Future Interstate Corridors, and other improvements such as continuation of Arkansas' Four-Lane Grid System. Director Bennett also presented various options for generating additional revenue to help better meet our needs.

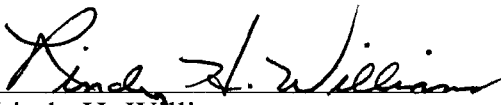
Director Bennett informed the Commission that the IDrive Arkansas received the StateScoop 50 Award, which recognizes the best and brightest that make state and local government more efficient and effective.

Director Bennett ended the meeting informing the Commission that a 2.3-mile section of Highway 425 in Lincoln County, between Star City and Monticello received the 2013 Perpetual Pavement Award. This award recognizes existing long life asphalt pavements that demonstrate outstanding design and construction. Highway 425 received a 1-inch overlay in 1987, and a 2-inch overlay in 2008. For an average resurfacing of every 21 years. Highway 425 is one of only 8 highways in the U. S. to win a Perpetual Pavement Award in 2013.

2014-086

IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be closed at 2:20 p.m., June 4, 2014.

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 4, 2014.

  
Lindy H. Williams  
Commission Secretary