

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

August 7, 2017

ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR NO. 2017-10

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 July 26, 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

July 26, 2017

Following is the record of proceedings of the Arkansas State Highway Commission in Little Rock, Arkansas, July 26, 2017. Members present were:

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

2017-057                   IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be opened at 10:00 a.m., July 26, 2017.

2017-058                   WHEREAS, the Purchasing Committee has awarded purchases on May 25, 2017, June 23, 2017 and July 6 and 11, 2017, in the amount of \$215,452.00, \$74,995.00, \$729,790.62 and \$232,760.75, respectively, totaling \$1,252,998.37, 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.

2017-059                   WHEREAS, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) has requested participation in the AASHTO's Engineering Technical Service Programs; and

WHEREAS, these programs provide benefits to the member departments through the pooling of resources and expertise from across the country; and

2017-059 - Continued

WHEREAS, the benefits include technical services in a wide variety of areas, pooled resources for a common goal, and reducing duplication of effort; and

WHEREAS, these memberships include the Development of AASHTO Materials Standards (DAMS); Equipment Management Technical Service Program (EMTSP); Highway Safety Policy and Management Technical Service Program (SAFETY); Load and Resistance Factor Design Bridges and Structures Specification Maintenance (LRFDSM); National Transportation Product Evaluation Program (NTPEP); Operations Technical Service Program (OPERATIONS); Transportation Curriculum Coordination Council (TC3); and Transportation System Preservation Technical Service Program (TSP2); and

WHEREAS, these programs are regarded as being highly beneficial to the Department with the means to exchange ideas, information, and best practices with other highway agencies.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to utilize State Planning and Research funds to pay annual membership dues for participation in these programs.

2017-060

WHEREAS, Commission Minute Order 1996-094 adopted the latest edition of the Strategic Plan in June 1996; and

WHEREAS, the need exists to update the Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Strategic Plan 2017-2022 has been prepared that details the Arkansas Department of Transportation's mission, vision, core values, and strategic goals to meet the transportation needs and priorities of Arkansas.

NOW THEREFORE, the Strategic Plan 2017-2022 is hereby adopted as a guide for the Department's priorities, resources, and direction for the next five years.

2017-061

WHEREAS, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 required that each state develop a Long Range Intermodal Transportation Plan and this requirement has been reiterated in subsequent federal highway legislation; and

WHEREAS, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act required the development and use of performance measures in the Long Range Intermodal Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas' current Long Range Intermodal Transportation Plan (Plan) was adopted in May 2002 by Minute Order 2002-072; and

WHEREAS, Minute Order 2013-124 authorized the Director to update the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Plan was updated in coordination with the public and other stakeholders through extensive outreach efforts and received over 2,000 public comments; and

WHEREAS, the update of the Plan, which assessed the current condition and future needs of Arkansas' transportation system as well as documented the transportation planning process and goals, has been completed.

NOW THEREFORE, the Arkansas Long Range Intermodal Transportation Plan is hereby adopted for use as a guide for future transportation planning and implementation.

2017-062

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program provides funds to the States for the purpose of achieving a significant reduction in fatalities and serious injuries on the roadway system; and

WHEREAS, in order to be eligible for these Federal-aid funds, each State's Department of Transportation must develop, implement, and update a Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) in a cooperative process with Local, State, Federal, and private sector safety stakeholders; and

2017-062 - Continued

WHEREAS, a SHSP should identify and analyze highway safety issues and opportunities and provide a comprehensive framework for reducing highway fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas' current SHSP was adopted by Commission Minute Order 2013-022 in February 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Highway Safety Steering Committee comprised of representatives from the engineering, enforcement, education and emergency medical services sectors has updated Arkansas' SHSP; and

WHEREAS, the updated SHSP has identified key safety needs and recommends a comprehensive Toward Zero Deaths focus to reduce fatalities on the State's roadway system.

NOW THEREFORE, the updated SHSP is hereby adopted as a planning guide for improving highway safety in Arkansas.

2017-063

WHEREAS, in Nevada County, a contract dated June 22, 2016 was awarded to Salt Creek Paving & Const. Co., Inc. for Job No. SA5025, FAP No. 9970, Hwy. 332-Prescott City Limits (Surfacing) (S), based on a low bid of \$94,637.22; and

WHEREAS, Nevada County is unable to fulfill the requirements to bring the facility to a suitable condition for the contract work to be performed; and

WHEREAS, the Nevada County Judge and the Contractor have requested that Job No. SA5025, FAP No. 9970, Hwy. 332-Prescott City Limits (Surfacing) (S) be cancelled due to a substantial increase in the nature and scope of work required for the facility, exceeding the scope of work under the original contract.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the Director take the necessary steps to cancel the contract for Job No. SA5025, FAP No. 9970, Hwy. 332-Prescott City Limits (Surfacing) (S).

2017-064

WHEREAS, the Commission acquired right of way for Job No. 8257, more commonly known as Dardanelle - Russellville Road, AR Hwy 7, Section 14 in Pope County, Arkansas, by Pope County Revised Court Order for Job 8257 dated June 1, 1950, as it appears in Record Book Y, Page 28 and being recorded in the County Court Records of Pope County, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the District Engineer for District 8 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 are more particularly described below:

SUPPLEMENTAL REVISED  
CENTERLINE DESCRIPTION  
JOB 8257  
DARDANELLE – RUSSELLVILLE ROAD  
AR HWY. 7  
POPE COUNTY

From designated Construction Centerline Station 21+76.42 to Station 26+00.00 of the Revised Court Order for Job 8257, dated June 1, 1950 and being recorded in County Court Records of Pope County, Ar. at Page 28, Book Y inclusive of said records shall hereby be revised, for reduced Right of Way, 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
21+76.42	26+00.00	423.58	90'	70'	160'

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

DH 3/14/17  
Rev 6/20/17 DH

NOW THEREFORE, the above-described right of way is hereby released to Pope County; that the Right of Way Division is authorized and directed to record a copy of this Minute Order in the records of Pope County; and, that the right of way shall, if necessary, be

2017-064 - Continued

remonumented to reflect the new boundaries after the release of the above-designated area. Any Federal-Aid Funds from this disposal shall be credited to Federal-Aid Funds or otherwise credited as provided by Federal law.

2017-065

WHEREAS, IN CRAWFORD COUNTY, IN THE CITY OF ALMA, a project to relocate a portion of Highway 162 Section 1 is nearing completion; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alma has passed Resolution No. 2009-02 agreeing to accept ownership of the bypassed portion of Highway 162, 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 portion of Highway 162, Section 1 is hereby removed from the State Highway System.
- The newly constructed portion of roadway built by Job 040456 is hereby added to the State Highway System as Highway 162, Section 1.

2017-066

WHEREAS, IN ASHLEY COUNTY, the Department is currently designing Job CA0201 to widen U.S. Highway 425 between the Louisiana State Line and Highway 82 south of Hamburg; and

WHEREAS, the Department determined that upon completion of the planned widening project, a 0.63 mile portion of U.S. Highway 425 would remain two-lane south of the state line, as shown on the attached sketch; and

WHEREAS, the Director contacted the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LaDOTD) and proposed a partnering arrangement that would incorporate the widening of the additional 0.63 mile segment of U.S. Highway 425 into Job CA0201; and

2017-066 - Continued

WHEREAS, the LaDOTD responded favorably and has agreed to contribute the estimated \$2.55 million required to design, construct, and inspect the portion in Louisiana.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to enter into the necessary partnering agreements with the LaDOTD for the design and construction of the additional 0.63 mile segment in Louisiana.

2017-067

WHEREAS, IN MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, local officials and community leaders have requested a study to determine the need for and feasibility of a connection between Interstate 55 and Highway 61 south of the City of Osceola; and

WHEREAS, the proposed connection could alleviate truck traffic in the Cities of Osceola and Wilson.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to conduct a study to determine the need for and feasibility of a connection from Interstate 55 to Highway 61 south of the City of Osceola.

2017-068

WHEREAS, Yell County, by Resolution 2017-3, has acknowledged the sacrifice of Yell County Deputy Sheriff, Lieutenant Kevin Mainhart; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Highway Commission has adopted guidelines for the installation of commemorative signs by Minute Order 2014-023 and the County's request meets these guidelines.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to permit the installation of signs in each direction on State Highway 27, north and south of Slo Fork Road, as requested by the County, in accordance with Commission Policy.



2017-069

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway Commission will accept bids on the following projects at the August 30, 2017 letting; and

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
020484	02	DREW	HWY. 425 – HWY. 278 EAST (BS. & SURF.) (MONTICELLO BYPASS) (S)	69	Y
040750	04	WASHINGTON & CRAWFORD	HWY. 59 SLIDE REPAIR (WASHINGTON & CRAWFORD COS.) (S)	59	Y
BB0620	06	PULASKI	HWY. 391 INTCHNG. IMPVTS. (S)	40	Y
061513	06	SALINE	HOT SPRING CO. LINE – I-30 (S)	67 & 229	Y
061528	06	HOT SPRING	HWY. 270B – PERLA (S)	67	Y
CA0906	09	BOONE	MAXIE CAMP RD. – HWY. 206 (WIDENING) (S)	65	Y
090501	09	NEWTON	HWY. 7 SLIDE REPAIR (NEWTON CO.) (S)	7	Y
090503	09	NEWTON	HWY. 74 SLIDE REPAIR (NEWTON CO.) (S)	74	N
100956	10	POINSETT	SUNKEN LANDS STRS. REHAB. (I-555) (S)	555	Y
100963	10	CRAIGHEAD	I-555/HWY.1B EMERGENCY BRIDGE PAINTING (JONESBORO) (S)	1B	Y
012285	04 & 09	WASHINGTON & BENTON	HWY. 412 & HWY. 264 (S)	265	Y
012289	04 & 09	FRANKLIN & MADISON	HWY. 23 SLIDE REPAIR (FRANKLIN & MADISON COS.) (S)	23	Y
C03004	09	BAXTER	GASSVILLE SCHOOL ST. WIDENING (S)	---	-
C15003	08	CONWAY	OPPELO OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C43004	06	LONOKE	AUSTIN OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C60005	06	PULASKI	WRIGHTSVILLE OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C64002	09	SEARCY	ST. JOE OVERLAY & SURFACING (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C76042	03	NEVADA & HEMPSTEAD	ROSSTON & WASHINGTON OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA1554	08	CONWAY	HWY. 9 – HWY. 124 (OVERLAY) (S)	---	-
SA1661	10	CRAIGHEAD	CO. RD. 471 – CO. RD. 62 (SURFACING) (S)	---	-
SA2038	07	DALLAS	HWY. 273 – NORTH (OVERLAY) (S)	---	-
BR3714	03	LAFAYETTE	LITTLE BODCAW CREEK STR. & APPRS. (S)	---	-
BR5007	03	NEVADA	WILSON CREEK STR. & APPRS. (S)	---	-

2017-069 - Continued

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
SA5027	03	NEVADA	HWY. 332 – PRESCOTT CITY LIMITS (WIDENING & BASE) (S)	---	-
SA5737	04	POLK	HWY. 8 – CO. RD. 57 (OVERLAY) (S)	---	-
BR6507	04	SEBASTIAN	BRANCH OF VINEYARD CREEK STR. & APPRS (S)	---	-
BR6812	01	ST. FRANCIS	FIRST CREEK STR. & APPRS. (S)	---	-
SA7297	04	WASHINGTON	HWY. 265 – SOUTH (SEL. SEC.) (BASE) (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.

Chairman Dick Trammel opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.

MOTION Commissioner Alec Farmer moved, Commissioner Robert Moore seconded and the motion passed to approve the Minutes from the previous Commission Meeting of June 7, 2017.

MOTION The Commission approved Minute Order 2016-046 on June 1, 2016, to authorize the Department to advertise for consultant services for On-Call Right of Way Acquisition Services (2017-2020). Commissioner Alec Farmer moved, Vice Chairman Tom Schueck seconded and the motion passed to accept the Staff's recommendation to enter into negotiations with the following 18 firms:

Title and Closing Services:

Attorney's Title Group - Little Rock, AR  
J. M. Elk Title Services - Jonesboro, AR (*Title services only*)  
Lenders Title Company - Little Rock, AR

Appraisal & Appraisal Review Services:

Allen, Williford & Seale, Inc. - Houston, TX (*Appraisal Review only*)  
Citadel Real Estate Services, LLC - Little Rock, AR  
Reed & Associates, Inc. - Fayetteville, AR  
Richard A. Stephens & Associates, Inc. - Little Rock, AR

Appraisal, Appraisal Review, Negotiation, Relocation Assistance Services:

Ridge Point Consultants - Meadville, MS

Negotiation, Relocation Assistance Services:

Overland Pacific & Cutler, Inc. - Grapevine, TX  
Universal Field Services - Tulsa, OK

Negotiation, Relocation Assistance, and Property Management Services:

H. W. Lochner, Inc. - Lexington, KY  
Pinnacle Consulting Management Group, Inc. - Oklahoma City, OK

All service areas - Title & Closing, Appraisal, Appraisal Review,

Negotiation, Relocation Assistance, and Property Management Services:

Briggs Field Services, Inc. - Little Rock, AR  
HDR Engineering, Inc. - Lexington, KY  
O. R. Colan Associates, LLC - Little Rock, AR  
Percheron Professional Services, LLC - Katy, TX  
Smith-Roberts Land Services, Inc. (SRLS, Inc.) - Oklahoma City, OK  
The Bernard Johnson Group, Inc. - San Diego, CA

## OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Director Bennett presented the events that occurred after the Tuesday, June 27 accident in Jonesboro where a commercial vehicle crashed and caused damage to the Highway 1B (Harrisburg Road) overpass over Interstate 555 and forced the immediate closure of both highways. A proclamation was presented to ArDOT personnel from District 10 and the Heavy Bridge Maintenance Section for their tireless and unselfish efforts during very difficult conditions in the wake of the traffic incident.

Mike Boyd, Chief Fiscal Officer, provided the June 2017 update on state highway revenue. Mr. Boyd noted that state highway revenues to the Department from traditional sources are up a total of 0.5% (\$1.9 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 1.3% (\$5.3 million) higher for this year. Actual state revenue received is 5.9% (\$23.0 million) above projected (budgeted) revenue for this year.

In closing, Mr. Boyd stated that June revenue from the 0.5% General Sales Tax for the Connecting Arkansas Program was 4.34% higher, (\$635,462) than projected by the Department of Finance and Administration (DF&A). Current Fiscal Year to date revenues are below the forecast by 1.69% (\$3.0 million). Since inception this revenue source is 0.43%, or \$2.9 million, under DF&A's projections.

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, 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.

## Discussion Item - Continued

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.

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 a summary of Oregon approving a Transportation Bill and West Virginia approving an increase in transportation funding.

Director Bennett presented a summary of the apparent low bids and bidders from the July 19, 2017, Bid Lettings.

Director Bennett presented a summary of the possible 2018 Initiated Act Timeline.

Director Bennett presented a list of upcoming meetings and events that the Commissioners and Director will be attending, including the State Highway 25 Ribbon Cutting in Conway on July 27, 2017.

Director Bennett concluded the meeting with recognizing awards the Department has received recently:

ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards - Category E: Environmental

- Crafton Tull, for State Highway 264 interchange improvements for the ArDOT
- Garver for the I-40 at I-430 interchange for the ArDOT
- Engineering Services Inc. for widening and extending 56th Street for the City of Springdale

ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards - Category H: Grand Conceptor

- Bridgefarmer & Associates for the I-430/I-630 Big Rock Interchange in Little Rock for the ArDOT

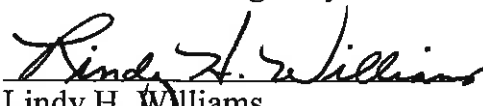
International Bridge Conference - Eugene C. Figg Jr. Medal for Signature Bridges - Broadway Bridge

Broadway Bridge Photo by Rusty Hubbard was selected as the cover for the July issue of the Modern Steel Construction Magazine

2017-070

IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be closed at 12:35 p.m., July 26, 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 July 26, 2017.

  
Lindy H. Williams  
Commission Secretary