

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

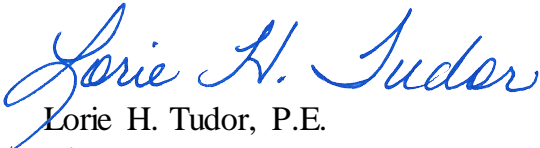
March 25, 2020

ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR NO. 2020-07

TO: 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 March 18, 2020.

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.


Lorie H. Tudor, P.E.
Director

c: Commission

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

March 18, 2020

Following is the record of proceedings of the Arkansas State Highway Commission in Little Rock, Arkansas, March 18, 2020. Members present were:

Robert S. Moore, Jr., Chairman
Alec Farmer, Vice Chairman
Philip Taldo, Member
Keith Gibson, Member
Marie Holder, Member

2020-020

IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be opened at 9:30 a.m., March 18, 2020.

2020-021

WHEREAS, Thomas B. Schueck served on the Arkansas Highway Commission from 2011 to 2020; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Schueck was a strong supporter of improvements to the State Highway System; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Schueck was an advocate for a major project that will enhance capacity and improve mobility along the Highway 10 Corridor from Chenal Parkway to Pleasant Valley Drive, including the Interstate 430 Interchange, in Little Rock; and

WHEREAS, under Commissioner Schueck's leadership, improvements to this segment of the Highway 10 Corridor are under contract and will begin in the near future.

NOW THEREFORE, considering the distinguished service of Commissioner Schueck to the Arkansas Highway Commission and the importance of the Highway 10 Corridor to the State Highway System, the Highway Commission

hereby honors Commissioner Schueck by officially naming the segment of Highway 10 from Chenal Parkway to Pleasant Valley Drive in the City of Little Rock as the Thomas B. Schueck Highway.

2020-022

WHEREAS, the Purchasing Committee has awarded purchases on March 2, 2020, totaling \$194,057.13, 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.

2020-023

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration sponsors the National Summer Transportation Institute, a program to encourage secondary school students to pursue transportation careers; and

WHEREAS, increasing awareness about transportation related careers is important to the transportation industry; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration has encouraged state transportation departments to continue this 100% federally funded program; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Federal Highway Administration's guidelines for selecting a host site, the Department issued a Request for Proposals; and

WHEREAS, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock has submitted a proposal that meets the scope of the program and is within the projected budget allowance provided by the Federal Highway Administration.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to enter into an agreement with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to host the 2020 National Summer Transportation Institute.

2020-024

WHEREAS, the Department is responsible for developing and maintaining Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) devices on the Highway System; and

WHEREAS, the Intelligent Transportation Society of America is an organization that supports research, development and deployment of ITS technologies; and

WHEREAS, membership in this organization would assist the Department in the achievement of ITS policies and objectives.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to pay the annual membership fee to ITS America in the amount of \$6,000.00 for the year 2020.

2020-025

WHEREAS, landslides have occurred and are anticipated to occur at numerous locations around the state; and

WHEREAS, these landslides need repair and stabilization to prevent additional damage to highway pavements, slopes and drainage structures, to prevent highway embankment material from moving beyond the right-of-way and possibly damaging waterways, public and private property, and to avoid long term impacts to traffic; and

WHEREAS, Minute Order 2018-083 approved the procurement of on-call services with Contractors experienced in repair and stabilization of landslides utilizing advanced techniques including permanently cased soil nails, self-drilling soil nails, launched soil nails, micropiles tieback anchor systems, soldier pile walls, drilled rail, compaction grouting, and aggregate piers; and

WHEREAS, the use of on-call services to repair slides using conventional methods including rock-fill buttresses, check dams, gabion walls, slide head excavation, and backfilling with lightweight material will allow the Department to respond more quickly to needs as they arise.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to enter into on-call service agreements with Contractors experienced in repair and stabilization of landslides utilizing the methods above as funds become available through December 2023.

2020-026

WHEREAS, IN PHILLIPS COUNTY on Hwy. 316 near Watkins Corner, an original contract dated May 7, 2019, was awarded to River Ridge Construction, LLC for Job No. 110643, FAP No. NHPP-0054(23), Coffee Creek & Drainage Ditch Strs. & Apprs. (S); and

WHEREAS, the Contractor has failed to comply with contract requirements by discontinuing the prosecution of the work; and

WHEREAS, the Contractor has notified the Surety that they are unable to perform the contract; and

WHEREAS, the contract has been suspended by the Deputy Director and Chief Engineer.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS AUTHORIZED that the rights of the Contractor, River Ridge Construction, LLC, to proceed on Job No. 110643 are hereby terminated in accordance with Subsection 108.08 of the Standard Specifications, and the Deputy Director and Chief Engineer shall coordinate with Granite Re, Inc., as Surety on the contract bond, to arrange for completion of the project in accordance with the plans and specifications and in compliance with the terms and conditions of the contract.

2020-027

WHEREAS, IN LINCOLN COUNTY on Hwy. 54 east of the Garrett Bridge community, an original contract dated May 7, 2019, was awarded to River Ridge Construction, LLC for Job No. 020614, FAP No. NHPP-0040(34), Mills Bayou Str. & Apprs. (S); and

WHEREAS, the Contractor has failed to complete punch list items of work in order to complete the project for acceptance; and

WHEREAS, the Contractor has notified the Surety that they are unable to perform the contract; and

WHEREAS, the contract has been suspended by the Deputy Director and Chief Engineer.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS AUTHORIZED that the rights of the Contractor, River Ridge Construction, LLC, to proceed on Job No. 020614 are hereby terminated in accordance with Subsection 108.08 of the Standard Specifications, and the Deputy Director and Chief Engineer shall coordinate with Granite Re, Inc., as Surety on the contract bond, to arrange for completion of the project in accordance with the plans and specifications and in compliance with the terms and conditions of the contract.

2020-028

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway Commission (Commission) acquired property known as Tract Nos. 19RL and 19RR, Job No. 030313, from Mae Gonzalez, Trustee of the Gonzalez Family Living Trust dated May 17, 2004, et al., by Warranty Deed dated June 9, 2009, and filed of record on July 16, 2009, as Document No. 2009R006050, in the Circuit Clerk's office for Miller County, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, Floyd S. Hicks and Elizabeth Hicks of Doddridge, Arkansas have requested to purchase Tract No. 19RR (a/k/a 19R-2), Job No. 030313, which the District Engineer for District 3 has determined is not now, nor in the foreseeable future will be, needed for highway purposes; and

WHEREAS, Tract No. 19R-2 was acquired as surplus property by the Commission and is exempt from reacquisition by the former owners under Ark. Code Ann. § 27-67-322. Mr. Hicks offered to purchase the tract for THREE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FIFTY AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$3,650.00), representing the fair market value by three Commission appraisers.

WHEREAS, the Commission acquired Tract No. 19R-2 for ONE THOUSAND SEVENTY-FIVE AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$1,075.00), which the tract is more particularly described as follows:

Part of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 33, Township 19 South, Range 27 West, Miller County, Arkansas, and being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at an iron pin with a surveyors cap found at the Southeast corner of Section 33, Township 19 South, Range 27 West; thence, with the East line of Section 33, North 02° 22' 40" East a distance of 408.81 feet to a point in the Easterly right of way line of U.S. Highway 71 Relocation as established by AHTD Job No. 030313 for the POINT OF BEGINNING; thence, continuing with the said Easterly right of way line, North 8° 12' 30" West a distance of 559.34 feet to a point; thence, continuing with the said Easterly right of way line, North 12° 44' 04" West a distance of 380.38 feet to a point in the North line of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 33; thence, with the said North line, South 87° 55' 22" East a distance of 201.93 feet to a point being used as the Northeast corner of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 33; thence, with the East line of Section 33, South 02° 22' 40" West a distance of 918.11 feet back to the point of beginning and containing 1.94 acres more or less (84,301 sq. ft.).

NOW THEREFORE, the above-described property is declared surplus and upon receipt and consideration of the sum of THREE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FIFTY AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$3,650.00) from Floyd S. Hicks and Elizabeth Hicks of Doddridge, Arkansas, 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 Floyd S. Hicks and Elizabeth Hicks, husband and wife; 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 Miller 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-aid funds or otherwise credited as permitted by federal law.

2020-029

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway Commission (Commission) acquired property known as Old Baxter County Area Headquarters, Tract No. 97, Job No. 9769, from Baxter County, Arkansas, by and through its County Judge, James H. Baker, by Quitclaim Deed dated April 25, 1963, recorded in Record Book 59, Page 627, of the public records of Baxter County, Arkansas for the consideration of ONE AND NO/100 (DOLLARS) \$1.00; and

WHEREAS, Jeffery W. Magness of Mountain Home, Arkansas has offered to purchase the Old Baxter County Area Headquarters for THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$300,500.00), representing the fair market value by three Commission appraisers; and deposited FIFTEEN THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$15,025.00) as earnest money; and

WHEREAS, Old Baxter County Headquarters is more particularly described as follows:

That part of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 3, Township 19 North, Range 13 West, Lying East of the County Road and North of Highway No. 62, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at the Northwest Corner of the Northwest Quarter of Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 3, Township 19 North, Range 13 West, run then due East 472.30 feet along the North boundary of Section 3 to the point of beginning; run thence due East 155.2 feet to a point; thence run South 24° 25' East 427.5 feet to a point; thence South 65° 42' West 384.4 feet to a point; thence North 13° 03' West 167.6 feet to a point; thence North 2° 11' East 156.9 feet to a point; thence

North 12° 25' East 233.3 feet to the point of beginning, containing 3.27 acres, more or less.

NOW THEREFORE, upon receipt and consideration of the sum of THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$300,500.00) from Jeffery W. Magness, 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 Jeffrey W. Magness; 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 Baxter 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-aid funds or otherwise credited as permitted by federal law.

2020-030

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway Commission (Commission) acquired property known as Tract No. 1XR, Job No. 100609, from Albertine Rogers, of lawful age and unmarried, by Warranty Deed dated July 24, 2006, and filed for record in Document Number 200607001 on July 25, 2006, in the Circuit Clerk's office of Greene County, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, Tract No. 1XR, Job No. 100609 was acquired as surplus property by the Commission for the sum of THIRTY-THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$33,700.00) and is exempt from reacquisition by the former owners under Ark. Code Ann. § 27-67-322. The tract is more particularly described as follows:

Part of Lots 17 and 18, Block 2 of McHaney's Addition to the City of Paragould, being a part of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 36, Township 17 North, Range 5 East, Greene County, Arkansas, more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at a 3/8 inch rebar being used as the Northwest corner of Lot 4, Block 3 of McHaney's Addition said point being on the Southerly right of way line of Main Street as established by the plat of McHaney's Addition recorded in the Plat Book, Page 20; thence South 89° 27' 38" East along said right of way line a distance of 199.14 feet to a point on the Westerly right of way line of U. S. Highway 49 as established by AHTD Job 10721; thence North 01° 00' 19" West a distance of 50.02 feet to a point on the Northerly right of way line of Main Street as established by the plat of McHaney's Addition recorded in the Plat Book, Page 20; thence North 89°

27' 38" West along said right of way line a distance of 21.44 feet to the point of beginning; thence continue North 89° 27' 38" West along said right of way line a distance of 73.56 feet to a point on the West line of Lot 17, Block 2 of the McHaney's Addition; thence North 00° 59' 11" West along said West line a distance of 151.93 feet to a point on Northwest corner of Lot 17 said point also being on the Southerly right of way line of an Alley as established by the Plat of McHaney's Addition recorded in the Plat Book, Page 20; thence South 88° 34' 57" East along said right of way line a distance of 74.93 feet to a point on the Westerly right of way line of U.S. Highway 49 as established by AHTD Job 100609; thence South 00° 28' 56" East along said right of way line a distance of 150.75 feet to the point of beginning and containing 11,230 square feet more or less as shown on plans prepared by the AHTD referenced as Job 100609.

WHEREAS, Amanda Jernigan and Shannon Masingale of Paragould, Arkansas have offered to purchase Tract No. 1XR for the sum of THIRTY-SIX THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$36,925.00), representing the acquisition cost to the Commission of THIRTY-THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$33,700.00), which exceeds the current fair market value as opined by three (3) qualified appraisers; and the administrative costs incurred by the Commission of THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$3,225.00); and

WHEREAS, the District Engineer for District Ten has determined that the property is not now, nor in the foreseeable future will be, needed for highway purposes.

NOW THEREFORE, the above-described property is declared surplus; upon receipt of the consideration of THIRTY-SIX THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$36,925.00), the Chairman of the Commission is authorized and directed to execute a Quitclaim Deed conveying said property to Amanda Jernigan and Shannon Masingale, as married individuals; this Minute Order along with a copy of the deed shall be recorded in Greene County, Arkansas and, if necessary, the right of way shall be remonumented. Any Federal-aid funds from this disposal shall be credited to Federal-aid funds.

2020-031

WHEREAS, IN HEMPSTEAD COUNTY, Highway 195, Section 1 from Highway 355 to Highway 73 currently has a weight restriction of 64,000 pounds due to the condition of the roadway; and

WHEREAS, Tyson Foods, Inc. has expressed an interest in constructing a feed mill on Highway 195 between Highway 355 and Highway 73; and

WHEREAS, the weight restriction on Highway 195, Section 1 from Highway 355 to Highway 73 will prevent Tyson Foods, Inc. from utilizing trucks to their full weight limit; and

WHEREAS, Hempstead County has agreed to partner with the Department in order to remove the weight restriction by providing \$1.5 million and accepting ownership and responsibility for portions of Highways 195, 234, and 355 as shown on the attached sketch; and

WHEREAS, Tyson Foods, Inc. has agreed to partner with the Department in order to remove the weight restriction by providing \$3 million, which is personal property; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas Code Annotated §27-67-301 states the State Highway Commission is authorized to acquire real or personal property, or any interest therein, deemed to be necessary or desirable for state highway purposes, by gift, devise, purchase, exchange, condemnation, or otherwise.

NOW THEREFORE, upon receipt of a letter from Tyson Foods, Inc. and a resolution from Hempstead County, the Director is authorized to enter into any necessary agreements and to proceed with surveys, plans, and construction of these improvements as funds become available.

FURTHERMORE, upon completion of the improvements to Highway 195 and 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 195, Section 3 between Highway 332, Section 6 and Highway 371, Section 3 is hereby removed from the State Highway System.
- The portion of Highway 234, Section 3 beginning at the junction of Highway 32, Section 4 to the end of the pavement is hereby removed from the State Highway System.
- The portion of Highway 355, Section 3 beginning at the junction of Highway 174, Section 0 to the end of the pavement is hereby removed from the State Highway System.
- The portion of Highway 355, Section 3Y beginning at the junction of Highway 355, Section 3 to the end of the pavement is hereby removed from the State Highway System.

2020-032

WHEREAS, the new Highway 549 Bypass around Bella Vista will result in the existing Bella Vista Welcome Center no longer being along the main travelway coming from Missouri; and

WHEREAS, the existing Welcome Center has surpassed its serviceable life and the City of Bella Vista has expressed an interest in acquiring the existing Welcome Center; and

WHEREAS, Minute Order 2019-092 authorized the acquisition of a new site at the first interchange south of the Missouri/Arkansas State Line on the southbound side of the Highway 549 Bypass; and

WHEREAS, the property owner has declined the proposed sale of said property.

NOW THEREFORE, the Commission hereby rescinds Minute Order 2019-092 and the Director is authorized to locate and acquire the necessary property, to procure the services of an Architectural/Engineering firm and to proceed with the design and construction of the Welcome Center as funds become available.

2020-033

WHEREAS, the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) provides funding to improve transportation facilities that provide access to, are adjacent to, or are located within Federal lands; and

WHEREAS, the Department applied for and was awarded FLAP funding to improve replace bridge structures on Highway 270 between Y City and Buck Knob; and

WHEREAS, the Department must enter into an agreement with Federal Highway Administration Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division to establish roles and responsibilities for implementation of the project.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to enter into any necessary contracts and agreements with Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division and to proceed with surveys, plans, and construction of a project to replace bridge structures on Highway 270.

2020-034

WHEREAS, IN CRAIGHEAD COUNTY, IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO, local officials have expressed concern about traffic flow within the City; and

WHEREAS, a study is requested to determine the need for and feasibility of future routes south and west of the City.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to conduct a study to determine the need for and feasibility of future routes south and west of the City of Jonesboro.

2020-035

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway Commission will accept bids on the following projects in the April 1, 2020 letting; and

<u>JOB NO.</u>	<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>JOB NAME</u>	<u>ROUTE</u>	<u>APHN</u>
A10002	01	CRITTENDEN	HWY. 77 – HWY. 38 (I-40 FRONTAGE ROADS) (WEST MEMPHIS) (S)	I-40	Y
A10003	01	PHILLIPS	W. OF MARVELL – HWY. 1 (S)	49	Y
A10004	01	ST. FRANCIS	FORREST CITY – WEST (S)	I-40	Y
A20002	02	DREW	WILMAR – MONTICELLO (S)	278	Y
A20003	02	JEFFERSON	SHERIDAN RD. – BURNETT ST. (PINE BLUFF) (S)	79B & 365	Y
020694	02	ARKANSAS	HWYS. 1B, 130 & 152 IMPVTS. (DEWITT) (S)	1B, 130 & 152	Y
A30001	03	LAFAYETTE & MILLER	HWYS. 29 & 160 (SEL. SECS.) (S)	29 & 160	Y
030008	03	SEVIER	JOHNS BRANCH STR. & APPRS. (S)	71	Y
030455	03	LAFAYETTE	DOOLEY CREEK STR. & APPRS. (S)	160	N
030518	03	PIKE	MURFREESBORO – NORTH (S)	27	Y
030520	03	LITTLE RIVER	S. OF HWY. 32 – HWY. 108 (ASHDOWN) (S)	71 & 32	Y
030521	03	SEVIER	HWYS. 70 & 71 IMPVTS. (DE QUEEN) (SEL. SECS.) (S)	70 & 71	Y
A40003	04	CRAWFORD	I-40 – MT. VISTA BLVD. (VAN BUREN) (S)	59	Y
A40004	04	CRAWFORD & SEBASTIAN	HWY. 64 – HWY. 22 (S)	59	Y
A40005	04	WASHINGTON	HWY. 16 – HWY. 45 (FAYETTEVILLE) (S)	265	Y
A50001	05	FULTON & SHARP	SALEM – ASH FLAT (SEL. SECS.) (S)	62	Y
050313	05	INDEPENDENCE	HWY. 230 – HWY. 167 (SAFETY IMPVTS.) (S)	25	Y
A60001	06	PULASKI	I-30 – ROOSEVELT RD. (LITTLE ROCK) (S)	70	Y

061506	06	PULASKI	SHILCOTTS BAYOU STR. & APPRS. (NORTH LITTLE ROCK) (S)	176	Y
061598	06	SALINE	I-530/HWY. 167 INT CHNG. RAMPS (S)	167	Y
A70001	07	BRADLEY	HWY. 63B EAST & WEST (WARREN) (S)	278B	Y
A70002	07	CALHOUN & OUACHITA	OUACHITA CO. LINE – HWY. 167 (S)	278	Y
CA0704	07	CALHOUN	HWY. 79 – SOUTH (WIDENING) (S)	167	Y
070501	07	OUACHITA	LOUANN – CAMDEN (S)	7	Y
BB0801	08	JOHNSON	HWY. 164 – HWY. 352 (S)	I-40	Y
080529	08	POPE	HECTOR, ISABELL & ALEWINE CREEKS STRS. & APPRS. (S)	105	Y
080588	08	POPE	POTTSVILLE – ATKINS (S)	64	Y
080597	08	VAN BUREN	HWY. 65B – HWY. 95 (CLINTON) (S)	65	Y
A90001	09	SEARCY	ST. JOE – HWY. 333 (S)	65	Y
090517	09	BAXTER	IZARD CO. LINE – MOUNTAIN HOME (SAFETY IMPVTS.) (SEL. SECS.) (S)	5	Y
090562	09	VARIOUS	DISTRICT 9 APHN RAISED PAVEMENT MARKERS (2020) (S)	VARIOUS	Y
A00001	10	CRAIGHEAD	I-555 – HWY. 226 (JONESBORO) (S)	49	Y
A00003	10	POINSETT	CROSS CO. LINE – HWY. 14 (S)	1	Y
012323	05 & 08	VARIOUS	DISTRICTS 5 & 8 APHN RAISED PAVEMENT MARKERS (2020) (S)	VARIOUS	Y
012349	01 & 10	VARIOUS	DISTRICTS 1 & 10 BRIDGE PRESERVATION (2020) (S)	VARIOUS	Y
012350	VAR	VARIOUS	DISTRICTS 2, 3, 6 & 7 BRIDGE PRESERVATION (2020) (S)	VARIOUS	Y
C01009	02	ARKANSAS	HUMPHREY & ALMYRA IMPROVEMENTS (S)	---	-
C03009	09	BAXTER	LAKEVIEW & NORFORK OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-
C11007	10	CLAY	CORNING, POLLARD, ST. FRANCIS & SUCCESS OVL. & SURF. (S)	---	-
C14007	07	COLUMBIA	MAGNOLIA OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C18012	01	CRITTENDEN	MARION OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C24003	04	FRANKLIN	ALTUS OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-
C37004	03	LAFAYETTE	BUCKNER OVERLAY (S)	---	-

C68004	01	ST. FRANCIS	FORREST CITY DAWSON RD. OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C72003	04	WASHINGTON	FARMINGTON DOUBLE SPRINGS RD. IMPROVEMENTS (S)	---	-
C76054	01	LEE & PHILLIPS	LAKE VIEW & RONDO SURFACING & OVERLAY (S)	---	-
SA0559	09	BOONE	BOONE CO. BASE & SURF. (S)	---	-
SA0560	09	BOONE	CO. RD. 182 SURFACING (S)	---	-
SA0941	02	CHICOT	COUNTY ROAD 69 OVERLAY (S)	---	-
SA1063	07	CLARK	CO. RDS. 15 & 74 LEVELING AND RESEAL (S)	---	-
SA2749	02	GRANT	HWY. 46 – WEST OVERLAY (S)	---	-
SA2750	02	GRANT	TULL CITY LIMITS– HWY. 35 NO. 2 (RESEAL) (S)	---	-
SA2946	03	HEMPSTEAD	HEMPSTEAD CO. OVERLAY (S)	---	-
SA5348	08	PERRY	HWY. 300 – PULASKI CO. LINE (OVERLAY) (S)	---	-
SA5447	01	PHILLIPS	PHILLIPSCO. SURFACING NO. 8 (S)	---	-
SA5559	03	PIKE	PIKE COUNTY RESEAL NO. 5 (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 Moore opened the meeting by welcoming those in attendance. Chairman Moore recognized new Commissioner Marie Holder.

MOTIONS

MOTION Commissioner Philip Taldo moved, Commissioner Marie Holder seconded and the motion passed to authorize the use of electronic signatures for the March 18, 2020 Minute Orders.

MOTION Commissioner Philip Taldo moved, Commissioner Marie Holder seconded and the motion passed to approve the Minutes from the previous Commission Meetings of February 5, February 20 and March 9, 2020.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Patrick Patton, Chief Fiscal Officer, provided the February 2020 update on State Highway Revenue. Mr. Patton noted that State Highway Revenues to the Department from traditional sources are up a total of 8.4% (\$22.9 million) in the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2020 compared to SFY 2019. Revenue from the Natural Gas Severance Tax is lower this year compared to last year. Total revenues available are 4.6% (12.9 million) above last year. Actual State Revenue received is 5.5% (\$15.3 million) above projected (budgeted) revenue for this year.

In closing, Mr. Patton stated that February revenue from the 0.5% General Sales Tax for the Connecting Arkansas Program was 1.95% higher, (\$295,666) than projected by the Department of Finance and Administration (DF&A) for the month. Year to date actual revenue is above projections by 2.83% (\$3,750,328). Since inception, this revenue source is -0.31%, or \$3.7 million, under DF&A's projections.

Director Bennett stated that the USDOT announced the availability of \$1.0 Billion for FFY 2020 in Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Discretionary Grants. The focus area is concentrated to the Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) initiative. Director Bennett noted that three projects have been identified and meet the criteria, which provide the best possibility of being awarded a BUILD grant.

- Highway 83 Spur to Highway 278 Connector (Job 020475)
 - This is a new location route located in a rural area in Drew County
 - The City of Monticello has agreed to partner with the Department to provide \$3.5 million and take ownership of portions of Highway 83 Spur and Highway 83
 - The requested BUILD Grant amount is \$4 Million

- UPRR Overpass & Realignment (Mayflower) (Job 020475)
 - This is a new UPRR overpass with highway relocation located in a rural area in Faulkner County
 - Metroplan, Faulkner County and the City of Mayflower have agreed to partner and provide \$9.46 Million, \$1.5 Million and \$865,000, respectively. The City and County will take over bypassed portions of Highway 89.
 - The requested BUILD Grant amount is \$5 Million

- Highway 67 Corridor Improvements (Future I-57)
 - This is an urban area with economic benefits to rural areas located on Highway 67 in Pulaski and Lonoke Counties from Main Street – Highway 89
 - The application includes three projects
 - CA0604, Main Street – Vandenberg Blvd.(Scheduled late 2021)
 - CA0605, Vandenberg Blvd. – Highway 5 (Completed May 2019)
 - 061371, Hwy. 67 Interchange Improvements (Scheduled Early 2021)
 - The requested BUILD Grant amount is \$25 Million

Director Bennett provided the latest information on Federal highway and transit funding issues. Director Bennett noted that on August 2, 2019, Congress passed a budget for Federal Fiscal Year 2020. After two short-term extensions, Congress passed and the President signed all of the Federal Fiscal Year 2020 spending bills. This provides full funding until September 30, 2020. The FAST Act established increased funding levels over its five-year term, but it will also expire on September 30, 2020. Congress must pass a new transportation bill or temporarily extend the FAST Act before September 30, 2020, or Federal funding for highway projects will be cutoff. Director Bennett and other staff from the Department met with Congressional leaders in late February at the AASHTO Washington Briefing, where the primary topic was reauthorization of the FAST Act. Many in Congress expressed they do not expect a new highway bill before the election in November. Most expect that Congress will extend the FAST Act and issue a Continuing Resolution as we enter into FFY 2021 on October 1, 2020.

Director Bennett provided an update on the status of the 2011 Interstate Rehabilitation Program (IRP) and Connecting Arkansas Program (CAP).

Director Bennett updated the Commission on the Guidehouse Efficiency Review. Since the February 5 meeting, additional data requests have been received from Guidehouse, and as of March 17, 2020, 1,193 files have been uploaded to Guidehouse to fulfill their requests. Additionally, staff has spent 3,614 hours working on requests for information. This is the equivalent of one full-time employee working 1.7 years.

Director Bennett updated the Commission on the Renew Arkansas Highways Program. The Regional Town Hall meetings kicked off on January 21 and to date, nine meetings have been held in Monticello, West Memphis, Harrison, Texarkana, Mena, Fort Smith, Hot Springs, Maumelle and Springdale. In those nine meetings, there have been 674 attendees, with 96 written comments and 71 people signed up to speak. The last three meetings in Batesville, Jonesboro and El Dorado have been postponed indefinitely.

Director Bennett presented a list of upcoming meetings and events that the Commissioners and Director will be attending as well as possibilities for postponement due to COVID-19.

Director Bennett briefed the Commission on the Department's response to the COVID-19 pandemic across the country and the State.

- The Department has created a Preparedness and Response Team to monitor information from all sources and make recommendations to the Administration. The Team has adopted the Pandemic Influenza and Highway Infectious Disease (HID) Annex to ARDOT's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) to help guide efforts.
- Regular email blasts to all employees have been implemented, as well as a dedicated COVID-19 site on ARDOT's intranet. Supervisors have been directed to verbally communicate with their employees to ensure the messages are reaching all employees.
- All upcoming out-of-state travel, overnight in-state travel and Public Involvement Meetings have been canceled or postponed until further notice.
- Currently, Rest Areas will remain open, with additional cleaning and sanitizing to take place.
- For the first time ever, ARDOT has implemented a broad remote work policy to allow employees to work from home.
- Modified leave policies have been implemented for employees exposed or potentially exposed to COVID-19.
- The Department will be ready when and if the Governor signs an Executive Order for essential duties and employees only.

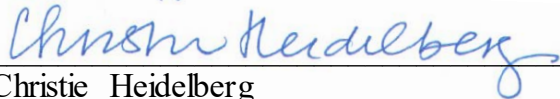
- The Department is using changeable message boards to direct people to COVID-19 testing facilities.
- Highway Police has instituted relaxed permitting regulations for the transport of critical items.
- Currently, there is no plan to shut down construction activities.

In closing, Chairman Moore recognized Randy Ort, Assistant Chief of Administration, who read a Proclamation in recognition of Director Scott Bennett's retirement.

2020-036

IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be closed at 11:11 a.m., March 18, 2020.

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true record of the proceedings taken by the Arkansas State Highway Commission at its meeting on March 18, 2020.


Christie Heidelberg
Commission Secretary