

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

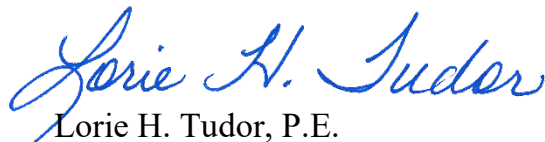
July 22, 2021

ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR NO. 2021-09

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 June 16, 2021.

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

June 16, 2021

Following is the record of proceedings of the Arkansas State Highway Commission in Little Rock, Arkansas, June 16, 2021. Members present were:

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

2021-045

IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be opened at 10:00 a.m., June 16, 2021.

2021-046

WHEREAS, the Purchasing Committee has awarded purchases on May 7, May 10, May 19, May 24, and June 4, 2021 in the amounts of \$3,925,994.97, \$138,600.00, \$101,637.50, \$244,273.00, and \$655,489.64, respectively totaling \$5,065,995.11, 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.

2021-047

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

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

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to proceed with improvements at these crossings as funds become available 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.
- Appropriate program approval from the Federal Highway Administration.

2021-048

WHEREAS, the existing Logan County Area Headquarters facility in Paris, on State Highway 22, was constructed in 1959; and

WHEREAS, at this existing location, the property is marginal in size and the structure is in poor condition and has exceeded its service life; and

WHEREAS, the relocation of the Logan County Area Headquarters has been a high priority for the Department for the past ten years; and

WHEREAS, funds for this project will be available from the Building Maintenance and Repairs Allotment in the 2020-2021 Operating Budget.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to identify the most appropriate location for the new facility, acquire the necessary property, and construct an Area Headquarters facility, including buildings, appurtenances, fencing, and related items.

Work to be done by contract and state forces as a Building Project.

2021-049

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway Commission will accept bids on the following projects in the June 30, 2021 letting; and

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
110800	01	CRITTENDEN	I-40 Truck Parking Expansion Project(West Memphis) (S)	I-40	Y
A10006	01	CROSS	Hwys. 1, 64B & 284 (Sel. Secs.) (S)	1, 64B & 284	Y
A50004	05	CLEBURNE	Hwy. 25 – East (S)	110	Y
A50008	05	WHITE	McRae – Hwy. 267 (S)	13	N
061622	06	PULASKI & SALINE	Sevier St. – Geyer Springs Rd. (Conc. Pvmnt. Pres.) (S)	I-30	Y
061685	06	LONOKE & PULASKI	Hwy. 161 – Hwy. 31 (S)	I-40	Y
070564	07	CLARK	Hwy. 51/Prof. Park Dr. Signal (Arkadelphia) (S)	51	Y
A80004	08	PERRY	Sweet Home – Hwy. 9 (S)	60	Y
A90010	09	BOONE	Hwy. 62 – Dry Jordan Creek (Sel. Secs.) (S)	65	Y
101062	10	CRAIGHEAD	Hwy. 18/Quality Way Signal (Jonesboro) (S)	18	Y
012377	08 & 09	VARIOUS	Districts 8 & 9 Bridge Preservation (2021) (S)	VAR	Y
C29007	03	HEMPSTEAD	Patmos Overlay & Surfacing (S)	---	-
C35002	02	JEFFERSON	Pine Bluff 13th Ave. Reconstruction (S)	---	-
C47012	10	MISSISSIPPI	Dyess Overlay (S)	---	-

C49003	08	MONTGOMERY	Norman Overlay & Surfacing (S)	---	-
C50007	03	NEVADA	Prescott & Rosston Overlay & Surfacing (S)	---	-
C62009	06	SALINE	Haskell Overlay & Surfacing (S)	---	-
C62011	06	SALINE	BRYANT OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C65011	04	SEBASTIAN	Barling & Hackett Overlay (S)	---	-
C76051	10	CLAY & GREENE	Marmaduke & Rector Overlay (S)	---	-
C76060	03	HEMPSTEAD & PIKE	Antoine & Blevins OVERLAY (S)	---	-
SA0362	09	BAXTER	Co. Rd. 806 Surfacing (S)	---	-
SA0766	07	CALHOUN	Calhoun Co. Overlay No. 2 (S)	---	-
SA1664	10	CRAIGHEAD	Craighead Co. Sealing No. 2 (S)	---	-
SA1772	04	CRAWFORD	Hwy. 59 – Pine Hollow Rd. (Overlay) (S)	---	-
SA2042	07	DALLAS	Co. Rd. 16 Overlay (S)	---	-
SA2752	02	GRANT	Grant Co. Reseal No. 7 (S)	---	-
SA3276	05	INDEPENDENCE	Independence Co. Overlay No. 5 (S)	---	-
SA4439	09	MADISON	Madison Co. Overlay & Surfacing (S)	---	-
SA4549	09	MARION	Hwy. 980 – Co. Rd. 27 (Overlay) (S)	---	-
SA4838	01	MONROE	Co. Rds. 21 & 63 (Overlay) (S)	---	-
SA4941	08	MONTGOMERY	Montgomery County Overlay No. 3 (S)	---	-
SA5448	01	PHILLIPS	PHILLIPS CO. OVERLAY (S)	---	-
SA5740	04	POLK	Polk County Overlay No. 5 (S)	---	-
SA6052	06	PULASKI	Lawson Rd. Overlay (S)	---	-
SA6053	06	PULASKI	Pulaski Co. Seal & Microsurface (S)	---	-
SA6646	03	SEVIER	Co. Rd. 19 Drainage Structure No. 2 (S)	---	-
SA7396	05	WHITE	White County Overlay No. 4 (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 in-person, as well as those who were watching online.

MOTIONS

MOTION Commissioner Keith Gibson moved, Vice Chairman Alec Farmer seconded and the motion passed to authorize the use of electronic signatures for the June 16, 2021 Minute Orders.

MOTION Commissioner Marie Holder moved, Commissioner Philip Taldo seconded and the motion passed to approve the Minutes from the May 5, 2021 Commission Meeting.

MOTION The Commission approved Minute Order 2020-087 on October 14, 2020, authorizing the Department to enter into any necessary contracts and agreements with consulting firms to provide on-call design services and supplement Department Staff. Commissioner Keith Gibson moved, Commissioner Marie Holder seconded and the motion passed to accept the Staff's recommendation to enter into negotiations with the following firms:

Right of Way Design Services:

- B&F Engineering, Inc. – Hot Springs, Arkansas
- NTB Associates, Inc. – Little Rock, Arkansas

Roadway Design Services:

- CEI Engineering Associates, Inc. – Bentonville, Arkansas

Roadway & Right of Way Design Services:

- McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc. – Little Rock, Arkansas

Roadway & Bridge Design Services:

- Bridgefarmer & Associates, Inc. – Little Rock, Arkansas
- HDR Engineering, Inc. – Little Rock, Arkansas
- HNTB Corporation – Plano, Texas
- Neel-Schaffer, Inc. – Jackson, Mississippi
- Volkert, Inc. – Little Rock, Arkansas

Roadway, Bridge & Right of Way Design Services:

- Burns & McDonnell Engineering Co., Inc. – Springdale, Arkansas
- Crafton, Tull & Associates – Rogers, Arkansas
- Fisher and Arnold, Inc. – Jonesboro, Arkansas
- Garver, LLC – North Little Rock, Arkansas
- Halff and Associates, Inc. – Little Rock, Arkansas
- Horner & Shifrin, Inc. – Poplar Bluff, Missouri
- Iconic Consulting Group, Inc. – Little Rock, Arkansas
- Michael Baker International, Inc. – Little Rock, Arkansas
- Pickering Firm, Inc. – Jonesboro, Arkansas

MOTION

The Commission approved Minute Order 2020-104 on December 9, 2020, authorizing the Department to enter into any necessary contracts and agreements with consulting firms to provide underwater bridge inspection services. Commissioner Keith Gibson moved, Commissioner Marie Holder seconded and the motion passed to accept the Staff's recommendation to enter into negotiations with the following firm:

- Engineering Operations, LLC – Littleton, Colorado

MOTION

Commissioner Philip Taldo moved, Vice Chairman Alec Farmer seconded and the motion passed to approve the State Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022), as presented by Chief Fiscal Officer, Patrick Patton, which included the following:

Salary Highlights

- \$5.5 million (3%) for Achieving Career Excellence (ACE) pay increases
- Increase in number of positions to help the Department meet operational needs

Operation Highlights

- 1% increase to District Maintenance Budget
- \$2 million increase to Heavy Bridge Maintenance budget
- \$4 million increase to Roadway Equipment budget
- \$3.3 million for Department match for State group insurance rate

MOTION Vice Chairman Alec Farmer moved, Commissioner Philip Taldo seconded and the motion passed to enter into Executive Session at 11:43 a.m. to conduct an annual review of Director Lorie Tudor's employment.

MOTION Vice Chairman Alec Farmer moved, Commissioner Philip Taldo seconded and the motion passed to close Executive Session and reopen the public meeting at 1:02 p.m. Chairman Robert Moore made brief remarks that the Commission was highly satisfied with Director Tudor's performance. No formal action was taken.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Patrick Patton, Chief Fiscal Officer, provided the May 2021 update on State Highway Revenue. Mr. Patton noted that State Highway Revenues to the Department from traditional sources are up a total of 1.5% (\$5.5 million) in the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2021 compared to SFY 2020. Revenue from the Natural Gas Severance Tax is higher this year compared to last year. Total revenues available are 0.9% (\$3.3 million) above last year. Actual State Revenue received is 6.6% (\$24.1 million) above projected (budgeted) revenue for this year. Mr. Patton stated that May revenue from the 0.5% General Sales Tax for the Connecting Arkansas Program was 31.28% higher, (\$5,213,905) than projected by the Department of Finance and Administration (DF&A) for the month. Year to date actual revenue is above projections by 13.50% (\$25,081,560). Since inception, this revenue source is 1.49%, or \$21.5 million, above DF&A's projections.

Kevin Thornton, Assistant Chief of Administration, updated the Commission on the status of Federal Highway and Transit funding issues. Since the May 5 meeting, five additional funding plans have been presented for consideration. All of the plans presented range from five to eight years in length and each of them will increase funding above the current FAST Act levels, which expires on September 30, 2021. Each of the plans will produce significant benefits to Arkansas and those who travel our highways. Department Staff will continue to monitor how Washington addresses this issue.

Rex Vines, Deputy Director and Chief Engineer, and Steve Frisbee, Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations, provided an update to the repairs on the I-40 Mississippi River Bridge. Additionally, Mr. Vines provided an extensive overview of the Department's Bridge Inspection Program. Mr. Frisbee updated the Commission on current traffic patterns

in the West Memphis area, and highlighted the changes that were implemented to improve traffic flow and reduce delays.

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

In closing, Director Tudor recognized Vice Chairman Alec Farmer's recent appointment to serve on the Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield Board of Directors. Director Tudor also notified the Commission of two awards that the Department recently received. ARDOT's newly redesigned website received the 2021 Communicator Awards "Award of Distinction" and the 2021 Hermes Creative Awards "Honorable Mention"

2021-050

IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be closed at 1:04 p.m., June 16, 2021.

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 June 16, 2021.



Christie Heidelberg
Commission Secretary