

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

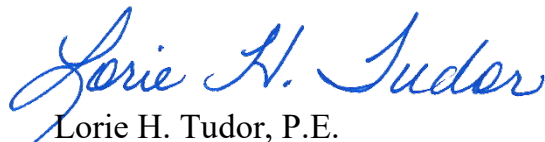
November 24, 2021

ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR NO. 2021-17

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 November 3, 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

November 16, 2021

Following is the record of proceedings of the Arkansas State Highway Commission in Little Rock, Arkansas, November 3, 2021. Members present were:

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

2021-084

IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Commission be opened at 10:00 a.m., November 3, 2021.

2021-085

WHEREAS, the Purchasing Committee has awarded purchases on September 16, September 27, and October 12 in the amounts of \$1,073,646.00, \$1,640,540.75, and \$583,900.00, respectively totaling \$3,298,086.75, 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.

2021-086

WHEREAS, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' AASHTO re:source program is operated by AASHTO and is authorized and approved by the Executive Committee of AASHTO; and

WHEREAS, the services of the AASHTO re:source program are necessary for the Department to establish and maintain proficiency in sampling and testing material; and

WHEREAS, the participation in funding the services of the AASHTO re:source program supports the laboratory accreditation program and provides technical support in maintaining the AASHTO standards for materials testing; and

WHEREAS, the Department has received notice that its share of support for Fiscal Year 2022 is \$20,000.00.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to utilize State Planning and Research funds to pay the Department's share of the cost of support for this AASHTO program for Fiscal Year 2022.

2021-087

WHEREAS, the need exists within the Department for a system that provides real-time pavement condition data for the State Highway System in addition to the comprehensive, engineering-grade pavement condition data that is currently collected biennially by the Department's Automatic Road Analyzer (ARAN); and

WHEREAS, technologies now exist that are capable of passively collecting and reporting location based pavement ride quality data on a continual basis; and

WHEREAS, access to real-time ride quality data would enhance the Department's ability to manage the State Highway System.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to solicit and evaluate proposals for the development and implementation of a system designed and manufactured for the purpose of reporting pavement surface condition data in real-time and to enter into any necessary contracts and agreements as funds become available.

2021-088

WHEREAS, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act reauthorized funding for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and the Recreational Trails Program (RTP); and

WHEREAS, applications were solicited and received for these two programs from March 1, 2021 to June 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Department of Transportation, the Transportation Alternatives Program Advisory Committee, and the Arkansas Recreational Trails Advisory Committee have reviewed the applications submitted and developed funding recommendations.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to enter into contracts with the projects' sponsors for implementation of the projects recommended for award on the attached list.

2021-089

WHEREAS, Clark County has expressed interest in partnering with the Department to widen Highway 67 from Highway 51 to Henderson Street as part of the Arkadelphia Bypass project; and

WHEREAS, the City of Arkadelphia, Ouachita Baptist University, and Henderson State University have expressed a willingness to donate any necessary right of way for these additional improvements; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that including this work in the Arkadelphia Bypass project is an appropriate and logical addition.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to enter into the necessary agreements with the City, County, and Universities and to proceed with surveys, plans and construction for the Arkadelphia Bypass, including the extension to Henderson Street.

2021-090

WHEREAS, IN NORTHWEST ARKANSAS AND SOUTHWEST MISSOURI, the Bella Vista Bypass is substantially complete; and

WHEREAS, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have approved the designation of the Bella Vista Bypass as Interstate 49.

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.

- Highway 549, Section 9 beginning at the junction with Highway 71 and continuing north to Benton County Road 34 is hereby redesignated as part of Interstate 49, Section 29.
- The newly constructed portion of the Bella Vista Bypass beginning at Benton County Road 34 and continuing north to the Missouri State Line is hereby added to the State Highway System as part of Interstate 49, Section 29.

2021-091

WHEREAS, Minute Order 2016-125 authorized a study to identify the current status of transportation needs on Highway 64 between Bald Knob and Marion; and

WHEREAS, the Highway 64 Study has been prepared and has set forward a vision for future corridor improvements.

NOW THEREFORE, this study is adopted for use as a planning guide for future improvements to the Highway 64 corridor.

2021-092

WHEREAS, the mission of the Arkansas State Police is to protect human life and property in the state of Arkansas by providing the highest quality of law enforcement services to the public; and

WHEREAS, increasing awareness about transportation related law enforcement services that are available to the public is important and vital to the transportation system; and

WHEREAS, the installation of signage along the State Highway System has been proven to be an effective strategy to increase awareness to the traveling community; and

WHEREAS, the Department is coordinating with Arkansas State Police to develop an informational sign layout.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to proceed with the installation of signs as schedules and priorities permit.

2021-093

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway Commission will accept bids on the following projects in the November 3, 2021 letting; and

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
020590	02	DESHA	UPRR Str. & Apprs. (McGehee) (S)	278	Y
020785	02	JEFFERSON	District 2 R.E. Office 23 (Pine Bluff) (S)	65	Y
020786	02	ASHLEY	Hwys. 133 & 169 (Sel. Secs.) (Crossett) (S)	133 & 169	Y
040823	04	SEBASTIAN	Hwy. 10S/Hwy. 71 Signal (Greenwood) (S)	10S & 71	Y
070416	07	CLEVELAND	Big Creek & Relief Strs. & Apprs. (S)	133	N
100762	10	GREENE	Hwy. 358 – Hwy. 412 Strs. & Apprs. (S)	141	Y
101062	10	CRAIGHEAD	Hwy. 18/Quality Way Signal (Jonesboro) (S)	18	Y
012398	VAR	VARIOUS	Statewide CENTERLINE RUMBLE STRIPE Impvts. (S)	VARIOUS	Y

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. Director Tudor recognized former Arkansas State Highway Employees Retirement System (ASHERS) Executive Secretary and current retiree representative on the ASHERS Board Larry Dickerson, who presented a framed

poem and clock to Steven Chaney, son of former District Engineer and Retirement Board Member Jim Chaney, in recognition of his service to ARDOT and the Retirement Board. Mr. Chaney passed away in October 2021.

MOTION

Vice Chairman Alec Farmer moved, Commissioner Philip Taldo seconded, and the motion passed to authorize use of electronic signatures for the November 3, 2021 Minute Orders.

MOTION

Vice Chairman Alec Farmer moved, Commissioner Keith Gibson seconded, and the motion passed to approve the Minutes from the September 15, 2021 Commission Meeting

MOTION

The Commission approved Minute Order 2018-097 on October 10, 2018, authorizing the Department to issue a Request for Proposals for a Maintenance Management System. Vice Chairman Alec Farmer moved, Commissioner Marie Holder seconded, and the motion passed to accept the staff's recommendation to enter into negotiations with the following firm:

DTS, LLC – Orlando, Florida.

MOTION

The Commission approved Minute Order 2021-058 on July 28, 2021, authorizing the Department to request proposals and retain the services of a qualified consultant to implement a Human Resources Information System. Vice Chairman Alec Farmer moved, Commissioner Philip Taldo seconded and the motion passed to accept the staff's recommendation to enter into negotiations with the following firm:

UKG, Inc. – Weston, Florida

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Patrick Patton, Chief Fiscal Officer, provided the September 2021 update on State Highway Revenue. Mr. Patton noted that State Highway Revenues to the Department from traditional sources are up a total of 7.2% (\$7.5 million) in the SFY 2022 compared to SFY 2021. Revenue from the Natural Gas Severance Tax is higher this year compared to last

year. Total revenues available are 12.3% (\$12.9 million) above last year. Actual State Revenue received is 10.2% (\$10.9 million) above projected (budgeted) revenue for this year. Mr. Patton stated that September revenue from the 0.5% General Sales Tax for the Connecting Arkansas Program was -0.16% lower, (-\$33,174) than projected by the Department of Finance and Administration (DF&A) for the month. Year to date actual revenue is above projections by 1.33% (\$809,568). Since inception, this revenue source is 1.66%, or \$25.3 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. The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act expired in September 2020; however, a Continuing Resolution (CR) was signed, which extended the FAST Act until September 30, 2021. Due to Congress not being able to pass a new transportation bill, and the CR expiration on September 30, there was a partial government shutdown on October 1. On this day, the Federal Highway Administration was furloughed. On October 2, Congress was able to pass another CR to extend the FAST Act until October 31. Another CR was passed on October 28, which extended the FAST Act until December 3. As of this meeting, the only infrastructure bill under consideration is the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), which passed in the U.S. Senate and is awaiting a vote in the U.S. House.

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

In closing, Director Tudor notified the Commission that the Department and Michael Baker International were awarded the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) People's Choice Award for the De Roche Creek Lateral Bridge Project. Director Tudor also reported that the Department has received positive feedback from the recent Legislative Orientation that was held on October 20.

2021-094

IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Commission be closed at 10:55 a.m., November 3, 2021.

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true recording of the proceedings taken by the Arkansas State Highway Commission at its meeting on November 3, 2021.



Christie Heidelberg
Commission Secretary