

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

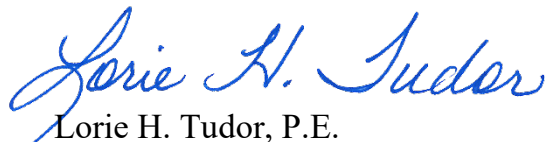
July 5, 2022

ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR NO. 2022-10

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 14, 2022.

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 14, 2022

Following is the record of proceedings of the Arkansas State Highway Commission in Little Rock, Arkansas, June 14, 2022. Members present were:

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

2022-058

IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be opened at 10:00 a.m., June 14, 2022.

2022-059

WHEREAS, the Purchasing Committee has awarded purchases on May 9, and May 16, 2022, in the amounts of \$770,826.00, and \$386,700.00, respectively, totaling \$1,157,526.00, 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.

2022-060

WHEREAS, the Great Arkansas Cleanup is an important anti-litter program, which improves the scenic beauty of the State's highways; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Department of Transportation spends approximately \$5 million annually to remove litter from the State Highway System; and

WHEREAS, the Department's previous contributions to the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Foundation have been helpful in continuing the Great Arkansas Cleanup.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to make a contribution of \$25,000 this year to the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Foundation for use in conducting the Great Arkansas Cleanup Campaign.

2022-061

WHEREAS, Act 1688 of 2001 of the 83rd General Assembly of the State of Arkansas provided authorization to increase the uniform allowance for all uniformed personnel of the Arkansas Highway Police Division (Arkansas Highway Police Patrol Officer through Chief); and

WHEREAS, increased cost and maintenance of Highway Police uniforms warrant an increase in the uniform allowance.

NOW THEREFORE, the uniform allowance is increased to \$1,800.00 annually effective July 1, 2022.

2022-062

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 2022 National Summer Transportation Institute.

2022-063

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) provides funding to states for the purpose of achieving a significant reduction in fatalities and serious injuries on the roadway system; and

WHEREAS, to remain eligible for HSIP funding, each State Department of Transportation must implement and update a Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) in a cooperative process with Local, State, Federal, and private sector safety stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the State's SHSP must identify and analyze highway safety issues and provide a comprehensive framework for reducing fatalities and serious injuries on public roads; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas' current SHSP was adopted by Commission Minute Order 2017-062 in July 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Highway Safety Steering Committee, comprised of representatives from the engineering, enforcement, education, and emergency medical service sectors, has updated Arkansas' SHSP in accordance with Federal guidance; and

WHEREAS, the updated SHSP identifies key safety needs and recommends a Safe Systems approach to improve safety on Arkansas' public roads.

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

2022-064

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Department to provide timely geotechnical investigations for the design and construction of highways; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Minute Order 2018-082 passed on August 29, 2018, the Department has on-call contracts to perform geotechnical services through 2022; and

WHEREAS, on-call contracts have proven to be an effective method of producing timely results and supplementing in-house capabilities.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to request proposals and enter into any necessary contracts and agreements for on-call geotechnical services as needs are identified for Fiscal Years 2023 through 2027.

2022-065

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway Commission (Commission) acquired property known by eminent domain from William Brown Lacy, III, of lawful age, in Craighead County Circuit Court Case No. CV2005-389 (JF) filed of record on December 6, 2006, in the Circuit Clerk's office for Craighead County, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, this property is contiguous to U.S. Highway 63 and is now necessary for Job No. 100807 and which property the Commission now holds as a capital asset, being in Craighead County, more fully described as:

Part of the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 22, Township 14 North, Range 3 East, Craighead County, Arkansas, more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at an Axle found at the Quarter Corner of Sections 22 and 23; thence North 00°27'12" East along the East line of said Northeast Quarter a distance of 860.07 feet to a point on the Southwesterly Right of Way of U.S. Highway 63 as established by AHTD Job 10743; thence North 25°37'41" West along said right of way line a distance of 309.60 feet to a point on the Southwesterly Right of Way of U.S. Highway 63 as established by AHTD Job R00059; thence North 33°45'50" East along said right of way line a distance of 224.52 feet to a point on the South line of said Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter; thence South 88°54'18" West along said South line a distance of 472.75 feet to a point; thence North 01°02'49" West a distance of 206.09 feet to the Southwesterly Right of Way of U.S. Highway 63 as established by AHTD Job 100807 for the POINT OF BEGINNING; thence North 64°13'24" West along said right of way line a distance of 97.15 feet to a point; thence North 88°54'18" East a distance of 86.69 feet to a point; thence South 01°02'49" East a distance of 43.91 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING and containing 0.04 acres (1,903 sq. ft.) more or less as shown on AHTD plans referenced as Job 100807.

NOW THEREFORE, the character of the above-described property is hereby changed from capital asset to that of right of way, hereafter designated as Tract

No. 5, Job No. 100807; a copy of this Minute Order shall, if required, be recorded in the Circuit Clerk and Recorder’s office of Craighead County, Arkansas, and the right of way shall, if necessary, be remonumented.

2022-066

WHEREAS, IN FAULKNER COUNTY, IN THE CITY OF GREENBRIER, Minute Order 2020-010 adopted the Highways 65 and 25 Greenbrier Study; and

WHEREAS, the Study identified a need for intersection improvements on Highway 65; and

WHEREAS, the City has expressed interest in partnering with the Department to improve the identified intersections along Highway 65.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to enter into any necessary agreements with the City and to proceed with surveys, plans, and construction of the improvements as funds become available.

2022-067

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway Commission will accept bids on the following projects in the June 29, 2022 letting; and

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
A20004	02	DESHA & DREW	Winchester – Chicot Co. Line (Sel. Secs.) (S)	65	Y
A20013	02	DREW	Monticello – Hwy. 65 (S)	138	Y
A40018	04	SEBASTIAN	Hwy. 71 – hwy. 10 (greenwood) (S)	10 & 10S	Y
050347	05	FULTON	Hwy. 9 Strs. & Apprs. (S)	9	Y
A60016	06	PULASKI	EAST OF I-40 – MILITARY DR. (s)	365	Y
A70012	07	COLUMBIA	East of Lafayette Co. Line – Hwy. 98 (S)	82	Y
A70014	07	BRADLEY	Franklin Creek – Hwy. 278 (Warren) (S)	63	Y
A80017	08	FAULKNER & VAN BUREN	Hwy. 124 – S. of Greenbrier (Sel. Secs.) (S)	65	Y
A90012	09	BOONE	Hwy. 65 – Hwy. 7 (Harrison) (S)	43	Y
101010	10	RANDOLPH	Spencer Creek Str. & Apprs. (S)	115	Y
012227	05 & 08	CLEBURNE & FAULKNER	Guy – Heber Springs (Safety Impvts.) (Sel. Secs.) (S)	25	Y
012388	VAR	VARIOUS	Statewide CABLE MEDIAN BARRIER Impvts. (2022) (S)	VARIOUS	Y
012392	VAR	VARIOUS	Hydrodemolition Bridge Preservation (2022) (S)	VARIOUS	Y
012408	VAR	VARIOUS	Districts 4, 8 & 9 Bridge Preservation (2022) (S)	VARIOUS	Y
C26006	06	GARLAND	Mountain Pine Overlay No. 2 (S)	---	-
C66004	03	SEVIER	Horatio & Lockesburg Overlay (S)	---	-
C76064	03	HEMPSTEAD & PIKE	McCaskill & Murfreesboro Overlay & Surfacing (S)	---	-
C76065	03 & 04	POLK & SEVIER	Gillham, Grannis, & Hatfield Overlay (S)	---	-
SA0143	02	ARKANSAS	Hwy. 44 – South (Overlay) (S)	---	-
SA2547	05	FULTON	Fulton Co. Overlay No. 3 (S)	---	-

SA3277	05	INDEPENDENCE	Independence Co. Overlay No. 6 (S)	---	-
SA3548	02	JEFFERSON	Co. Rd. 31 Overlay (S)	---	-
SA5031	03	NEVADA	Hwy. 371 – West (Overlay & Surf.) (S)	---	-
SA5350	08	PERRY	Perry Co. Level & Reseal (S)	---	-
SA7397	05	WHITE	White County Overlay 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 in-person, as well as those who were watching online. Chairman Moore recognized the passing of former Highway Commissioner John Ed Regenold, who served on the Commission from 2005-2015.

Chairman Moore stated that the use of electronic signatures on Minute Orders would be used, as has been done in previous meetings.

MOTIONS

MOTION Vice Chairman Alec Farmer moved, Commissioner Marie Holder seconded, and the motion passed to approve the Minutes from the April 27, 2022, Commission Meeting.

MOTION The Commission approved Minute Order 2022-009 on February 2, 2022, authorizing the Department to employ consultant engineering land surveying firms to provide surveys, photogrammetry, and land title abstract services as needs are identified for Federal Fiscal Years 2023 - 2026. Vice Chairman Alec Farmer moved, Commissioner Keith Gibson seconded, and the motion passed to accept the Staff's recommendation to enter into negotiations to provide On-Call Surveying Services with the following firms:

CEI Engineering Associates, Inc. – Bentonville, AR
Consolidated Land Services, Inc. – Mountain Home, AR
Crafton, Tull & Associates, Inc. – Rogers, AR
Garver, LLC – North Little Rock, AR
Half Associates, Inc. – Little Rock, AR
Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. – Little Rock, AR
Maptech, Inc. – Jackson, MS
McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc. – Fayetteville, AR
Michael Baker International – Little Rock, AR
NTB Associates, Inc. – Shreveport, LA
Pickering Firm, Inc. – Jonesboro, AR
Rasburry Surveying, LLC – Benton, AR

MOTION Vice Chairman Alec Farmer moved, Commissioner Philip Taldo seconded, and the motion passed to approve the State Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Budget (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023), as presented by Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer Randy Ort, which included the following:

Salary Highlights

- Increase in positions to provide career ladders and opportunities and to add positions to help meet operational needs

- \$2,000 bonus to all Arkansas Highway Police Officers
- \$9.3 million for Achieving Career Excellence (ACE) pay increases

Operation Highlights

- 2% increase to District Maintenance Budget
- \$3.5 million increase for Information Technology budget to implement new programs such as
 - Maintenance Management System (MMS)
 - Enhancement to AASHTOWare software
 - Realtime Pavement Monitoring
 - Other systems
- \$2 million increase for Inclement Weather Reserve to replenish salt reserves

MOTION Vice Chairman Alec Farmer moved, Commissioner Marie Holder seconded, and the motion passed to enter into Executive Session at 11:33 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 12:25 p.m. Chairman Robert Moore made brief remarks that the Commission was highly satisfied with Director Tudor’s performance, giving her an exemplary evaluation. No formal action was taken.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Patrick Patton, Chief Fiscal Officer, provided the April 2022 update on State Highway Revenue. Mr. Patton noted that State Highway Revenues to the Department from traditional sources are up a total of 4.0% (\$13.7 million) in State Fiscal Year (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 10.6% (\$37.8 million) above last year. Actual State Revenue received is 8.6% (\$31.1 million) above projected (budgeted) revenue for this year. Mr. Patton stated that April revenue from the 0.5% General Sales Tax for the Connecting Arkansas Program was 10.97% higher, (\$2,180,153) than projected by the Department of Finance and Administration (DF&A) for the month. Year to date

actual revenue is above projections by 5.01% (\$9,957,438). Since inception, this revenue source is 2.07%, or \$34.4 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 current Appropriations Act which provides full funding for all categories of funds and for all the grant programs in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) expires on September 30, 2022. Congress and the President must act by then to ensure that Federal Funds will continue to flow for transportation projects. The House and Senate Committees are currently working to resolve top-line defense and non-defense spending levels so they can begin to craft the 2023 appropriation legislation for all areas of the government, including transportation. Because Congress has not yet reached an agreement to the top-line spending levels for 2023, the next Federal Fiscal Year will most likely begin under a Continuing Resolution (CR). It is assumed that the CR will be in place until at least the midterm election, which will be in November 2022. Mr. Thornton also notified the Commission of the newly released Notice of Funding Opportunity for the 2022 Bridge Investment Program. This is a competitive grant program from the IIJA that provides funding for the replacement and rehabilitation of bridges. A total of \$2.36 billion is available in 2022 and the program is divided into three categories:

- Planning Grants
 - Applications due on July 25
- Large Bridge Projects
 - Application due on August 9
 - Projects for more than \$100 million
- All Other Bridge Projects
 - Applications due on September 8
 - Projects for less than \$100 million

This grant program focuses on projects that improve safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of people and freight over bridges and is open to multiple agencies to apply for funds. These agencies include:

- State agencies including the DOT
- MPOs that serves an urbanized area with a population of 200,000
- Local government agencies such as cities, counties, etc.
- Federal land management agencies
- Tribal governments

Staff will be working with a consultant to identify the best applications to submit, which will be presented for Commission approval at the appropriate time.

Director Tudor provided an update on the Arkansas Legislative Council Efficiency Study Recommendations Rules for Implementation. The monthly report for the June 16 HCRAS meeting was submitted and Staff continues to work on implementation of each of the recommendations.

Director Tudor updated the Commission on recent Department activities. Since the April 27 meeting, several noteworthy Department activities occurred as listed below:

- ARDOT held a Construction Team Development workshop in Benton, AR
- Chairman Moore, Commissioners Taldo and Gibson, Director Tudor and Staff attended the Mike Beebe Scenic Overlook and Boat Ramp Dedication in Arkansas City, AR on May 4
- May 11th marked the one-year anniversary of the discover of the fractured beam on the I-40 Hernando DeSoto Bridge
- Vice Chairman Farmer, Director Tudor and Staff attended ribbon cuttings for the Highway 18 railroad overpass in Jonesboro and the Highway 412 widening project in Paragould on May 20
- ARDOT hosted the first in-person Transportation Research Committee (TRC) Conference since 2019 with more than 300 in attendance
- ARDOT launched it's Slow Down, Phone Down campaign on June 1, which includes three public service announcements airing to increase work zone awareness

Jared Wiley, Assistant Chief Engineer – Planning, presented the Arkansas Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) to the Commission. The SHSP will serve as a roadmap for Staff as they seek to improve the transportation system. The SHSP, developed in close coordination with federal, state, and local traffic partners focuses on four main areas – Education, Enforcement, Engineering and Emergency Services. Through collaboration with the safety partners, the State will utilize the Safe System Approach and it's five elements to create a road system that helps to minimize the effects of human error and to minimize crash severity. The five elements the SHSP seeks to improve are:

1. Road Users,
2. Vehicles,
3. Roads,
4. Speeds, and
5. Post-Crash care

The objective of the SHSP is to utilize the strategies identified to reduce the number of fatalities and serious injuries by two percent annually, resulting in a total of 325 fewer fatal

and serious injuries by 2025. Priorities under the plan will be to reduce roadway departure crashes, intersection crashes and addressing speeding and distracted and aggressive driving.

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

In closing, Director Tudor notified the Commission of three recent Perpetual Pavement Awards received by ARDOT. ARDOT was one of only two DOTs to win a 2021 Perpetual Pavement Award in all three categories.

- 2021 Perpetual Pavement Award by Performance
 - Pavement must be at least 35 years old and never experienced a structural failure
 - Average interval between resurfacing must be no less than 13 years
 - Awarded for a 5.38-mile section of State Highway 9 in Stone County
 - This two- to three- lane pavement is more than 43 years old
- 2021 Perpetual Pavement Award by Design
 - Pavement must be a newly designed and constructed asphalt road built over new or reconditioned subgrade
 - Awarded for a portion of I-49 in Benton County
- 2021 Perpetual Pavement Award by Conversion
 - Pavement must be a new asphalt road constructed over an existing road
 - Awarded for a portion of Interstate 530 in Jefferson County

2022-068

IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be closed at 12:26 p.m., June 14, 2022.

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 June 14, 2022.



Christie Heidelberg
Commission Secretary