

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

April 29, 2015

ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR NO. 2015-06

TO: ALL DIVISION HEADS AND DISTRICT ENGINEERS

We are transmitting herewith for your information and records a copy of the Minutes of the Commission Meetings in Little Rock, AR on April 22, 2015.

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

April 22, 2015

Following is the record of proceedings of the Arkansas State Highway Commission in Little Rock, Arkansas, April 22, 2015. Members present were:

Dick Trammel, Chairman  
Thomas B. Schueck, Vice Chairman  
Robert S. Moore, Jr., Member  
Frank D. Scott, Jr., Member  
Alec Farmer, Member

2015-031                   IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be opened at 10:00 a.m., April 22, 2015.

2015-032                   WHEREAS, the Purchasing Committee has awarded purchases on March 6, 12 and 20, 2015, and April 9, 2015, in the amount of \$920,162.70, \$783,240.00, \$272,952.35, and \$233,228.00, respectively, totaling \$2,209,583.05, 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.

2015-033                   WHEREAS, IN BENTON COUNTY, the City of Bentonville has requested that the Arkansas Highway Commission remove Highway 204, Section 4 from the State Highway System; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bentonville has passed City Ordinance 2015-34, which agrees to accept all responsibility, including ownership of Highway 204, Section 4 in the City of Bentonville, in accordance with Arkansas Code Annotated § 27-65-109; and

2015-033 - Continued

WHEREAS, the City of Bentonville agrees to accept Highway 204, Section 4 into the City Street System 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 in the City of Bentonville as shown on the attached sketch.

- Highway 204, Section 4 is hereby removed from the State Highway System.

2015-034

WHEREAS, IN FAULKNER COUNTY, the City of Conway has requested that the Arkansas Highway Commission remove Highway 60, Section 0 Spur from the State Highway System; and

WHEREAS, the City of Conway has passed City Resolution R-15-18, which agrees to accept all responsibility, including ownership of Highway 60, Section 0 Spur in the City of Conway, in accordance with Arkansas Code Annotated § 27-65-109; and

WHEREAS, the City of Conway agrees to accept Highway 60, Section 0 Spur into the City Street System 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 in the City of Conway as shown on the attached sketch.

- Highway 60, Section 0 Spur is hereby removed from the State Highway System.

2015-035

WHEREAS, IN WHITE COUNTY, Job 050189, Hwy. 13 Extension (Searcy) is nearing completion.

2015-035 - Continued

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 newly constructed portion of roadway is hereby added to the State Highway System as a part of Highway 13, Section 13.

2015-036

WHEREAS, Bobby Hopper served on the Arkansas Highway Commission from 1983 to 1999; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Hopper has been a strong supporter of improvements to the State Highway System; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Hopper was an advocate for a major project that relocated Highway 62 in Marion and Baxter Counties in the vicinity of the City of Cotter; and

WHEREAS, this project was completed in 1989 and constructed a new bridge over the White River and provided a bypass of the City of Cotter.

NOW THEREFORE, considering the distinguished service of Commissioner Hopper to the Arkansas Highway Commission and the importance of the construction of the Highway 62 Cotter Bypass to the State Highway System, the Highway Commission hereby honors Commissioner Hopper by officially naming the portion of Highway 62 from its junctions with Highway 62B east and west of the City of Cotter as the Bobby Hopper Highway.

2015-037

WHEREAS, the Rosston City Council, by Resolution 01-2014, have acknowledged a portion of Highway 278 in Nevada County, as the "Sergeant First Class Ricardo D. Young Highway"; and

2015-037 - Continued

WHEREAS, the Highway Commission has adopted guidelines for the installation of commemorative signs by Minute Order 2014-023, and the actions taken by the Rosston City Council meet these guidelines.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to allow the installation of signs at the specified locations on Highway 278 in Rosston in accordance with Commission Policy.

2015-038

WHEREAS, the Clinton City Council, by Resolution 2014-15, have acknowledged the Highway 65 bridge over Archey Creek as the “Hubert Keith Moore – Ricardo Trochez Bridge”; and

WHEREAS, the Highway Commission has adopted guidelines for the installation of commemorative signs by Minute Order 2014-023 and the actions taken by the Clinton City Council meet these guidelines.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to allow the installation of one sign in each direction on the approaches to this bridge on Highway 65 in Clinton in accordance with Commission Policy.

2015-039

WHEREAS, the existing Building Automation System that controls the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning in the Materials Testing Laboratory is 15 years old, and is no longer fully operational, and the components are obsolete; and

WHEREAS, the Materials Laboratory environment must be maintained to meet American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Materials Reference Laboratories (AMRL) and the Cement Concrete Reference Laboratories (CCRL) testing requirements; and

WHEREAS, replacement of the existing system will restore functionality and efficiency, and will integrate with the Department’s existing distributed control system.

2015-039 - Continued

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to proceed with the acquisition, installation, and commissioning of a replacement Building Automation System and all necessary components for the Materials Testing Laboratory as funds become available.

Work to be done by contract as a building project.

2015-040

WHEREAS, the Department continues to upgrade or replace some building facilities as they reach or exceed their expected life span; and

WHEREAS, the Maintenance Division Annex / Sign Shop Building was constructed in 1980 at its current location on Baseline and Sibley Hole Road; and

WHEREAS, the office areas, the restrooms, exterior faced areas, and mechanical systems in the building are in need of renovation or replacement to promote a more efficient and updated work environment.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to proceed with the required work to renovate the Maintenance Division Annex / Sign Shop Building as funds become available.

Work is to be accomplished with contract and state forces as a building project.

2015-041

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway Commission received bids on the following projects at the April 21, 2015 letting; and

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
020043	02	CHICOT	HWY. 144 STRS. & APPRS. (S)	144	N
020572	02	DESHA	HWY. 65-EAST (S)	4 & 169	Y
040206	04	CRAWFORD	LEE CREEK-EAST (S)	220	N
040672	04	SEBASTIAN	ARK. RIVER BRIDGE SUPPORT ASSEMBLY REPAIR (HWY. 64) (FORT SMITH) (S)	64	Y

2015-041 - Continued

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
090429	09	VARIOUS	DISTRICT 9 PVMT. FRICTION IMPVTS. (S)	VAR	Y
012239	VAR	VARIOUS	DISTRICTS 2, 6 & 7 PVMT. FRICTION IMPVTS. (S)	VAR	Y
C04003	09	BENTON	GARFIELD & GATEWAY SURFACING (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C17002	04	CRAWFORD	VAN BUREN 28TH ST. OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C17004	04	CRAWFORD	DYER OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C17005	04	CRAWFORD	CHESTER OVERLAY & SURFACING (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C19002	01	CROSS	CHERRY VALLEY OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C31002	03	HOWARD	MINERAL SPRINGS & NASHVILLE OVERLAY & SURF.(SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C43002	06	LONOKE	KEO PECAN ST. RECONST. & OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C47004	10	MISSISSIPPI	BURDETTE, DYESS & JOINER OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C59004	06	PRAIRIE	ULM OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C76018	01	MONROE & WOODRUFF	BRINKLEY AND HUNTER OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C76019	06 & 05	LONOKE & WHITE	WARD AND MCRAE OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA0136	02	ARKANSAS	TICHNOR BLACKTOP RD. RESEAL (SEL. SEC.) (S)	---	-
SA0760	07	CALHOUN	HWY. 167-WEST (SURFACING) (S)	---	-
SA1837	01	CRITTENDEN	HWY. 50-EAST OVERLAY (SEL. SEC.) (S)	---	-
SA2035	07	DALLAS	DALLAS CO. SURFACING NO. 2 (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA2036	07	DALLAS	HWY. 8-WEST (BASE & SURFACING) (S)	---	-
BR2404	04	FRANKLIN	CEDAR CREEK STR. & APPRS. (S)	---	-
SA2667	06	GARLAND	HWY. 227-EAST (OVERLAY) (S)	---	-
SA3141	03	HOWARD	HOWARD CO. LEVEL & RESEAL (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-

2015-041 - Continued

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
SA3269	05	INDEPENDENCE	INDEPENDENCE CO. OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA5251	07	OUACHITA	OUACHITA CO. OVERLAY NO. 14 (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA6640	03	SEVIER	CO. RD. 19 DRAINAGE STRUCTURE (S)	---	-
SA6863	01	ST. FRANCIS	HWY. 1-WEST SURFACING (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA7533	08	YELL	HWY. 10-BELLEVILLE CITY LIMITS (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 Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 42, Section 6, as well as other laws of this State, the Commission has the authority to delegate certain of its 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. Further, 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.

MOTION

Vice Chairman Tom B. Schueck moved, Commissioner Frank D. Scott, Jr. seconded and the motion passed to approve the Minutes of March 11, 2015.



## OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mike Boyd, Chief Fiscal Officer, provided the March 2015 update on state highway revenue. Mr. Boyd noted that state highway revenues to the Department from most traditional sources are up a total of \$8.3 million in the first nine months of State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2015 compared to the same period for SFY 2014. With the revenue from the Natural Gas Severance Tax coming in higher for the first nine months of this year compared to last year, total revenues available are \$14.8 million higher for this year. Actual state revenue received is \$15.0 million higher compared to projected (budgeted) revenue for this year.

In closing, Mr. Boyd stated that March revenue from the 0.5% General Sales Tax for the Connecting Arkansas Program was 0.93% lower, (-\$130,000) than projected by the Department of Finance and Administration (DF&A). This revenue source has come in under DF&A's projections for thirteen of the twenty-one months since the tax went into effect, and is cumulatively 0.48%, or \$1.3 million, under DF&A's projections to date.

Director Bennett provided the latest information on the Federal highway and transit funding issues. Director Bennett noted that on December 16, the President signed the \$1.1 trillion "Crominbus", which stands for the "continuing resolution" (CR) and "omnibus" spending bill. The Crominbus funds most government agencies through the end of the Federal Fiscal Year. Federal Highway and Transit Funding Programs are also extended through September 30, 2015. Highway Programs received \$40.9 billion, which is a continuation of the current spending levels. The \$2.2 billion in transit funding is \$141 million more than current levels. The Department of Transportation Appropriations Act of 2015 extends obligation authority through May 31, 2015. Further legislation will be necessary to extend obligation authority through September 30, 2015. In addition, the Federal Highway Trust Fund (HTF) is still in jeopardy. The Department can continue to obligate funds through May 31, 2015, but cannot be assured of timely reimbursement for expenditures.

The Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014 was a temporary patch to the HTF and provided \$11 billion in transportation funding. Without additional action from Congress, the HTF is projected to once again fall to critical levels early this summer and the Federal Highway

## Discussion Item - Continued

Administration may be forced to begin reducing reimbursements to the states.

As a result, the Department has re-implemented cash management procedures and has withdrawn sixty-one projects from bid lettings in 2015. It is important that the Department stabilize and protect our cash flow in the event Congress does not address this pending crisis.

Director Bennett gave an update on the status of the 2011 Interstate Rehabilitation Program (IRP), Connecting Arkansas Program (CAP), and State Aid City Street Program. 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).

With the approval of the 0.5% Sales Tax for the Connecting Arkansas Program, 1 cent in motor fuel tax revenue (approximately \$20 million annually) is being set aside for a State Aid City Street Program. Projects are selected by the State Aid City Street Committee and are designed, let to contract, and inspected by the Department.

The Regular Session of the 90<sup>th</sup> General Assembly recessed on April 2, 2015. They are currently scheduled to reconvene today, April 22, solely to adjourn. Director Bennett gave an update on the Department's legislative package and on other bills of interest.

The Department is now holding the Bid Letting the day before the Commission Meeting. Director Bennett presented a summary of the apparent low bids and bidders from the April 21, 2015 Bid Letting.

Director Bennett gave an update on the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) competitive grant program that will have \$500 million made available under the seventh round. Three applications will be submitted: I-530-Hwy. 67 (Widening & Reconst.) (I-30 & I-40); Randall Wobbe Lane-Hwy. 264 (Springdale), and Hwy. 67 Interchange (N. of Cabot).

Director Bennett recognized the Department as having been named a winner of the Asphalt Pavement Alliance's 2014 Perpetual Pavement Award for U. S. 71 in Sevier County between DeQueen and Gillham.

Director Bennett gave a brief update on how the Department is doing on communicating information to the public through Social Media, and also recognized the Public Information Office as having recently been honored with two prestigious Bronze Quill Awards for marketing efforts related to the IDriveArkansas website.

Director Bennett recognized Craig Douglass as the new Executive Director of the Arkansas Good Roads Transportation Council replacing Bill Ramsey.

Robert Moery, Governor's Office, Transportation Liaison, was recognized and shared the following letter from the Governor:

Discussion Item - Continued

Dear Scott,

I want to thank you and commend you and your staff for your quick response and excellent handling of the recent winter weather the state faced over the past few months.

As you well know, weather in Arkansas is never easy to predict, but because of your preparation, equipment and personnel, you were able to keep our roads in the safest possible condition and in a timely manner. Your department's work is critical to our state, especially in situations like this.

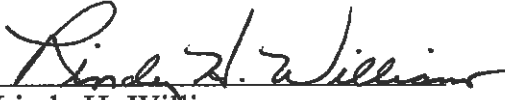
Once again, thank you for your hard work and for ensuring all of Arkansas's roads stay clean and safe.

Asa Hutchinson

2015-042

IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be closed at 12:10 p.m., April 22, 2015.

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 April 22, 2015.

  
Lindy H. Williams  
Commission Secretary