

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

March 10, 2014

ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR NO. 2014-05

TO: ALL 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 February 26, 2014.

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

February 26, 2014

Following is the record of proceedings of the Arkansas State Highway Commission in Little Rock, Arkansas, February 26, 2014. Members present were:

John Ed Regenold, Chairman
Dick Trammel, Vice Chairman
Thomas B. Schueck, Member
Robert Moore, Jr., Member
Frank D. Scott, Jr., Member

2014-015 IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be opened at 9:00 a.m., February 26, 2014.

2014-016 WHEREAS, the Purchasing Committee has awarded purchases on January 13 and 27, 2014, and February 10, 2014, in the amount of \$521,535.00, \$653,300.00, and \$1,091,886.12, respectively, totaling \$2,266,721.12, 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.

2014-017 WHEREAS, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) has billed the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department for departmental membership dues for the year 2014, which membership is regarded as being highly beneficial to the Department.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the Director is authorized to process for payment the statement for membership dues for the year 2014 in the amount of \$38,514.00.

2014-018

WHEREAS, the Department has for a number of years maintained memberships in the Arkansas Transit Association (ATA), the South West Transit Association (SWTA), the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' (AASHTO) Multi-State Technical Assistance Program (MTAP), and the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA); and

WHEREAS, these memberships would benefit the Department with training and networking opportunities, and assist the Department in providing input on Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) reauthorization issues.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the Director is authorized to process payment from Federal Transit Administration, Administrative Cost funds for the annual membership dues in the amounts of \$200 to the Arkansas Transit Association, \$250 to the South West Transit Association, \$5,000 to AASHTO's Multi-State Technical Assistance Program, and \$225 to the Community Transportation Association of America.

2014-019

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.

2014-019 - Continued

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to enter into an agreement with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to host the 2014 National Summer Transportation Institute.

2014-020

WHEREAS, the Research Advisory Committee Region II states of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) have been participating in a collaborative research program named the Southeast Transportation Consortium (STC) since 2009; and

WHEREAS, the STC encourages coordination among member states and provides resources and management of collaborative studies; and

WHEREAS, the STC addresses high priority transportation research topics of common interest to the Research Advisory Committee Region II states and for which expertise exists with the region; and

WHEREAS, the program is found to be valuable in supplementing research activities in order to reduce duplication of research.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to participate in this pooled fund effort and to enter into such agreements as necessary for this important program.

2014-021

WHEREAS, median cable barriers have been proven to be an effective and economical treatment on divided highways to reduce crossover crashes; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas' Strategic Highway Safety Plan (2013) identified the installation of median cable barriers as a strategy to address roadway departure crashes; and

WHEREAS, a statewide median crossover analysis has been completed; and

WHEREAS, the analysis identified various locations in the State that would benefit from the installation of median cable barriers; and

2014-021 - Continued

WHEREAS, this work is eligible for Federal-aid Safety funds.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to proceed with surveys, plans and construction of safety projects to install median cable barriers at the locations shown on the attached list as funds become available.

2014-022

WHEREAS, the Department regularly awards contracts to consultants for project design, field services and general consultation; and

WHEREAS, consultant services are a vital component of our ability to provide a safe and efficient transportation system for motorists; and

WHEREAS, it has been the practice and policy of the Department to require a percentage of the estimated fees be retained from progress payments on consultant contracts only to be released at the final completion and delivery of all work products; and

WHEREAS, this retainage is not required by any state procurement laws nor a pre-requisite for Federal reimbursement nor is it a common practice among other Departments of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, there are other adequate safeguards to ensure that the Department receives the full and complete services expected on each consultant contract.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to waive all requirements for retainage on new and existing consultant contracts and to continue with or develop new safeguards, if necessary, to ensure that all services and work products contracted for are delivered in an efficient and timely manner.

WHEREAS, the Commission, by Minute Order No. 2009-033, adopted a policy for the monumenting and signing of commemorative highways and bridges; and

WHEREAS, Act 1225 of the 2013 Regular Session of the 89th General Assembly established regulations for the naming of public buildings, structures, or facilities; and

WHEREAS, these regulations necessitate a revision to the policy adopted by the Commission;

NOW THEREFORE, the following policy will be utilized for the monumenting and signing of commemorative highways and bridges:

A monument or sign may be requested by any person, group, agency, or jurisdiction, hereafter referred to as sponsor.

Highways and bridges may be named for persons, groups or themes provided:

- The individual meets the criteria established by *A.C.A. § 25-1-121*.
- Documented support for the naming, acceptable to the Commission, is provided. This documentation may come in the form of resolutions from the governing body of the jurisdiction(s) in which the facility is located, or in other appropriate forms.
- A monument will be allowed as follows:
 - The supporting jurisdiction may furnish an appropriate metal plaque at no cost to the Department. The Department will mount the plaque, in an appropriate location, in a concrete mounting.
 - The location of the mounting will be determined by the Department in consultation with the sponsoring jurisdiction.

- A roadside sign will be allowed as follows:
 - The sponsoring jurisdiction may request a roadside sign permit from the Commission. This permit will be requested by letter to the Director of Highways and Transportation. The request will include the appropriate supporting resolution(s).
 - The sign request will require the approval of the Commission, by Minute Order, authorizing the Director to issue a sign permit.
 - The cost of the sign and installation of the sign will be the responsibility of the sponsoring jurisdiction.
 - The sign size, color, configuration and message will be as approved in the sign permit.
 - The number of signs will generally be limited to one sign in each direction near each end of the named section of highway or approach to the named bridge.
 - The sponsoring jurisdiction will be responsible for the maintenance of the permitted signs. Failure to properly maintain the sign will be cause for revocation of the sign permit.
- On highways which have previously been named for an individual, group or theme, the Commission may name a bridge, tunnel or specific section of the previously named route for another individual, group or theme, provided that all other appropriate provisions of this policy have been met or if otherwise deemed appropriate by the Commission.

2014-024

WHEREAS, the North Louisiana & Arkansas Railroad (NLA) links McGehee, Arkansas to Lake Providence, Louisiana; and

2014-024 - Continued

WHEREAS, funding to renovate this aging industrial railroad has been provided by various stakeholders to improve rail access in southeast Arkansas and to promote economic development; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that this renovation will result in increased rail traffic; and

WHEREAS, NLA at-grade crossings currently exist on Highway 65 in the cities of McGehee and Lake Village; and

WHEREAS, a study to determine the need for overpasses of the NLA at these locations would be beneficial in planning for future improvements.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to conduct a study to determine the need for and feasibility of these railroad overpasses.

2014-025

WHEREAS, IN RANDOLPH COUNTY, in the City of Pocahontas, on Highway 90 from Park Street to Country Club Road, a distance of approximately 1.0 mile, local residents have requested that the Department evaluate the need for roadway improvements based on current traffic; and

WHEREAS, a study to determine the need for and feasibility of improvements to this route would be useful as a planning guide in developing future highway construction programs.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to conduct a study to determine the need for and feasibility of improvements to Highway 90 from Park Street to Country Club Road in Pocahontas.

2014-026

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Strategic Highway Safety Plan (2013) has identified enhancing pavement surface friction as a priority safety strategy; and

WHEREAS, an analysis of skid numbers and wet pavement crashes that occurred during 2009, 2010 and 2011 on non-Interstate routes has been completed; and

2014-026 - Continued

WHEREAS, the analysis identified various locations in the State that would benefit from enhancing the pavement surface friction; and

WHEREAS, this work is eligible for Federal-aid Safety funds.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to proceed with surveys, plans and construction of projects that will enhance pavement surface friction at the locations shown on the attached list and map as funds become available.

2014-027

WHEREAS, IN SEBASTIAN COUNTY, on Highway 64, Section 1, over the Arkansas River in Fort Smith, a routine inspection of the existing bridge structure has revealed long term wear that has occurred with the support assemblies at the finger joints across the bridge; and

WHEREAS, the support assemblies consist of a pin and hanger type system that serves as critical components of the structure supporting large loads; and

WHEREAS, replacing the pin and hanger assemblies is beyond the scope of the Department's maintenance forces.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to proceed with plans and the implementation of a project to replace the pin and hanger assemblies as funds become available.

2014-028

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway Commission received bids on the following projects at the February 26, 2014 letting;

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
110601	01	CRITTENDEN	JERICO-GAMMON RD. (OVERLAY) (S)	77	Y
110602	01	MONROE & LEE	HWY. 49-EAST (OVERLAY) (S)	79	Y
020563	02	ASHLEY	WALL RD.-HWY. 133 (OVERLAY) (S)	82	Y
020564	02	DREW	HWY. 425 (MONTICELLO) (SEL. SEC.) (OVERLAY) (S)	425	Y

2014-028 - Continued

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
030441	03	NEVADA	CO. RD. 47-OUACHITA CO. LINE (OVERLAY) (S)	278	Y
030442	03	HEMPSTEAD	HOPE-WEST (OVERLAY) (S)	67	Y
040464	04	CRAWFORD	GRAPHIC ROAD-WEST (WIRE ROAD) (MULBERRY) (S)	- - -	-
040581	04	WASHINGTON	HWY. 180-LEROY POND DR. (HWY. 112) (FAYETTEVILLE) (S)	112	Y
040665	04	WASHINGTON	HWY. 170-SOUTH & NORTH (OVERLAY) (S)	71	Y
040666	04	FRANKLIN	SEBASTIAN CO. LINE-EAST (OVERLAY) (S)	22	Y
050304	05	FULTON	HWY. 62-MISSOURI STATE LINE (OVERLAY) (S)	223	N
050305	05	IZARD	FULTON CO. LINE-SOUTH (OVERLAY) (S)	9	Y
061384	06	LONOKE	HWY. 367/HWY. 38 SIGNAL & INTERS. IMPVTS. (CABOT) (S)	367 & 38	Y
061425	06	PRAIRIE	HWY. 70 (SEL. SECS.) (OVERLAY) (S)	70	Y
061426	06	GARLAND	HWY. 7-SALINE CO. LINE (SEL. SECS.) (OVERLAY) (S)	5 & 7	Y
061427	06	LONOKE	HWY. 70-I-40 (OVERLAY) (S)	15	Y
BB0702	07	CLARK	HWY. 26-CADDO RIVER (S)	30	Y
070407	07	DALLAS & OUACHITA	HWY. 128-SOUTH (OVERLAY) (S)	9	N
070408	07	CLEVELAND	HWY. 97-BRADLEY CO. LINE (OVERLAY) (S)	8	Y
080340	08	JOHNSON	MARKET ST.-I-40 WB RAMPS (CLARKSVILLE) (S)	103	Y
080428	08	YELL	DANVILLE-DARDANELLE (PASSING LANES) (S)	27	Y
080485	08	YELL	HWY. 80-HWY. 27 NORTH (OVERLAY) (S)	10 & 27	Y
080486	08	FAULKNER	HWY. 89-PULASKI CO. LINE (OVERLAY) (S)	365	Y
080487	08	CONWAY	HWY. 9-WEST (MORRILTON) (OVERLAY) (S)	64	Y
CA0904	09	BENTON	HWY. 71B-HWY. 72 SOUTH (BELLA VISTA BYPASS) (S)	71	Y
090409	09	BOONE	DRY BRANCH (BELLEFONTE)-SOUTH & EAST (OVERLAY) (S)	62 & 65	Y

2014-028 - Continued

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
090410	09	BAXTER	HWY. 62B-HWY. 5 (MTN. HOME) (OVERLAY) (S)	62	Y
100809	10	MISSISSIPPI	HWY. 198-HWY. 140 (OVERLAY) (S)	61	Y
100810	10	CRAIGHEAD	E. MATTHEWS AVE.-HWY. 18 (JONESBORO) (OVERLAY) (S)	49	Y
100811	10	LAWRENCE	POWHATAN-HWY. 117 (OVERLAY) (S)	25	Y
100812	10	CRAIGHEAD	HWY. 18-HWY. 63 (JONESBORO) (OVERLAY) (S)	18S	Y
C01002	02	ARKANSAS	ST. CHARLES CRABTREE RD. STREET IMPVTS. (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C09002	02	CHICOT	DERMOTT OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C18002	01	CRITTENDEN	JERICHO & JENNETTE STREET IMPVTS. (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C21002	02	DESHA	DUMAS, MITCHELLVILLE AND REED STREET IMPVTS. (SEL. SECS.)(S)	---	-
C36002	08	JOHNSON	COAL HILL OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C74001	01	WOODRUFF	MCCRORY OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA2449	04	FRANKLIN	CO. RD. 64 (SEL. SEC.) (RESEAL) (S)	---	-
SA3140	03	HOWARD	HWY. 369-EAST NO. 2 (SURFACING) (S)	---	-
SA6251	06	SALINE	CO. RD. 31-CO. RD. 33 (OVERLAY) (S)	---	-

; and

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

MOTION - Continued

- Crafton, Tull & Associates, Inc.----- Rogers, AR
- Garver----- North Little Rock, AR
- Hall Surveying & Engineering, Inc.-----Texarkana, AR
- McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc.----- Fayetteville, AR
- NTB Associates, Inc.----- Mountain Home, AR
- Ouachita-Saline Surveying, Inc.-----Arkadelphia, AR
- Rasburry Surveying, LLC----- Benton, AR

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Larry Dickerson, Chief Fiscal Officer, provided the January 2014 update on state highway revenue. Mr. Dickerson noted that state highway revenues to the Department from most traditional sources are down a total of \$10.2 million for the first seven months of State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2014 compared to the first seven months of SFY 2013. With the revenue from the Natural Gas Severance Tax coming in higher this year than last year, total revenues available are only slightly lower for this year. Actual state revenue received is also slightly higher compared to projected (budgeted) revenue for this year.

In closing, Mr. Dickerson stated that January revenue from the 0.5% General Sales Tax for the Connecting Arkansas Program was lower than projected by the Department of Finance and Administration (DF&A). This revenue source has now come in under DF&A's projections for six of the seven months since the tax went into effect.

Director Bennett provided the latest information on the Federal highway and transit funding issues. The President signed Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) on July 6, 2012, authorizing funding for the final two months of FY 2012 plus two full fiscal years (FYs 2013 and 2014). On January 17, 2014, the President signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014, which provides transportation funding through September 30, 2014.

In its latest Highway Trust Fund (HTF) projections, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) reports, “the highway and transit accounts of the HTF will have insufficient revenues to meet obligations starting in fiscal year 2015 (October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015).” However, the CBO has also said that it is possible that the HTF will run out of funding before the expiration of the current surface transportation bill, MAP-21, on September 30, 2014. This is consistent with U. S. DOT Secretary Anthony Foxx’s announcement in January that the Highway Account of the HTF is likely to run out of money in August of this year.

In closing, Director Bennett stated that some states are already cutting back on their Federally-supported capital projects in order to stabilize and protect their cash flow. Beginning with the jobs scheduled for the April letting, the Department will review projects to possibly be delayed until the funding crisis is resolved.

Director Bennett gave an update on the status of the 2011 Interstate Rehabilitation Program (IRP) and the 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. Two 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 \$171 million (true interest cost of 2.2%) with a premium of \$29 million (total of \$200 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 general obligation 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.

Roger Rorie, Mayor of Clinton, was recognized by the Commission. Minute Order No. 2013-132 was passed by the Commission on December 11, 2013. The Minute Order allowed the Van Buren County Quorum Court to assume maintenance responsibility for Highways 330 and 336 in exchange for the non-reimbursable utility relocation at no cost to the Bee Branch and Dennard Water Associations for the Highway 65 widening projects. Mayor Rorie was protesting the Highway Department's actions. No action was taken by the Commission. Van Buren County Judge Roger Hooper was present at the meeting also.

Chairman John Ed Regenold suggested to the Commission to begin having future Commission Meetings in the afternoons. The Commissioners were going to review their calendars.

2014-029

IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be closed at 2:15 p.m., February 26, 2014.

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 February 26, 2014.


Lindy H. Williams
Commission Secretary