

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

October 23, 2015

ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR NO. 2015-15

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 October 14, 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

October 14, 2015

Following is the record of proceedings of the Arkansas State Highway Commission in Little Rock, Arkansas, October 14, 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

2015-091 IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be opened at 10:00 a.m., October 14, 2015.

2015-092 WHEREAS, the Purchasing Committee has awarded purchases on September 1 and 9, 2015, and October 1, 2015, in the amount of \$142,270.00, \$708,761.80 and \$124,864.00, respectively, totaling \$975,895.80, 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.

2015-093 WHEREAS, the Department is responsible for developing and maintaining Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) devices on the highway system; and

WHEREAS, the Intelligent Transportation Society of America is an organization that supports research, development and deployment of ITS technologies; and

WHEREAS, membership in this organization would assist the Department in the achievement of ITS policies and objectives.

2015-093 - Continued

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to pay the annual membership fee to the Intelligent Transportation Society of America in the amount of \$3,500.00 for the year 2016.

2015-094

WHEREAS, Every Day Counts (EDC) is an initiative of the Federal Highway Administration in cooperation with the American Association of State and Highway and Transportation Officials to increase efficiency and speed up delivery of highway construction projects; and

WHEREAS, e-Construction is one method used by states to accomplish the goals of EDC; and

WHEREAS, e-Construction is a paperless construction administration system that includes electronic submission of electronically signed construction documents by Contractors, Suppliers and Department personnel; and

WHEREAS, e-Construction will save money by decreasing paper use, printing, and document storage costs; and

WHEREAS, e-Construction will increase efficiency by decreasing communication delays and transmittal time; and

WHEREAS, e-Construction requires a secure digital environment which provides access to project documents to all project stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the Department has determined that the Doc Express Paperless Contracting System is the most cost effective system to provide a secure digital environment.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to purchase an annual site license for the Doc Express Paperless Contracting System.

2015-095

WHEREAS, The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) Incentive program provides resources to make innovations standard practice in each state; and

2015-095 - Continued

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department assists local public agencies (LPA) with project development and oversight of construction projects on state highways, city streets, county roads and trails in the State; and

WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to have a manual that provides detailed guidance on procedures associated with managing the development and construction of federally funded projects; and

WHEREAS, on August 5, 2015, the FHWA allocated \$100,000 in Federal STIC Incentive funds to the Department for development of a LPA Project Manual.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to solicit and evaluate proposals for the development and implementation of a Local Public Agency Project Manual.

2015-096

WHEREAS, the Commission acquired in fee property known as Tract No. 1 from Katherine B. Threlkeld by Warranty Deed, dated April 29, 1970, and filed for record May 4, 1970, in the Circuit Clerk's Office of Miller County, Arkansas; and Tract No. 2 from Katie Williams Mays, by Judgment in case *Arkansas State Highway Commission vs. Katie Williams Mays, Miller County Circuit Civil No. 7912*, dated December 9, 1971, rendered on December 15, 1971, in the Circuit Clerk's Office of Miller County, Arkansas; both for Job No. 3604, Hwy 67 – Interstate 30 (Texarkana), Miller County, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, Tract No. 1 was acquired for THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$35,000.00); and

WHEREAS, L & N Leasing, LLC, has asked to purchase a portion of Tract No. 1; Katherine B. Threlkeld, dated May 27, 2014, has assigned the right under Arkansas Code Annotated §27-67-322 to reacquire a portion of Tract No. 1 to L & N Leasing, LLC; and the District Engineer for District Three has determined that portion of Tract No. 1 Lt. be declared surplus is not now, nor in the foreseeable future will be, needed for highway purposes; and

WHEREAS, Tract No. 2 was acquired for FOURTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY-THREE AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$14,833.00); and

WHEREAS, L & N Leasing, LLC, has asked to purchase a portion of Tract No. 2; Katie Williams Mays, dated May 27, 2014, has assigned the right under Arkansas Code Annotated §27-67-322 to reacquire a portion of Tract No. 2 Lt. to L & N Leasing, LLC; and the District Engineer for District Three has determined that portion of Tract No. 2 Lt. be declared surplus is not now, nor in the foreseeable future will be, needed for highway purposes; and said properties being a portion of Tract No. 1 Lt. and a portion of Tract No. 2 Lt. being more particularly described as follows:

Part of Tract Nos. 1 Lt. & 2 Lt.

All that certain tract or parcel of land being a part of the NW¹/₄ of the SW¹/₄ and the SW¹/₄ of the SW¹/₄ of Section 16, T. 15 S., R. 28 W., Miller County, Arkansas and being more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows:

COMMENCING at the Northwest corner of the NW¹/₄ of the SW¹/₄ of Section 16, T. 15 S., R. 28 W., Miller County, Arkansas as shown on the Right-of-Way Map of Job No. 3604 - Route 245 prepared by the Arkansas State Highway Commission; THENCE - S. 01° 55' 00" W., 610.48 ft. with the West boundary line of said Section 16; THENCE - S. 84° 53' 00" E., 132.56 ft. to a 5/8" reinf. steel with 2" aluminum cap stamped "Arkansas Hwy & Trans Dept BDY PLS 820" set for the POINT OF BEGINNING of the herein described tract of land, said POINT OF BEGINNING being the Northwest corner of a certain 5.20 acre tract being Tract No. 2 of Case No. 7912 Judgment rendered December 15, 1971, in the Records of Miller County, Arkansas;

THENCE - S. 84° 53' 00" E., 5.45 ft. with the North boundary line of the above mentioned 5.20 acre tract to a 5/8" reinf. steel with 2" aluminum cap stamped "Arkansas Hwy & Trans Dept BDY PLS 820" set for corner, same being 404.90 ft. left of centerline station 301+04.15 of the above mentioned Job No. 3604 - Route 245;

THENCE - S. 26° 49' 36" E., passing at 813.59 ft. a 5/8" reinf. steel with 2" aluminum cap stamped "Arkansas Hwy & Trans Dept BDY PLS 820" set for reference corner on the common line between the above mentioned NW¼ of the SW¼ and the SW¼ of the SW¼ of Section 16, T. 15 S., R. 28 W., Miller County, Arkansas and continuing 311.65 ft. for a total distance of 1125.24 ft. to a 5/8" reinf. steel with 2" aluminum cap stamped "Arkansas Hwy & Trans Dept BDY PLS 820" set for corner, same being 225.05 ft. left of centerline station 290+68.20 of the above mentioned Job No. 3604 - Route 245, same also being on the West right-of-way line of U. S. Highway No. 67;

THENCE - S. 43° 10' 32" W., 261.43 ft. with the above mentioned West right-of-way line of U. S. Highway No. 67 to an existing concrete right-of-way marker found in place at the point of intersection of said West right-of-way line of U. S. Highway No. 67 and the South right-of-way line of the above mentioned Job No. 3604 - Route 245, same being the Southeast corner of a certain 12.65 acre tract conveyed by Katherine B. Threlkeld to the Arkansas State Highway Commission by Warranty Deed recorded in Volume 228, Page 511 in the Deed Records of Miller County, Arkansas;

THENCE - N. 25° 52' 36" W., 126.35 ft. with the above mentioned South right-of-way line of Job No. 3604 - Route 245, same being the South boundary line of the above mentioned 12.65 acre tract to an existing concrete right-of-way marker found in place at an angle point in said South right-of-way line;

THENCE - N. 51° 19' 12" W., 527.82 ft. with the above mentioned South right-of-way line of Job No. 3604 - Route 245 and South boundary line of the above mentioned 12.65 acre tract to a concrete right-of-way marker found in place at an angle point in said South right-of-way line, same being the Southwest corner of said 12.65 acre tract, same also being on the East side of a street designated as Sanderson Lane;

THENCE - N. 01° 56' 38" E., with the West right-of-way line of the above mentioned Job No. 3604 - Route 245, same being the West boundary line of the above mentioned 12.65 acre tract passing at 45.47 ft. a 5/8" reinf. steel with 2" aluminum cap stamped "Arkansas Hwy & Trans Dept BDY PLS 820" set for corner on the above mentioned common line between the

NW¹/₄ of the SW¹/₄ and the SW¹/₄ of the SW¹/₄ and continuing 394.05 ft. to the Northwest corner of said 12.65 acre tract, same being the Southwest corner of the above mentioned 5.20 acre tract, and continuing 38.65 ft. with said West right-of-way line, same being the West boundary line of said 5.20 acre tract, for a total distance of 478.17 ft. to a concrete right-of-way marker found in place at an angle point in said West right-of-way line;

THENCE - N. 23° 03' 58" E., 297.61 ft. with the above mentioned West right-of-way line of Job No. 3604 - Route 245 and West boundary line of 5.20 acre to the POINT OF BEGINNING; basis of bearings is Right-of-Way Map of Job No. 3604 - Route 245 prepared by the Arkansas State Highway Commission. The above described property being surveyed by Richard V. Hall, Jr. contains 4.692 acres in the NW¹/₄ of the SW¹/₄ and 3.521 acres in the SW¹/₄ of the SW¹/₄ for a total of 8.213 acres of land, more or less; and

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WHEREAS, three (3) qualified appraisers have, in accordance with the requirements of Arkansas Code Annotated § 27-67-322, opined that the current fair market value of those portions of Tract No. 1 Lt. and Tract No. 2 Lt. being offered for sale is ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$135,500.00).

NOW THEREFORE, that the above-described properties are declared surplus; upon receipt of the consideration of ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$135,500.00), the Chairman of the Commission is authorized and directed to execute a Quitclaim Deed conveying the right, title, interest or equity of the above-described properties those portions of Tract No. 1 Lt. and Tract No. 2 Lt. for Job No. 3604 to L & N Leasing, LLC and hereby releasing the same from the State Highway System; a copy of this Minute Order and the Quitclaim Deed shall be recorded in Miller County, Arkansas; and, if necessary, the right of way shall be remonumented to reflect the boundaries designed herein. Any Federal-Aid Funds from this disposal shall be credited to Federal-Aid Funds or otherwise credited as permitted by Federal law.

WHEREAS, IN POPE COUNTY, Job 080484, Hob Nob Rd. – Center Valley Rd. (S) has been let to contract; and

WHEREAS, the City of Russellville has passed City Ordinance No. 2160, which agrees to accept all responsibility, including ownership of Highway 124, Section 1, beginning at the junction with Highway 7, in Russellville and continuing east to the Russellville City Limits, and Highway 326, Section 2, beginning at the junction with future Highway 124, Section 1 and continuing north to the junction with existing Highway 124 in accordance with Arkansas Code Annotated § 27-65-109; and

WHEREAS, Pope County has passed a County Court Order, which agrees to accept all responsibility, including ownership of Highway 124, Section 1, beginning at the Russellville City Limits and continuing east and north to the junction with the new location segment of Highway 124, Section 1 in accordance with Arkansas Code Annotated § 27-65-109.

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 124, Section 1, beginning at the junction with Highway 7, in Russellville and continuing east and north to the junction with the new location segment of future Highway 124, Section 1, is hereby removed from the State Highway System.
- Highway 326, Section 2, beginning at the junction with the new location segment and continuing north to the junction with existing Highway 124, Section 1, is hereby removed from the State Highway System.
- Highway 326, Section 2, beginning at the junction with Highway 64, Section 6, and continuing north to the junction with the new location segment, is hereby redesignated as Highway 124, Section 1.

2015-097 - Continued

- The new location segment, beginning at the junction with existing Highway 326, Section 2 and continuing north to the junction with existing Highway 124, Section 1, is hereby added to the State Highway System as Highway 124, Section 1.

2015-098

WHEREAS, the City of Jonesboro has conducted a study of at-grade railroad crossings within the City and made recommendations for improvements; and

WHEREAS, Diagnostic Teams with representatives from the City of Jonesboro, Union Pacific Railroad, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, and the Department met at the 15 crossings identified by the City as their top priorities to make final determinations of needed improvements; and

WHEREAS, Federal-aid Railway-Highway Crossing Safety funds are available for these improvements.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to proceed with improvements at these crossings subject to the following conditions:

1. Maintenance of the signals or surfaces performed by the Railroad Company at no cost to the State.
2. All required right-of-way furnished at no cost to the State.
3. Appropriate program approval by the Federal Highway Administration.

2015-099

WHEREAS, IN SALINE COUNTY, the City of Bryant has expressed interest in partnering with the Department for the design and construction of an Interstate 30 interchange at the Raymar Road overpass; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 2013-31 from the City of Bryant declares their intention to dedicate up to \$2.0 million for improvements at the Raymar Road overpass.

2015-099 - Continued

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

2015-100

WHEREAS, National Bridge Inspection Standards require the bridges shown to be inspected below the water surface; and

WHEREAS, underwater bridge inspection requires the experienced services of qualified professional engineers and divers; and

WHEREAS, the Department does not have the capability of performing this type of inspection.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to request proposals from prospective engineering firms and proceed with the implementation of a project to inspect the underwater portion of these bridges as funds become available.

BRIDGE NO.	RTE./SEC./L.M.	DISTRICT	LOCATION
5211	79/10/4.51	2	ARK RIVER PINE BLUFF
5176	64/1/4.54	4	ARK RIVER FORT SMITH
17353	CR70/00C/1.00	4	BLUE SPRS PK RD / LAKE BEAVER
2768	30/23/140.41	6	ARK RIVER I-30
5320	430/21/9.87	6	ARK RIVER I-430
5292	5/10/0.0	6	ARK RIVER MAIN ST
6429	270/5/13.5	6	LAKE HAMILTON
5872	70/8/14.3	6	LAKE HAMILTON
6178	7/9/4.02	6	LAKE HAMILTON
3713	40/42/199.48	6	WHITE RIVER I-40
3636	12/3/6.19	9	BEAVER LAKE
4686	63585/00E/1.63	9	LEATHERWOOD CK

2015-101

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway Commission received bids on the following projects at the October 13, 2015 letting; and

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
110147	01	CROSS	BRANCH OF CANEY CREEK STR. & APPRS. (S)	284	N

2015-101 - Continued

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
110557	01	CRITTENDEN	HWY. 131-NORTH (S)	147	N
110570	01	LEE	DITCH AT L.M. 1.85 STR. & APPRS. (S)	131	N
110575	01	PHILLIPS	BEE BAYOU STR. & APPRS. (S)	44	N
110630	01	ST. FRANCIS	SHEARERVILLE-WEST (CABLE MEDIAN BARRIER) (S)	40	Y
020543	02	GRANT	MOORE'S SLOUGH TRIBUTARY STR. & APPRS. (S)	291	N
020576	02	CHICOT	HWY. 208-HWY. 65 (REHAB.) (SEL. SECS.) (PHASE II) (S)	165	Y
BB0307	03	HEMPSTEAD	HWY. 278-HWY. 299 (S)	30	Y
030440	03	LITTLE RIVER	HWY. 32/HWY. 32Y SIGNAL (ASHDOWN) (S)	32 & 32Y	N
BB0409	04	CRAWFORD & WASHINGTON	I-49 PAVEMENT REHABILITATION (SEL. SECS.) (S)	49	Y
040456	04	CRAWFORD	HWY. 162 IMPROVEMENTS (ALMA) (S)	162	Y
040582	04	WASHINGTON	RAZORBACK RD.-GARLAND AVE. (HWY. 112) (FAYETTEVILLE) (S)	112	Y
040641	04	WASHINGTON	MIDDLE FORK WHITE RIVER STR. & APPRS. (FAYETTEVILLE) (S)	16	Y
050214	05	INDEPENDENCE	CR 80 (ANTIOCH ROAD)-SOUTH CITY LIMITS CAVE CITY (F)	167	Y
050261	05	CLEBURNE	HWY. 25 SPUR-LOCUST GROVE (PASSING LANES) (S)	25	Y
050266	05	SHARP	HARDY-EAST (PASSING LANES) (S)	63	Y
050289	05	STONE	SOUTH SYLAMORE CREEK-EAST (PASSING LANE) (S)	66	N
061333	06	PULASKI	I-430/HWY. 10 INTERCHANGE IMPVT. (L.R.) (S)	10 & 430	Y
061437	06	PULASKI	I-30/I-430 INTERCHANGE IMPVT. (L.R.) (PH. II) (S)	30 & 430	Y
070280	07	UNION	EL DORADO-HWY. 335 (S)	167	Y
080396	08	FAULKNER	CONWAY SOUTH INTERCHANGE-HWY. 365 (BASE & SURF.) (S)	40	Y
080422	08	POPE	DOVER-NORTH (PASSING LANES) (S)	7	Y

2015-101 - Continued

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
080464	08	POPE	NEWTON CO. LINE-SOUTH (PASSING LANE) (PH. II) (S)	7	Y
080492	08	FAULKNER	I-40-THOMAS G. WILSON DR. (CONWAY) (S)	65B &	Y
009831	09	SEARCY	GOURD & GRANNY CREEK STRS. & APPRS. (S)	74 & 377	N
090282	09	BENTON	ILLINOIS RIVER STR. & APPRS. (S)	16	Y
090340	09	BOONE	MAIN ST./RUSH AVE. SIGNAL REHAB. (HARRISON) (S)	---	-
090343	09	MADISON	HWY. 74-HUNTSVILLE STRS. & APPRS. (S)	23	Y
090347	09	BENTON	OSAGE CREEK STR. & APPRS. (S)	264	Y
090373	09	BENTON	HWY. 264-PLEASANT GROVE RD. (S)	265	Y
100654	10	MISSISSIPPI	HWY. 18 IMPROVEMENTS (MANILA) (S)	18	Y
012228	VAR	VARIOUS	SHOULDER RUMBLE STRIPS/STRIPES (SEL. SECS.) (DISTS. 1, 5, 6, 10) (S)	VAR	Y
C76023	06	PULASKI & SALINE	ALEXANDER OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
FA1107	10	CLAY	PIGGOTT-WEST DRAINAGE STRS. REPLACEMENTS (S)	---	-
SA4832	01	MONROE	BETHLEHEM RD. OVERLAY (SEL. SEC.) (S)	---	-
BR4906	08	MONTGOMERY	MAZARN CREEK STR. & APPRS. (S)	---	-
FA7518	08	YELL	HWY. 7-WEST (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 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.

Commission Chairman Dick Trammel opened the meeting by asking Danny Straessle, Public Information Officer, to introduce Krista Guthrie as a new employee in the Public Information Office.

Chairman Trammel congratulated Commissioner Frank D. Scott, Jr. for his recent article in Talk Business.

Chairman Trammel congratulated Director Scott Bennett for being appointed by the Governor to the Arkansas State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors.

Director Bennett congratulated Angel Correa for being chosen as the new Division Administrator for the Federal Highway Administration, Arkansas Division.

MOTION

Commission Chairman Dick Trammel brought up the previous Commission Minutes of September 2, 2015. Vice Chairman Thomas B. Schueck, Jr. moved, Commissioner Alec Farmer seconded and the motion passed to approve these previous Minutes.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mike Boyd, Chief Fiscal Officer, provided the August 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 \$2.4 million in the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2016 compared to the same period for SFY 2015. With the revenue from the Natural Gas Severance Tax coming in lower for this year compared to last year, total revenues available are \$3.6 million lower for this year. Actual state revenue received is \$0.7 million lower compared to projected (budgeted) revenue for this year.

In closing, Mr. Boyd stated that September revenue from the 0.5% General Sales Tax for the Connecting Arkansas Program was 5.7% higher, (\$809,174) than projected by the Department of Finance and Administration (DF&A). This revenue source is cumulatively 0.06%, or \$216,931, over 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 July 31, 2015, President Obama signed into law the Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015. This legislation extends MAP-21 from July 31, 2015 until October 29, 2015. It extends the authority to expend funds from the Highway Trust Fund, and the authorization to obligate funds for programs administered by the Federal-Aid Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

This is the 34th stopgap surface transportation measure passed by Congress in the last decade.

The legislation also transfers \$8.1 billion from the General Fund to the Highway Trust Fund. This transfer is projected to keep the Federal Highway Administration from having to implement cash management procedures until the spring of 2016.

Director Bennett gave an update on the status of the 2011 Interstate Rehabilitation Program (IRP) and Connecting Arkansas Program (CAP). 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). No other bond sales under this program are expected.

Director Bennett gave an update on the Governor's Working Group on Highway Funding. On April 23, 2015, Governor Asa Hutchinson issued an executive order to create the Governor's Working Group on Highway Funding. This group will serve as an investigative and advisory body of the Governor and will explore alternative means and strategies to fund the construction, reconstruction and maintenance of Arkansas' transportation system. On May 6, the Governor named the members of the group. Five meetings have been held to date on May 24, July 23, August 20, September 3 and September 24.

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 October 13, 2015 Bid Letting.

Director Bennett provided a list of upcoming meetings and events, including the Hot Springs Chamber Commission Appreciation Dinner and the Annual Associated General Contractors of American – Arkansas Chapter Annual Meeting.

Director Bennett closed the meeting with the presentation of the recent awards the Department has received:

- First Place – External Newsletter Category
Awarded to AHTD for the January 2015 issue of Arkansas Highways Magazine
- Honorable Mention – Published Article with DOT Byline
Awarded to AHTD for an article featuring the Environmental Division’s Milkweed Management Plan
- Honorable Mention – Excel Without Consultant
Awarded to AHTD for IDRIVE ARKANSAS marketing campaign
- First Place – Annual Report
Awarded to AHTD/SASHTO for the SASHTO Annual Report
- Rusty Hubbard, Staff Photographer, was presented the 11th Annual AASHTO Faces of Transportation People’s Choice Award for a photo of Environmental Division employee Kayti Ewing planting a flat of milkweed along I-430 to help the monarch butterflies that migrate through the area
- National Roadway Safety Award in the Infrastructure and Operational Improvement Category for the improvements to 4 miles of I-30 in Clark County

2015-102

IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be closed at 12:05 p.m., October 14, 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 October 14, 2015.


Lindy H. Williams
Commission Secretary