

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

March 15, 2016

ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR NO. 2016-04

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 March 2, 2016.

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

March 2, 2016

Following is the record of proceedings of the Arkansas State Highway Commission in Little Rock, Arkansas, March 2, 2016. Members present were:

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

2016-014 IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be opened at 10:00 a.m., March 2, 2016.

2016-015 WHEREAS, the Purchasing Committee has awarded purchases on January 21, 2016, and February 1 and 17, 2016, in the amount of \$291,824.00, \$480,545.84 and \$1,131,323.12, respectively, totaling \$1,903,692.96, 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.

2016-016 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 2016, 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 2016 in the amount of \$38,514.00.

2016-017

WHEREAS, the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982 authorized the installation of vending machines in Interstate Rest Areas; and

WHEREAS, the Act requires that states give priority to vending machines which are operated by state agencies for the blind, pursuant to the Randolph-Sheppard Act; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Services for the Blind, has successfully provided vending machine service in Interstate Welcome Centers and Rest Areas in Arkansas under service agreements with the Department since 1986; and

WHEREAS, the current agreement with the Division of Services for the Blind expires in 2016.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to renew the agreement with the Division of Services for the Blind to provide vending machine services at all Interstate Welcome Centers, Tourist Information Centers and Rest Areas within the State as may be practical.

2016-018

WHEREAS, IN MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, Job 100705, Highway 18/Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Overpass Str. & Apprs. (Blytheville) is complete and Job 100740, Highway 61-South Holland Street (Highway 18) (Blytheville) is nearing completion; and

WHEREAS, the City of Blytheville has passed City Ordinance No. 1717, which agrees to accept ownership of the portion of Highway 18 beginning at Highway 61 and continuing east to South First Street in accordance with Arkansas Code Annotated § 14-301-102; and

WHEREAS, City Ordinance No. 1717 also agrees to accept ownership of the portion of Highway 18 beginning at North Lake Street and continuing west to Highway 61 in accordance with Arkansas Code Annotated § 14-301-102; and

WHEREAS, the City of Blytheville has agreed to permanently close the Ash Street railroad crossing.

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 Blytheville as shown on the attached sketch.

- The portion of Highway 18, Section 7 beginning at the junction with Highway 61 and continuing east to the junction with South First Street is hereby removed from the State Highway System.
- The portion of Highway 18, Section 7X beginning at the junction with North Lake Street and continuing west to the junction with Highway 61 is hereby removed from the State Highway System.
- The portion of Highway 18, Section 7X beginning near the junction with existing Highway 18 and Laclede Street and continuing west to the junction with North Lake Street has been obliterated and is hereby removed from the State Highway System.
- The newly constructed portion of roadway beginning at the junction with Highway 61 and continuing east to the junction with South First Street is hereby added to the State Highway System as Highway 18, Section 7.

2016-019

WHEREAS, the City of Van Buren requested a study to evaluate various access improvements at the Highway 59 interchange with Interstate 40; and

WHEREAS, Minute Order 2014-146 adopted the Interstate 40/Highway 59 Interchange Improvement Study to be used as a planning guide for scheduling future improvements in the area.

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

2016-019 - Continued

FURTHERMORE, because of the high cost associated with these improvements, cost sharing through a partnering arrangement with the local jurisdictions should be explored. At a minimum, possible removal of existing highways from the State Highway System should be considered.

2016-020 WHEREAS, Minute Order 94-299 adopted the Hot Springs East-West Arterial Extension Study; and

WHEREAS, the study found that construction of the extension of Highway 70/270 (Martin Luther King Jr. Expressway) to Highway 7 in Garland County in the vicinity of the City of Hot Springs and Hot Springs Village to be feasible; and

WHEREAS, Garland County has offered to partner with the Department to fund this improvement, contingent upon voter approval of a ballot initiative to extend a current 5/8 cents sales tax; and

WHEREAS, the Draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Program for Federal Fiscal Years 2016 through 2020 includes \$5 million in Federal-aid and State funds and \$5 million in Local funds to begin project development of the project; and

WHEREAS, project development activities for the Highway 70/270 extension project will not begin until a firm funding commitment is received from Garland County.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to proceed with surveys, design and construction of improvements as funds become available.

2016-021 WHEREAS, a statewide highway congestion analysis was conducted; and

WHEREAS, IN GARLAND COUNTY, multiple highway locations were identified for further evaluation to determine the need for and feasibility of capacity improvements to improve the level of service for road users.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to conduct studies to determine the need for and feasibility of improvements to the following highway segments:

District	County	Route	Approximate Termini
6	Garland	7 270 270 270	Highway 88 South to Highway 270 Highway 88 (Higdon Ferry Road) Interchange Highway 7 (Central Avenue) Interchange Highway 70B (Airport Road) Interchange (Hot Springs)

2016-022 WHEREAS, IN GRANT COUNTY, a crash analysis of Highway 167, Section 10 and 10B has been completed; and

WHEREAS, the predominant type of crashes at this location is roll-over truck crashes; and

WHEREAS, the analysis identified constructing a longer channelized right turn lane at the northbound exit from Section 10 into Section 10B of Highway 167 would provide substantial safety benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Strategic Highway Safety Plan (2013) identified large commercial vehicles as a secondary emphasis area; and

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

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to proceed with plans and construction of a safety project to implement this improvement at the location shown on the attached map as funds become available.

2016-023

WHEREAS, a statewide highway congestion analysis was conducted; and

WHEREAS, IN SALINE AND PULASKI COUNTIES, multiple highway locations were identified for further evaluation to determine the need for and feasibility of capacity improvements to improve the level of service for road users.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to conduct studies to determine the need for and feasibility of improvements to the following highway segments:

District	County	Route	Approximate Termini
6	Saline	35	Interstate 30 to Military Road (Benton)
6	Pulaski	300	Bowman Rd. to Highway 5 (Little Rock)
6	Pulaski	10	Perryville Road to Kavanaugh Boulevard (Little Rock)

2016-024

WHEREAS, IN SEBASTIAN COUNTY, in the vicinity of the City of Fort Smith, traffic volumes continue to increase on Highway 45 between Highway 71 and Highway 255, a distance of approximately 3.0 miles; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Smith has identified capacity improvements to this two-lane route as a high priority transportation need for the area.

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

FURTHERMORE, because of the high cost associated with these improvements, cost sharing through a partnering arrangement with the local jurisdictions should be explored. At a minimum, possible removal of existing highways from the State Highway System should be considered.

2016-025

WHEREAS, a statewide highway congestion analysis was conducted; and

WHEREAS, IN SEBASTIAN AND CRAWFORD COUNTIES, two highway locations were identified for further evaluation to determine the need for and feasibility of capacity improvements to improve the level of service for road users.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to conduct studies to determine the need for and feasibility of improvements to the following highway segments:

District	County	Route	Approximate Termini
4	Sebastian & Crawford	540	Highway 22 to Interstate 40 (Fort Smith and Van Buren)
4	Sebastian	22	46 th Street to 74 th Street (Fort Smith)

2016-026

WHEREAS, IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, local officials expressed the need for improvements to Highway 170 between Highway 62 in Farmington and Highway 62 in Prairie Grove; and

WHEREAS, Minute Order 2013-112 adopted the Highway 170 Improvement Study to be used as a planning guide for scheduling future improvements; and

WHEREAS, the City of Farmington has offered to partner with the Department by providing local and Surface Transportation Program Attributable funds for a portion of the project development and construction costs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Farmington has also offered to accept ownership of the portion of Highway 170 within the Farmington City Limits upon completion of the project.

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

2016-027

WHEREAS, a statewide highway congestion analysis was conducted; and

WHEREAS, IN WASHINGTON AND BENTON COUNTIES, multiple highway locations were identified for further evaluation to determine the need for and feasibility of capacity improvements to improve the level of service for road users.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to conduct studies to determine the need for and feasibility of improvements to the following highway segments:

District	County	Route	Approximate Termini
4	Washington	412	Highway 112 to East of Interstate 49 (Springdale)
4 & 9	Washington & Benton	71B	Highway 412 to Highway 264 (Springdale and Rogers)
9	Benton	102	Highway 102B to Highway 94 (Centerton, Bentonville, and Rogers)
9	Benton	59	Highway 72 West to Highway 72 East (Gravette)
9	Benton	94	Hwy. 71B to Old Wire Rd. (Rogers)

2016-028

WHEREAS, the existing rest area located at Dermott has exceeded its service life, is in poor condition; and

WHEREAS, the facility is vandalized regularly and is not air conditioned; and

WHEREAS, the rest area is no longer needed due to the recently reconstructed Lake Village Welcome Center, which is 18.4 miles south of Dermott.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to close the existing rest area, remove the buildings and dispose of the property.

2016-029

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway Commission will open bids on the following projects at the March 23, 2016 letting; and

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
110626	01	MONROE	CLARENDON-HWY. 241 (OVERLAY) (S)	302	N
110627	01	WOODRUFF	HWY. 145-HWY. 64 (OVERLAY) (S)	64B	Y
110628	01	CRITTENDEN	HWY. 61-HWY. 42 (OVERLAY) (S)	77	Y
110629	01	PHILLIPS	LAKEVIEW CITY LIMITS-HWY. 85 (OVERLAY) (S)	44	N
020593	02	CHICOT	HWY. 65-HWY. 257 (OVERLAY) (S)	144	Y
020594	02	GRANT	SALINE CO. LINE-HWY. 167B (SEL. SECS.) (OVERLAY) (S)	35	Y
030415	03	LITTLE RIVER & SEVIER	LITTLE RIVER STR. & APPRS. (S)	41	Y
030443	03	HOWARD	HWYS. 371 & 980 (SEL. SECS.) (MILL & INLAY) (S)	371 & 980	Y
030459	03	HEMPSTEAD	RED RIVER-PEAVINE CREEK (OVERLAY) (S)	67	Y
030460	03	PIKE	MURFREESBORO (SEL. SECS.) (OVERLAY) (S)	27 & 301	Y
030461	03	HEMPSTEAD	NO. OF HWY. 32-HOPE (OVERLAY) (S)	278	Y
030462	03	LITTLE RIVER	C.R. 114-FOREMAN (OVERLAY) (S)	41	Y
BB0413	04	WASHINGTON	ELM SPRINGS RD. INTCHNG. IMPVTS. (F)	49	Y
040689	04	POLK	MENA-EAST (OVERLAY) (S)	88	Y
040690	04	FRANKLIN	HWY. 352-ROCK CREEK (SEL. SEC.) (OVERLAY) (S)	23	Y
040691	04	LOGAN	WEST OF HWY. 393-YELL CO. LINE (OVERLAY) (S)	22	Y
040692	04	SEBASTIAN	HWY. 10-FLAT ROCK CREEK (OVERLAY) (S)	96	N
040694	04	CRAWFORD	ALMA VIRTUAL WEIGH STATION INSTALLATION (S)	64	Y
050271	05	FULTON	CREEK AT L.M. 3.10 STR. & APPRS. (S)	9	Y
040712	04	CRAWFORD	HIGHWAY 59 EMERGENCY SLOPE FAILURE REPAIR (CRAWFORD CO.) (S)	59	Y
050328	05	IZARD & FULTON	HWY. 56-HWY. 62 (OVERLAY) (S)	289	N

2016-029 - Continued

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
050329	05	INDEPENDENCE	HWY. 69-HWY. 69 (OVERLAY) (S)	394	N
050330	05	JACKSON	HWY. 17-HWY. 367 (OVERLAY) (S)	18	N
061463	06	LONOKE	FURLOW-NORTH (OVERLAY) (S)	89 & 236	Y
061465	06	PULASKI & SALINE	I-30-SOUTH (OVERLAY) (S)	111	Y
070365	07	COLUMBIA	HWY. 79 NO.-CO. RD. 525 (MAGNOLIA) (S)	82	Y
070421	07	DALLAS	HWY. 9-WEST (OVERLAY) (S)	8	Y
070422	07	UNION	HWY. 7-NORTH & SOUTH (OVERLAY) (S)	167	Y
070423	07	OUACHITA	NEVADA CO. LINE-EAST (OVERLAY) (S)	278	Y
080510	08	YELL	HWY. 28-NO. OF CENTERVILLE (OVERLAY) (S)	7 & 10	Y
080512	08	MONTGOMERY	POLK CO. LINE-FRANKLIN CREEK (OVERLAY) (S)	88	N
080513	08	POPE	HWY. 64-SKYLINE DR. (RUSSELLVILLE) (OVERLAY) (S)	326	Y
080514	08	PERRY	HWY. 10-NORTH (OVERLAY) (S)	155	N
080515	08	JOHNSON	HWY. 315-SOUTH (OVERLAY) (S)	359	N
090442	09	CARROLL	HWY. 62-INDIAN CREEK (OVERLAY) (S)	21	Y
090444	09	MADISON	WASHINGTON CO. LINE-EAST (OVERLAY) (S)	16	Y
100759	10	RANDOLPH	BLACK RIVER STR. & APPRS. (POCAHONTAS) (S)	67	Y
100845	10	CRAIGHEAD	OLD BRIDGER RD.-PARAGOULD DR. (JONESBORO) (OVERLAY) (S)	49	Y
100846	10	MISSISSIPPI	BNSF RR-END STATE MAINT. (ARMOREL) (OVERLAY) (S)	18	Y
100847	10	RANDOLPH	SO. OF MAYNARD-HWY. 166 (OVERLAY) (S)	115	Y
100848	10	LAWRENCE	LAKE CHARLES STATE PARK- POWHATAN (OVERLAY) (S)	25	Y
C44002	09	MADISON	ST. PAUL OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-

2016-029 - Continued

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
C47005	10	MISSISSIPPI	OSCEOLA & WILSON OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C50001	03	NEVADA	BLUFF CITY, BODCAW, CALE & WILLISVILLE OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C53002	08	PERRY	PERRY, PERRYVILLE, & HOUSTON OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C54001	01	PHILLIPS	LAKE VIEW SURFACING (SEL. SEC.) (S)	---	-
C65004	04	SEBASTIAN	LAVACA OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C73004	05	WHITE	BRADFORD OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C75002	08	YELL	BELLEVILLE, DANVILLE, HAVANA & OLA OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C76025	09	BOONE & NEWTON	EVERTON & WESTERN GROVE OVERLAY & SURFACING (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C76027	09	BOONE & MARION	LEAD HILL & SUMMITT OVERLAY & REHAB. (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C76029	04 & 03	POLK & SEVIER	COVE, DE QUEEN & WICKES OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA1660	10	CRAIGHEAD	HWY. 349-JONESBORO CITY LIMITS (OVERLAY) (S)	---	-
SA1838	01	CRITTENDEN	CRITTENDEN CO. OVERLAY NO. 2 (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA1934	01	CROSS	CROSS COUNTY OVERLAY NO. 3 (S)	---	-
SA2369	08	FAULKNER	HWY. 25-HWY. 65 (ELLIOT RD.) (OVERLAY) (S)	---	-
SA2942	03	HEMPSTEAD	HWY. 278-NORTH (OVERLAY) (S)	---	-
SA3270	05	INDEPENDENCE	HWY. 87-CO. RD. 9 (OVERLAY) (S)	---	-
SA5134	09	NEWTON	NEWTON CO. LEVEL & RESEAL (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA6341	04	SCOTT	SCOTT COUNTY SURFACING NO. 4 (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA6547	04	SEBASTIAN	SEBASTIAN CO. SURFACING NO. 2 (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
FA6713	05	SHARP	SOUTH BIG CREEK STR. & APPRS. (S)	---	-

2016-029 - Continued

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
SA6941	05	STONE	HWY. 14-WEST (SURFACING) (S)	---	-
SA7135	08	VAN BUREN	HWY. 330-WEST (OVERLAY) (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.

MOTION

Commission Chairman Dick Trammel brought up the previous Commission Minutes of January 20, 2016. Commissioner Alec Farmer moved, Commissioner Frank D. Scott, Jr. seconded and the motion passed to approve these previous Minutes.

MOTION The Commission approved Minute Order 2015-105 on December 2, 2015, authorizing the Department to advertise for qualified firms to perform On-Call Certified Public Accounting Review Services. Commissioner Alec Farmer moved, Commissioner Robert S. Moore, Jr. seconded and the motion passed to accept the Staff's recommendation to enter into negotiations with the following firms:

Sherryl Miller – Little Rock, AR
T. Wayne Owens & Associates, PC – Lawrenceville, GA

MOTION The Commission approved Minute Order 2015-095 on October 14, 2015, authorizing the Department to advertise for consultant services for the development and implementation of a Local Public Agency Project Manual. Vice Chairman Tom Schueck moved, Commissioner Alec Farmer seconded and the motion passed to accept the Staff's recommendation to enter into negotiations with Burns & McDonnell Engineering Co., Inc., Springdale, AR.

MOTION The Commission approved Minute Order 2004-114 on August 18, 2004, authorizing the Department to advertise for consultant ecological services. A motion on June 10, 2015 was approved to enter into contract negotiations with Dinkins Biological Consulting, LLC. Contract negotiations were halted when the required project scope could not be met by Dinkins Biological Consulting, LLC at the submitted bid price. Commissioner Robert S. Moore, Jr. moved, Vice Chairman Tom Schueck seconded and the motion passed to accept the Staff's recommendation to enter into negotiations with Ecological Specialists, Inc., O'Fallon, MO, who also submitted a proposal at the same time as Dinkins, to provide consultant services for a Freshwater Mussel Survey for Job 110540, White River Structures Demolition and Removal (Clarendon).

MOTION Vice Chairman Tom Schueck moved, Commissioner Frank D. Scott, Jr. seconded and the motion passed to release the Draft 2016-2020 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program for public comment.

MOTION

Commissioner Frank D. Scott, Jr. moved and Vice Chairman Tom Schueck seconded and the motion passed to update the STIP on an annual basis from this point forward by adding a year to the most recent STIP (i.e. in 2017, the year 2021 would be added to create the 2017-2021 STIP; in 2018, the year 2022 would be added to create the 2018-2022 STIP; and so forth).

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mike Boyd, Chief Fiscal Officer, provided the January 2016 update on state highway revenue. Mr. Boyd noted that state highway revenues to the Department from traditional sources are up a total of \$8.4 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 significantly lower for this year compared to last year, total revenues available are \$8.2 million lower for this year. Actual state revenue received is \$500,000 lower compared to projected (budgeted) revenue for this year.

In closing, Mr. Boyd stated that January revenue from the 0.5% General Sales Tax for the Connecting Arkansas Program was 2.07% lower, (\$311,741) than projected by the Department of Finance and Administration (DF&A). This revenue source has come in higher than DF&A's projections for 5 of the past 7 months, and is cumulatively 0.01%, or \$26,646, 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 the passage of the FAST Act has ensured federal funding for the next five years. Now the issue becomes sufficient state revenue to provide the matching funds required for Federal-aid funds. The Governor has indicated he will call a special session of the legislature immediately following the 2016 fiscal session in order to consider a funding package designed to meet the Department's most immediate needs.

However, any highway package is dependent upon passage of the Governor's "Arkansas Works" changes to the state Medicaid expansion expected to be taken up in a separate special session before the 2016 fiscal session. Failure to continue the Medicaid expansion would create an

Discussion - Continued

approximate \$100 million shortfall in the state budget, resulting in budget cuts or tax increases, as well as jeopardizing the Governor's highway plan.

Director Bennett also gave a report on the Department staff's recent trip to Washington D.C. to attend the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Washington Briefing, which included meeting with Arkansas' Congressional Delegation to discuss transportation issues.

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 presented a summary of the apparent low bids and bidders from the February 10, 2016 Bid Letting.

Director Bennett gave a historical review of the Arkansas State Highway Commission and the Mack-Blackwell Amendment.

Director Bennett provided a list of upcoming meetings and events, including the Appreciation Dinner on March 10, 2016 and the Luncheon/I-555 Sign Dedication in Jonesboro on March 11, 2016.

Director Bennett closed the meeting with the presentation of the two Federal Railroad Administration awards Arkansas has received:

- \$292,000 to install flashing lights & crossing gates in Paragould
- \$190,000 to install flashing lights & crossing gates on Greene County Road 818

2016-030

IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be closed at 12:00 p.m., March 2, 2016.

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 March 2, 2015.


Lindy H. Williams
Commission Secretary