

INFORMATION RELEASE



Office of the Director

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AHTD SUSPENDS PLANNED CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS DUE TO UNCERTAINTY IN THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

LITTLE ROCK (3-19) – The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) has withdrawn ten construction projects from its planned list of projects scheduled for award in April as a result of the uncertainty of Federal-aid reimbursements available from the Federal Highway Trust Fund.

The United State Department of Transportation has projected that the Federal Highway Trust Fund will run short of funds as early as July of this year without Congressional action. Because of this uncertainty, the AHTD has evaluated State and Federal funding that will be available and reduced the number of construction projects planned because of the possible inability of the Federal Highway Trust Fund to provide timely and full reimbursements to Arkansas.

The ten Federal-aid projects that have been pulled from the Department's April bid letting total approximately \$60 million and include:

County	Roadway	Project Description
Chicot	Highway 165	Rehabilitation of 4.3 miles
Franklin	City Street	Connect Hillbilly Lane to Hwy. 23 (Mulberry)
Independence	Highway 167	Widening of 5.0 miles
Pulaski	Highway 70 (Roosevelt Rd.)	Bridge Replacement (LR)
Pulaski	City Street (Remount Rd.)	Bridge Replacement (NLR)
Various	Highways 67, 84, 79, 7, 82	Bridge Painting
Conway	Highways 9 & 9B	Traffic Signal Upgrade (Morrilton)
Craighead	Highway 226	Cash Bypass Base and Surfacing
Lawrence	Highway 63	Widening 1.5 miles
Garland	County Road 79	Bridge Replacement

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“Based on our evaluation, if we execute all contracts that are scheduled for the April letting, the Department may not have adequate funds to ensure full payments to contractors during this period of reduced Federal reimbursements,” states ATHD Director Scott Bennett.

“We are hoping that a long-term revenue solution for the Federal Highway Trust Fund can be found so we in Arkansas and across the country can continue to award planned construction projects and adequately invest in our nation’s highway system,” Bennett added.

An evaluation of scheduled federally funded projects will occur prior to each Department letting until Congress acts to correct the funding shortfall. Letting dates in 2014 are scheduled for April 16th, June 4th, July 23rd, September 17th, November 5th and December 17th.

