



INFORMATION RELEASE

Office of the Director

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND
P. O. Box 2261 – Little Rock, Arkansas
Telephone (501) 569-2227

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
ArkansasHighways.com
Twitter: @AHTD

Contact:
Danny Straessle

NR 15-119
May 7, 2015

Five Minutes to Midnight

AHTD Continues Withdrawal of Projects from Bid Openings as Deadline for Reauthorization Looms

LITTLE ROCK (5-7) – The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department announced today it has withdrawn nine construction projects with an estimated construction value of \$120 million from the Agency’s upcoming June 9th bid opening due to continuing uncertainty of Federal-aid reimbursements available from the Federal Highway Trust Fund.

This action brings the total number of projects withdrawn from bid openings in Arkansas this year to 70, with an estimated construction value of \$282 million. An attached list of projects and accompanying map provide additional details and an illustration of the location of all projects withdrawn to date in 2015. Since December 2014, AHTD has evaluated its scheduled Federally-funded projects prior to each bid opening to ensure sufficient State funds are available to fulfill commitments during anticipated reductions or delays in Federal reimbursements.

“Not only have we been forced to withdraw \$282 million from our bid openings in 2015, but there are only 24 days remaining until obligation authority expires for MAP-21,” said AHTD Director Scott Bennett. “We operate on a cash basis and are not willing to take risks that would jeopardize the progress of any of our Federally-funded projects. To do otherwise is not being fiscally responsible.”

News of the latest highway construction projects withdrawn from consideration in the Arkansas 2015 bid opening schedule comes weeks before the fast-approaching May 31st deadline for reauthorization. If a solution is not found by the end of the month, states will lose their ability to obligate Federal funds for projects.

continued...

“The cost of doing nothing is too great,” added Bennett. “We can’t assume that since Congress has always fixed the Federal Highway Trust Fund at the last minute, they will do so again. Such a piecemeal approach to highway funding in America is not healthy for our Nation’s aging infrastructure.”

At risk in Arkansas for Federal Fiscal Year 2015 is 120 projects with an estimated construction value of \$490 million. The absence of a long-term reauthorization bill places 130 projects at risk in Arkansas for Federal Fiscal Year 2016 with an estimated construction value of \$520 million.

“Our only choice is to withdraw projects from bid openings,” stressed Bennett. “Congress must commit to reaching a long-term solution so we aren’t back at the crossroads again in a few months. The band-aid approach doesn’t work. It only covers up the problem. It does not solve the problem.”

Nation at a Crossroads

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) has created a web-based infographic as part of a campaign that calls on Congress to “think big” and focus on long-term highway infrastructure needs rather than short-term fixes that “kick the funding can down the road” and will only result in this becoming a recurring issue.

The “Nation at a Crossroads” campaign urges policymakers to consider what is achievable in a long-term, sustainable source of funding to keep America on the right path. The campaign site features a “state impact” section that provides state-level information showing how Federal funding affects transportation investment.

Arkansas is among the states helping AASHTO tell the highway funding story by routinely updating its section of the site with the latest information as it becomes available. At risk in Arkansas includes \$490 million in highway projects, \$32 million in transit projects, an estimated 11,000 jobs, and 220 projects.

The site is available at <http://invest.transportation.org>.

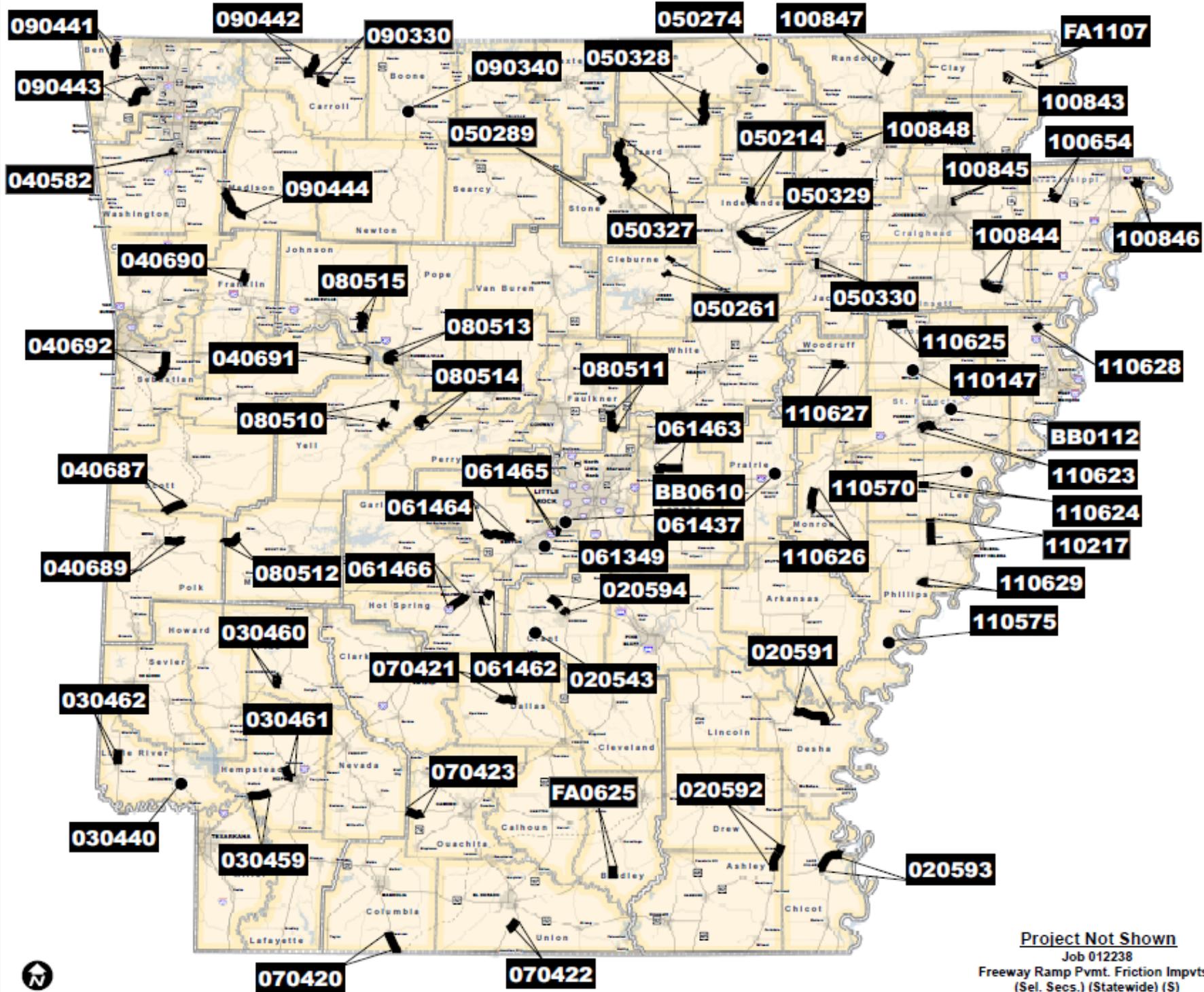
Projects Withdrawn from 2015 Bid Openings

County	Route	Project Name	AHTD Job Number
Ashley & Drew	165	Drew Co. Line-North & South (Mill & Inlay) (S)	020592
Benton	59	Sulphur Springs-Spavinaw Creek (Overlay) (S)	090441
Benton	12	Springtown-Hwy. 279 (Overlay & Shoulders) (S)	090443
Boone	- - -	Main St./Rush Ave. Signal Rehab. (Harrison) (S)	090340
Bradley	CR 2	Co. Rd. 4-Co. Rd. 134 (Surfacing) (S)	FA0625
Carroll	62	Co. Rd. 704-West of Hwy. 103 South (S)	090330
Carroll	21	Hwy. 62-Indian Creek (Overlay) (S)	090442
Chicot	144	Hwy. 65-Hwy. 257 (Overlay) (S)	020593
Clay	90	Boydsville-East (Sel. Sec.) (Overlay) (S)	100843
Clay	CR 53	Piggott-West Drainage Strs. Replacement (S)	FA1107
Cleburne	25	Hwy. 25 Spur-Locust Grove (Passing Lanes) (S)	050261
Columbia	79	Louisiana State Line-Hwy. 98 (Overlay) (S)	070420
Craighead	49	Old Bridger Rd.-Paragould Dr. (Jonesboro) (Overlay) (S)	100845
Crittenden	77	Hwy. 61-Hwy. 42 (Overlay) (S)	110628
Cross	284	Branch of Caney Creek Str. & Apprs. (S)	110147
Cross	42	Gum Slough-Wolfpen Slough (Overlay & Shoulders) (S)	110625
Dallas	8	Hwy. 9-West (Overlay) (S)	070421
Desha	1	So. of Watson-Hwy. 165 (Overlay) (S)	020591
Faulkner	107	Pulaski Co. Line-Hwy. 64B (Overlay) (S)	080511
Franklin	23	Hwy. 352-Rock Creek (Sel. Sec.) (Overlay) (S)	040690
Fulton	63	Gut Creek Str. & Apprs. (S)	050274
Grant	291	Moore's Slough Tributary Str. & Apprs. (S)	020543
Grant	35	Saline Co. Line-Hwy. 167B (Sel. Secs.) (Overlay) (S)	020594
Hempstead	67	Red River-Peavine Creek (Overlay) (S)	030459
Hempstead	278	No. of Hwy. 32-Hope (Overlay) (S)	030461
Hot Spring	67	Hwy. 270B-North (Sel. Secs.) (Overlay) (S)	061462
Hot Spring	84	Social Hill-Hwy. 171 (Overlay) (S)	061466
Independence	167	CR 80 (Antioch Road)-South City Limits Cave City (F)	050214
Independence	394	Hwy. 69- Hwy. 69(Overlay) (S)	050329
Izard & Fulton	289	Hwy. 56-Hwy. 62 (Overlay) (S)	050328
Jackson	18	Hwy. 17-Hwy. 367 (Overlay) (S)	050330
Johnson	359	Hwy. 315-South (Overlay) (S)	080515
Lawrence	25	Lake Charles State Park-Powhatan (Overlay) (S)	100848
Lee	131	Ditch at L.M. 1.85 Str. & Apprs. (S)	110570
Lee	243	Hwy. 79-Hwy. 1 (Overlay & Shoulders) (S)	110624

Projects Withdrawn from 2015 Bid Openings

County	Route	Project Name	AHTD Job Number
Lee & Phillips	1	Walnut Corner-Cypress Corner (S)	110217
Little River	32 & 32Y	Hwy. 32/Hwy. 32Y Signal (Ashdown) (S)	030440
Little River	41	C.R. 114-Foreman (Overlay) (S)	030462
Logan	22	West of Hwy. 393-Yell Co. Line (Overlay) (S)	040691
Lonoke	89 & 236	Furlow-North (Overlay) (S)	061463
Madison	16	Washington Co. Line-East (Overlay) (S)	090444
Mississippi	18	Hwy. 18 Improvements (Manila) (S)	100654
Mississippi	18	BNSF RR-End State Maint. (Armored) (Overlay) (S)	100846
Monroe	302	Clarendon-No. of Hwy. 241 (Overlay & Shoulders) (S)	110626
Montgomery	88	Polk Co. Line-Franklin Creek (Overlay) (S)	080512
Ouachita	278	Nevada Co. Line-East (Overlay) (S)	070423
Perry	155	Hwy. 10-North (Overlay) (S)	080514
Phillips	44	Bee Bayou Str. & Apprs. (S)	110575
Phillips	44	Lakeview City Limits-Hwy. 85 (Overlay) (S)	110629
Pike	27 & 301	Murfreesboro (Sel. Secs.) (Overlay) (S)	030460
Poinsett	63	Terrel Rd. Overpass-St. Francis River (Overlay) (S)	100844
Polk	88	Mena-East (Overlay) (S)	040689
Pope	326	Hwy. 64-Skyline Dr. (Russellville) (Overlay) (S)	080513
Prairie	40	White River Str. & Apprs. (F)	BB0610
Pulaski	30 & 430	I-30/I-430 Interchange Impvt. (L.R.) (Ph. II) (S)	061437
Pulaski & Saline	111	I-30-South (Overlay) (S)	061465
Randolph	115	So. of Maynard-Hwy. 166 (Overlay) (S)	100847
Saline	183	Bauxite & Northern RR Spur Str. & Apprs. (S)	061349
Saline	5	Hwy. 9-North (Overlay) (S)	061464
Scott	71	Polk Co. Line-North (Hwy. 71) (Overlay) (S)	040687
Sebastian	96	Hwy. 10-Flat Rock Creek (Overlay) (S)	040692
St. Francis	40	Fishing Lake Str. & Apprs. (S)	BB0112
St. Francis	70	S. Powell St.-Crow Creek (Mill & Inlay) (S)	110623
Stone	66	South Sylamore Creek-East (Passing Lane) (S)	050289
Stone	5	Sylamore Creek-White River (Overlay) (S)	050327
Union	167	Hwy. 7-North & South (Overlay) (S)	070422
Washington	112	Razorback Rd.-Garland Ave. (Hwy. 112) (Fayetteville) (S)	040582
Woodruff	64	Hwy. 145-Hwy. 64 (Overlay) (S)	110627
Yell	7 & 10	Hwy. 28-No. of Centerville (Overlay) (S)	080510
Various	Various	Freeway Ramp Pvmt. Friction Impvts. (Sel. Secs.) (Statewide) (S)	012238

Projects Removed From 2015 Bid Lettings



Project Not Shown
Job 012238
Freeway Ramp Pvmnt. Friction Impvts.
(Sel. Secs.) (Statewide) (S)



April 30, 2015

