

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

February 1, 2017

ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR NO. 2017-02

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 January 4, 2017 and in the Old Supreme Court Room of the Capitol on January 19, 2017.

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

January 4, 2017

Following is the record of proceedings of the Arkansas State Highway Commission in Little Rock, Arkansas, January 4, 2017. Members present were:

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

2017-001 IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be opened at 10:30 a.m., January 4, 2017.

Craig Douglass, Executive Director of Good Roads Foundation, and Jon Gilmore presented the results from the Gilmore Strategy Group's Arkansas Statewide Likely Voter Survey that was conducted on December 12-13, 2016.

2017-002 IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be closed at 12:10 p.m., January 4, 2017.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

January 19, 2017

Following is the record of proceedings of the regular business meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission held at the Old Supreme Court Room of the Capitol in Little Rock, Arkansas, January 19, 2017. Members present were:

Dick Trammel, Chairman
Thomas B. Schueck, Vice Chairman
Robert S. Moore, Jr., Member
Alec Farmer, Member
Philip Taldo, Member

2017-003 IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be opened at 10:30 a.m., January 19, 2017.

2017-004 WHEREAS, the Purchasing Committee has awarded purchases on December 21, 2016, in the amount of \$56,701.00, 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.

2017-005 WHEREAS, the U.S. Geological Survey collects and updates hydraulic data and develops models for estimating flow discharges for various frequencies; and

WHEREAS, these models are used by the Department's engineers in the design of highway drainage structures such as bridges, culverts, and storm drainage systems; and

2017-005 - Continued

WHEREAS, the USGS Continuous-Record Streamflow Gaging Network only covers larger streams across the state and the stream frequency and discharge estimating procedures require data from smaller streams to accurately predict discharges from both large and small streams for the design of highway drainage structures; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 the Department entered into an agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey to install and maintain the gages for three years to establish the Crest-Stage Gage Network; and

WHEREAS, a proposal submitted by the U.S. Geological Survey to provide for the continued maintenance and data collection for the Crest-Stage Gage Network for five years has been reviewed and recommended by the Staff.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to enter into a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey for this project. The Department will contribute State funds in the amount of \$89,500 per year for the maintenance of the network for five years.

2017-006

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway Commission has adopted and published Regulations for Access Driveways to State Highways as directed by Statute; and

WHEREAS, certain changes in the regulations are necessary and desirable; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 42 of the Arkansas Constitution, and Arkansas Code Annotated §27-65-107, provide authority for the Arkansas State Highway Commission to adopt and amend these regulations; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Rules for Access Driveways to State Highways were made available for public comment from October 28, 2016, through November 28, 2016, during which time no public comments were received for consideration;

2017-006 - Continued

NOW THEREFORE, the Regulations for Access Driveways to State Highways, as authorized by Statute, and adopted, published and amended under direction of Commission Minute Order 89-101 of March 22, 1989, are rescinded and the attached Rules for Access Driveways to State Highways are adopted in their stead.

FURTHERMORE, the Director is authorized to submit the final Rules for Access Driveways to State Highways to the Administrative Rules and Regulations Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council for its review and approval.

2017-007

WHEREAS, Minute Order 2012-058 authorized the Director to update the Arkansas State Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan adopted in 1998; and

WHEREAS, in coordination with Department of Parks and Tourism, and in collaboration with other stakeholders, extensive public involvement has been conducted in order to identify common goals, objectives, and strategies to improve bicycling and walking in the State; and

WHEREAS, the plan update is complete.

NOW THEREFORE, the Arkansas State Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan is adopted for use as a guide for future planning and implementation.

2017-008

WHEREAS, IN BENTON COUNTY, the Cities of Bentonville and Rogers have offered to partner with the Department to design and construct a single point urban interchange at the Interstate 49 and Highway 71B interchange; and

WHEREAS, Bentonville's Resolution No. 12-8-15H expresses their willingness to contribute \$1.5 million towards this improvement and assume ownership of existing Highway 71B (Southeast Walton Boulevard) between Highway 12 (South Walton Boulevard) and Interstate 49; and

2017-008 - Continued

WHEREAS, Rogers' Resolution No. R-15-96 expresses their willingness to contribute \$1.5 million towards this improvement and assume ownership of existing Highway 71B (West Walnut Street) between Interstate 49 and Highway 94 (North 8th Street); and

WHEREAS, ownership of Highway 71B from Highway 12 to Highway 94 will be transferred to the Cities upon completion of the Interstate 49 and Highway 71B interchange modifications and the widening project between Dixie Land Road and 8th Street.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to enter into the necessary partnering agreements with the Cities of Bentonville and Rogers.

2017-009

WHEREAS, IN CALHOUN COUNTY, the need to widen Highway 167 between Hampton and Thornton has been identified; and

WHEREAS, this portion of the Highway 167 Corridor is part of Arkansas' Four Lane Grid System and widening this segment is part of the Connecting Arkansas Program; and

WHEREAS, widening Highway 167 through Hampton and through Thornton will require the Water and Sewer Associations in each City to relocate their utility lines; and

WHEREAS, the combined cost for relocation is estimated to be over \$2 million; and

WHEREAS, based on the Department's financial analysis of both Cities, they are unable to finance the needed relocations either now or in the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the Commission adopted a policy to address the problem of small, rural utilities that cannot afford to relocate their lines to accommodate highway widening projects on the Four-Lane Grid System; and

WHEREAS, this policy identified an alternative to a monetary payment by forming a partnership with the appropriate local agency to take over maintenance and ownership of suitable state highways in order to offset the cost to the Department for relocating the utility lines.

NOW THEREFORE, upon receipt of a formal approval by the Calhoun County Judge to take over maintenance and ownership of all or a portion of the State Highways as illustrated in Exhibit A, the Director is authorized to enter into the necessary agreements to fund the relocation of the Cities' utilities and to move forward to construct the CAP projects to widen Highway 167.

2017-010

WHEREAS, IN JEFFERSON COUNTY, the City of Pine Bluff has requested to partner with the Department to improve Highway 190 between Interstate 530 and Highway 65; and

WHEREAS, Minute Order 2014-132 adopted the Highway 190 Improvement Study as a planning guide for future improvements in this area; and

WHEREAS, the 2016-2020 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program includes the following improvements in Jefferson County:

- \$1.7 million to reconstruct approximately 0.4 miles of Highway 190 between 11th Avenue and Harding Avenue
- \$3.5 million to overlay approximately 2.1 miles of Highway 190 between Interstate 530 and Highway 79B; and

WHEREAS, the City of Pine Bluff has passed Resolution No. 3889 agreeing to accept ownership of Highway 190, Sections 5 and 5X between Interstate 530 and Highway 65 upon completion of the aforementioned Highway 190 improvements.

2017-010 - Continued

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to enter into the necessary agreements with the City of Pine Bluff and to proceed with surveys, plans, and construction of these improvements as funds become available.

2017-011 WHEREAS, IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, the City of Fayetteville has requested to partner with the Department on Job BB0411, Highway 16/112 Spur Interchange Improvements (S); and

WHEREAS, the City has requested a modification to the proposed design to include a shared-use path along the south side of the Highway 16 (Wedington Drive) bridge over Interstate 49; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fayetteville passed Resolution No. 173-16 expressing the City's commitment to contribute funds for inclusion of the shared-use path, not to exceed \$415,000; and

WHEREAS, the Department has agreed to accommodate and move forward with this design modification.

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

2017-012 WHEREAS, IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, the City of Fayetteville has expressed interest in partnering with the Department for improvements to Highway 112 between Leroy Pond Drive and Interstate 49 in Fayetteville; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 27-17 from the City of Fayetteville declares their intention to dedicate up to \$3,358,600 for improvements to Highway 112 between Leroy Pond Drive and Interstate 49; and

WHEREAS, upon completion of the aforementioned improvements, the City of Fayetteville agrees to assume ownership and responsibility for the portions of Highway 112, Sections 0 and 1 between Highway 16 and Interstate 49 as shown on the attached sketch.

2017-012 - Continued

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to enter into the necessary agreements with the City of Fayetteville and to proceed with these improvements.

FURTHERMORE, upon completion of these improvements and upon official notification by the Deputy Director and Chief Engineer, the following changes are hereby to be made to the State Highway System as shown on the attached sketch.

- The portion of Highway 112, Section 0, between Highway 16 and Highway 112 Spur is to be removed from the State Highway System.
- The portion of Highway 112, Section 1, between Highway 112 Spur and Interstate 49 is to be removed from the State Highway System.
- The portion of Highway 112, Section 0, between Highway 71 and Highway 16 is to be redesignated as Highway 16, Section 3.
- Highway 112, Section 0 Spur is to be redesignated as Highway 16, Section 2 Spur.

2017-013

WHEREAS, the City Council of Alma, by Resolution 2016-13, has requested a portion of Highway 162, between Main Street and Highway 64, be named in honor of Marsha Woolly; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Highway Commission has adopted guidelines for the installation of commemorative signs by Minute Order 2014-023 and the City's request meets these guidelines.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to permit the installation of signs in each direction on this portion of Highway 162, as requested by the City, in accordance with Commission Policy.

2017-014

WHEREAS, Stone County, by Resolution 2016-5, has requested the bridge over Little Raccoon Creek (known locally as Coon Creek) on Highway 5 south of Mountain View be named "Purple Heart Memorial Bridge"; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Highway Commission has adopted guidelines for the installation of commemorative signs by Minute Order 2014-023 and the County's request meets these guidelines.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to permit the installation of signs in each direction on the bridge over Little Raccoon Creek, as requested by the County, in accordance with Commission Policy.

2017-015

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway Commission has accepted bids on the following projects at the January 18, 2017 letting; and

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
110663	01	CROSS	POINSETT CO. LINE – SOUTH OF HWY. 42 (S)	49	Y
110669	01	LEE	LITTLE HOG TUSK CREEK – EAST (S)	79	Y
020635	02	DREW	HWY. 172 – OLD WARREN RD. (MONTICELLO) (S)	425	Y
020662	02	ASHLEY	HWYS. 82 & 425 (HAMBURG) (SEL. SECS.) (S)	82 & 425	Y
030484	03	HEMPSTEAD	WASHINGTON – HWY. 32 (S)	278	Y
030485	03	LAFAYETTE	HWY. 360 – NORTH (S)	29	Y
040724	04	SEBASTIAN	HWY. 71B – I-540 (S)	271	Y
040731	04	CRAWFORD	HWY. 162 – HWY. 64 (S)	64B	N
040732	04	WASHINGTON	HWY. 16 – FULBRIGHT EXPY. (SEL. SECS.) (S)	71B	Y
040733	04	WASHINGTON	CO. RD. 3115 – HUTCHENS CREEK (S)	71	Y
040747	04	CRAWFORD & SEBASTIAN	I-540 ARKANSAS RIVER BRIDGE PAINTING (S)	540	Y
050351	05	WHITE	HWY. 64 – NORTH (SEL. SECS.) (S)	5	Y
050356	05	JACKSON	INDEPENDENCE CO. LINE – HWY. 367 (S)	14	N
050360	05	WHITE	MIDSOUTH DR. – RANES RD. (S)	385	Y
050373	05	INDEPENDENCE	HWY. 167 – HWY. 14 (S)	14S	N

2017-015 - Continued

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
061474	06	SALINE	BRYANT PKWY. INTERCHANGE (BRYANT) (S)	30	Y
061522	06	PULASKI	HWY. 161 – LONOKE CO. LINE (S)	294	Y
061529	06	LONOKE & PRAIRIE	HWY. 13 – SCREETON (S)	70	Y
070448	07	CLARK	HWY. 51 – HOT SPRING CO. LINE (S)	67	Y
070450	07	COLUMBIA	MAGNOLIA – SOUTH (SEL. SECS.) (S)	19	N
080536	08	JOHNSON	LOGAN CO. LINE – HWY. 64 (S)	109	Y
080542	08	POPE	HWY. 64 – HWY. 64 (POTTSVILLE & RUSSELLVILLE) (SEL. SEC.) (S)	331	Y
080549	08	YELL	HWY. 27 – PLAINVIEW (S)	28	N
090478	09	BAXTER	HWY. 62 WEST – HWY. 62 EAST (MOUNTAIN HOME) (S)	62B	Y
090480	09	CARROLL	BENTON CO. LINE – HWY. 187 (S)	62	Y
090481	09	BENTON	HWY. 71B – NORTH OF HWY. 62 (ROGERS) (S)	94	Y
090483	09	BENTON	HWY. 264 – NORTH (SILOAM SPRINGS) (S)	43	Y
100708	10	GREENE	HWY. 412 WEST – HWY. 49 (S)	412	Y
100838	10	MISSISSIPPI	SHADY GROVE – HWY. 140 (SEL. SECS.) (S)	77	N
100889	10	CRAIGHEAD	I-555 – HWY. 49 (JONESBORO) (S)	18 & 49	Y
100893	10	GREENE	HWY. 49B – HWY. 135 (PARAGOULD) (S)	412	Y
012260	VAR	VARIOUS	STATEWIDE WRONG-WAY CRASH FREEWAY IMPVTS. (S)	VAR	Y
C10002	07	CLARK	AMITY, GUM SPRINGS & WHELEN SPRINGS OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C10003	07	CLARK	GURDON OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C30001	06	HOT SPRING	MALVERN OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C30002	06	HOT SPRING	DONALDSON & MIDWAY OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C41003	03	LITTLE RIVER	FOREMAN, OGDEN & WILTON OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-

2017-015 - Continued

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
C57002	04	POLK	COVE & WICKES OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C57003	04	POLK	HATFIELD MERSHON DR. OVERLAY & SURF. (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C66001	03	SEVIER	DE QUEEN OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C70004	07	UNION	CALION, HUTTIG, JUNCTION CITY & NORPHLET OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C76033	03	HOWARD & SEVIER	BEN LOMOND & TOLLETTE OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
SA5136	09	NEWTON	HWY. 123 – CO. RD. 41 (BASE) (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 Amendment 42 of the Arkansas Constitution, 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.

FURTHERMORE, 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.

Chairman Dick Trammel welcomed everyone and welcomed Philip Taldo as our newest Commission member.

Director Bennett stated that this is the regular business meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission and the location of the meeting being held in the Old Supreme Court Room of the State Capitol was to allow accessibility to legislators while the General Assembly was in session.

MOTION Commissioner Alec Farmer moved, Commissioner Philip Taldo seconded and the motion passed to approve the Minutes from the previous Commission Meeting of November 30, 2016.

MOTION Commissioner Alec Farmer moved, Vice Chairman Tom Schueck seconded and the motion passed to accept the Staff's recommendation to enter into negotiations with the following three (3) firms to provide consultant services for On-Call Archeological Services (2017-2018):

Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure, Inc. -
Jefferson City, MO
Missouri State University - Springdale, MO
Panamerican Consultants - Memphis, TN

MOTION Commissioner Robert Moore moved, Commissioner Alec Farmer seconded and the motion passed to accept the Staff's recommendation to enter into negotiations with the following eight (8) firms to provide the consultant services for On-Call Planning Services (2017-2018):

Alliance Transportation Group, Inc. - Austin, TX
Atkins North America, Inc. - Austin, TX
Cambridge Systematics, Inc. - Atlanta, GA
Garver, LLC - North Little Rock, AR
High Street Consulting Group, Inc. - Columbia, SC
HNTB Corporation - Kansas City, MO
Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. - Little Rock, AR
TranSystems - Kansas City, MO

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mike Boyd, Chief Fiscal Officer, provided the November 2016 update on state highway revenue. Mr. Boyd noted that state highway revenues to the Department from traditional sources are up a total of 0.9% (\$1.5 million) in the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2017 compared to the same period for SFY 2016. With the revenue from the Natural Gas Severance Tax coming in lower for this year compared to last year, total revenues available are 1.1% (\$1.9 million) lower for this year. Actual state revenue received is 2.0% (\$3.3 million) above projected (budgeted) revenue for this year.

In closing, Mr. Boyd stated that November revenue from the 0.5% General Sales Tax for the Connecting Arkansas Program was 4.14% lower, (\$602,931) than projected by the Department of Finance and Administration (DF&A). Current Fiscal Year to date revenues are below the forecast by 3.32% (\$2.5 million). This revenue source is cumulatively 0.42%, or \$2.4 million, under 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, passed in December 2015, provided increased funding over its five year term. However, Congress was unable to reach an agreement on appropriating funding for Federal Fiscal Year 2017. On December 9, 2016, Congress passed the second short-term Continuing Resolution for Federal Fiscal Year 2017. The Continuing Resolution will extend funding at 2016 levels until April 28, 2017. Passage of the Arkansas Highway Improvement Plan of 2016 has endured state matching funds for Federal Fiscal Year 2016. Now the issues become dependable long-term State revenue to provide the match for Federal-aid funds beyond 2016 and the additional State revenue needed to adequately maintain and improve Arkansas' transportation system.

Director Bennett gave a brief presentation of transportation news from Arkansas and other states, including the Ozark Regional Transit bus yard in Springdale catching fire on January 10. Also presented was information from Tennessee, Kansas, Louisiana, Alaska and Missouri.

Director Bennett briefed the Commissioners on the 91st General Assembly of the Legislature that convened Monday, January 9, 2017. In the wake of the November 8th election, new members have joined the Senate and the House, and the Committee assignments have begun. Director Bennett provided an overview of the changes to each chamber, introduced the new members, and discussed the membership of the makeup of the Senate and House Transportation Committees.

Director Bennett gave a look back at the previous year - progress, accomplishments, significant events, etc. and an overview of what lies ahead for 2017.

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 December 7, 2016 Bid Letting and January 18, 2017 As-Read Low Bid Summary.

Director Bennett ended the meeting with a list of upcoming meetings and events, including the AGC Annual Membership Luncheon at 12:00 pm on January 25 and the AR Business Hall of Fame Induction of Tom Schueck at 6:30 pm on February 10.

2017-016

IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be closed at 12:10 p.m., January 19, 2017.

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 January 4, 2017 and January 19, 2017.


Lindy H. Williams
Commission Secretary