

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS


July 6, 2020

ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR NO. 2020-13

TO: DIVISION HEADS AND DISTRICT ENGINEERS

We are transmitting herewith for your information and records a copy of the Minutes of the Commission Meeting in Little Rock, AR on June 10, 2020.

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.


Lorie H. Tudor, P.E.
Director

c: Commission

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

June 10, 2020

Following is the record of proceedings of the Arkansas State Highway Commission in Little Rock, Arkansas, June 10, 2020. Members present were:

Robert S. Moore, Jr., Chairman
Alec Farmer, Vice Chairman
Philip Taldo, Member
Keith Gibson, Member
Marie Holder, Member

2020-045

IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be opened at 10:00 a.m., June 10, 2020.

2020-046

WHEREAS, the Purchasing Committee has awarded purchases on May 21, 2020, and June 3, 2020 in the amount of \$767,795.00, and \$4,736,090.00, respectively, totaling \$5,503,885.00, 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.

2020-047

WHEREAS, pursuant to the passage of Act 784 "To Amend the Law Concerning Maximum Speed Limits" by the 92nd General Assembly of the Arkansas State Legislature, the Department has conducted an engineering and traffic investigation to determine the feasibility of increasing the speed limits on state highways; and

WHEREAS, the investigation reviewed four groups: (1) Rural Interstates; (2) Urban Interstates; (3) Rural Multi-Lane Highways; (4) Other Rural Highways; and

WHEREAS, the Department has completed the Draft Speed Limit Review and Findings of Arkansas Highways report.

NOW THEREFORE, the study is hereby accepted and finalized.

FURTHER, The Director is authorized to publish the study and establish speed limits in accordingly.

2020-048

WHEREAS, the 92nd General Assembly of the State of Arkansas enacted Act 468 during the 2019 Regular Session, which authorizes Autonomous Vehicle Pilot Programs to allow up to three autonomous vehicles per pilot program to be operated in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, Act 468 of 2019 directs the Arkansas Highway Commission to promulgate rules necessary to implement Autonomous Vehicle Pilot Programs.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Arkansas law, the Director is authorized to promulgate the attached rules setting forth the procedures to issue permits for Autonomous Vehicle Pilot Programs in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act for submission to the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council.

FURTHERMORE, the Director is authorized to consider all applications submitted for Autonomous Vehicle Pilot Programs in accordance with the promulgated rules.

2020-049

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Strategic Highway Safety Plan (2017) identifies intersections as a primary emphasis area; and

WHEREAS, Y-intersections are relatively uncommon intersection types that may present a safety risk when encountered by drivers unfamiliar with an area; and

WHEREAS, a safety study of Y-intersections on the State Highway System has been completed; and

WHEREAS, the study identified various locations that may benefit from the installation of countermeasures to improve safety; and

WHEREAS, this work is eligible for Federal-aid Highway Safety Improvement Program funds.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to proceed with surveys, plans and construction of safety projects to install countermeasures at the locations shown on the attached map as funds become available.

2020-050

WHEREAS, the Little Rock Board of Directors and the North Little Rock City Council, by Resolutions 15,165 and R-19-181, respectively, have requested that the Highway 70 bridge over the Arkansas River in Little Rock, be designated as the “Veterans Memorial Bridge”; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Highway Commission has adopted guidelines for the installation of commemorative signs by Minute Order 2014-023 and the requests meet these guidelines.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to permit the installation of signs at each end of the bridge, as requested by these Cities, in accordance with Commission Policy.

2020-051

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway Commission will accept bids on the following projects in the June 24, 2020 letting; and

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
110645	01	CROSS	HWY. 306 STRS. & APPRS. (S)	306	N
020589	02	DREW	BAYOU BARTHOLOMEW STR. & APPRS. (S)	277	N
A30006	03	HEMPSTEAD	FULTON – WASHINGTON (S)	195	N
030525	03	LAFAYETTE	WALKER CREEK STR. & APPRS. (S)	53	N
040579	04	WASHINGTON	COLLEGE AVE. – HUNTSVILLE RD. (SEL. SECS.) (FAYETTEVILLE) (S)	16	Y
040622	04	CRAWFORD	WASHINGTON CO. LINE – SOUTH STRS. & APPRS. (S)	59	Y

040805	04	CRAWFORD & WASHINGTON	HWYS. 220 & 265 FLOOD REPAIRS (S)	220 & 265	N
040819	04	CRAWFORD & SEBASTIAN	HWYS. 64, 96 & 252 STRS. & APPRS. (S)	64, 96 & 252	Y
040820	04	CRAWFORD & SEBASTIAN	HWYS. 59, 64, 96 & 252 STRS. & APPRS. (S)	VARIOUS	Y
061507	06	PULASKI	PALARM CREEK STR. & APPRS. (S)	365	Y
061586	06	GARLAND	HWY. 270 – CEDAR CREEK (S)	70	Y
061589	06	PULASKI	HWY. 67 – HWY. 440 (JACKSONVILLE) (S)	161	Y
061597	06	PULASKI	RESERVOIR RD. – MISSISSIPPI AVE. (LITTLE ROCK) (S)	10	Y
061630	06	PULASKI	HWY. 10 - HWY. 100 (SYSTEM PRESERVATION & ITS IMPVTS.) (S)	I-430	Y
070375	07	DALLAS	ALSOBROOK SLOUGH STR. & APPRS. (S)	8	Y
070497	07	OUACHITA	E. OF HWY. 376 – CASH RD. (CAMDEN) (S)	79	Y
080579	08	CONWAY & POPE	ATKINS – PLUMERVILLE (S)	I-40	Y
100840	10	POINSETT	DITCH NOS. 1 & 47 STRS. & APPRS. (S)	308	N
100974	10	LAWRENCE	INDEPENDENCE CO. LINE – BLACK ROCK (SAFETY IMPVTS.) (S)	25	Y
101020	10	POINSETT	MARKED TREE – LEPANTO (S)	140	Y
012343	01 & 06	CRITTENDEN & PULASKI	OVERHEAD SIGN STRS. & SIGNS REPLACEMENT (2020) (S)	VARIOUS	Y
012372	04 & 08	CRAWFORD, FRANKLIN & JOHNSON	ALMA – HWY. 164 (S)	I-40	Y
C16009	10	CRAIGHEAD	BROOKLAND EASON ST. & SCHOOL ST. OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C18013	01	CRITTENDEN	JENNETTE OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-
C30003	06	HOT SPRING	PERLA OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-
C42006	04	LOGAN	BLUE MOUNTAIN OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-
C64004	09	SEARCY	GILBERT & PINDALL OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-
EF7211	04	WASHINGTON	SPRING CREEK (SPRINGDALE) STR. & APPRS. (S)	---	-
SA1359	07	CLEVELAND	RISON CITY LIMITS – SOUTH (SURFACING) (S)	---	-
SA2136	02	DESHA	DESHA CO. SURFACING NO. 15 (S)	---	-
SA2751	02	GRANT	GRANT CO. OVERLAY NO. 6 (S)	---	-
SA3275	05	INDEPENDENCE	INDEPENDENCE CO. OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-
SA4279	04	LOGAN	HWY. 309 – SUBIACO CITY LIMITS (LEVEL & RESEAL) (S)	---	-
SA5030	03	NEVADA	CO. RD. 20 SURFACING & RESEAL (S)	---	-
SA7299	04	WASHINGTON	CO. RDS. 30 & 32 (BASE & SURFACING) (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 Moore opened the meeting by welcoming those in attendance in-person, as well as those who were watching online. Chairman Moore recognized Senator Jonathan Dismang, who was present for the meeting. Chairman Moore also commended Arkansas Highway Police Jay Thompson and his staff for the extra efforts and attention during the protests in Little Rock and across the State.

MOTIONS

MOTION Vice Chairman Alec Farmer moved, Commissioner Philip Taldo seconded and the motion passed to authorize the use of electronic signatures for the June 10, 2020 Minute Orders.

MOTION Vice Chairman Alec Farmer moved, Commissioner Marie Holder seconded and the motion passed to approve the Minutes from the May 13, 2020 Commission Meeting.

MOTION The Commission approved Minute Order 2019-103 on October 23, 2019, authorizing the Department to enter into any necessary contracts and agreements with consulting firms and to proceed with a Traffic Systems Management Operations Plan for the Department. Vice Chairman Alec Farmer moved, Commissioner Keith Gibson seconded and the motion passed to accept the Staff's recommendation to enter into negotiations with the following firm:

Cambridge Systematics, Inc. – Tallahassee, Florida

MOTION Vice Chairman Alec Farmer moved, Commissioner Philip Taldo seconded and the motion passed to approve the State Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021), as presented by Chief Fiscal Officer, Patrick Patton, which included the following:

Salary Highlights

- Additional Highway Police Officer Recruit Positions
- Overall Budgeted 30 Fewer Positions for FY 2021
- Retirement Match Increase

Operation Highlights

- 1% Increase to District Maintenance Budget
- Continuing to Address Information Technology Needs
- Additional State Funding from Act 416 allows for Reduction in Contingency Allotment Budget

For Future Consideration

- Performance-based Pay Raises (if authorized by the Governor for all state employees)

MOTION Vice Chairman Alec Farmer moved, Commissioner Philip Taldo seconded and the motion passed to enter into Executive Session at 12:20 p.m. to conduct an annual review of Director Lorie Tudor's employment.

MOTION Vice Chairman Alec Farmer moved, Commissioner Marie Holder seconded and the motion passed to close Executive Session and reopen the public meeting at 12:55 p.m. Chairman Robert Moore made brief remarks that the Commission was satisfied with Director Tudor's performance. No formal action was taken.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Director Tudor provided a brief review of the recent Guidehouse Efficiency Review, which began on September 24, 2019. Guidehouse presented their findings to the Highway Commission Review and Advisory Subcommittee (HCRAS) on March 14, 2020. On May 21, 2020, Chairman Moore and Director Tudor submitted a written request to Senator Jonathan Dismang requesting that HCRAS allow Guidehouse to virtually attend the June 10 Commission meeting to answer questions from the Commission and Director Tudor. On June 4, 2020, Director Tudor was notified that Guidehouse would not be in attendance at the June 10 Arkansas Highway Commission meeting; however, Senator Dismang would attend in their absence to discuss any concerns and questions. Director Tudor recognized Senator Dismang, who then addressed the Commission on questions submitted by Director Tudor. Additionally, Senator Dismang provided information on the efficiency review process moving forward.

Patrick Patton, Chief Fiscal Officer, provided the May 2020 update on State Highway Revenue. Mr. Patton noted that State Highway Revenues to the Department from traditional sources are up a total of 8.17% (\$30.7 million) in the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2020 compared to SFY 2019. Revenue from the Natural Gas Severance Tax is lower this year compared to last year. Total revenues available are 3.6% (\$14.0 million) above last year. Actual State Revenue received is 4.2% (\$16.4 million) above projected (budgeted) revenue for this year. Mr. Patton stated that May revenue from the 0.5% General Sales Tax for the Connecting Arkansas Program was .55% higher, (\$89,650) than projected by the Department of Finance and Administration (DF&A) for the month. Year to date actual revenue is above projections by 1.66% (\$3,019,514). Since inception, this revenue source is -0.36%, or \$4.4 million, under DF&A's projections.

Director Tudor presented the Commission with the financial impacts of COVID-19 to the Department. Director Tudor noted that the largest decrease in travel occurred during the first few weeks of April. Passenger vehicle traffic decreased by 40% and truck traffic decreased by 10%. Director Tudor reported that passenger and truck travel have started to increase, and in some monitoring sites, travel is already returning to normal levels. Director Tudor reported to the Commission that the Department is closely monitoring the situation and will update the Commission at the July meeting.

Director Tudor provided the Commission with an update on COVID-19 and how it relates to the Department's operations. The Department continues to fulfill its role in the State's Continuity of Operations Plan by helping to ensure that essential services will continue to be provided. The Department continues to provide transportation of PPE, medical supplies and other pandemic-related items. The COVID-19 Phased Approach to Returning to Full Operations Plan was sent to the Commission and employees in preparation of bringing back employees once the Governor calls non-essential employees back to work. The goals of the plan are as follows:

- Resume normal operations using a phased approach;
- Protect the most vulnerable employees;
- Mitigate risk of virus transmission in the workplace; and
- Reassure employees of the safety measures being taken to protect their health and safety.

Director Tudor updated the Commission on the Renew Arkansas Highways Program. Director Tudor noted that Issue I is vital for the health of our transportation system. An added benefit to the passage of Issue I is the economic benefit. If passed, Issue I will support 3,600 jobs annually and provide \$8.2 Billion in economic activity over ten years. Director Tudor noted that the Department is committed to continuing to educate the public about the impacts of Issue I passing or failing so that voters will make an informed decision. Director Tudor stated that the Department is exploring the possibility of holding additional meetings online to complete the remaining three regional meetings. Director Tudor also noted that another option would be to educate the public through local presentations that are made at civic groups and organizations, in the same fashion as was done before the 2019 session.

Director Tudor presented a list of upcoming meetings and events that the Director will be attending.

2020-052

IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be closed at 1:00 p.m., June 10, 2020.

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true record of the proceedings taken by the Arkansas State Highway Commission at its meeting on June 10, 2020.



Christie Heidelberg
Commission Secretary