

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

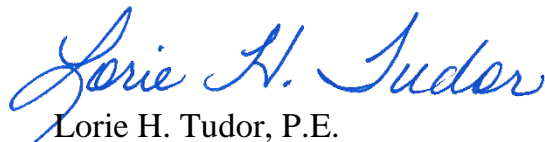
January 19, 2021

ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR NO. 2021-02

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 December 9, 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

December 9, 2020

Following is the record of proceedings of the Arkansas State Highway Commission in Little Rock, Arkansas, December 9, 2020. Members present were:

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

2020-095

IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be opened at 10:00 a.m., December 9, 2020.

2020-096

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway Commission (the Commission) is authorized, pursuant to Amendment No. 91 to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas (Amendment 91) and an election held on November 6, 2012, to issue State of Arkansas General Obligation Four-Lane Highway Construction and Improvement Bonds, in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$1,300,000,000 (the Bonds) for the purpose of constructing and improving four-lane state highways; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has issued State of Arkansas General Obligation Four-Lane Highway Construction Bonds, Series 2013, dated October 1, 2013 in the aggregate principal amount of \$468,895,000 (the Series 2013 Bonds) under Amendment 91; and

WHEREAS, it has been found and determined that debt service savings may be achieved by refunding the last two maturities of the Series 2013 Bonds (the Series 2013 Bonds to be Refunded); and

WHEREAS, the Series 2013 Bonds to be Refunded mature on June 15, 2022 and 2023 and are in the outstanding aggregate principal amount of \$287,655,000; and

WHEREAS, the Commission proposes to offer for sale a series of the Bonds in the principal amount necessary to refund the Series 2013 Bonds to be Refunded and to pay costs of issuance (the "Series 2021 Bonds"); and

WHEREAS, the Commission will prepare and distribute an Official Notice of Sale requesting bids for the purchase of the Series 2021 Bonds; and

WHEREAS, the Commission will prepare and distribute a Preliminary Official Statement relating to the Series 2021 Bonds;

NOW THEREFORE:

1. The Series 2021 Bonds shall be offered for sale on electronic bids on the date to be specified in the Official Notice of Sale. The Director, after consultation with Stephens Inc., as Financial Advisor, and Friday, Eldredge & Clark, LLP, as Bond Counsel, is authorized to select a date for the sale, which date is expected to be March 11, 2021, and to review the bids from prospective purchasers of the Series 2021 Bonds as they are received pursuant to the Official Notice of Sale and to accept the bid having the lowest true interest cost or to reject all bids, as the Director, in her sole discretion, shall determine. The best bid for the Series 2021 Bonds shall not be accepted unless the Director, in her sole discretion, shall determine that the present value savings achieved by issuing the Series 2021 Bond is in the best interest of the Commission.
2. The preparation and distribution of an Official Notice of Sale and Preliminary Official Statement for the Series 2021 Bonds is hereby approved. The Chairman or Director, or one or both of them, are authorized to approve these documents.
3. The signature of the Chairman or Director on such documents conclusively establishes his or her approval thereof.
4. The Director is delegated by the Commission the authority to deem final, for purposes of Rule 15c2-12 issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Preliminary Official Statement for the Series 2021 Bonds at such time and in such form as is required by such Rule.
5. The Chairman and Director, or one or both of them, are hereby authorized to execute the documents approved herein; to take such other actions and to approve such other documents as are, in their judgment, necessary or appropriate in order to prepare for the sale of and to sell the Series 2021 Bonds; to authorize the preparation of a Final Official Statement for the Series 2021 Bonds; to execute the Final Official Statement and to deliver copies of the same to the low bidder in accordance with the Official Notice of Sale; to authorize the preparation of a Series Resolution prescribing the terms and provisions of the Series 2021 Bonds; and to accomplish the intent of this Minute Order and the Series Resolution.

2020-097

WHEREAS, the Purchasing Committee has awarded purchases on November 23, 2020, in the amount of \$1,726,316.00, and supply and service contracts, in accordance with authority previously conveyed, all of which have been

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(Continued)

December 9, 2020

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.

2020-098

WHEREAS, the Highway System in Arkansas facilitates safe mobility, economic development, and tourism enhancement throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, public information and education activities play an important role in providing the citizens of our State with pertinent information relative to the issues facing the Commission and Department; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Good Roads Foundation serves as an effective group to provide this information and education to transportation stakeholders, elected officials, and the public.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to make a contribution of \$30,000 to the Arkansas Good Roads Foundation for its public information and education activities for the time period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

2020-099

WHEREAS, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' AASHTO re:source program is operated by AASHTO and is authorized and approved by the Executive Committee of AASHTO; and

WHEREAS, the services of the AASHTO re:source program are necessary for the Department to establish and maintain proficiency in sampling and testing material; and

WHEREAS, the participation in funding the services of the AASHTO re:source program supports the laboratory accreditation program and provides technical support in maintaining the AASHTO standards for materials testing; and

WHEREAS, the Department has received notice that its share of support for Fiscal Year 2021 is \$20,000.00.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is hereby authorized to pay the Department's share of the cost of support for this AASHTO program for Fiscal Year 2021.

2020-100

WHEREAS, the 91st General Assembly of the State of Arkansas enacted Act 705 during the 2017 Regular Session, which established the distribution of highway revenue interest income from the State Highway and Transportation Department Fund to create the Future Transportation Research Fund and the Transportation-Related Research Grant Program (TRRGP); and

WHEREAS, as required by Act 705, the rules for administering this program have been promulgated; and

WHEREAS, applications were solicited and received for this program from June 1, 2020 to July 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Department of Transportation has reviewed the applications submitted and developed funding recommendations.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to enter into contracts with the project sponsors for implementation of the projects included in the attached list.

2020-101

WHEREAS, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act authorized funding for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) for Federal Fiscal Years 2016 through 2020; and

WHEREAS, Minute Order 2016-113 authorized the Director to solicit applications from local sponsors to fund TAP and RTP projects through Federal Fiscal Year 2020; and

WHEREAS, on October 1, 2020, the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act was signed into law by the President of the United States, providing funding for all programs included in the FAST Act through September 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, funding for the TAP and RTP is available to the Department for Federal Fiscal Year 2021.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to solicit applications from local sponsors to fund eligible projects under these programs for Federal Fiscal Year 2021.

2020-102

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Department to provide timely right of way acquisition services for selected projects in order to proceed with construction; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Minute Order 2016-046 passed on June 1, 2016, the Department currently has on-call contracts to perform indefinite delivery of right of way acquisition services through calendar year 2021; and

WHEREAS, these on-call contracts have been found to be an effective method of producing timely right of way acquisition services and supplementing Department staff in project delivery and legal proceedings.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to request proposals, select a consulting firm or firms to perform right of way services, and enter into any necessary contracts as needs are identified.

2020-103

WHEREAS, Act 1 of the 90th General Assembly's Third Extraordinary Session established the Arkansas Highway Improvement Plan of 2016, which provides funding for highway construction; and

WHEREAS, a portion of Act 1 funding includes 25 percent of State Surplus funds; and

WHEREAS, the amount of the State Fiscal Year 2019 State Surplus funds exceeded projections, which resulted in additional funding being made available for highway improvements beyond what was anticipated; and

WHEREAS, Minute Order 2020-004 authorized the use of up to \$15 million in Act 1 Surplus funding from State Fiscal Year 2019 State Surplus funds for projects that promote economic development and economic competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Economic Development Commission has requested \$262,500 in State Fiscal Year 2019 State Surplus funds to support infrastructure improvements for the expansion of a manufacturing facility in Fort Smith known as Project Razor; and

WHEREAS, this request meets criteria established by Minute Order 2020-004.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to commit up to \$262,500 from the State Fiscal Year 2019 State Surplus funds for infrastructure improvements in Fort Smith as requested by the Arkansas Economic Development Commission and to enter into any necessary agreements with the appropriate local agencies to implement these improvements.

2020-104

WHEREAS, National Bridge Inspection Standards require bridges to be inspected below the water surface; and

WHEREAS, underwater bridge inspection of some bridges require the experienced services of qualified professional engineers and divers; and

WHEREAS, the Department does not have the capability of performing this type of inspection.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to request proposals from prospective engineering firms and proceed with the implementation of a project to inspect the underwater portion of bridges as funds become available.

2020-105

WHEREAS, IN JEFFERSON COUNTY, IN THE CITY OF WHITE HALL, the Arkansas State Highway Commission acquired property for highway right of way at the Interstate 530 interchange with Highways 270 and 365 Spur for the construction of Interstate 530; and

WHEREAS, the City of White Hall has passed Ordinance Number 530 requesting that the portion of this property that encompasses Claud Road be transferred to the City for transportation purposes, as shown in Exhibit "A"; and

WHEREAS, the right of way associated with the City's request is more specifically described in the Survey attached as Exhibit "B"; and

WHEREAS, the Department has determined that this transfer of ownership of Claud Road is practical and will not adversely impact the State Highway System.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to enter into a transfer agreement for the above-described property, conditioned upon the City of White Hall's continued maintenance of the property interests herein transferred.

2020-106

WHEREAS, IN SALINE COUNTY, the Institutional Drive System maintained by the Department at the Arkansas Health Center in the City of Haskell was recently reviewed; and

WHEREAS, the review revealed a drive that no longer meets the criteria for inclusion into the State Maintenance System as established by Commission Policy 4201 on August 2, 1961.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, that upon official notification by the Deputy Director and Chief Engineer, drives totaling approximately 2.765 miles, as shown on the attached sketch, are hereby to be maintained by the Department as State Highway 842, Section 1.

2020-107

WHEREAS, IN CRAIGHEAD COUNTY, U.S. Highway 63 from the junction of Highway 91 to the west intersection of U.S. Highway 49 in Jonesboro has been constructed to American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Interstate Design Standards; and

WHEREAS, AASHTO has approved the redesignation of this portion of U.S. Highway 63 as Interstate 555; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jonesboro has approved Resolution RES-20:212 requesting that the Arkansas State Highway Commission redesignate the remaining section of U.S. Highway 63 meeting AASHTO Interstate Design Standards as Interstate 555; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast Arkansas Planning Commission has submitted a letter of support of the redesignation of U.S. Highway 63 as Interstate 555.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that upon approval by the Federal Highway Administration and official notification by the Deputy Director and Chief Engineer, the portion of U.S. Highway 63, Section 6 beginning at the junction with Highway 91 and continuing southeasterly to U.S. Highway 49 in Jonesboro will be redesignated as part of Interstate 555, Section 3 as shown on the attached sketch.

2020-108

WHEREAS, IN GREENE COUNTY, the eastern portion of the Paragould Bypass was added to the State Highway System as Highway 412, Section 9 Spur by Minute Order 2015-025; and

WHEREAS, the western portion of the Paragould Bypass is now substantially complete and open to traffic.

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 as shown on the attached sketch.

- The portion of U.S. Highway 412, Section 8 beginning at the junction with the Paragould Bypass and continuing east to the junction with U.S. Highway 49, Section 2 is hereby redesignated as U.S. Highway 412, Section 8 Business.
- The portion of U.S. Highway 412, Section 8 beginning at U.S. Highway 49, Section 2 and continuing east to the junction with U.S. Highway 49, Section 2 Business is hereby redesignated as part of U.S. Highway 412, Section 9 Business.

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(Continued)

December 9, 2020

- The portion of U.S. Highway 412, Section 9 beginning at the junction with U.S. Highway 49, Section 2 Business and continuing east to the junction with U.S. Highway 412, Section 9 Spur is hereby redesignated as part of U.S. Highway 412, Section 9 Business.
- The newly constructed portion of the Paragould Bypass, beginning at the junction with existing U.S. Highway 412, Section 8 and continuing south and east to the junction with U.S. Highway 49, Section 2 is hereby added to the State Highway System as part of U.S. Highway 412, Section 8.
- U.S. Highway 412, Section 9 Spur, the eastern portion of the Paragould Bypass, beginning at the junction with U.S. Highway 49, Section 2 and continuing east and then north to U.S. Highway 412, Section 9 Business is hereby redesignated as a part of U.S. Highway 412, Section 9.

2020-109

WHEREAS, Minute Order 2012-045 adopted on May 2, 2012 included a map as a planning guide for developing and scheduling future improvements for the possible One-Half Cent Sales Tax Program also known as the Connecting Arkansas Program (CAP); and

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2012, the citizens of Arkansas approved Amendment 91 to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas which provided in part a funding source for CAP as shown on the attachment; and

WHEREAS, the October 29, 2020 ruling by the Arkansas Supreme Court determined that Amendment 91 funding cannot be used for:

- Job CA0602, I-530 – Hwy. 67 (Widening & Reconstruction) (I-30 & I-40) (F) also known as 30 Crossing
- Job CA0608, Baptist Hospital – University Ave. (Widening) (F)

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to make any project funding changes necessary to comply with the ruling of the Arkansas Supreme Court and the eligibility requirements as set forth in Amendment 91.

2020-110

WHEREAS, the Department adopted the *Policy for the Use of Cable Median Barriers* in 2012 to guide future decisions for cable median barrier site selection; and

WHEREAS, cable median barriers have been installed around the state to improve safety at various locations based on the policy; and

WHEREAS, a statewide median crossover study has been completed that identified additional locations that would benefit from the installation of cable median barriers; and

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

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

2020-111

WHEREAS, IN PULASKI COUNTY, IN THE CITIES OF LITTLE ROCK AND NORTH LITTLE ROCK, the Department has entered into a Design-Build contract for design and construction of Job CA0602, otherwise known as “30 Crossing”; and

WHEREAS, the plans for this project require modification of certain portions of the tracks, poles, and other infrastructure related to the Metro Streetcar service provided by Rock Region Metro; and

WHEREAS, the current airspace agreement between the Department and Rock Region Metro states that all costs associated with any required modifications to the Metro Streetcar on Highway Commission right of way will be the responsibility of Rock Region Metro; and

WHEREAS, Rock Region Metro cannot afford the required modifications; and

WHEREAS, the County and the Cities have agreed to a partnership with the Department for the relocation of the Metro Streetcar service infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, in exchange for the Department supplying all funds necessary for the Metro Streetcar relocation, the County and the Cities have agreed to accept ownership and responsibility for portions of Highways 70 and 161 in their jurisdictions, as shown in the attached sketch; and

WHEREAS, the Department agrees to this partnership and will provide the funds necessary for the Metro Streetcar infrastructure relocation; and

WHEREAS, the Department also agrees to construct a pavement preservation project on Highway 161 prior to its transfer to Pulaski County and the City of North Little Rock.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to enter into the necessary agreements with Pulaski County, the Cities of Little Rock and North Little Rock, and Rock Region Metro upon receipt of a proper resolution from each entity and to include the necessary elements into the Design-Build contract for “30 Crossing” for the relocation of the Metro Streetcar infrastructure.

FURTHERMORE, upon official notification by the Deputy Director and Chief Engineer, the following changes are hereby made to the State Highway System, as shown on the attached sketch:

- The portion of Highway 70, Section 12 beginning at Interstate 30 and continuing north to the junction with Highway 5 is hereby removed from the State Highway System.
- The portion of Highway 5, Section 9 beginning at Interstate 430 and continuing northeast to the junction with Highway 70 is hereby redesignated as part of Highway 70, Section 12.
- The portion of Highway 161, Section 3 between the Jacksonville city limits and Highway 70 is to be removed from the State Highway System upon completion of the necessary pavement preservation work.

2020-112

WHEREAS, the Quorum Court of Mississippi County, by Resolution 2019-14, has requested that the portion of Highway 198 between the Mississippi River and Highway 61, be designated as the “Correnti-Kennemore Parkway”; 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 on each end of this portion of highway, as requested by the County, in accordance with Commission Policy.

2020-113

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway Commission will accept bids on the following projects in the January 13, 2021 letting; and

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
A20006	02	DESHA	HWY. 138 – HWY. 65 (S)	159	N
020723	02	LINCOLN	STAR CITY – GOULD (S)	11 & 114	N
020759	02	DESHA & LINCOLN	DUMAS – HWY. 83 (S)	54	Y

A30004	03	HEMPSTEAD	I-30 – HWY. 278 (S)	29 & 32	Y
040771	04	SEBASTIAN	HWY. 10 – MILL CREEK (S)	71 & 71B	Y
040772	04	SEBASTIAN	I-540 – EAST (S)	22	Y
040847	04	WASHINGTON	HWY. 16/112 SPUR INTCHNG. IMPVTS. (F)	I-49	Y
A50005	05	SHARP	CAVE CITY – NORTH (S)	167	Y
A50007	05	FULTON	HWY. 62 – HWY. 175 (S)	289	N
A60002	06	GARLAND	HWY. 298 – PERRY CO. LINE (S)	7	Y
061582	06	PULASKI	BRODIE CREEK – HWY. 70 (LITTLE ROCK) (S)	5	Y
070415	07	CLEVELAND	BAYOU DERRISEAUX STRS. & APPRS. (S)	212	N
070510	07	CALHOUN	CREEK AT L.M. 6.07 STR. & APPRS. (S)	203	N
A80007	08	FAULKNER	CLINTON RD. – I-40 (S)	89	Y
A80008	08	CONWAY	OPPELO – WEST (SEL. SEC.) (S)	154	Y
080594	08	CONWAY	HWY. 9 – HWY. 92 (S)	64	Y
A90007	09	BENTON	HWY. 102 – MISSOURI STATE LINE (S)	72 & 279	Y
090535	09	NEWTON	POPE CO. LINE – HWY. 16 (S)	7	Y
090538	09	BAXTER	HWYS. 5 & 178 (SEL. SECS.) (S)	5 & 178	Y
090623	09	MADISON	HWY. 295 SLIDE REPAIRS (MADISON CO.) (S)	295	N
100941	10	CLAY	HWY. 62 INTERS. IMPVTS. (PIGGOTT) (S)	62	Y
101039	10	CRAIGHEAD	HWY. 349 – HWY. 49 (JONESBORO) (S)	91	Y
AX0001	10	VARIOUS	HWYS. 29, 49, 65 & 167 (SEL. SECS.) (S)	VARIOUS	Y
012359	VAR	VARIOUS	HWYS. 18, 63 & 167 (SEL. SECS.) (S)	18, 63 & 167	Y
C20003	07	DALLAS	SPARKMAN OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C27005	02	GRANT	TULL OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C31004	03	HOWARD	TOLLETTE OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C36007	08	JOHNSON	HARTMAN OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C42006	04	LOGAN	BLUE MOUNTAIN OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-
C49004	08	MONTGOMERY	ODEN OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C55002	03	PIKE	DAISY OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-
C58002	08	POPE	RUSSELLVILLE HILLTOP DR. OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C64002	09	SEARCY	ST. JOE OVERLAY & SURFACING (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C67005	05	SHARP	HARDY OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-
C70006	07	UNION	FELSENTHAL OVERLAY (S)	---	-

C73010	05	WHITE	BRADFORD OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C74006	01	WOODRUFF	AUGUSTA OVERLAY NO. 2 (S)	---	-
SA0651	07	BRADLEY	HWY. 8 – HWY. 63 (LEVELING & RESEAL) (S)	---	-
SA2136	02	DESHA	DESHA CO. SURFACING NO. 15 (S)	---	-
SA2375	08	FAULKNER	FAULKNER CO. WIDENING & OVERLAY NO. 5 (S)	---	-
SA2455	04	FRANKLIN	HWY. 41 – WEST (OVERLAY) (S)	---	-
SA3940	01	LEE	LEE CO. RESEAL (S)	---	-
SA4279	04	LOGAN	HWY. 309 – SUBIACO CITY LIMITS (LEVEL & RESEAL) (S)	---	-
SA4280	04	LOGAN	ST. SCHOLASTICA – NORTH (SURFACING & RESEAL) (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. Director Tudor, along with the Commission, recognized Jonesboro Mayor Harold Perrin for his years of service as Mayor and friendship to ARDOT, and presented him with a Goodwill Ambassador proclamation.

MOTIONS

MOTION Vice Chairman Alec Farmer moved, Commissioner Philip Taldo seconded and the motion passed to approve the Minutes from the October 14, 2020 and November 12, 2020 Commission Meetings.

MOTION Commissioner Keith Gibson moved, Vice Chairman Alec Farmer seconded and the motion passed to authorize the use of electronic signatures for the December 9, 2020 Minute Orders.

MOTION The Commission approved Minute Order 2020-009 on February 5, 2020, authorizing the Department to advertise for architectural/engineering firms to conduct a building maintenance and space assessment of the Central Office's main campus structures and to provide recommendations for future improvements. Public advertisement was made on March 8, 2020, in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette and on the Department's website. Commissioner Keith Gibson moved, Commissioner Marie Holder seconded and the motion passed to accept the Staff's recommendation to enter into negotiations to provide consultant services for architectural/engineering assessment of the Central Office's expanded main campus to the following firm:

Cromwell Architects Engineers, Inc. – Little Rock, Arkansas

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Patrick Patton, Chief Fiscal Officer, provided the October 2020 update on State Highway Revenue. Mr. Patton noted that State Highway Revenues to the Department from traditional sources are up a total of 12.2% (\$17.2 million) in the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2021 compared to SFY 2020. Act 416 Revenue is 10.6% (\$1.9 million) above budget. Revenue from the Natural Gas Severance Tax is lower this year compared to last year. Total revenues available are 9.2% (\$12.8 million) above last year. Actual State Revenue received is 7.1% (\$8.8 million) above projected (budgeted) revenue for this year. Mr. Patton stated that October revenue from the 0.5% General Sales Tax for the Connecting Arkansas Program was 15.58% higher, (\$2,562,252) than projected by the Department of Finance and Administration (DF&A) for the month. Year to date actual revenue is above projections by 9.92% (\$6,768,054). Since inception, this revenue source is 0.24%, or \$3.14 million, above DF&A's projections.

Director Tudor updated the Commission on the financial impacts of COVID-19 to the Department. Director Tudor highlighted that total revenues since March are down \$10.8 million and total consumption for the same time period is down 98 million gallons when compared to the previous 12 months. Director Tudor also noted that while the largest decrease in travel occurred during the first few weeks of April, traffic is continuing to return to normal levels. Passenger

vehicle traffic was down by 5% and truck traffic volumes are back to expected levels compared to the previous 12 months.

Kevin Thornton, Assistant Chief of Administration, updated the Commission on the status of Federal Highway and Transit funding issues. The FAST Act expired on September 30, 2020; however, a Continuing Resolution (CR) was authorized, which will provide a one-year extension of the FAST Act, including Federal Funding until December 11, 2020. Congress wanted to pass a year-long spending bill combined with the next COVID-19 stimulus bill; however, they were unable to reach an agreement, so a one-week CR was expected to be passed, which would extend to December 18, 2020. Mr. Thornton noted that the COVID-19 stimulus bill is a \$908 billion relief bill, which includes \$45 billion for transportation, which is for transit agencies, airlines and Amtrak. The stimulus bill does not include highways.

Keli Wylie, Alternative Project Delivery Program Administrator and Rita Looney, Chief Legal Counsel updated the Commission on the 30 Crossing project and on the related legal issues.

Director Tudor updated the Commission on Issue 1. Director Tudor presented a breakdown of the voter outcome by county. Issue 1 passed by a margin of 60% or higher in 19 counties, by 50% - 60% in 53 counties and only failed in 3 counties. Director Tudor commended the Governor, the Highway Commission, ARDOT Staff and the stakeholder group for their hard work on the successful passage of Issue 1. Director Tudor briefed the Commission on the next steps to develop more specific plans.

Director Tudor provided a brief review of the recent Guidehouse Efficiency Review, which began on September 24, 2019. At the November 20 meeting of the Arkansas Legislative Council, the Highway Commission Review and Advisory Subcommittee submitted their report. The report was adopted by the ALC without any change. The report contains 13 recommendations across six focus areas.

Director Tudor briefed the Commission on the 93rd General Assembly of the Legislature, which will convene on January 11, 2021.

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

Director Tudor notified the Commission that the Department was awarded another Perpetual Pavement Award for a 2.1-mile section of Highway 79 in Jefferson County. This is the 10th Perpetual Pavement Award for ARDOT. Director Tudor also briefed the Commission on the renewed agreement with the Arkansas Asphalt Pavement Association. This agreement establishes the goals and objectives as a means of enhancing communication between the two organizations, nurturing the working relationships between the parties, and providing quality asphalt pavements to meet the transportation needs of the citizens of the State.

2020-114

IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be closed at 11:15 a.m., December 9, 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 December 9, 2020.



Christie Heidelberg
Commission Secretary