

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

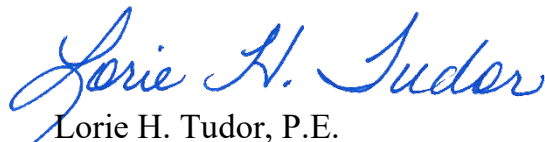
December 20, 2022

ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR NO. 2022-19

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 7, 2022.

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 7, 2022

Following is the record of proceedings of the Arkansas State Highway Commission in Little Rock, Arkansas, December 7, 2022. Members present were:

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

2022-105

IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be opened at 10:00 a.m., December 7, 2022.

2022-106

WHEREAS, the Purchasing Committee has awarded purchases on November 14, and November 22, 2022, in the amounts of \$196,833.00, and \$124,880.00, respectively, totaling \$321,713.00, 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.

2022-107

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

*Commissioner Holder arrived late and was not present for the approval of Minute Orders 2022-105 through 2022-116.

WHEREAS, the 93rd General Assembly of the State of Arkansas enacted Act 884 during the 2021 Regular Session, amending the program to add workforce development which modified the fund and program to the Future Transportation Research and Workforce Development Fund and the Transportation-Related Research and Workforce Development Grant Program (TRRWDGP), respectively; and

WHEREAS, as required by Act 884, the rules for administering this program have been promulgated; and

WHEREAS, applications were solicited and received for this program from May 31, 2022 to August 26, 2022; 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.

2022-108

WHEREAS, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) requires states to develop and maintain a State Freight Plan; and

WHEREAS, the current Arkansas State Freight Plan was adopted in October 2017 by Minute Order 2017-07; and

WHEREAS, Minute Order 2021-033 authorized the Director to update the Arkansas State Freight Plan; and

WHEREAS, the updated Arkansas State Freight Plan documents trends, conditions, and needs of the multimodal freight system; and describes policies, strategies, and performance measures for operating, maintaining, and improving the system; and

WHEREAS, these planning efforts were coordinated through the Freight Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the update to the Arkansas State Freight Plan has been completed.

NOW THEREFORE, the updated Arkansas State Freight Plan is hereby adopted for use as a guide for future transportation planning and implementation.

2022-109

WHEREAS, the Department routinely uses aerial imagery for transportation planning and project development; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transformation and Shared Services - Arkansas Geographic Information Office is leading a statewide aerial imagery project for 2023; and

WHEREAS, this project will provide 9-inch resolution, leaf-off, multispectral aerial imagery for the entire state of Arkansas in addition to some 6-inch resolution areas; and

WHEREAS, the Department would benefit greatly from this statewide aerial image acquisition.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to enter into necessary agreements with the Department of Transformation and Shared Services to assist with the financing of the 2023 Arkansas Aerial Imagery Project.

2022-110

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Department to conduct various planning studies that are used to provide critical information to decision-makers for developing, operating, and managing the transportation system; and

WHEREAS, the Department's on-call planning contracts have been proven to be effective at providing additional expertise and capacity to supplement in-house capabilities; and

WHEREAS, the current on-call planning contracts expire in December 2023.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to request proposals, select consulting firms to perform on-call planning services, and enter into any necessary contracts as needs are identified for calendar years 2024 through 2026 with an option to extend through calendar year 2028.

2022-111

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway Commission (Commission) acquired properties known as Tract Nos. 9R1 and 9R-2, Job No. 050228, from Shelby

Hunt and Bill Hunt, wife and husband, and Charles H. Hearn and Blanche Hearn, husband and wife, by Warranty Deed dated April 14, 2014 and April 9, 2014, respectively, and filed of record on April 14, 2014, as Document Nos. 201402062 and 201402063, in the Circuit Clerk's office for Cleburne County, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the properties were purchased as capital assets for the sum of ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED and NO/100 DOLLARS (\$1,500.00) and is not subject to re-acquisition by a prior owner pursuant to Ark. Code Ann § 27-67-322; and

WHEREAS, the District Engineer for District Five has determined that Tract Nos. 9R-1 and 9R-2 are not now, nor in the foreseeable future will be, needed for highway purposes. The properties are more particularly described as follows:

Tract No. 9R-1:

Part of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 11, Township 11 North, Range 11 West, Cleburne County, Arkansas, more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the East Sixteenth Corner of Section 11 as shown on plans prepared by ARDOT referenced as Job 050228, thence North 87°11'12" West along the North line of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 11 a distance of 108.06 feet to a point on the Westerly right of way line of Relocated Arkansas State Highway 225 for the POINT OF BEGINNING; thence South 62°14'12" West along said right of way line a distance of 17.71 feet to a point; thence South 24°11'06" East along said right of way line a distance of 102.98 feet to a point; thence South 20°05'14" West along said right of way line a distance of 34.69 feet to a point; thence North 69°01'26" West a distance of 429.53 feet to a point on the North line of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 11; thence South 87°11'12" East along said North line a distance of 386.93 feet to the point of beginning and containing 0.60 acres more or less as shown on plans prepared by ARDOT referenced as Job 050228.

Subject to a permanent maintenance easement for the Midway Bridge on State Highway 225 in favor of ARDOT beginning on the Easterly right of way line of the paved portion on old State Highway 225 (a/k/a Sunny Slope Road) being used as a County Road a distance of 20 feet on either side of the centerline for a total of 40 feet.

LESS AND EXCEPT 0.33 acres more or less of the obliterated portion being used as a County Road, as shown on plans prepared by ARDOT referenced as Job 050228.

And, also:

Tract No. 9R-2:

Part of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 11, Township 11 North, Range 11 West, Cleburne County, Arkansas, more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the East Sixteenth Corner of Section 11 as shown on plans prepared by ARDOT referenced as Job 050228, thence South 01°37'28" West along the East line of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 11 a distance of 117.63 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING; thence continue South 01°37'28" West along said East line a distance of 45.91 feet to a point; thence North 69°01'26" West a distance of 14.57 feet to a point on the Easterly right of way line of relocated Arkansas State Highway 225 as established by ARDOT Job 050228; thence North 20°07'26" East along said right of way line a distance of 43.32 feet to the point of beginning and containing 0.01 acres more or less as shown on plans prepared by ARDOT referenced as Job 050228.

Subject to a permanent maintenance easement for the Midway Bridge on State Highway 225 in favor of ARDOT beginning on the Easterly right of way line of the paved portion on old State Highway 225 (a/k/a Sunny Slope Road) being used as a County Road a distance of 20 feet on either side of the centerline for a total of 40 feet.

WHEREAS, Chad Sandine of Jonesboro, Arkansas has offered to purchase the above-described real properties for the sum of FORTY-TWO THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED and NO/100 DOLLARS (\$42,700.00). A qualified appraiser has opined that the current fair market values of Tract Nos. 9R-1 and 9R-2, Job No. 050228, are the same amount as the purchase price.

NOW THEREFORE, the above-described properties are declared surplus and upon receipt and consideration of the sum of FORTY-TWO THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED and NO/100 DOLLARS (\$42,700.00) from Mr. Sandine, the Chairman of the Commission is authorized and directed to execute a Quitclaim Deed conveying the right, title, interest or equity of the above-described property to Chad and Shelley Sandine, husband and wife; and hereby releasing the same from the State Highway System, that the Right of Way Division is directed and authorized to record a copy of this Minute Order and

the Quitclaim Deed in the records of Cleburne County, Arkansas; and, if necessary, the right of way shall be remonumented to reflect the boundaries designated herein. Any Federal-aid funds from this disposal shall be credited to Federal-aid funds or otherwise credited as permitted by federal law.

2022-112

WHEREAS, IN DESHA AND PHILLIPS COUNTIES, the State Park Access Road System maintained by the Department at the Delta Heritage Trail State Park was recently reviewed at the request of Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism (ADPHT); and

WHEREAS, the ADPHT has requested that extensions to Delta Heritage Trail State Park facilities be designated as part of the State Maintenance System per Arkansas Code Annotated §27-67-204; and

WHEREAS, the Department has determined that these additional drives meet all the criteria for inclusion into the State Maintenance System.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, that upon official notification by the Deputy Director and Chief Engineer, the following routes are hereby added to the State Highway System as part of Highway 600, Section 10 as shown on the attached sketch.

- The 0.27-mile portion of Desota Avenue and President Street adjacent to the trailhead in Arkansas City.
- The portion of Phillips County Road 251 beginning at Highway 242, Section 1 and continuing 1.17 miles south to the trailhead at Lexa.
- The portion of East Market Street beginning at Highway 44, Section 3 and continuing north 0.18 miles to the trailhead in Lake View.

2022-113

WHEREAS, IN POINSETT COUNTY, IN THE CITY OF HARRISBURG, the City has requested to accept all responsibility, including ownership of Highway 322, Section 0; and

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

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, that upon receipt of a proper resolution from the City of Harrisburg and official notification by the Deputy Director and Chief Engineer, Highway 322, Section 0 is hereby removed from the State Highway System.

2022-114

WHEREAS, the Quorum Court of Lincoln County, by Resolution No. 2022-6, has requested that a portion of Highway 530 from the Lincoln County Line to Highway 11 Spur be designated as the “Congressman Jay Dickey Memorial Highway”; and

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

2022-115

WHEREAS, the City Council of Newport, by Resolution No. 10-3-22 B, has requested that the White River Bridge on Highway 367 be designated as the “Martin Luther King, Jr. Bridge”; and

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

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

2022-116

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway Commission will accept bids on the following projects in the January 11, 2023 letting; and

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
110816	01	CRITTENDEN	I-40 TRUCK PARKING EXPANSION PROJECT (PH. II) (WEST MEMPHIS) (S)	I-40	Y
A10024	01	CRITTENDEN & ST. FRANCIS	HUGHES – HWY. 70 (S)	79	Y

020475	02	DREW	HWY. 83 SPUR – HWY. 278 CONNECTOR (MONTICELLO) (F)	NEW	N
A20004	02	DESHA & DREW	WINCHESTER – CHICOT CO. LINE (SEL. SECS.) (S)	65	Y
A20018	02	DESHA	MCGEHEE – ARKANSAS CITY (S)	4 & 169	Y
A20019	02	JEFFERSON	HWY. 79 – GRANT CO. LINE (S)	54	Y
A30014	03	MILLER	HWY. 67 – HWY. 71 (TEXARKANA) (S)	237	Y
A30019	03	HEMPSTEAD	HOPE BYPASS IMPVTS. (S)	29 & 278	Y
A40017	04	LOGAN & SCOTT	HWYS. 71 & 71B (SEL. SECS.) (S)	71 & 71B	Y
A40020	04	SEBASTIAN	BLOOMER – FRANKLIN CO. LINE (S)	22	Y
A50017	05	WHITE	CLEBURNE CO. LINE – SOUTH (SEL. SECS.) (S)	5	Y
A60026	06	LONOKE	HWY. 236 – CABOT (S)	89	Y
A60027	06	HOT SPRING	STONE QUARRY CREEK – I-30 (S)	270	Y
070561	07	CLARK	GURDON REST AREA – HWY. 26 (F)	I-30	Y
A70018	07	DALLAS	N. OF PRINCETON – HOT SPRING CO. LINE (S)	9	Y
A70023	07	BRADLEY	WARREN – WEST (S)	278	Y
090431	09	BENTON	LITTLE SUGAR CREEK STR. & APPRS. (S)	94	Y
090654	09	MARION	PEEL FERRY DOCK IMPROVEMENTS (S)	125	N
101076	10	MISSISSIPPI	HWY. 181 – HWY. 158 (S)	I-55	Y
A00031	10	MISSISSIPPI	HWY. 181 DECK REPLACEMENT (S)	181	N
A00038	10	CRAIGHEAD	S. OF BONO – HWY. 91 (S)	I-555 & 63	Y
A00042	10	CRAIGHEAD	PARAGOULD DR. – HWY. 18 (SEL. SECS.) (JONESBORO) (S)	49	Y
A00047	10	CRAIGHEAD	I-555 – HWY. 18 (JONESBORO) (S)	351	Y
AX0002	05 & 06	LONOKE & WHITE	HWY. 67 PRESERVATION TREATMENT (S)	67	Y
C02009	02	ASHLEY	HAMBURG OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C03010	09	BAXTER	BRIARCLIFF & MOUNTAIN HOME OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C04021	09	BENTON	GARFIELD OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-
C09006	02	CHICOT	DERMOTT OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C10006	07	CLARK	OKOLONA OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C11010	10	CLAY	GREENWAY, MCDUGAL, & PIGGOTT OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-
C15005	08	CONWAY	OPPELO OVERLAY NO. 2 (S)	---	-
C16011	10	CRAIGHEAD	BAY, CARAWAY & LAKE CITY OVERLAY & SURF. (S)	---	-
C16014	10	CRAIGHEAD	JONESBORO BROWNS LN. & RACE ST. OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C17007	04	CRAWFORD	DYER & MULBERRY OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C18017	01	CRITTENDEN	WEST MEMPHIS MLK JR. DR. OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C21008	02	DESHA	MCGEHEE OVERLAY & REHAB. NO. 2 (S)	---	-
C21009	02	DESHA	ARKANSAS CITY SURFACING (S)	---	-
C27007	02	GRANT	LEOLA, POYEN, & PRATTSVILLE OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-
C29008	03	HEMPSTEAD	FULTON & PATMOS OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-
C32008	05	INDEPENDENCE	MOOREFIELD, PLEASANT PLAINS & SOUTHSIDE OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C33008	05	IZARD	CALICO ROCK, MELBOURNE & OXFORD OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-
C34010	05	JACKSON	TUCKERMAN OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C35007	02	JEFFERSON	ALTHEIMER & WHITE HALL OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C36009	08	JOHNSON	COAL HILL & KNOXVILLE OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C38010	10	LAWRENCE	POWHATAN & WALNUT RIDGE OVERLAY & SURFACING NO. 2 (S)	---	-
C38011	10	LAWRENCE	BLACK ROCK, HOXIE, & PORTIA OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C41006	03	LITTLE RIVER	FOREMAN & WILTON OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C43009	06	LONOKE	AUSTIN OVERLAY NO. 2 (S)	---	-
C47014	10	MISSISSIPPI	ETOWAH SIXTEENTH DR. SURFACING (S)	---	-
C47015	10	MISSISSIPPI	GOSNELL OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C50005	03	NEVADA	BODCAW OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-

C58004	08	POPE	DOVER & HECTOR OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C59008	06	PRAIRIE	DES ARC OVERLAY NO. 2 (S)	---	-
C64005	09	SEARCY	MARSHALL OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C66003	03	SEVIER	DE QUEEN COULTER DR. OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C67006	05	SHARP	EVENING SHADE & HIGHLAND OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C70008	07	UNION	HUTTIG OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C75005	08	YELL	PLAINVIEW OVERLAY NO. 2 (S)	---	-
C76060	03	HEMPSTEAD & PIKE	ANTOINE & BLEVINS OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C76065	03 & 04	POLK & SEVIER	GILLHAM, GRANNIS, & HATFIELD OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C76067	04	FRANKLIN & SEBASTIAN	CENTRAL CITY, CHARLESTON & LAVACA OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C76069	03 & 08	MONTGOMERY & PIKE	GLENWOOD & NORMAN OVERLAY & SURF. (S)	---	-
C76070	07	BRADLEY & CALHOUN	HAMPTON & HERMITAGE OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C76071	03 & 07	COLUMBIA & LAFAYETTE	STAMPS & WALDO OVERLAY (S)	---	-
FA1913	01	CROSS	HWY. 163 – WEST (PHASE 2) (RECONSTRUCTION) (S)	---	-
SA2137	02	DESHA	DESHA CO. SURFACING NO. 16 (S)	---	-
SA2948	03	HEMPSTEAD	HWY. 174 – SOUTH (OVERLAY) (S)	---	-
SA3548	02	JEFFERSON	CO. RD. 31 OVERLAY (S)	---	-
SA4651	03	MILLER	CO. RD. 4 SURFACING (S)	---	-
SA5141	09	NEWTON	NEWTON COUNTY OVERLAY NO. 5 (S)	---	-
SA7040	07	UNION	UNION COUNTY OVERLAY NO. 10 (S)	---	-
BR7615	04	CRAWFORD & FRANKLIN	MULBERRY RIVER STR. & APPRS. (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.

2022-117

Robert S. Moore, Jr.
Commissioner Emeritus

WHEREAS, ten years have passed since January 2013, and with their passing will cause to expire in January 2023, your term as a Member of the Arkansas State Highway Commission. We the undersigned, your friends and fellow Commissioners, those who will miss your comradeship, sound counsel, and words of encouragement, wish for your future the best of everything. We wish to recognize you for your tireless efforts and acclaim your devotion to the service of this Commission. Your personal contributions over the past ten years have promoted progress and economic growth in this Great State through sound planning and the application of business principles in the development, construction, and maintenance of our overall State Highway System; and

WHEREAS, because of the imminent loss of the aforementioned knowledge and service to this Commission, these members, acting in their best interest, do herewith, through this instrument, serve formal notice that you are hereby directed and expected to continue to serve this Commission and the State of Arkansas.

NOW THEREFORE, with high esteem, we do hereby bestow upon you, ad infinitum, the title "Commissioner Emeritus."

Chairman Moore opened the meeting by welcoming those in attendance in-person, as well as those who were watching online.

MOTIONS

MOTION Vice Chairman Alec Farmer moved, Commissioner Philip Taldo seconded, and the motion passed to authorize the use of electronic signatures for the December 7, 2022 Minute Orders.

MOTION Commissioner Keith Gibson moved, Commissioner Philip Taldo seconded, and the motion passed to approve the Minutes from the November 2, 2022 Commission Meeting.

MOTION Vice Chairman Alec Farmer moved, Commissioner Philip Taldo seconded and the motion passed to submit an application for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Application for the Highway 5 widening project in Saline County from Highway 183 to the Pulaski County Line.

MOTION The Commission approved Minute Order 2022-047 on April 27, 2022, authorizing the Department issue a Request for Proposals to retain the services of a qualified consultant to enhance communication through the Department website with regard to construction projects and maintenance activities for the Department. Commissioner Keith Gibson moved, Commissioner Marie Holder seconded, and the motion passed to accept the Staff's recommendation to enter into negotiations with the following firm to provide implementation and annual maintenance services for a Construction and Maintenance Activity Reporting System:

Garver, LLC – North Little Rock, Arkansas

MOTION Commissioner Philip Taldo moved, Commissioner Keith Gibson seconded and the motion passed to elect Vice Chairman Alec Farmer as the new Chairman of the Arkansas State Highway Commission, effective January 1, 2023.

MOTION Commissioner Keith Gibson moved, Commissioner Marie Holder seconded and the motion passed to elect Commissioner Philip Taldo as the new Vice Chairman of the Arkansas State Highway Commission, effective January 1, 2023.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Patrick Patton, Chief Fiscal Officer, provided the October 2022 update on State Highway Revenue. Mr. Patton noted that State Highway Revenues to the Department from traditional sources are down a total of -1.2% (\$-1.7 million) in the SFY 2023 compared to SFY 2022. Revenue from the Natural Gas Severance Tax is higher this year compared to last year. Total revenues available are 8.9% (\$13.9 million) above last year. Actual State Revenue received is 10.6% (\$16.3 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 16.59% higher, (\$3,286,241) than projected by the Department of Finance and Administration (DF&A) for the month. Year to date actual revenue is reported above projections by 13.15% (\$10,656,050). Since inception, this revenue source is 2.77%, or \$49.4 million, above DF&A's projections.

Kevin Thornton, Assistant Chief of Administration, provided a status of Federal Highway and Transit funding issues. The Federal Government is still operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR), which provides Federal Funding until December 16. If an agreement on a spending bill has not been reached by December 16, another CR will have to be passed to ensure Federal Funds will continue to flow. Jared Wiley, Assistant Chief Engineer – Planning, notified the Commission on the announcement of the 2023 application cycle for the next round of Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants, which are due on or before February 28, 2023. It was determined that the Department's best candidate based on merit criteria is the Highway 5 widening project in Saline County. The is the same project that was submitted for consideration during the 2022 application cycle and although this project was not selected in 2022, Staff received positive feedback from a debrief with the U.S. Department of Transportation. It is recommended that this project be resubmitted for the 2023 RAISE Grant application cycle.

Director Tudor provided an update to the Efficiency Review Recommendation Implementation. Since the November 2 Commission Meeting, the Highway Commission Review and Advisory Subcommittee (HCRAS) has not met; however, monthly progress reports have continued to be submitted. The next meeting of the HCRAS is on December 13. The following activities were included in the December report:

- Recommendation #3 under the Portfolio Planning category recommended “publishing status of construction projects and maintenance activities”
 - A consultant has been selected and approval from the Commission will be requested.

- Recommendation #4 under the Portfolio Planning category recommended “implementing a platform that tracks all stakeholder inquiries to resolution”
 - GovQA meetings continue to be held. To date, 294 staff members have attending informational meetings where comments will be used to help craft the GovQA software to accomplish this recommendation.
- Recommendation #5 under the Procurement category recommended “implementing efficiencies in procurement and purchasing”
 - On-line bidding for all procurement bids and contracts for equipment and materials used by staff across the state has been implemented.

In addition to Act 298 of 2019, which required the Efficiency Review, Act 671 or 2021 requires the Office of Internal Audit (OIA) to conduct an annual project review and efficiency study of the Department. This includes a review of the processes, procedures, procurement processes, projects, appeals procedures and expenditures. This annual review will be broken down into two parts. The first part will be a review to ensure the 13 recommendations are accomplished according to the rules submitted. The second part will be an annual process review of five Divisions across the Department – one from each of the branches will be selected each year. The following represents an update to these activities:

- The initial meeting with ARDOT and the OIA was held on April 20, 2022
- A letter of engagement was developed and submitted to the HCRAS on June 16, 2022, where the HCRAS recognized it as reviewed
- OIA began to work on the first part of their review and submitted requests for supporting documentation of action taken by the Department to accomplish each of the efficiency review recommendations
- OIA also began working on the annual process review of the Department by selecting five Divisions/Section for their report due on October 1, 2023. Those Division are:
 - Bridge
 - Governmental Relations Office
 - Maintenance
 - Retirement
 - System Information and Research
- To date, OIA has held nine meetings with subject matter experts and 330 documents have been submitted.

Director Tudor provided an update on the 94th General Assembly. Tudor provided important dates of the session, which begins on January 9, 2023. Director Tudor then updated the Commission on outgoing and incoming members of the House and the Senate as well as updates to the Senate Transportation, Technology & Legislative Affairs Committee and the House Public Transportation Committee.

Maggie Garrett, Chief Auditor, presented a summary of ongoing external and internal audit activities. Audits and reviews of ARDOT activities are performed by internal and external auditors from various entities. Garrett provided a high level overview of the timing, areas covered and work of the auditors according to requirements and needs.

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

Director Tudor reporting the proceeds of the 2022 Fall Equipment Auction. 612 total items were sold with net proceeds of \$2,450,435.00. Director Tudor recognized Jared Wiley, Assistant Engineer – Planning, Drew Hoggard, District 2 Engineer, and Paul Tinsley, Materials Division Head as the newest inductees into the Arkansas State University Engineering and Computer Science Academy. In closing, Director Tudor recognized Randy Ort, Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer, in his last Commission Meeting before his retirement in January 2023. Director Tudor thanked Randy for his tireless work as second in command and for his 35 years of service to ARDOT.

Chairman Moore thanked the Commissioners and Staff for the farewell party and for all the support and friendships he has made at ARDOT during his time as a Commissioner. He stepped down as Chairman, effective December 31, and then Vice Chairman Alec Farmer presented him with a framed Commissioner Emeritus Minute Order. Mr. Farmer thanked Chairman Moore for his service to the Arkansas State Highway Commission and to the State of Arkansas.

2022-118

IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be closed at 11:22 a.m., December 7, 2022.

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true recording of the proceedings taken by the Arkansas State Highway Commission at its meeting on December 7, 2022.



Christie Heidelberg
Commission Secretary