

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

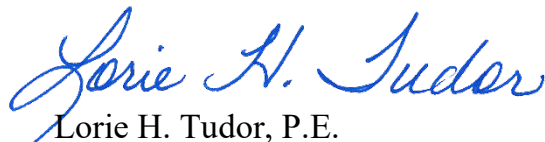
March 13, 2023

**ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR NO. 2023-03**

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 February 22, 2023.

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

March 7, 2023

Following is the record of proceedings of the Arkansas State Highway Commission in Little Rock, Arkansas, February 22, 2023. Members present were:

Alec Farmer, Chairman  
Philip Taldo, Vice Chairman  
Keith Gibson, Member  
Marie Holder, Member  
David Haak, Member

2023-001

IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be opened at 10:00 a.m., February 22, 2023.

2023-002

WHEREAS, the Purchasing Committee has awarded purchases on December 15 and December 16, 2022, and January 17, 2023, in the amounts of \$115,180.00, \$257,288.00, and \$378,761.28 respectively, totaling \$751,229.28, 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.

2023-003

WHEREAS, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) has billed the Arkansas Department of Transportation for membership dues for the year 2023; and

WHEREAS, this membership is regarded as being highly beneficial to the Department.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the Director is authorized to process payment for AASHTO membership dues for the year 2023 in the amount of \$42,365.76.

2023-004

WHEREAS, in July 2022, the Arkansas Highway Commission adopted Minute Order 2022-073 which authorized the Director to utilize State Planning and Research funds to pay membership dues for participation in Fiscal Year 2023 American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Engineering Technical Service Programs; and

WHEREAS, AASHTO has now requested the Department's participation in two additional Engineering Technical Service Programs; and

WHEREAS, these programs provide benefits to the member departments through the pooling of resources and expertise from across the country; and

WHEREAS, the benefits include technical services in the Regional Operations Leadership Forum (ROLF) and the Transportation Operations Manual (TOM); and

WHEREAS, these programs are regarded as highly beneficial to the Department in order to exchange ideas, information, and best practices with other highway agencies.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to utilize State Planning and Research funds to pay annual membership dues for participation in these programs.

2023-005

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 \$40,000 to the Arkansas Good Roads Foundation for its public information and education activities for the time period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

2023-006

WHEREAS, it continues to be necessary for the Department to provide timely construction engineering and inspection services to complete projects in accordance with program commitments; and

WHEREAS, on-call consultants continue to be an effective method of producing timely construction engineering and inspection services and supplement in-house capabilities including project scheduling assistance.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to request proposals, select a consulting firm or firms, and enter into any necessary contracts and agreements to perform construction engineering and inspection services as needs are identified for the calendar years 2024-2026 with an option to extend through calendar year 2028.

2023-007

WHEREAS, Arkansas has experienced periodic severe storms and flooding events in recent years resulting in damages to the State Highway System; and

WHEREAS, Federal-aid Emergency Relief (ER) funds are typically made available for damage repair efforts after major weather events; and

WHEREAS, on-call contracts have been found to be an effective method of producing timely services and supplementing in-house capabilities; and

WHEREAS, the use of on-call contracts with consultants and construction contractors who are experienced in delivering emergency repairs would allow the Department to expedite repairs by responding more quickly to needs as they arise.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to procure and enter into on-call service agreements with qualified consultants and contractors for the ER program and issue task orders as needed.

2023-008

WHEREAS, an increased demand for consultant engineering services by local agencies is anticipated for use on projects in various Federal-aid programs including, but not limited to, the:

- Transportation Alternatives Program,
- Recreational Trails Program,
- Off-System Bridge Program,
- Carbon Reduction Program,
- Safe Streets for All Program, and
- Surface Transportation Block Grant – Urbanized Area Program; and

WHEREAS, on-call service contracts have been found to be an effective method of supplementing existing staff; and

WHEREAS, the procurement of an additional group of on-call consultants for local Federal-aid projects will streamline the project delivery process and expedite the use of funding that is allocated to local public agencies.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to advertise for on-call engineering services for local Federal-aid projects and to select consultant engineering firms qualified to provide planning, design, environmental, right of way, and inspection services, and enter into contracts as needed.

2023-009

WHEREAS, Minute Order 2019-045 authorized the Director to solicit proposals and enter into contracts with firms for the collection of pavement, bridge and other transportation related asset condition data for calendar years 2020 through 2022; and

WHEREAS, these data collection contracts have been found to be an effective method of supplementing in-house capabilities; and

WHEREAS, extending the data collection contract for two additional years will ensure that all pavement data collection needs will be met.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to proceed with extending the existing data collection contract for two additional years.

2023-010

WHEREAS, statewide travel demand models are used throughout the nation to enhance transportation planning; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Travel Demand Model (ARTDM) was developed under Minute Orders 2009-102 and 2012-082, and has since been used to inform numerous planning recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the ARTDM is in need of an update to appropriately reflect changing socioeconomic trends across the state; and

WHEREAS, funding for an ARTDM update is included in the Fiscal Year 2023 State Planning and Research (SPR) Work Program.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to engage the services of a qualified consultant to update the Arkansas Travel Demand Model.

2023-011

WHEREAS, Minute Order 2020-077 authorized a study to determine the need for and feasibility of modifications to the Highway 70 Corridor (Broadway Street) between Highway 365 (Roosevelt Road) and Interstate 630 in Little Rock; and

WHEREAS, the Highway 70 (Broadway) Study has been prepared and has identified multimodal improvement alternatives within the study area.

NOW THEREFORE, this study is adopted for use as a planning guide for future improvements to the Highway 70 corridor.

2023-012

WHEREAS, the existing White County Area Headquarters facility in Bald Knob, on State Highway 258, was constructed in 1965; and

WHEREAS, at this existing location, the property is marginal in size and the structure is in poor condition and has exceeded its service life; and

WHEREAS, the relocation of the White County Area Headquarters has been a high priority for the Department for the past ten years.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to identify the most appropriate location for the new facility, acquire the necessary property, and construct an Area Headquarters facility, including buildings, appurtenances, fencing, and related items as funds become available.

Work to be done by contract and state forces as a Building Project.

2023-013

WHEREAS, the existing Perry County Area Headquarters facility in Perryville, on State Highway 60, was constructed in 1959; and

WHEREAS, at this existing location, the property is marginal in size and the structure is in poor condition and has exceeded its service life; and

WHEREAS, the relocation of the Perry County Area Headquarters has been a high priority for the Department for the past ten years.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to identify the most appropriate location for the new facility, acquire the necessary property, and construct an Area Headquarters facility, including buildings, appurtenances, fencing, and related items as funds become available.

Work to be done by contract and state forces as a Building Project.

2023-014

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway Commission (“Commission”) acquired property for highway rights of way for Job No. 3653, more commonly known as the “Old Lafayette County Rest Area” in Lafayette County, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, Brenda Davis, the Mayor of Stamps, Arkansas (“City”) has requested that the property be transferred to the City pursuant to Ark. Code Ann.

§ 27-65-109, for public purposes to support a veteran’s memorial and roadside park, adjacent to the existing highway; and

WHEREAS, the Commission’s interest in the property subject of the City’s request is more specifically described as follows:

The Legal Description in Exhibit “A” and areas shown in red and depicted on Exhibits “B”, and “C” attached hereto.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to enter into a transfer agreement for the above-described property pursuant to Minute Order 2012-008, conditioned upon the City’s continued maintenance of the property interests herein transferred for said highway purposes, and provided that in the event the City fails to use and maintain the properties described herein, or abandons same, the transfer agreement shall, upon 30 days notice, be terminated, and the transferred property shall revert back to the Commission.

2023-015

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway Commission (Commission) acquired property known as Tract No. 32R, Job No. 9926, from Fred A. Kirk and Mary P. Kirk, husband and wife, by Warranty Deed dated December 2, 1992, and filed of record on January 20, 1993, as Book 93, Page 05759Y, in the Circuit Clerk’s office for Benton County, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the property was purchased as a capital asset for the sum of EIGHTY THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED and NO/100 DOLLARS (\$80,500.00) and is not subject to re-acquisition by a prior owner pursuant to Ark. Code Ann § 27-67-322; and

WHEREAS, the Commission had an agreement with United States Forest Service, Department of Agriculture to donate the property as mitigation land for the forest lands acquired for the construction project. The property is more particularly described as follows:

Part of the East Half of the West Half and part of the West Half of the East Half of Section 9, Township 17 North, Range 32 West, Benton County, Arkansas, more particularly described as follows:

Starting at the Northeast Corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 9 for the point of beginning; thence South 3° 19’ 07”



West a distance of 2595.31 feet to the Southeast Corner of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of said Section 9; thence North 87° 20' 56" West along the South line of said Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter a distance of 1263.63 feet; thence North 22° 39' 37" West a distance of 896.81 feet; thence North 41° 26' 45" West a distance of 1189.00 feet; thence South 74° 22' 07" West a distance of 56.24 feet; thence North 41° 56' 45" West a distance of 112.00 feet; thence North 3° 48' 15" East a distance of 64.00 feet; thence South 79° 56' 45" East a distance of 189.00 feet; thence North 2° 33' 15" East a distance of 744.56 feet to the proposed south right of way line of U.S. Highway 412; thence North 73° 03' 44" East along said proposed right of way line a distance of 183.27 feet; thence North 86° 11' 46" East along said proposed right of way line a distance of 308.06 feet; thence North 75° 55' 28" East along said proposed right of way line a distance of 300.37 feet; thence North 75° 30' 58" East along said proposed right of way line a distance of 350.32 feet; thence North 79° 34' 55" East along said proposed right of way line a distance of 352.28 feet; thence North 67° 21' 06" East along said proposed right of way line a distance of 100.50 feet; thence North 40° 02' 18" East along said proposed right of way line a distance of 238.54 feet; thence North 73° 03' 34" East along said proposed right of way line a distance of 100.00 feet; thence South 47° 27' 12" East along said proposed right of way line a distance of 197.23 feet; thence South 68° 16' 41" East along said proposed right of way line a distance of 128.06 feet; thence South 80° 22' 22" East along said proposed right of way line a distance of 111.80 feet; thence North 63° 35' 59" East along proposed right of way line a distance of 121.66 feet; thence North 17° 53' 12" East along said proposed right of way line a distance of 280.18 feet; thence South 53° 11' 30" East along said proposed right of way line a distance of 134.37 feet to the East line of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 9; thence South 2° 35' 41" West leaving said proposed right of way line and along the East line of said Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter a distance of 619.10 feet to the point of beginning and containing 134.17 acres, more or less.

NOW THEREFORE, the Chairman of the Commission is authorized and directed to execute a Donation Deed conveying the right, title, interest or equity of the above-described property to United States Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; 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 Donation Deed in the records of Benton 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.

2023-016

WHEREAS, IN CRAWFORD COUNTY, in the vicinity of Kibler, the Institutional Drive maintained by the Department leading to the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Vegetable Research Station was recently reviewed at the request of the University of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the review concluded that the drive primarily serves a residential function; and

WHEREAS, the institution has concurred with the determination that the drive should be removed from the State Maintenance System.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, that upon official notification by the Deputy Director and Chief Engineer, the drive totaling approximately 3.569 miles, as shown on the attached sketch, is hereby removed from the State Maintenance System.

2023-017

WHEREAS, IN CONWAY COUNTY, local officials, the Arkansas Economic Development Commission and other stakeholders have expressed a desire for improvements to Highway 113 near Oppelo; and

WHEREAS, Conway, Faulkner, Perry and Pope Counties have expressed interest in partnering with the Department by assuming ownership of various state highways to offset the costs associated with the proposed Highway 113 relocation project; and

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements would improve freight mobility and enhance the region's economic competitiveness.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to enter into any necessary agreements and to proceed with surveys, plans, and construction of improvements upon sufficient partnering commitments and as funds become available.

2023-018

WHEREAS, IN CRAWFORD COUNTY, the City of Van Buren has expressed interest in partnering with the Department to widen Highway 59 from Pointer Trail to McKibben Street; and

WHEREAS, through Resolution No. 01-02-2023, the City has offered to partner with the Department by providing \$1,000,000 towards construction of the project; and

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements will improve safety and enhance mobility for the traveling public; and

WHEREAS, funding for this improvement is included in the 2023-2026 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to enter into any necessary agreements with the City and to proceed with surveys, plans, and construction of the improvement project.

2023-019

WHEREAS, IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, the City of West Fork has requested to partner with the Department to replace the West Fork White River bridge on Highway 170 with a wider structure to include a sidepath; and

WHEREAS, through Resolution No. 2022-07, the City has offered to partner with the Department by accepting ownership and responsibility of Highway 170, Section 1 between Interstate 49 and Highway 71 upon completion of the new bridge; and

WHEREAS, due to its age and deteriorating condition, the existing bridge is in need of replacement; and

WHEREAS, funding for this improvement is included in the 2023-2026 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

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

FURTHERMORE, upon completion of the bridge replacement project and official notification by the Deputy Director and Chief Engineer, the portion of Highway 170, Section 1 between Interstate 49 and Highway 71 is to be removed from the State Highway System as shown on the attached sketch.

2023-020

WHEREAS, IN BENTON COUNTY, the City of Bentonville has requested to partner with the Department for the construction of a new Interstate 49 interchange at the future extension of NE J Street; and

WHEREAS, through Resolution No. 10-11-22N, the City of Bentonville has requested that the Department provide fifty percent of the construction cost for the project up to \$12.5 million; and

WHEREAS, the construction of this improvement will alleviate congestion at the Highway 71 interchange to the north and the Highway 72 interchange to the south; and

WHEREAS, funding for this improvement is included in the 2023-2026 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to enter into any necessary agreements with the City and to proceed with construction of the project

2023-021

WHEREAS, Madison Murphy served on the Arkansas Highway Commission from January 2003 until January 2013; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Murphy's tireless support and advocacy resulted in the voter approval of Arkansas Constitutional Amendment 91 – a temporary ½ cent sales tax for 10 years to pay for improvements to the State Highway System; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 91 revenue made it possible to fund improvements that enhanced capacity and improved connectivity of U.S. Highway 167 Corridor in Calhoun, Cleveland, Dallas, Grant, Saline and Union Counties between El Dorado and Interstate 530; and

WHEREAS, under Commissioner Murphy's leadership, completion of improvements to the U.S. Highway 167 Corridor has created a 4-lane north south connection between Southern and Central Arkansas that provides road users with a viable and safe transportation alternative that increases mobility in the region.

NOW THEREFORE, considering the distinguished service of Commissioner Murphy to the Arkansas Highway Commission and the importance of the U.S. Highway 167 Corridor to the State Highway System, the Highway Commission hereby honors Commissioner Murphy by officially naming the U.S. Highway 167 Corridor from U.S. Highway 82 in the City of El Dorado to Interstate 530 in Saline County as the Madison Murphy Highway.

2023-022

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway Commission will accept bids on the following projects in the March 1, 2023 letting; and

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
A10010	01	ST. FRANCIS	HWY. 1B RESURFACING (FORREST CITY) (S)	1B	Y
A10013	01	CRITTENDEN	HWYS. 70 & 77 IMPVTS. (MARION & WEST MEMPHIS) (S)	70 & 77	Y
A10022	01	MONROE	HWY. 362 – PHILLIPS CO. LINE (S)	49	Y
A10023	01	CRITTENDEN	LANSING – I-55 (S)	64	Y
A20004	02	DESHA & DREW	WINCHESTER – CHICOT CO. LINE (SEL. SECS.) (S)	65	Y
A20020	02	ARKANSAS	HWY. 144 – HWY. 1B (S)	1 & 165	Y
A20022	02	CHICOT	DESHA CO. LINE – SOUTH (S)	65	Y
A30013	03	MILLER	HWYS. 108 & 296 (SEL. SECS.) (S)	108 & 296	Y
A30014	03	MILLER	HWY. 67 – HWY. 71 (TEXARKANA) (S)	237	Y
A30020	03	LITTLE RIVER	HWY. 108 – WILTON (S)	71	Y
A30023	03	SEVIER	HWY. 70 – POLK CO. LINE (S)	71	Y
A30024	03	HEMPSTEAD	HWY. 332 – WASHINGTON (S)	278	Y
040782	04	SCOTT	HWY. 80 STR. & APPRS. (S)	80	N
040898	04	SEBASTIAN	HWY. 64 ARKANSAS RIVER BRIDGE DECK REHAB. (S)	64	Y
A40024	04	POLK & SCOTT	SEVIER CO. LINE – "Y" CITY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	71	Y
A50020	05	JACKSON	HWY. 18 – INDEPENDENCE CO. LINE (SEL. SECS.) (S)	37	N
A50023	05	JACKSON	HWY. 367 – CRAIGHEAD CO. LINE (S)	226	Y
061766	06	PULASKI	HWY. 67 – EAST (PRESERVATION) (NLR) (S)	I-40	Y
A60021	06	GARLAND	HWYS. 7, 70B, & 270B (SEL. SECS.) (HOT SPRINGS) (S)	70, 70B & 270B	Y
A60028	06	LONOKE	HWY. 38 – HWY. 367 (WARD) (S)	319	Y
A60029	06	PULASKI & SALINE	HWY. 167 – FOURCHE CREEK (S)	367	Y
A70019	07	CLARK	I-30 – 26TH ST. (ARKADELPHIA) (S)	51	Y

A70020	07	BRADLEY	HERMITAGE – WEST (S)	63	Y
A70022	07	COLUMBIA	HWYS. 98 & 371 IMPVTS. (WALDO) (S)	98 & 371	Y
080609	08	PERRY	HARRIS CREEK STR. & APPRS. (PERRYVILLE) (S)	9	Y
A80024	08	FAULKNER	N. OF BEAVER FORK LAKE – HWY. 65 (S)	25	Y
A80025	08	POPE	ATKINS – CONWAY CO. LINE (S)	64	Y
090549	09	CARROLL	LEATHERWOOD CREEK STR. & APPRS. (S)	187	N
A90018	09	NEWTON	HWY. 16 – JASPER (S)	7	Y
100985	10	CRAIGHEAD	HWYS. 135 & 139 STRS. & APPRS. (CARAWAY) (S)	135 & 139	Y
A00040	10	MISSISSIPPI	HOLLAND ST. – I-55 (BLYTHEVILLE) (S)	18	Y
A00041	10	GREENE	MARMADUKE – PARAGOULD (SEL. SECS.) (S)	49	Y
012439	03 & 07	VARIOUS	INTERSTATE 30 SIGN UPGRADES (S)	I-30	Y
012442	VAR	VARIOUS	HYDRODEMOLITION BRIDGE PRESERVATION (2023) (S)	VARIOUS	Y
012445	VAR	VARIOUS	DISTRICTS 3, 4, 6, 7 & 8 BRIDGE PRESERVATION (2023) (S)	VARIOUS	Y
C01010	02	ARKANSAS	DEWITT OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C02011	02	ASHLEY	MONTROSE OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-
C02012	02	ASHLEY	CROSSETT OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C02013	02	ASHLEY	PORTLAND OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C04019	09	BENTON	LITTLE FLOCK LITTLE FLOCK DR. OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C05009	09	BOONE	BERGMAN OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C08009	09	CARROLL	EUREKA SPRINGS OVERLAY NO. 3 (S)	---	-
C08010	09	CARROLL	OAK GROVE OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C09007	02	CHICOT	LAKE VILLAGE OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C16012	10	CRAIGHEAD	BONO MAIN ST. OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C19006	01	CROSS	PARKIN & WYNNE OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C24004	04	FRANKLIN	BRANCH OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-
C33009	05	IZARD	MOUNT PLEASANT OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-
C38012	10	LAWRENCE	RAVENDEN OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C43010	06	LONOKE	ENGLAND OVERLAY NO. 2 (S)	---	-
C44006	09	MADISON	HUNTSVILLE SURFACING (S)	---	-
C45006	09	MARION	SUMMIT SURFACING (S)	---	-
C47013	10	MISSISSIPPI	OSCEOLA HALE AVE. OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C47019	10	MISSISSIPPI	KEISER OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C48005	01	MONROE	HOLLY GROVE OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-
C52008	07	OUACHITA	STEPHENS OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C54005	01	PHILLIPS	HELENA-WEST HELENA OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-
C58007	08	POPE	RUSSELLVILLE E. PARKWAY DR. OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C61007	10	RANDOLPH	REYNO OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C62012	06	SALINE	BENTON OVERLAY NO. 2 (S)	---	-
C63002	04	SCOTT	WALDRON OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C65015	04	SEBASTIAN	MANSFIELD OVERLAY NO. 2 (S)	---	-
C68008	01	ST. FRANCIS	WHEATLEY SURFACING (S)	---	-
C72014	04	WASHINGTON	JOHNSON OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C73014	05	WHITE	PANGBURN OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C73015	05	WHITE	HIGGINSON OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C76072	06	PULASKI & SALINE	ALEXANDER OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C76075	06	LONOKE & PRAIRIE	DEVALLS BLUFF, HAZEN, & HUMNOKE OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C76076	02	DESHA & DREW	TILLAR & REED OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-

- 13 -  
(Continued)

February 22, 2023

C76077	10	CRAIGHEAD & MISSISSIPPI	MONETTE & LEACHVILLE OVERLAY (S)	---	-
SA2377	08	FAULKNER	FAULKNER CO. WIDENING & OVERLAY NO. 6 (S)	---	-
SA3054	06	HOT SPRING	HOT SPRING CO. (LEVELING & RESEAL) (S)	---	-
SA7539	08	YELL	HWY. 27 – CO. RD. 425 LEVELING & 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 Farmer opened the meeting by welcoming those in attendance in-person, as well as those who were watching online. Mr. Farmer also welcomed David Haak, newly appointed member of the Arkansas State Highway Commission.

## MOTIONS

MOTION Vice Chairman Philip Taldo moved, Commissioner Marie Holder seconded, and the motion passed to authorize the use of electronic signatures for the February 22, 2023 Minute Orders.

MOTION Vice Chairman Philip Taldo moved, Commissioner Marie Holder seconded, and the motion passed to approve the Minutes from the December 7, 2022 Commission Meeting.

MOTION The Commission approved Minute Order 2021-062 on July 28, 2021, authorizing the Department to request and evaluate proposals and enter into any necessary contracts and agreements with firms for on-call Construction Manager-General Contractor (CM-CG) services on Job 061632, Hwy. 183 – Pulaski Co. Line (Widening) (Bryant) (S). Commissioner Keith Gibson moved, Vice Chairman Philip Taldo seconded, and the motion passed to accept the Staff’s recommendation to enter into negotiations with the following firm to provide CM-GC services on Job 061632:

Weaver-Bailey Contractors, Inc. – Conway, Arkansas

## OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Patrick Patton, Chief Fiscal Officer, provided the January 2023 update on State Highway Revenue. Mr. Patton noted that State Highway Revenues to the Department from traditional sources are down a total of -0.2% (\$-0.4 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 7.1% (\$19.6 million) above last year. Actual State Revenue received is 9.2% (\$25.0 million) above projected (budgeted) revenue for this year. Mr. Patton stated that January revenue from the 0.5% General Sales Tax for the Connecting Arkansas Program was 14.93% higher (\$3,073,316) than projected by the Department of Finance and Administration (DF&A) for the month. Year to date actual revenue is reported



above projections by 12.97% (\$18,414,934). Since inception, this revenue source is 3.10%, or \$57.1 million, above DF&A's projections.

Kevin Thornton, Assistant Chief of Administration, provided a status of Federal Highway and Transit funding issues. In late 2022, Congress and the President were able to agree on an Appropriation Bill for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023. This bill fully funds the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act until September 30, 2023. The enactment of the bill also provides additional Community Project Funding to Arkansas. \$42.6 million was included for Arkansas for the following projects:

- \$5.0 million for Future Interstate 49 requested by Congressman Westerman;
- \$6.4 million for Future Interstate 57 requested by Senator Boozman and Congressman Crawford;
- \$6.4 million for Highway 60 Resiliency Improvements near Conway requested by Senator Boozman;
- \$11.4 million for U.S. Highway 270 widening in Garland County requested by Senator Boozman and Congressman Westerman;
- \$6.4 million for U.S. Highway 412 requested by Senator Boozman and Congressman Crawford; and
- \$7.0 million for the XNA Access Road requested by Senator Boozman and Congressman Womack.

Mr. Thornton also updated the Commission on three grant applications submitted for the Future Interstate 49 project from Highway 22 to Interstate 40 in Crawford and Sebastian Counties. The three applications submitted for consideration are as follows:

- The Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects (INFRA) grants;
- The National Infrastructure Project Assistance (MEGA) grants; and
- The Rural Surface Transportation (RURAL) grants.

These programs were all combined into one solicitation, referred to as the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Opportunity. This project was not selected for any grant award; however, any information gathered during a debriefing with the U.S. Department of Transportation will be used when preparing future grant applications.

Director Tudor provided an update to the Efficiency Review Recommendation Implementation. During a General Assembly Legislative Session, the Highway Commission Review and Advisory Subcommittee (HCRAS) does not meet; however, monthly progress reports have continued to be submitted. The following activities were included in the January and February reports:

- Recommendation #4 under the Portfolio Planning category recommended “implementing a platform that tracks all stakeholder inquiries to resolution”
  - Department staff are now using the GovQA system in production. This will allow evaluation and any needed changes to be made prior to making it available to the public.
  
- Recommendation #5 under the Procurement category recommended “implementing efficiencies in procurement and purchasing”
  - A recent survey was conducted on how surrounding Departments of Transportation use acceleration techniques and results found that the Department uses them at a higher rate than the surveyed states.
  - Evaluation of survey results is still underway; however, the initial finding supports efforts to develop, let and construct projects in an efficient manner.

Director Tudor provided an update to the ongoing annual project review and efficiency study of the Department, conducted by the Office of Internal Audit (OIA). Since this review began, OIA has held 12 meetings with subject matter experts and 385 documents have been submitted. The first report is due to the Arkansas Legislative Council on October 1, 2023.

Director Tudor provided an update on the 94<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. March 10, 2023 was originally designated at the last day of the session; however, the legislature voted to extend the session to April 7, 2023. An update to legislation affecting the Department was given.

Jared Wiley, Assistant Chief Engineer – Planning provided the bid letting update from the January 11, 2023 bid letting.

Arkansas Highway Police Chief Jeff Holmes presented a brief overview of the Arkansas Highway Police Division's history, duties and operational structure.

Director Tudor gave a look back at the previous year - progress, accomplishments, significant events, etc. and an overview of what lies ahead for 2023.

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

Director Tudor expressed her appreciation for the crews who worked during the recent winter weather events across the state. Director Tudor also recognized the effort of the Central Office employees who participated in the annual food drive in late 2022. Director Tudor reported to the Commission that the Statewide Transportation Improvement

Program (STIP) for FFY 2023 – 2026 was approved by the FHWA and the FTA. Director Tudor also recognized the Department for its projects that won awards in two categories for the 2023 Arkansas ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards (EEAs). ARDOT's Arkansas EVID Plan won an Honor Award submitted by HNTB for Studies, Research, and Consultant Services. ARDOT's Palarm Creek Bridge Replacement was the Project Winner for Structural Systems submitted by Michael Baker International. Director Tudor and Chairman Alec Farmer recognized the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mack-Blackwell Amendment, which created the current Highway Commission structure. Finally, Chairman Alec Farmer recognized the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the recognized relationship with ARDOT and the Arkansas Good Roads Foundation. To commemorate this occasion, the Commission presented Joe Quinn, Executive Director of the Arkansas Good Roads Foundation, with a certificate of appreciation. In closing, Chairman Farmer highlighted the recent efforts and accomplishments of ARDOT over the last several years.

2023-023

IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be closed at 11:33 a.m., February 22, 2023.

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 February 22, 2023.



Christie Heidelberg  
Commission Secretary