



INFORMATION RELEASE

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AHTD WITHDRAWS ADDITIONAL PROJECTS PLANNED FOR BID OPENING AS THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY TRUST FUND CONTINUES ROUTE TOWARD FISCAL CLIFF

Number of Projects Withdrawn Includes \$50 Million Overlay Program

LITTLE ROCK (3-24) – The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) has withdrawn 56 construction projects scheduled for consideration in its April 21, 2015 bid opening due to continuing uncertainty of Federal-aid reimbursements available from the Federal Highway Trust Fund.

The estimated value of projects withdrawn from the April bid opening is more than \$112 million and includes \$50 million authorized by the Arkansas Highway Commission for its 2015 highway overlay program. This brings the total number of projects withdrawn from the 2015 bid openings to 61. The estimated construction value of these withdrawn projects is \$162 million. An attached list of projects and accompanying map provide additional details and an illustration of the location of all projects withdrawn in 2015.

“Now that we have cancelled our overlay program for this year, there are few areas in the State that are not affected by projects withdrawn from the April bid letting,” said AHTD Director Scott Bennett. “If you stop and think about the economic impact this has – not only on construction jobs, but the lost commerce that results in each local area because construction isn’t taking place – then you begin to understand the trickle-down effect and the urgency of solving this national problem.”

Since December 2014, AHTD has been conducting an evaluation of scheduled Federally-funded projects prior to each bid letting to ensure sufficient State funds are available to fulfill commitments during anticipated reductions or delays in Federal reimbursements. Highway construction projects in Arkansas are initially paid with State funds, and then the State seeks reimbursement from the Federal Highway Trust Fund for the Federal portion of those payments. Without action from Congress, reimbursements from the Federal Highway Trust Fund are expected to be curtailed this summer.

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“The reality is that over \$160 million has not found its way into our State’s economy this year,” added Bennett. “Meanwhile, our State’s highway infrastructure has suffered severe damage from a harsh winter weather season. The lack of an overlay program is going to make repairing the damage that has occurred even more challenging. As the Federal Highway Trust Fund heads towards the fiscal cliff, we are not only facing reduced and delayed reimbursements later this year, we are also facing the absence of a Federal-aid highway program next year. Congress must act soon to solve this problem by reinvesting in our Nation’s infrastructure.”

Nation at a Crossroads

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) has created a web-based infographic as part of a new campaign that calls on Congress to “think big” and focus on long-term highway infrastructure needs rather than short-term fixes which “kick the can down the road” and will only result in this becoming a recurring issue. States, planners, and engineers cannot plan needed infrastructure projects without committed and stable funding.

The “Nation at a Crossroads” campaign urges policymakers to consider what is achievable in a long-term, sustainable source of funding to keep America on the right path. This investment will grow our economy, create and sustain jobs, and improve our mobility and quality of life.

The campaign site also features a “state impact” section that provides state-level information showing how Federal funding affects transportation investment. At risk in Arkansas includes \$490 million in Federal highway funding, \$32 million in Federal transit funding, an estimated 14,000 jobs, and 220 projects.

The site is available at <http://invest.transportation.org>.

Projects Withdrawn from 2015 Bid Openings

County	Route	Project Name	AHTD Job Number
Ashley & Drew	165	Drew Co. Line-North & South (Mill & Inlay) (S)	020592
Benton	59	Sulphur Springs-Spavinaw Creek (Overlay) (S)	090441
Benton	12	Springtown-Hwy. 279 (Overlay & Shoulders) (S)	090443
Boone	---	Main St./Rush Ave. Signal Rehab. (Harrison) (S)	090340
Bradley	CR 2	Co. Rd. 4-Co. Rd. 134 (Surfacing) (S)	FA0625
Carroll	62	Co. Rd. 704-West of Hwy. 103 South (S)	090330
Carroll	21	Hwy. 62-Indian Creek (Overlay) (S)	090442
Chicot	144	Hwy. 65-Hwy. 257 (Overlay) (S)	020593
Clay	90	Boydsville-East (Sel. Sec.) (Overlay) (S)	100843
Cleburne	25	Hwy. 25 Spur-Locust Grove (Passing Lanes) (S)	050261
Columbia	79	Louisiana State Line-Hwy. 98 (Overlay) (S)	070420
Craighead	49	Old Bridger Rd.-Paragould Dr. (Jonesboro) (Overlay) (S)	100845
Crittenden	77	Hwy. 61-Hwy. 42 (Overlay) (S)	110628
Cross	42	Gum Slough-Wolfpen Slough (Overlay & Shoulders) (S)	110625
Dallas	8	Hwy. 9-West (Overlay) (S)	070421
Desha	1	So. of Watson-Hwy. 165 (Overlay) (S)	020591
Faulkner	107	Pulaski Co. Line-Hwy. 64B (Overlay) (S)	080511
Franklin	23	Hwy. 352-Rock Creek (Sel. Sec.) (Overlay) (S)	040690
Grant	35	Saline Co. Line-Hwy. 167B (Sel. Secs.) (Overlay) (S)	020594
Hempstead	67	Red River-Peavine Creek (Overlay) (S)	030459
Hempstead	278	No. of Hwy. 32-Hope (Overlay) (S)	030461
Hot Spring	67	Hwy. 270B-North (Sel. Secs.) (Overlay) (S)	061462
Hot Spring	84	Social Hill-Hwy. 171 (Overlay) (S)	061466
Independence	167	CR 80 (Antioch Road)-South City Limits Cave City (F)	050214
Independence	394	Hwy. 69-West (Overlay) (S)	050329
Izard & Fulton	289	Hwy. 56-Hwy. 62 (Overlay) (S)	050328
Jackson	18	Hwy. 17-Hwy. 367 (Overlay) (S)	050330
Johnson	359	Hwy. 315-South (Overlay) (S)	080515
Lawrence	25	Lake Charles State Park-Powhatan (Overlay) (S)	100848
Lee	243	Hwy. 79-Hwy. 1 (Overlay & Shoulders) (S)	110624
Lee & Phillips	1	Walnut Corner-Cypress Corner (S)	110217

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County	Route	Project Name	AHTD Job Number
Little River	32 & 32Y	Hwy. 32/Hwy. 32Y Signal (Ashdown) (S)	030440
Little River	41	C.R. 114-Foreman (Overlay) (S)	030462
Logan	22	West of Hwy. 393-Yell Co. Line (Overlay) (S)	040691
Lonoke	89 & 236	Furlow-North (Overlay) (S)	061463
Madison	16	Washington Co. Line-East (Overlay) (S)	090444
Mississippi	18	BNSF RR-End State Maint. (Armored) (Overlay) (S)	100846
Monroe	302	Clarendon-No. of Hwy. 241 (Overlay & Shoulders) (S)	110626
Montgomery	88	Polk Co. Line-Franklin Creek (Overlay) (S)	080512
Ouachita	278	Nevada Co. Line-East (Overlay) (S)	070423
Perry	155	Hwy. 10-North (Overlay) (S)	080514
Phillips	44	Bee Bayou Str. & Apprs. (S)	110575
Phillips	44	Lakeview City Limits-Hwy. 85 (Overlay) (S)	110629
Pike	27 & 301	Murfreesboro (Sel. Secs.) (Overlay) (S)	030460
Poinsett	63	Terrel Rd. Overpass-St. Francis River (Overlay) (S)	100844
Polk	88	Mena-East (Overlay) (S)	040689
Pope	326	Hwy. 64-Skyline Dr. (Russellville) (Overlay) (S)	080513
Pulaski	30 & 430	I-30/I-430 Interchange Impvt. (L.R.) (Ph. II) (S)	061437
Pulaski & Saline	111	I-30-South (Overlay) (S)	061465
Randolph	115	So. of Maynard-Hwy. 166 (Overlay) (S)	100847
Saline	5	Hwy. 9-North (Overlay) (S)	061464
Scott	71	Polk Co. Line-North (Hwy. 71) (Overlay) (S)	040687
Sebastian	96	Hwy. 10-Flat Rock Creek (Overlay) (S)	040692
St. Francis	40	Fishing Lake Str. & Apprs. (S)	BB0112
St. Francis	70	S. Powell St.-Crow Creek (Mill & Inlay) (S)	110623
Stone	66	South Sylamore Creek-East (Passing Lane) (S)	050289
Stone	5	Sylamore Creek-White River (Overlay) (S)	050327
Union	167	Hwy. 7-North & South (Overlay) (S)	070422
Washington	112	Razorback Rd.-Garland Ave. (Hwy. 112) (Fayetteville) (S)	040582
Woodruff	64	Hwy. 145-Hwy. 64 (Overlay) (S)	110627
Yell	7	Hwy. 28-No. of Centerville (Overlay) (S)	080510

Projects Removed From 2015 Bid Lettings

