

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

MINUTE ORDER

District: Statewide

Page 1 of 1 Page

County: Statewide

Category: Miscellaneous

WHEREAS, the 91<sup>st</sup> 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 July 26, 2018 to August 24, 2018; 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 sponsor for implementation of the project included in the attached list.

Approved:



Chairman

Vice-Chairman



Member

Member

Member

Submitted By:




Assistant Chief Engineer - Planning

Approved:



Director

Minute Order No.

2018 098 

Date Passed

OCT 10 2018

SIR

Form 19-456

Rev. 1/13/2016

# ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Little Rock, Arkansas

October 5, 2018

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Highway Commission

**SUBJECT:** Transportation-Related Research Grant Program

The Commission, by Minute Order 2018-027 adopted in April 2018, authorized the annual solicitation of applications for the Transportation-Related Research Grant Program (TRRGP). Currently, there is approximately \$1.0 million in 100% State funds available for TRRGP projects from the Future Transportation Research Fund.

Applications for a total of 5 projects requesting approximately \$1.7 million were submitted for this program. The applications were reviewed and evaluated by the TRRGP Review Committee. The committee members were appointed in accordance with the TRRGP governing rules to review and evaluate proposals and recommend the award of funding.

Attached you will find a detailed list of recommended projects and a program summary which provides general information such as eligible activities, eligible recipients, program purpose, and project selection.

Please review the project recommendations and contact Kevin Thornton by October 8, 2018 with any comments you may have. A Minute Order will be submitted for your consideration at the October 10 meeting.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please advise.



Scott E. Bennett, P.E.  
Director

### Attachments

c: Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer  
Deputy Director and Chief Engineer  
Assistant Chief Engineer – Planning  
Assistant Chief Administration  
System Information and Research

## Transportation-Related Research Grant Program (TRRGP)

### Application Evaluation and Award Recommendation

September 26, 2018

Applicant		Project Description	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended for Award	Comments
1	University of Arkansas at Fayetteville	Civil Engineering Research and Education Center: A Research, Education, and Outreach Center	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	Recommended for full funding
2	Southern Arkansas University	Evaluation of Mechanical Properties of Alkali Activated Wood Ash Based Polymer Modified Asphalt Concrete	\$ 110,650	\$ -	No funding recommended. Inclusion of this product is better suited in other aspects of highway construction, such as soil stabilization.
3	Arkansas Tech University	Performance and Emission Evaluation of Biodiesel in a Transportation Engine	\$ 62,500	\$ -	No funding recommended. This type of research has been completed by many others from across the nation.
4	University of Arkansas at Little Rock	Development of the Arkansas Center for Highway Construction Contractor Excellence	\$ 494,812	\$ -	No funding recommended. The application lacked the detail needed to properly evaluate this project.
5	Southern Arkansas University	Analysis of Fatal Crashes in Arkansas and Developing a Mobile App for Safer Travel	\$ 46,914	\$ -	No funding recommended. The Department already performs most of the work that is proposed within the applications.
			\$ 1,714,876	\$ 1,000,000	Total
				\$ 1,000,000	Amount Available for Award

# Transportation-Related Research Grant Program

## Program Summary

September 26, 2018

### LEGISLATION

Act 705 of 2017 (see Attachment 1) 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).

### PURPOSE

The purpose of the TRRGP is to support the study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions to provide resilient and sustainable logistics, processes, materials, and methods to ensure cost-effectiveness and the furtherance of education and economic development concerning all forms of transportation.

### COMMISSION AUTHORIZATION

Minute Order 2017-111 and Minute Order 2018-027 (see Attachments 2 and 3) authorized the Director to implement the TRRGP as follows:

- ✓ As required by Act 705, rules for administering this program have been promulgated (see Attachment 4).
- ✓ Eligible recipients of funds will include institutes of higher education.
- ✓ Eligible projects or programs will advance the investigation into and study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions to provide resilient and sustainable logistics, processes, materials and methods to ensure cost effectiveness and the furtherance of education and economic development concerning all forms of transportation, including without limitation rail, public transportation, aviation, and waterborne transportation.
- ✓ Proposals for projects or programs will be solicited at least annually.
- ✓ A review committee was established to include the Department's Assistant Chief Engineer for Planning, Materials Division Head, Transportation Planning and Policy Division Head, System Information and Research Division Head, and the Staff Research Engineer. The current review committee consists of the following members:
  - Kevin Thornton, Assistant Chief Engineer for Planning
  - Michael Benson, Materials Division Head
  - Jessie Jones, Transportation Planning and Policy Division Head
  - Brad McCaleb, System Information and Research Division Head
  - Elisha Wright-Kehner, Staff Research Engineer.
- ✓ The review committee will review and evaluate proposals and recommend the award of funding to the Director for presentation, consideration, and approval by the Commission.

**APPLICATIONS**

Applications were solicited and received for this program from July 26, 2018 to August 24, 2018.

**AVAILABLE FUNDING**

State Fiscal Year	Amount Available
2018 Available Funds	\$ 500,000
2019 Available Funds	\$ 500,000
Total Available	\$ 1,000,000

**Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.  
Act 705 of the Regular Session**

1 State of Arkansas  
2 91st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2017  
4

*As Engrossed: S3/14/17*

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 605

5 By: Senator Files  
6 *By: Representative Davis*  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISTRIBUTION OF HIGHWAY REVENUE  
10 INTEREST INCOME; TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR REGIONAL  
11 INTERMODAL FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION-RELATED  
12 RESEARCH; TO CREATE THE FUTURE TRANSPORTATION  
13 RESEARCH FUND; AND TO CREATE THE TRANSPORTATION  
14 RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

18 CONCERNING THE DISTRIBUTION OF HIGHWAY  
19 REVENUE INTEREST INCOME; AND TO PROVIDE  
20 FUNDS FOR REGIONAL INTERMODAL FACILITIES  
21 AND TRANSPORTATION-RELATED RESEARCH.  
22  
23

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
25

26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 14, Chapter 143, Subchapter 1, is  
27 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

28 14-143-130. Funding for regional intermodal facilities.

29 (a) The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department shall  
30 distribute the first five hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$525,000) of  
31 interest income received under § 27-70-204 each year from the State Highway  
32 and Transportation Department Fund. The money shall be:

33 (1) Equally distributed to each authority;

34 (2) Deposited into a bank as the authority may direct under §  
35 14-143-124(a)(1); and

36 (3) Used for the purposes and the implementation of the powers



1 authorized under this chapter.

2 (b) Moneys remaining in the bank designated by the authority under  
3 subdivision (a)(2) of this section shall carry forward and be made available  
4 for the purposes stated in subdivision (a)(3) of this section in the next  
5 fiscal year.

6  
7 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 19, Chapter 5, Subchapter 12, is  
8 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

9 19-5-1258. Future Transportation Research Fund.

10 (a) There is created on the books of the Treasurer of State, the  
11 Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a miscellaneous  
12 fund to be known as the "Future Transportation Research Fund".

13 (b) The Future Transportation Research Fund shall consist of:

14 (1) If available after the deposit of the funds required under §  
15 14-143-130, interest income received under § 27-70-204 up to a maximum amount  
16 of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) each year from the State Highway  
17 and Transportation Department Fund; and

18 (2) Any other revenues authorized by law.

19 (c) The Future Transportation Research Fund shall be used by the  
20 Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department for distributing grants  
21 under the Transportation-Related Research Grant Program, § 27-65-145.

22  
23 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 27, Chapter 65, Subchapter 1, is  
24 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

25 27-65-145. Transportation Related Research Grant Program.

26 (a) As used in this section, "transportation-related research" means  
27 the systematic investigation into and study of materials and sources in order  
28 to establish facts and reach new conclusions to provide resilient and  
29 sustainable logistics, processes, materials, and methods to ensure cost-  
30 effectiveness and the furtherance of education and economic development  
31 concerning all forms of transportation, including without limitation rail,  
32 public transportation, aviation, and waterborne transportation.

33 (b) The Transportation-Related Research Grant is established to  
34 provide grants to publicly funded institutions of higher education for  
35 transportation-related research.

36





## ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

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**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**, the purpose of the TRRGP is to support the study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions to provide resilient and sustainable logistics, processes, materials, and methods to ensure cost-effectiveness and the furtherance of education and economic development concerning all forms of transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) is responsible for administration of the TRRGP; and

**WHEREAS**, the ARDOT shall use these funds for distributing grants under the TRRGP to publicly funded institutions of higher education for transportation related research; and

**WHEREAS**, as required by Act 705, the attached rules for administering this program shall be promulgated.

**NOW THEREFORE**, pursuant to Arkansas law, the Director is authorized to promulgate these rules before implementing the TRRGP.

Approved:

Submitted By:

Chairman

Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer

Vice-Chairman

Approved:

Member

Director

Member

Minute Order No.

Member

Date Passed

DD-COO

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WHEREAS, the purpose of the TRRGP is to support the study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions to provide resilient and sustainable logistics, processes, materials, and methods to ensure cost-effectiveness and the furtherance of education and economic development concerning all forms of transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Department of Transportation is responsible for administration of the TRRGP; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Highway Commission passed Minute Order 2017-111, which promulgated rules for administering this program as required by Act 705; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Arkansas Code § 10-3-309 the promulgated rules are under consideration for approval by the Arkansas Legislative Council.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to advertise for TRRGP applications once the promulgated rules are in effect.

Approved: *[Signature]* Chairman  
*[Signature]* Vice-Chairman  
*[Signature]* Member  
*[Signature]* Member  
*[Signature]* Member

Submitted By: *[Signature]*  
Assistant Chief Engineer - Planning *lkt*  
Approved: *[Signature]*  
Director  
Minute Order No. 2018 027  
Date Passed APR 24 2018

Arkansas Department of Transportation

# **RULES FOR TRANSPORTATION-RELATED RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM**



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**SECTION 1**  
**Regulatory Authority**

- 1.1 Authority for promulgating these rules is conferred upon the Arkansas Highway Commission and the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) pursuant...to Ark. Code Ann. § 27-65-145.
- 1.2 These rules shall be known as the Arkansas Department of Transportation Rules for Transportation-Related Research Grants.
- 1.3 Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 19-5-1258 the ARDOT is responsible for the award and administration of grants under the Transportation-Related Research Grant Program (TRRGP).

**SECTION 2**  
**Purpose**

- 2.1 These rules describe the Arkansas State Highway Commission and the ARDOT procedures for awarding grants from the Future Transportation Research Fund for the TRRGP.
- 2.2 The purpose of the TRRGP is to support the study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions to provide resilient and sustainable logistics, processes, materials, and methods to ensure cost-effectiveness and the furtherance of education and economic development concerning all forms of transportation.

**SECTION 3**  
**Procedures**

- 3.1 Potential applicants will be notified when an application period begins by email, letter, advertisement in applicable publications, and/or a notice on ARDOT's website.

- 3.2 The minimum amount requested for each application is \$20,000. There is no limit to the maximum amount that can be requested. However, it should be noted that only \$500,000 is available each year.

#### **SECTION 4 Selection Committee**

- 4.1 Applications will be reviewed and scored by the TRRGP Committee. It will be the duty of the TRRGP Committee to rate the quality of each application in order to recommend which applications will receive funding.
- 4.2 The TRRGP Committee will be comprised of the following members:
- ARDOT Assistant Chief Engineer – Planning, TRRGP Chairman
  - ARDOT Materials Division Head
  - ARDOT Transportation Planning and Policy Division Head
  - ARDOT System Information and Research Division Head
  - ARDOT Staff Research Engineer

#### **SECTION 5 Scoring Criteria**

- 5.1 The scoring criteria will be in accordance with Act 705, which defined “transportation-related research” as the systematic investigation into and study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions to provide resilient and sustainable logistics, processes, materials and methods to ensure cost effectiveness and the furtherance of education and economic development concerning all forms of transportation, including without limitation rail, public transportation, aviation, and waterborne transportation.

**SECTION 6**  
**Award Process**

- 6.1 The TRRGP Committee will submit their recommendation(s) for award of TRRGP funding to the ARDOT Director. Upon the Director's approval, a Minute Order will be submitted to the Arkansas Highway Commission for their approval. Upon approval, a letter will be sent to each applicant informing them of the award amount granted for their application.
  
- 6.2 An Agreement of Understanding will be prepared by ARDOT for each grant recipient. The recipient and the ARDOT Director must both sign the Agreement of Understanding before funds will be distributed.

**SECTION 7**  
**Reporting Requirements**

- 7.1 At the end of each State Fiscal Year, the recipient must provide ARDOT with certification that expenditures were an appropriate use of the TRRGP funds accompanied with a summarized expenditure report.
  
- 7.2 Additionally, upon expenditure of all TRRGP funds or completion of the project, whichever occurs first, the recipient must submit a final report detailing what has been accomplished by the project and certifying that all expenditures were made in accordance with the TRRGP.