
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: LETTER TO FHWA REQUESTING REINSTATEMENT OF FUNDS FOR GREAT RIVER BRIDGE PROJECT
DATE: 3/12/2002
CC: FILE

The Arkansas State Highway Commission has informed the Mississippi Department of Transportation that \$7,500,000 allocated to the Great River Bridge project by Congress in the FY 2002 US Department of Transportation Appropriation Act will not be distributed to the project by FHWA. The Mississippi Department of Transportation has advised that the \$7,500,000 was not distributed because the appropriation was made from Bridge Discretionary funds and the new bridge does not meet the criteria. However, it is the opinion of the Arkansas State Highway Commission and the MDOT that when Congress appropriates the funds, the very act of congressional passage overrides prior congressional restrictions on the program for the specific project being funded.

The Great River Bridge is to be a replacement bridge for the existing US-82 Bridge at Greenville. The Arkansas State Highway Commission is working to establish a Record of Decision (ROD) for utilizing this same location as the I-69 Mississippi River crossing. Arkansas is the "lead state" on the project and funding is distributed to Arkansas' FHWA account.

Arkansas' Director of Highways and Transportation and Butch Brown of MDOT have both written letters requesting the distribution of the \$7,500,000. We have been copied on all letters and MDOT suggested that a letter from you would be beneficial.

I will be attending a Great River Bridge Compact meeting this Thursday in Little Rock and will provide you with a full status report after that meeting.

I have prepared the attached letter for your review. Please review the letter and either sign it or mark any changes that you would like made. Thank you!