INFORMATION RELEASE



Telephone (501) 569-2227

Office of the Director -

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT P. O. Box 2261 - Little Rock, Arkansas

Contact: Randy Ort/David Nilles

AHC-069 May 20, 2009

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION OPENS BIDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN IZARD COUNTY

LITTLE ROCK (5-20) -- The Arkansas State Highway Commission has opened bids for improvements to roadways in Izard County, according to Commissioner Cliff Hoofman of North Little Rock.

The first project will construct three miles of passing lanes and replace two bridges on Highway 9. Twin Lakes Quarrys, Inc. of Mountain Home, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$7,305,112.81.

"These improvements will feature the addition of one northbound and one southbound passing lane located between Melbourne and Brockwell," stated Hoofman. "This and the two new bridges along this stretch of roadway are going to make this a much safer highway for motorists traveling in this area."

The purpose of the second project is to reconstruct .36 mile of College Drive at Ozarka College in Melbourne. Township Builders, Inc. of Little Rock, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$905,441.

"This project will begin at Highway 69 and continue southward to the college," stated Hoofman.

Hoofman said work could begin on the projects in two to four weeks, weather permitting. Completion is expected on College Drive in early 2010. The passing lanes on Highway 9 should be completed in early 2011.

####

050053 050178