

# INFORMATION RELEASE



## Office of the Director

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### **ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION OPENS BIDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN POPE COUNTY**

**LITTLE ROCK (2-27)** -- The Arkansas State Highway Commission has opened bids for improvements to roadways in Pope County, according to Commissioner Cliff Hoofman of North Little Rock.

The first project will construct 2.25 miles of roadway embankment and bridge structures for the Russellville Bypass. Axioo Construction, Inc. of Mulberry, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$12,407,126.84.

“This new bypass will be located south of town in the Highway 247 area,” stated Hoofman. “It will begin on the west side, south of the intersection of Highway 7 and Okie Doke Road, extend eastward past the Galla Creek golf course and continue north to the vicinity of Interstate 40 and Crow Mountain Road in Pottsville.”

The purpose of the second project is to repair scour damage to the abutment of the Illinois Bayou Relief Bridge on County Road 7. A.G. Hunt Construction Company, Inc. of Russellville, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$427,491.

“This bridge is located north of Russellville and this work is part of the task of maintaining it in top condition for the years ahead,” stated Hoofman.

Hoofman noted that the County Road project is funded through the State Aid Road Program established by the legislature and administered by the State Aid Division of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department. This program provides approximately \$20 million annually from the state motor fuels tax to assist counties with projects of their choosing on the county road system.

Hoofman said work could begin on the projects in six to eight weeks, weather permitting. The grading and structures on the Russellville Bypass should be completed in late 2010. A surfacing project will follow. Completion is expected on the Illinois Bayou Relief Bridge in the fall of 2009.

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