

INFORMATION RELEASE



Office of the Director

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ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION OPENS BIDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN MONROE COUNTY

LITTLE ROCK (4-16) -- The Arkansas State Highway Commission has opened bids for improvements to roadways in Monroe County, according to Commissioner John Ed Regenold of Armorel.

The first project will construct 2.2 miles of Highway 79 on new location near Clarendon. Hill Brothers Construction Company, Inc. of Falkner, Mississippi, was awarded the contract at \$34,873,250.18.

“This project will relocate a section of Highway 79 in the area west of Clarendon,” stated Regenold. “This construction job and two future jobs will tie together to build a new bridge over the White River in Monroe County. The new two-lane roadway being built now will be adjacent to the existing roadway beginning at the Prairie County line and extending eastward. A job projected to begin in 2010 will be the first phase of the new bridge over the White River.”

The purpose of the second project is to resurface approximately two and one-half miles of Highway 49. Rogers Group, Inc. of Nashville, Tennessee, was awarded the contract at \$565,558.80.

“These improvements will begin at Highway 241, near the town of Rich, and extend northward,” stated Regenold.

Regenold said work could begin on the projects in six to eight weeks, weather permitting. Work on Highway 79 should be completed in 2012. Completion on Highway 49 is expected by August 3, 2009.

The Highway 49 project is being funded with money provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The Act provides Arkansas with \$351 million in federal stimulus funds for roadway and bridge improvements throughout the state. Additional information about the ARRA can be found at www.recovery.gov. For more information about its impact on Arkansas, go to www.recovery.arkansas.gov. Information about specific road and bridge construction projects can be found by going to www.ArkansasHighways.com, and clicking on the ARRA logo and link in the middle of the page.

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