

# INFORMATION RELEASE



## Office of the Director

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

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

The purpose of the first project is to resurface approximately 1.5 miles of Highway 69, southeast of Newark. Atlas Asphalt, Inc. of Jonesboro, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$223,770.56.

“This resurfacing project will begin at the Black River and extend westward,” stated Hoofman.

The project is being funded with money provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The Act provided 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](http://www.recovery.gov). For more information about its impact on Arkansas, go to [www.recovery.arkansas.gov](http://www.recovery.arkansas.gov). Information about specific road and bridge construction projects can be found by going to [www.ArkansasHighways.com](http://www.ArkansasHighways.com), and clicking on the ARRA logo and link in the middle of the page.

A second project will resurface two miles of County Road 53. Atlas Asphalt, Inc. of Jonesboro, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$126,808.51.

“This project will be located south of the town of Oil Trough,” stated Judge Hicks.

A third project will resurface approximately two miles of County Road 11, west of Pleasant Plains. Atlas Asphalt, Inc. of Jonesboro, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$247,841.76.

Hoofman noted that the County Road projects are 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 two to four weeks, weather permitting. Completion on all projects is expected in the fall of 2009.

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