

INFORMATION RELEASE



Office of the Director

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
P. O. Box 2261 – Little Rock, Arkansas Telephone (501) 569-2227

Contact:
Randy Ort/David Nilles

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ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION OPENS BIDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN INDEPENDENCE COUNTY

LITTLE ROCK (1-20) -- 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 1.5 miles of Highway 167. Atlas Asphalt, Inc. of Jonesboro, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$594,357.95.

“This project will begin at Highway 157, near Pleasant Plains, and continue southward,” 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. 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 lower right portion of the page.

A second project will surface one-half mile of County Road 358, north of Jamestown. Atlas Asphalt, Inc. of Jonesboro, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$80,286.46.

“This project will begin at Highway 230 and extend northward to Highway 25,” stated Judge Hicks.

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.

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Hoofman said work could begin on the projects in two to four weeks, weather permitting. Completion is expected on Highway 167 in the summer of 2010. County Road 358 should be completed in the spring of 2010.

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