

INFORMATION RELEASE



Office of the Director

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ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION OPENS BIDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN HEMPSTEAD COUNTY

LITTLE ROCK (3-15) -- The Arkansas State Highway Commission has opened bids for improvements to roadways in Hempstead County, according to Commission Chairman Carl Rosenbaum of Little Rock.

The purpose of the first project is to construct passing lanes on seven miles of Highway 29. Martin Marietta Materials, Inc. of Hot Springs, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$10,274,534.81.

“This project will construct three northbound and three southbound passing lanes on Highway 29 between Hope and Lewisville,” stated Rosenbaum. “These improvements will improve the flow of traffic and make this a safer roadway for motorists traveling in this area of Hempstead County.”

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 replace six bridges on Highway 67 between Hope and Emmet. Manhattan Road & Bridge Company of Tulsa, Oklahoma, was awarded the contract at \$9,458,819.48.

“The new bridges will be located in the vicinity of Phillips Creek, Terre Rouge Creek and Garland Creek,” added Rosenbaum.

Rosenbaum said work could begin on the projects in two to four weeks, weather permitting. Work should be completed on both projects in late 2011.

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