

INFORMATION RELEASE



Office of the Director

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ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION OPENS BIDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN FAULKNER AND VAN BUREN COUNTIES

LITTLE ROCK (8-17) -- The Arkansas State Highway Commission has opened bids for improvements to roadways in Faulkner and Van Buren Counties, according to Commissioner Cliff Hoofman of North Little Rock.

The first project is located in Faulkner County and will extend the existing frontage road adjacent to Interstate 40, near Mayflower. A & B Dirt Movers, Inc. of Conway, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$275,507.50.

“This project is located near the Bell Slough Wildlife Management Area and will extend the existing Interstate 40 frontage road, on the east side, southward to Grassy Lake Road (County Road 663),” stated Hoofman. “The length of the project is just under one mile.”

The purpose of the second project is to resurface approximately 10.5 miles of Highway 107, near Enders. Rogers Group, Inc. of Nashville, Tennessee, was awarded the contract at \$1,337,302.78.

“This project will begin at the intersection with Highway 25 and continue southward,” stated Hoofman.

Hoofman noted that the project is being funded with proceeds from the increase in the natural gas severance tax passed by the state legislature in 2008. Through July of this year, the AHTD has received approximately \$38.5 million in revenue from the natural gas severance tax revenue since the increase went into affect.

A third project will resurface 3.7 miles of Highway 65, in Greenbrier and the surrounding area. Rogers Group, Inc. of Nashville, Tennessee, was awarded this contract at \$1,125,490.73.

A final project will resurface 1.6 miles of Highway 65, in Damascus and the surrounding area. Rogers Group, Inc. of Nashville, Tennessee, was awarded this contract at \$488,679.05.

Hoofman noted that the Highway 65 projects are 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.

Hoofman said work could begin on the projects in two to four weeks, weather permitting. Completion is expected on Highway 107 in the fall of this year. The Highway 65 project in Greenbrier should be completed in the spring of 2011. The Highway 65 project in Damascus will be completed in the summer of 2011. Extension of the Interstate 40 frontage road will be completed in the spring of 2011.

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