

# INFORMATION RELEASE



## Office of the Director

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

**LITTLE ROCK (4-13)** -- 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 install traffic signals at several intersections on Highway 167 in the city of Batesville. Shelby Electric Company, Inc. of Memphis, Tennessee, was awarded the contract at \$276,028.01.

“This project will construct new traffic signals on Highway 167 at the intersections with East College Avenue, Lawrence Street and Myers Avenue,” stated Hoofman. “In addition to new signals, the improvements will include new wheelchair ramps and pavement markings at each intersection.”

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 lower right portion of the page.

A second project will resurface 2.3 miles of County Road 53, south of Oil Trough. Atlas Asphalt, Inc. of Jonesboro, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$152,014.51.

“This project will help us in keeping our county road system in the best condition possible,” 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.

Hoofman said work could begin on the projects in two to four weeks, weather permitting. Work should be completed on the traffic signals in Batesville in late 2010. Work on County Road 53 should be complete in mid-summer of 2010.

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