

INFORMATION RELEASE



Office of the Director

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ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION OPENS BIDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN MONROE COUNTY

LITTLE ROCK (7-13) -- The Arkansas State Highway Commission has opened bids for improvements to roadways in Monroe County, according to Commissioner John Ed Regenold of Armored and Monroe County Judge Jerry Miley.

The purpose of the first project is to construct one mile of roadway and the main river channel span for the new White River Bridge at Clarendon. Jensen Construction Company of Des Moines, Iowa, was awarded the contract at \$31,382,533.81.

“This job is the second phase of the new bridge on Highway 79,” stated Regenold. “The new bridge will be located south of the existing bridge and this project will construct the eastern approach to the new bridge as well as the main span. A job is currently underway, west of the river at Roc Roe Bayou, which is relocating a section of Highway 79 to the area of the new bridge.”

One more contract to construct the western approach will be needed to complete the entire Clarendon bridge project.

The purpose of the second project is to resurface selected sections of 1.6 miles of County Road 38, near Smale. M & T Paving & Construction Company, Inc. of Forrest City, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$546,842.38.

“This job will begin at Highway 79 and continue northward,” stated Judge Miley.

Regenold 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.

Regenold said work could begin on the projects in two to four weeks, weather permitting. The White River Bridge project is expected to take about four years to complete. Completion is expected on County Road 38 in the fall of this year.

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