

INFORMATION RELEASE



Office of the Director

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*****CORRECTION – 6th St. changed to Martin Luther King Blvd *****

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION OPENS BIDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

LITTLE ROCK (7-13) -- The Arkansas State Highway Commission has opened bids for improvements to roadways in Washington County, according to Commissioner Dick Trammel of Rogers and Washington County Judge Marilyn Edwards.

The purpose of the first project is to make several improvements to the area surrounding the Interstate 540/Highway 62/Martin Luther King Boulevard interchange in Fayetteville. Sweetser Construction, Inc. of Fayetteville, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$3,977,777.28.

“Among the improvements are the widening of Highways 62 and Martin Luther King Boulevard from five to six lanes,” stated Trammel. “The widening will extend from west of Shiloh Drive to Futrall Drive, east of Interstate 540. Also being widened is Futrall Drive from three to four lanes, from the Interstate 540 northbound exit ramp to the Martin Luther King Blvd. intersection to accommodate a dual left turn lane for westbound traffic,” Trammel added.

Plans also include improving the northbound exit ramp at the intersection with South Futrall and, on Martin Luther King Blvd., adding an approximately 150-foot right turn lane to North Futrall. In addition, the northbound Interstate 540 entrance ramp will be relocated further north on North Futrall. And finally, there will be an extension of the three-lane section of North Futrall to the relocated northbound entrance ramp.

The purpose of the second project is to resurface one mile of Wyman Road (County Road 48), near Fayetteville. Washington County of Fayetteville, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$94,334.25.

“This project will help us in keeping our county road system in top condition,” stated Judge Edwards.

Trammel 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.

Trammel said work could begin on the projects in two to four weeks, weather permitting. Completion is expected on Wyman Road in the fall of this year. Work at the Interstate 540 interchange with Highways 62/Martin Luther King Blvd. will be completed in late 2011.

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