

# INFORMATION RELEASE



## Office of the Director

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

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

The purpose of the first project is to resurface approximately 2.5 miles of Highway 65, near Bee Branch. Delta Asphalt of Arkansas, Inc. of Paragould, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$728,243.30.

“These improvements will begin at Bee Branch and continue northward,” 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.

The purpose of the second project is to resurface 4.5 miles of Gravesville Cutoff Road (County Road 33), near Bee Branch. Rogers Group, Inc. of Nashville, Tennessee, was awarded the contract at \$425,805.98.

“This project will begin at Highway 65, at Bee Branch, and continue southward to Highway 124, at Gravesville,” stated Judge Bramlett.

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. Completion is expected on both in the fall of this year.

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