

INFORMATION RELEASE



Office of the Director

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INTERSTATE 55 REHABILITATION PROJECT AT BLYTHEVILLE EXTENDED

LITTLE ROCK (6-17) – Officials with the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department have announced that the construction project currently underway on Interstate 55 at Blytheville is being extended.

Work began in January of this year to reconstruct 5.2 miles of the Interstate from just south of Highway 61 to just north of Highway 18. A recent change in the project will now allow improvements to be extended an additional 0.34 miles on the southern end of the project.

“We are extending the improvements on the main travel lanes an additional one-third mile to the south, but all other aspects of the project remain the same,” stated Arkansas Highway Commission Vice Chairman John Ed Regenold of Armored.

“When this project was planned, we wanted to do more. But due to limited funding available for Interstate improvements, we cut back the scope of the project,” Regenold added. “Our financial situation is such now that we can extend the project to include what we wanted to do originally.”

The original contract for the job was awarded to Delta Asphalt of Arkansas for \$22.1 million. An additional \$1.1 million in funding is being added to the project to extend the project to the south. Completion is expected in September of 2012.

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