

INFORMATION RELEASE



Office of the Director

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ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION OPENS BIDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN WHITE COUNTY

LITTLE ROCK (7-20) -- The Arkansas State Highway Commission has opened bids for improvements to roadways in White County, according to Commissioner John Burkhalter of Little Rock and White County Judge Michael Lincoln.

The purpose of the first project is to resurface seven miles of Highway 157, near Sunnysdale. Delta Asphalt of Arkansas, Inc. of Paragould, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$1,046,517.43.

“These improvements will begin at the Independence County line and continue southward,” stated Burkhalter.

Burkhalter 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.

A second project will construct a bridge on Romance Road (County Road 26), near Romance. Seagraves Construction Inc. of Maynard, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$929,088.33.

“This new bridge will be built over Bayou Des Arc and will mean safer travel for years to come,” stated Judge Lincoln.

Burkhalter 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.

Burkhalter said work could begin on the projects in two to four weeks, weather permitting. Completion is expected in late November of this year on Highway 157. Improvements to Romance Road will be completed by early 2012.

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