

# INFORMATION RELEASE



## Office of the Director

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT  
P. O. Box 2261 – Little Rock, Arkansas Telephone (501) 569-2227

**Contact:**  
Randy Ort/David Nilles

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

**LITTLE ROCK (6-1)** -- 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 first project will resurface approximately 5.5 miles of Highway 305, north of Searcy. Delta Asphalt of Arkansas, Inc. of Paragould, Arkansas, was awarded the project at \$907,472.26.

“This project passes through the towns of Clay and Dewey,” stated Burkhalter. “The improvements will begin at Highway 16 and continue northward to Highway 124.”

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 resurface 3.5 miles of Highway 64, near Bald Knob. Atlas Asphalt, Inc. of Jonesboro, Arkansas, was awarded the project at \$550,277.33.

“These improvements will begin at the Union Pacific railroad overpass and continue to the east,” Burkhalter added.

The purpose of the third project is to resurface approximately one mile of County Road 70, near the community of Russell. White County of Searcy, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$149,976.35.

“This project is going to begin at the Russell city limits and continue to the northwest,” 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. Work will be completed on Highway 305 and Highway 64 in late October. Completion is expected on County Road 70 in mid-summer of this year.

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