

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

AHC-184
June 13, 2012

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT OPENS BIDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN JACKSON COUNTY

LITTLE ROCK (6-13) -- The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department has opened bids for improvements to roadways in Jackson County, according to the Arkansas State Highway Commission and Jackson County Judge Jeff Phillips.

The first project calls for resurfacing 11.2 miles of Highways 14 and 17, near Newport. Atlas Asphalt, Inc. of Batesville, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$1,811,041.63. The improvements will begin at Newport and extend eastward to the Cache River. The project is being funded with proceeds from the increase in the natural gas severance tax passed by the state legislature in 2008.

The second project calls for resurfacing approximately 2.4 miles of County Road 29, east of the Cache River. Asphalt Producers, LLC, of Jonesboro, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$202,018.49. The improvements will begin at Highway 37 and continue eastward to County Road 117.

“Keeping our county roads in good condition is always a top priority,” stated Judge Phillips.

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.

Work could begin on the projects in two to four weeks, weather permitting. The projects should be completed in late 2012.

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