

INFORMATION RELEASE



Office of the Director

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

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

The first project calls for resurfacing 3.3 miles of Highway 359, near Lamar. Blackstone Construction, LLC of Russellville, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$680,505.76. The improvements will begin at Highway 315 and continue westward to Highway 64.

A second project calls for resurfacing approximately 2.2 miles of Highway 164, west of Clarksville. Blackstone Construction, LLC of Russellville, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$426,416.19. The improvements will begin at Interstate 40 and continue northward.

A third project will resurface selected sections of approximately one mile of County Road 86, west of Ozone. Salt Creek Paving & Construction Company, Inc. of Benton, Arkansas, was awarded this contract at \$130,030.28.

“These improvements will begin at Highway 103 and continue eastward,” stated Judge Jacobs.

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.

The Highway 359 and Highway 164 projects are being funded with proceeds from the increase in the natural gas severance tax passed by the state legislature in 2008.

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

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