



# INFORMATION RELEASE

## Office of the Director

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### **ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT OPENS BIDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN SEBASTIAN & CRAWFORD COUNTIES**

**LITTLE ROCK (11-28)** -- The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department has opened bids for improvements to a roadway in Sebastian & Crawford Counties, according to the Arkansas State Highway Commission.

The purpose of the project is to reconstruct and resurface 7.1 miles of I-540 in Fort Smith. Kiewit Infrastructure South Company, of Little Rock, was awarded the contract at \$78,829,029.19.

The improvements will begin at Highway 22 and continue northward to I-40. Plans call for replacing nine bridges along the route with composite W-beam spans ranging in length from 162 to 573 feet. An additional four bridges will be raised or modified.

Work on the project could begin in two to four weeks, weather permitting. Completion is expected in the fall of 2016.

This project is part of Arkansas' second Interstate Rehabilitation Program (IRP). In November of 2011, voters overwhelmingly approved the sale of up to \$575 million in Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle (GARVEE) Bonds to fund over \$1 billion in improvements. Plans call for the rehabilitation of over 450 miles of the state's 656-mile Interstate highway system in the coming years.

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