



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/Scott Munsell

AHC-265
November 28, 2012

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

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

The purpose of the project is to reconstruct and resurface 7.2 miles of Interstate 40 near Russellville. Blackstone Construction, LLC, of Russellville, was awarded the contract at \$42,378,010.48.

The improvements will begin at Mill Creek Road and continue westward to Highway 331. Plans also call for the replacement of four bridges with composite plate girder spans ranging in length from 376 to 583 feet.

Work on the project could begin in two to four weeks, weather permitting. Completion is expected in summer 2015.

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.

####

BB0804