



# INFORMATION RELEASE

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## **SECOND STAGE OF HIGHWAY 278 IMPROVEMENTS TO BEGIN NEXT WEEK IN DREW COUNTY**

**LITTLE ROCK (3-20)** – In December of 2014 the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) announced plans to make improvements to a section of Highway 278 in Drew County. The area is located approximately two miles east of Monticello at the location of two curves. The curves have been the site of several lane and roadway departure crashes in recent years, especially for drivers less familiar with the highway.

The first stage of these improvements occurred in December of last year when the top two inches of asphalt from this section of highway was removed and replaced. The new driving surface and the associated painted striping along the route have provided an increase in traction as well as increased visibility through the area.

Beginning next week and weather permitting, crews will install rumble strips along the shoulders and rumble stripes along the centerline through the curves at this location. Both are uniform grooves cut into the pavement that make a noise when a tire rolls over it, alerting drivers when their vehicles begin to depart the travel lane.

The work will be accomplished using a rolling lane closure, and periodic flagging operations will be used to control traffic. Drivers are urged to use caution in this area while the work is being performed.

Later this summer crews will install a High Friction Surface Treatment (HFST) through the westernmost curve of the route. The HFST is a relatively new process that has yielded good results in reducing the number of wet pavement crashes in areas where it has been installed.

Drivers should exercise caution when approaching and traveling through all highway work zones. Additional travel information can be found at [IDriveArkansas.com](http://IDriveArkansas.com) or [ArkansasHighways.com](http://ArkansasHighways.com). You can also follow us on [Twitter @AHTD](https://twitter.com/AHTD).