

INFORMATION RELEASE



Office of the Director

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ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION OPENS BIDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN ARKANSAS COUNTY

LITTLE ROCK (5-20) -- The Arkansas State Highway Commission has opened bids for improvements to roadways in Arkansas County, according to Commission Vice Chairman Madison Murphy of El Dorado and Arkansas County Judge Glenn Cox.

The first project will construct a railroad overpass on Highway 165 in Stuttgart. Dement Construction Company, LLC of Jackson, Tennessee, was awarded the contract at \$14,518,002.65.

“Once completed, traffic will go up and over the tracks in Stuttgart rather than crossing them at street level,” stated Murphy. “It is going to improve the safety factor for motorists in this area.”

The purpose of the second project is to resurface 1.3 miles of County Roads 33 and 43, west of Almyra. M & T Paving & Construction Company, Inc. of Forrest City, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$199,843.69.

“This project will be located near Mill Bayou and will mean a safer roadway for motorists in this area of the county” stated Judge Cox.

The project is being funded with money provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) matched with State Aid Road Program funds and local funds. The Act provided Arkansas with \$351 million in federal stimulus funds for roadway and bridge improvements throughout the state. Additional information about the ARRA can be found at www.recovery.gov. For more information about its impact on Arkansas, go to www.recovery.arkansas.gov. Information about specific road and bridge construction projects can be found by going to www.ArkansasHighways.com, and clicking on the ARRA logo and link in the middle of the page.

Murphy said work could begin on the projects in two to four weeks, weather permitting. Completion is expected on the County Roads in the fall of 2009. The Highway 135 overpass will be completed by early 2011.

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