

INFORMATION RELEASE



Office of the Director

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ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION OPENS BIDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN SEBASTIAN COUNTY

LITTLE ROCK (5-20) -- The Arkansas State Highway Commission has opened bids for improvements to roadways in Sebastian County, according to Commissioner Dick Trammel of Rogers.

The first project will widen approximately two miles of Highway 22 in Fort Smith. Forsgren, Inc. of Fort Smith, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$7,588,661.

“Highway 22 will be widened from two to five lanes beginning at Highway 255 and continuing westward to Highway 59,” stated Trammel. “This is going to improve the flow of traffic through this area of town.”

A second project will construct .12 mile of relocated Highway 71 main lanes along with the Highway 22 interchange ramp embankments and four bridges for a future interchange in the Fort Chaffee area. Jensen Construction Company of Des Moines, Iowa, was awarded the contract at \$13,756,569.20.

“Work is already underway for two miles of roadbed for this new highway in this area,” Trammel stated. “This project will be to the north of the one underway and will be part of a new interchange at Highway 22.”

The purpose of the third project is to resurface 2.75 miles of Rogers Avenue (Highway 22) in Fort Smith. Forsgren, Inc. of Fort Smith, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$1,095,725.83.

“This resurfacing project will begin at Interstate 540 and will extend eastward,” stated Trammel.

The resurfacing project is being funded with money provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). 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.

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Trammel said work could begin on the projects in two to four weeks, weather permitting. Completion is expected on the resurfacing project by September 14, 2009. Widening to five lanes on Highway 22 will be completed in late 2010. Work on the new Highway 22 interchange will be completed in early 2011.

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