INFORMATION RELEASE



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ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION OPENS BIDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN DESHA COUNTY

LITTLE ROCK (2-27) -- The Arkansas State Highway Commission has opened bids for improvements to a roadway in Desha County, according to Commissioner R. Madison Murphy of El Dorado.

The purpose of the project is to widen 4.5 miles of Highway 65 from two to four lanes. Johnsville Company, LLC of Hermitage, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$15,576,963.82.

"This project will begin at the Lincoln County line and extend southward for 4.5 miles towards Mitchellville," stated Murphy. "It will connect with the existing four lane roadway near Mitchellville and when completed, Highway 65 will be four lanes across the entire length of Desha County."

Murphy said work could begin on the project in six to eight weeks, weather permitting. Completion is expected in early 2011.

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