

INFORMATION RELEASE



Office of the Director

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ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION OPENS BIDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN POPE COUNTY

LITTLE ROCK (6-2) -- The Arkansas State Highway Commission has opened bids for improvements to a roadway in Pope County, according to Commissioner Cliff Hoofman of North Little Rock.

The purpose of the project is to construct another segment of the Russellville Bypass by widening 5.3 miles of Highway 247 to four lanes with a painted median. Blackstone Construction, LLC of Russellville, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$16,947,528.37.

“This bypass, on the southern side of Russellville, will begin in the vicinity of the intersection of Highway 7 and Okie Doke Road and extend eastward past the Galla Creek golf course,” stated Hoofman. “This job will connect with one currently under construction in the Pottsville area that takes the bypass on new location over Interstate 40.”

The Highway 247 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 lower right portion of the page.

Hoofman said work could begin on the project in two to four weeks, weather permitting. Completion is expected in the spring of 2012.

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