INFORMATION RELEASE



Office of the Director -

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ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION OPENS BIDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO HIGHWAY 124

LITTLE ROCK (9-29) -- The Arkansas State Highway Commission has opened bids for improvements to Highway 124 in Cleburne, Faulkner and White Counties, according to Commissioner Cliff Hoofman of North Little Rock.

The purpose of the project is to resurface approximately eight miles of Highway 124. Atlas Asphalt, Inc. of Jonesboro, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$1,951,677.79.

"These improvements will begin at Quitman and continue eastward to Highway 36, near Rosebud," stated Hoofman.

Hoofman noted that the project is being funded with proceeds from the increase in the natural gas severance tax passed by the state legislature in 2008. Through July of this year, the AHTD has received approximately \$38.5 million in revenue from the natural gas severance tax revenue since the increase went into effect.

Hoofman said work could begin on the project in two to four weeks, weather permitting. Completion is expected in early 2011.

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