INFORMATION RELEASE



Office of the Director -

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ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION OPENS BIDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN SEBASTIAN COUNTY

LITTLE ROCK (9-29) -- 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 construct two main lane bridge structures, two overpass bridge structures and one-quarter mile of embankment for future Interstate 49 across Fort Chaffee, near Fort Smith. Forsgren, Inc. of Fort Smith, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$14,625,422.88.

"This project is one of several construction jobs at Fort Chaffee that will be part of future Interstate 49 around the Fort Smith area," stated Trammel.

The purpose of the second project is to install a traffic signal at the intersection of Highway 253, the Highway 271 service road and Brooken Hill Road in the city of Fort Smith. All Service Electric, Inc. of Hot Springs, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$131,303.40.

"This new signal will make this a safer intersection for motorists traveling through this area of Fort Smith," stated Trammel.

Trammel said work could begin on the projects in two to four weeks, weather permitting. Work on Highway 71 should take approximately two and one-half years. Completion of the traffic signal is expected in April of 2011.

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