## **INFORMATION RELEASE**



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## ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION OPENS BIDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN MONROE COUNTY

LITTLE ROCK (11-16) -- The Arkansas State Highway Commission has opened bids for improvements to a roadway in Monroe County, according to Commissioner John Ed Regenold of Armorel.

The purpose of the project is to construct 1.3 miles of roadway for the new White River Bridge at Clarendon. Hill Brothers Construction Company, Inc. of Falkner, Mississippi, was awarded the contract at \$29,357,212.29.

"This job is the third phase of the new bridge on Highway 79," stated Regenold. "The new bridge is located south of the existing bridge and this project will construct the western approach to the bridge. Work is already underway on the eastern approach, the main span, and on the relocation of a section of Highway 79 in the area west of the bridge. Once these three projects are completed, the bridge will be opened to traffic."

Regenold stated that the eastern approach should be completed in late 2013 and the relocation of the highway on the west side of the river should be completed in summer of 2012. Completion is expected on Phase Three in late 2013.

Regenold said work could begin on the project in two to four weeks, weather permitting.

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