



Office of the Director -

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Contact: Randy Ort/Jeff Whatley AHC 13-019 April 23, 2013

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY COMMISSION OPENS BIDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN ST. FRANCIS COUNTY

LITTLE ROCK (4-23) -- The Arkansas State Highway Commission has opened bids for improvements to roadways in St. Francis County.

The purpose of the first project is to reconstruct 7.8 miles of Interstate 40 from Forrest City, eastward. This project is part of the 2011 Interstate Rehabilitation Program that will improve 455 miles of Arkansas' Interstates in the coming years.

The project includes paving, asphalt for shoulders, drainage structures, guardrail and median cable barrier. It's part of a plan to install 500 miles of cable barrier in Arkansas by 2016.

APAC-Tennessee, Inc. of Memphis, TN, was awarded the contract at \$51,946,709.12.

Construction is scheduled to begin in two to four weeks, weather permitting. The project should be complete in late 2014.

During the project, roadway assistance will be provided to motorists in the affected area. It includes a contracted wrecker service to insure the rapid removal of stalled vehicles.

A second project is planned to resurface 5.07 miles of Highway 70, between Highway 149 at Shell Lake and Highway 79 near Shearerville.

M&T Paving & Construction, Inc. of Forrest City, AR was awarded the contract at \$1,301,765.46.

Construction is scheduled to begin in two to four weeks, weather permitting. The project should be complete early this fall.

Additional travel information can be found at <u>ArkansasHighways.com</u>. You can also follow us on Twitter **@AHTD**.