



# INFORMATION RELEASE

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## **IMPROVEMENTS TO HIGHWAY 7 WILL REQUIRE LANE CLOSURE IN NEWTON COUNTY**

**LITTLE ROCK (8-17)** – Improvements to Highway 7 will require lane closures in Newton County, according to Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) officials.

Crews will seal Highway 7 with Bituminous Surface Treatment (liquid asphalt and crushed limestone). The work will extend north from the junction of Highway 7 & 16 near Deer to Jasper. This will reduce traffic to 1 lane within the work zone. Traffic will be controlled using warning signs and flaggers.

The closure will occur **Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup> through Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>** between 7:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., each day, weather permitting.

Bituminous surface treatment is a proven method of sealing cracks and providing a durable wearing surface utilizing local materials at an economical cost. Although loose material is swept from the roadway after the treatment is placed, it usually takes from four to eight days from the time the material is placed until the crushed limestone is fully bonded to the roadway. The time varies with the length of the section being surfaced and weather conditions. Therefore reduced speeds are recommended for 2 weeks following the work.

In the past, this treatment has been primarily used on low traffic volume roads. However, due to the fiscal uncertainty and the absence of an Overlay Program, this low cost method is being used in higher traffic areas. This is unavoidable due to the lack of funding versus the need to preserve pavement.

Drivers should exercise caution when approaching and traveling through all highway work zones. Additional travel information can be found at [IDriveArkansas.com](http://IDriveArkansas.com) or [ArkansasHighways.com](http://ArkansasHighways.com). You can also follow us on [Twitter @AHTD](https://twitter.com/AHTD).

