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ARTBA Recognizes Transportation Construction Industry Environmental Excellence

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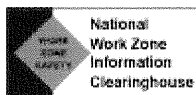
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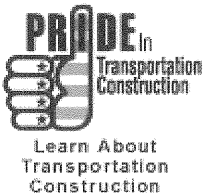
Washington, D.C. [September 20, 2005]—Highway and bridge improvement projects from across the nation were recognized September 14 for their contribution to environmental protection and mitigation at the American Road & Transportation Builders Association Transportation Development Foundation's (ARTBA-TDF) 6th annual "Globe Awards" lunch, held in Palm Beach, Fla.

Established by the ARTBA Board of Directors in 1998, the "Globe Awards" recognize:

- private-sector firms and public-sector transportation agencies that do an outstanding job in protecting and/or enhancing the natural environment in the planning, design and construction of U.S. transportation infrastructure projects; and
- transportation construction-related product manufacturers and material suppliers that utilize exemplary environmental processes to protect and enhance the natural environment.

An independent panel of federal agency environmental specialists reviewed all of the nominations and selected the winners. The 2005 "Globe Award" winners are:

Category: Highway**ARTBA's
Safety
Program**



Industry Links

First place: Massachusetts Turnpike Authority for Spectacle Island Park in Boston

Part of the Boston Central Artery/Tunnel project, Spectacle Island is a 121-acre park built by the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority atop a former landfill. It was rehabilitated using some 3.7 million cubic yards of dirt and clay excavated from tunnel construction sites downtown. The judges praised the extensive mitigation measures, which included replacement wetlands, an artificial reef for mussels and shellfish, two sand beaches, five miles of trails, restoration of wildlife habitat and the planting of 2,400 trees and 26,000 shrubs and vines. The project helped reduce material disposal costs for the authority and landfill closure expenses for the city. Spectacle Island will be a gateway to the Boston Harbor Island Park system.

Second place (tie): New Jersey Department of Transportation and Gannett Fleming for the Route 18 Extension in Piscataway Township, Middlesex County, N.J.

The two-mile long, \$90 million Route 18 extension and interchange project, which provided a connection to Interstate 287 and access to Rutgers University, faced numerous challenges, including the discovery of significant remains of an 18th Century port along the Raritan River. The judges were impressed with the project team's plan to meet those challenges. A \$6 million archaeological data recovery plan was initiated to successfully preserve the remains. Additional bridge spans and retaining walls were utilized across the floodplain to minimize stream encroachment and wetland disturbance.

Stormwater clarifiers helped remove contaminated sediment, floating hydrocarbons and debris from surface runoff before discharging into the Raritan River. The project team went to great lengths to ensure that every aspect of the project was seamlessly integrated into the surrounding landscape.

Second place: Maine Turnpike Authority and HNTB Corporation for the 2000-04 "Widening and Modernization of the Maine Turnpike"

Demonstrating innovation and strong commitment to the environment, the Maine Turnpike Authority (MTA) and HNTB Corporation far exceeded mitigation requirements for its five-year, 30-mile, \$135 million turnpike widening project, the judges said. The MTA and HNTB Corporation, working with federal and state agencies and local preservation associations, restored more than 200 acres of wetlands and preserved more than 1,500 feet of river frontage. An abandoned gravel pit was converted into 115 acres of wetlands, upland and wildlife habitat. The project team also recycled nearly 360,000 cubic yards of material on site and reused the material in the construction of the highway. The unprecedented recycling effort reduced the number of dump truck trips through local communities by 4,000 each year—or nearly 750,000 truck road miles.

Category: Bridge

First place: South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), Charleston "New Cooper River Bridge Project"

The 2.5 mile, \$630 million, Cooper Rive Bridge Replacement project in Charleston, S.C., replaced two outdated bridges, with a single eight-lane crossing and features the longest cable-stayed bridge in North America. Environmental mitigation steps taken included: special protection of migratory bird and loggerhead sea turtles, tree relocations and the use of demolished bridge material for off shore artificial reefs. The project team also worked with federal agencies to meet and far exceed all of the environmental and regulatory requirements. Other notable project features cited by the judges were the large number of education, training and employment programs and widespread community involvement.

Second place (tie): T.Y. Lin International and Georgia Department of Transportation for the Sidney Lanier Bridge in Brunswick, Ga.

The judges cited the commitment to protecting wildlife in the successful building of the new four-lane, 7,780 feet long Sidney Lanier bridge—the longest and tallest cable-stayed bridge in Georgia. The project team, working with federal and state officials, took special steps to ensure that manatees, endangered sea turtles, birds and other species in and near the Brunswick River were protected during construction. The taller bridge, which replaced an aging draw-span bridge that was opened nearly 20 times daily, enabled commercial freight and automobile traffic to move freely through the area, resulting in a significant reduction of air pollution.

Second place: Michael Baker, Jr. and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation District 1-0 for the Wintergreen Gorge Bridge in Erie County

The bridge was recognized as a model of how a major transportation infrastructure project can be successfully completed with minimal impacts on the environment. The three-span, constant-depth steel, multi-girder bridge design allowed the bridge to be constructed with minimal impact to the gorge, allowed the piers to be placed outside the creek's 100-year floodplain and spanned the gorge without interference to the tree canopy. Measures were also taken that successfully prevented any stormwater from flowing into Four Mile Creek. The judges were also impressed with the extensive community support for the bridge, citing the more than 50 meetings and workshops that were held to get public input.

The ARTBA-TDF presented a special award to **The Louis Berger Group** in recognition of their commitment to environmental excellence in the construction of the Hai Van Pass Tunnel in Vietnam—the longest tunnel in Southeast Asia.

The Globe Awards program is a Foundation project that complements ARTBA's "PRIDE in Transportation Construction" campaign to focus public attention on the many positive contributions the transportation construction industry has made to the U.S. economy and quality of life.

ARTBA is the consensus voice for the transportation improvement industry in the Nation's Capital.

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