

Top Ranking Infrastructure Projects

IRWA salutes these runners-up and gives special recognition to the dedicated right of way professionals who submitted entries to the Project of the Year Competition. Watch for articles about these significant projects in future issues of Right of Way Magazine.



I-70 EAST DENVER PROJECT (Colorado)

Submitted by Wesley Loetz
Colorado Department of Transportation

With a right of way budget in excess of \$120 million, this is the largest undertaking in the State of Colorado. Originally constructed in early 1960, the I-70 corridor had faced many structural deficiencies over the years. Faced with safety issues, traffic congestion and rapid growth, the project will add highway capacity to accommodate the growing population and resolve existing safety concerns.



HOUSTON GRAND PARKWAY SEGMENT F & G (Texas)

Submitted by Elizabeth Norris
Atkins North America and Texas Department of Transportation

The 180-mile scenic parkway project encircles the Houston region and crosses seven counties. Its three segments add up to more than \$1 billion, and part of a \$2.92 billion bond sale will finance portions of each segment. The project included 116 bridges, frontage roads, associated drainage and right of way acquisition. The utility portion required relocating 29 miles of telecom facilities, 27 miles of electric facilities and 8 miles of petroleum, water and wastewater facilities.



PHASE 2 OF THE EXPOSITION LIGHT RAIL LINE (California)

Submitted by Samantha Bricker
Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority, Los Angeles

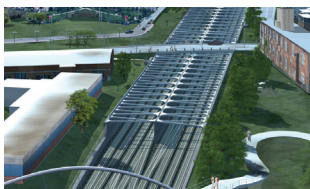
The California state legislature prioritized this mass transit project, which accelerated the funding, construction and delivery of the light rail line to serve a highly congested transit corridor. With a \$1.5 billion budget, Phase 2 included design, construction, utility relocation and real estate for an extension that will reduce commuter times, spur redevelopment and realize environmental benefits.



LANSDOWNE PARK REDEVELOPMENT (Ontario)

Submitted by Gordon MacNair, SR/WA
City of Ottawa

Through a public-private partnership, this \$450 million project transformed Lansdowne, a community and cultural landmark in Ottawa. Considered a success story of redevelopment and revitalization, the City applied smart growth and sustainability principles to create a destination for visitors and tourists. (See article on page 39)



METROLINX GEORGETOWN SOUTH/UPEXPRESS PROJECT (Ontario)

Submitted by Sandy Grigg, SR/WA,
D.A. Sandy Grigg Consulting

One of the largest transit projects in North America, this two-part rail expansion is budgeted at \$1.2 billion and funded by the Province of Ontario and Government of Canada. It is a key component of the Metrolinx, (provincial transit agency) regional transportation plan known as "The Big Move," designed to double the number of public transit users and triple the line's distance, while reducing commute times and greenhouse gas emissions.



OTTAWA LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT PROJECT: CONFEDERATION LINE (Ontario)

Submitted by Gordon MacNair, SR/WA
City of Ottawa

With population projected to grow 30 percent by 2031, the City of Ottawa is building a \$2.1 billion light rail transit system to alleviate congestion through the downtown core. Funding sources include \$1.2 billion in provincial and federal grants, gas tax revenues, development charge revenues and City revenues raised through the transit tax levy for capital works. It will also generate significant economic, environmental, cultural and social benefits for the city and its residents.

The Judges Speak

In bringing the 2015 Project of the Year Competition to fruition, IRWA would like to thank this year's panel of esteemed judges. With their unique blend of subject matter expertise, these professionals represent IRWA's International Committees and Communities of Practice, including Electric & Utilities, Public Agencies, Oil & Gas Pipeline, Transportation, Asset Management, Environment, Relocation Assistance, Surveying & Engineering and Valuation. It is through their efforts that we are able to elevate the profile of right of way professionals around the world.



"These entries were especially informative in pointing out the challenges faced daily by those in our profession. There is a lot to be gained from learning how others teams overcame their obstacles, especially when the project provides such a positive impact in the communities they serve."

Mike Bulzomi, SR/WA
Sound Transit



"Getting an inside view of these projects was fascinating, and it was gratifying to see how the teams were able to reach their ultimate goals. There is still work to be done, and the best is yet to come."

Matt Harris, SR/WA, R/W-RAC
Mississippi Department of Transportation



"Some amazing work is happening out there! It was fascinating to read about such a wide diversity of projects, many of which had similar challenges. I hope we constantly learn from each other as to approaches and solutions to the common hindrances we share."

Michele Folk, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-URAC, R/W-NAC
Overland, Pacific & Cutler, Inc.



"Reviewing these projects was an inspirational experience. I was blown away by the size and complexity of all of the entries. It was amazing to see the dedication of these professionals despite the many obstacles they faced."

Geoffrey Douglass
Ameren



"I am continually amazed at the ingenuity and professionalism of our members. It's enlightening to read about the challenging infrastructure projects my fellow right of way professionals have successfully completed, and to also learn from the creative problem solving they engaged in the process."

Neilia LaValle
Paragon Partners Ltd.



"The project submittals are just further evidence of the great things the IRWA community is capable of. Reading about the teams' success and the how they overcame the various obstacles was very eye opening."

Kenneth Stanberry SR/WA
The Port of Los Angeles



"These were some impressive projects! They all had their share of difficult challenges to overcome, along with the normal tight schedules. I certainly benefitted by learning about some of the creative solutions used to meet these challenges."

Bruce Schanz
Consumers Energy



"With such a diverse collection of entries, judging was an arduous process. I found it especially interesting to read about the planning processes involved with some projects, as contrasted with the execution aspects of others."

Bonnie Roerig, MAI, AI-GRS
Bonnie Roerig & Associates



"Reading about the hurdles encountered and the innovative solutions utilized proved to be a great learning experience. The levee project really captured my attention, as it addressed the basic needs of the environment, ecosystems, and the very lifeline of the surrounding communities."

Sharen Carnell Willis, SR/WA
Mississippi Department of Transportation