

Top 10 Projects Showcase a Multi-Disciplined Profession

IRWA's 2012 Project of the Year Competition generated a diverse array of project entries from across the United States, Canada and South Africa. Ranging from high-speed rail and highway expansions to land conservation and relocation programs, this competition showcases the monumental role that right of way professionals play in bringing these quality of life projects to fruition. IRWA's salutes these top ten winners and thanks all the dedicated right of way professionals who entered this year's competition.

The Sunrise Powerlink

At a cost of roughly \$1.9 billion, the 117-mile electric transmission line links San Diego to California's Imperial Valley. The project is projected to deliver enough clean, reliable energy to power 650,000 homes and businesses. Submitted by Lynn Trexel, SR/WA and Pete McMorris, SR/WA, R/W-NAC, San Diego Gas & Electric Company. (See article on page 18).



CTfastrak

Connecticut's innovative public transit solution combines the accessibility of a bus with the high speed of a train. With a \$567 million budget, it offers a high-capacity solution for urban cities facing increasing traffic congestion. Submitted by Bruce Cowdrey, Connecticut Department of Transportation. (See article on page 38).

Mountain View Corridor

Utah's 15-mile freeway expansion project will benefit 13 municipalities and is projected to carry more than 100,000 cars per day. The \$322 million right of way budget involved the acquisition of 418 parcels and is expected to spur economic development. Submitted by Teri Newell, Utah Department of Transportation.



City of Virginia Beach's BRAC Response Program

Response program prevented the realignment of Naval Air Station Oceana and addressed land use concerns that saved 15,000 jobs paying \$1.2 billion annually. With sweeping land use measures, the City created a property acquisition and disposition program and developed an incentive program to attract conforming uses to the area. Submitted by Robin Brandenburg, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, Department of Public Works, City of Virginia Beach, VA.



5

University Light Link Rail

The Washington State project added 3.15 miles to the region's existing light rail system. A cooperative effort among multiple jurisdictions and agencies, it required the acquisition of 241 parcels and 140 business and residential relocations at a right of way cost of \$101 million. Submitted by Kent Melton, SR/WA, Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority.

Relocation for South Africa Transmission Line

To increase supply of electricity to Eastern Cape Province, construction of a 400kV transmission line needed to span across steep, hilly and mountainous terrain. The project required relocating 650 houses and associated assets, including 234 graves in compliance with local traditions and government legislation. Submitted by Muzi Shange, Eskom Group Capital Land Development.



6



7

Honolulu Rail Transit

Deemed the largest public works project in the State of Hawaii, the \$5.3 billion 20-mile project required the relocation of 25 residential households, one non-profit and 66 businesses. Over \$200 million was budgeted for acquisition and relocation. Submitted by Ryan Ng, Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation and Parsons Brinckerhoff, Inc. (See article on page 26).

CapX2020 High-Voltage Transmission System

To support the expansion of a high-voltage transmission grid, the 700-mile project required regulatory compliance and route development in Minnesota. An overall investment of \$1.9 billion was needed to ensure reliability for the region's electric infrastructure. Submitted by Craig Poorker, SR/WA R/W-NAC and Randy Fordice, CapX2020, a joint initiative of 11 Midwest Utilities.



8



9

Tyrone Land Management Project

A nuclear plant in Wisconsin was transformed into 4,400 acres of restored natural habitat with prairies, savannas and wildlife. After three decades of public use and 230 unauthorized uses, this public natural space now gives back to the community. Submitted by Aimie Mims, Xcel Energy.

DFW Connector Project

A \$1.2 billion expansion of state highways in Ft. Worth, Texas and the addition of new toll lanes will reduce congestion and promote long-term economic development. The 8.4 mile project included 55 parcels and required acquisition of 146 acres of right of way. Submitted by Elizabeth Norris, Texas Department of Transportation and Atkins Global.



10