

TOP 10

IRWA SALUTES THE TOP 10 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

IRWA's Annual Project of the Year Competition has become an essential vehicle for showcasing the unparalleled level of proficiency and value that right of way professionals bring to their projects. From creating innovative partnerships to relocating entire communities, their expertise plays a vital role in streamlining project schedules, delivering cost savings and maintaining goodwill in the communities impacted.

In September, a panel of subject matter experts evaluated each Project of the Year entry and the Top 10 Infrastructure Projects emerged, listed here in order of their ranking. IRWA salutes these top 10 projects and thanks all the dedicated right of way professionals who entered this year's competition. Watch for articles on these remarkable projects in upcoming issues.

1 TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294)/I-57 INTERCHANGE

Submitted by Beth Tatro, Illinois Tollway

To bring mobility to an economically distressed area, the \$719 million interchange required 320 relocations. With a boost to the economy, drivers will save 25 travel hours per year, and a \$4 million annual savings in fuel is also projected. (See article on page 27.)



2 NORTH TARRANT EXPRESS SEGMENTS 1 & 2W

Submitted by Don Toner, SR/WA, Texas Department of Transportation

To relieve congestion along the corridor between Dallas and Fort Worth, a six-segment plan was designed to increase capacity to 13.5 miles of highway in this region. The two segments required 299 parcel acquisitions and 267 relocations and will leverage a \$573 million state investment into \$2.1 billion in public-private funds.



3 U.S. ROUTE 91 ACQUISITION AND RELOCATION PROJECT

Submitted by Eliza Echevarria, Riverside County Transportation Commission

This traffic-relieving project will add regular/tolled express lanes and connectors between the 91 and Interstate 15 in Southern California, where 280,000 vehicles travel daily. Using a design-build approach, 499 parcels were acquired, along with various easements. Costs are estimated at \$144 million for this \$1.3 billion project.



4 GREATER SPRINGFIELD RELIABILITY PROJECT

Submitted by Patrice Tyrie, Burns and McDonnell

Northeast Utilities' 39-mile electric reliability project spanned across eight densely populated municipalities in Connecticut and Massachusetts with more than 850 direct abutters. Construction of over 720 structures and 13 substations and switching stations was finished on time and \$40 million under the \$718 million budget.





THE OAKWOOD BEACH BUYOUT

Submitted by David Hennen, ProSource Technologies, LLC

Following Hurricane Sandy, New York City had 300,000 damaged homes and 2,000 miles of roads and transmission lines which were destroyed. In overseeing environmental challenges, the team hired and trained a staff of 436, receiving a 4.9 out of 5 satisfaction rating for the buyout/acquisition program.

5



SAN GABRIEL TRENCH PROJECT

Submitted by Nicole Ihlenfeld, Paragon Partners Ltd.

To alleviate congestion and railroad crossing accidents, this southern California 2.2-mile corridor required lowering an existing rail track and constructing vehicle and pedestrian bridges overhead. Partnering with the Alameda Corridor East Construction Authority, residents and businesses were relocated on schedule and the team trimmed \$161.6 million from the \$498.5 million budget.

6



SWEET CREEK RETAINING WALL REPLACEMENT

Submitted by Jeremy Sherer, ARWP, Lane County Public Works

The roadway along State Route 126 in Lane County, Oregon faced settling pavement, sunken grades and a failing retaining wall. A vital connector for commercial, residential and life-support traffic, this \$4.9 million project began as a retaining wall replacement before morphing into a bridge construction.

7



BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT SILICON VALLEY PROJECT

Submitted by Dawn Antonucci, Towill, Inc. & Valley Transportation Authority

This final link of a 20-mile gap in the regional rail system will connect metropolitan centers in San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose. Engineering design required precise mapping for a 16.5-mile railroad corridor and property acquisition impacted 2,500 adjacent parcels requiring hundreds of legal descriptions and appraisal maps.

8



HIGHWAY 1804 WIDENING AND IMPROVEMENTS

Submitted by Roxinne McPhail, North Dakota Department of Transportation

Inundated with oil patch traffic and new residents, New Town, North Dakota suffered from congestion and safety issues resulting from a lack of turn lanes and dangerously narrow shoulders. To accommodate a new highway, the team used an incentive program to expedite acquisitions and reduced condemnations.

9



KUSILE COAL GENERATION SCHEME SOCIAL RESETTLEMENT

Submitted by Goodness Ntuli, Eskom Holdings Limited

To construct the Kusile Power Station in South Africa, hundreds of farm laborers required relocation, with new homes and infrastructure to be built for contractors working on site. It is projected to employ 88,000 people and become the world's largest coal-fired power plant once fully operational in 2018.

10