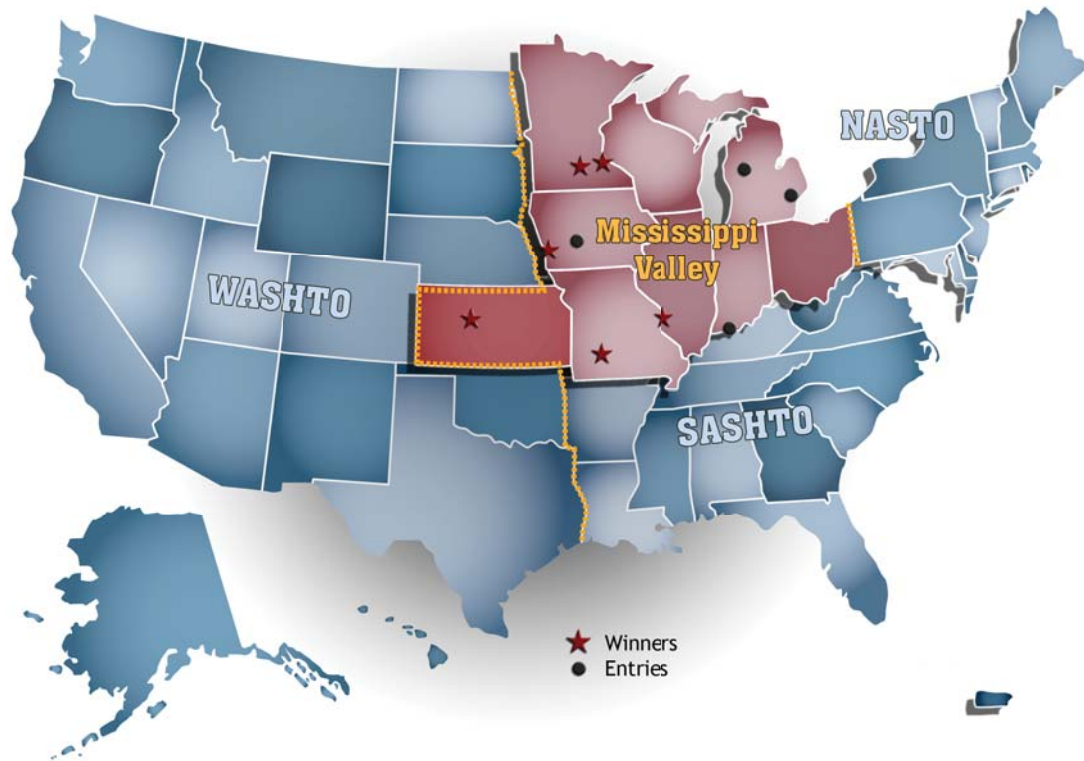




AMERICA'S transportation awards

2010



Mississippi Valley REGIONAL COMPETITION

On Time

Under Budget

Innovative Management

Best Recovery Act Project

Honoring America's Top Transportation Projects

Each year, America's transportation agencies design and build extraordinary projects that improve the daily lives of our citizens, communities, and businesses. To honor these outstanding projects, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, AAA, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring America's Transportation Awards.

Judged in four categories—On Time, Under Budget, Innovative Management, and Best Recovery Act Project—these projects reflect the smart solutions to critical transportation challenges being made by transportation agencies at the state and local levels.

In 2010, 43 projects were submitted by 28 states and the District of Columbia. Each will compete at the regional level and then the Top Ten will be selected to vie for the national Grand Prize and the People's Choice Awards, which will be presented in October 2010 at the AASHTO Annual Meeting.

Ten projects were submitted by states in the Mississippi Valley Conference of State Highway and Transportation Departments. This brochure honors the Mississippi Valley winners and nominees.





Mississippi Valley Award Recipients 2010

Winner: Best Recovery Act Project.

Small Project—\$25 Million or Less

Minnesota Department of Transportation

US 169 Saint Peter Project

★ The Minnesota DOT partnered closely with the city of Saint Peter to develop plans to reconstruct the historic portion of Highway 169 and Minnesota Avenue in the city. The downtown business district was designated a commercial historic district, which presented unique challenges in creating a project that would renew the city while respecting the history of the area. The project is an example of how innovative contracting methods and proactive public information programs can limit impacts to traffic, residents, and businesses while reshaping an historic city.



The project minimized impact to local drivers with a brief 133-day road closure.

Winner: Innovative Management.

Medium Project—\$26-199 Million

Minnesota Department of Transportation

Destination Target Field Ballpark Project

★ Location of the new Target Field ballpark in downtown Minneapolis was due in large part to the existing transportation infrastructure serving that location. The new ballpark's success however, rested on how well these pieces worked together to serve fans and maintain mobility for downtown Minneapolis commuters. Having multiple transportation choices led to the effective movement of people, improved safety, positive economic impact on the neighborhood, and accessibility for all.



Throughout the season fans have continued to use all available transportation options.

Winner: Innovative Management.

Small Project—\$25 Million or Less

Missouri Department of Transportation

Diverging Diamond Springfield Interchange Project

★ On June 21, 2009, the Missouri DOT opened the first diverging diamond interchange in the western hemisphere at the intersection of Route 13 and Interstate 44 in Springfield. A diverging diamond interchange requires traffic on the overpass to cross to the opposite side of the bridge at the freeway in a fashion that simplifies entering and exiting the freeway. It is unusual in that it requires drivers to be on the opposite side of the road for a short time. Traffic now moves smoothly through the interchange, and backups have been eliminated even during peak morning and afternoon rush hours, and during major traffic-generating events.



Backups have been eliminated during peak morning and afternoon rush hours.





Winner: On Time.
Medium Project—\$26-199 Million
Kansas Department of Transportation
Wichita Central Corridor Project

★ Wichita is an important hub for rail trade. Before the Kansas DOT began the Wichita Central Corridor Project, trains bisected the downtown area each day, causing drivers a 30-minute delay with each passing train. To reduce traffic congestion, the city developed a plan to separate some of the key crossing grades. The \$105 million project raised two miles of track above the roadway, providing five new bridges to carry trains over the five arterial streets below. This allows traffic to pass freely below the tracks, improving safety and reducing vehicle emissions.



The project has reduced the number of accidents that had once been an issue for the city.

Winner: On Time.
Small Project—\$25 Million or Less
Iowa Department of Transportation
24th Street Council Bluffs Project

★ Iowa DOT's innovative design, creative contracting, and accelerated construction techniques allowed the 24th Street Bridge to be replaced while keeping the busy interchange open. This was the first in a series of multi-state efforts to improve the capacity of the interstate system running through Council Bluffs. The interchange was a key junction of East-West I-80 and North-South I-29, and heavy traffic meant that the roadway had to remain open during construction.



Well-planned construction ensured that traffic capacity was maintained throughout the process.

Winner: Under Budget.
Large Project—More Than \$200 Million
Missouri Department of Transportation
I-64 St. Louis Project

★ I-64/US Route 40 was the oldest highway in St. Louis. Over time, the highway and its 30 bridges had become so deteriorated, they had to be replaced. Limited funds, limited space, and a need to complete the project quickly to limit the impact of construction complicated the plan for how to rebuild it. In December 2009, I-64 reopened to traffic nearly one month early and \$11 million under budget. A survey taken at the end of the project found that 95 percent of the public was satisfied with how the project had been handled. Now more than 150,000 vehicles use the highway each day.



The project reopened to traffic nearly one month early and \$11 million under budget.



A Summary of Other Entries

The winning entries have received top honors, but each of the nominated projects demonstrates a remarkable achievement in transportation. Other entries in the Mississippi Valley region included:

Nominee: On Time.

Small Project—\$25 Million or Less

Michigan Department of Transportation

9 Mile Road Bridge Reconstruction Project

★ Destroyed by a tanker collision and ensuing fire on July 15, 2009, the 9 Mile Road Bridge over I-75 in Hazel Park, Michigan, was replaced by a new structure only five months later. The loss of the bridge cut the main link between the east and west portions of Hazel Park and divided its central business district in two. The design-build process culminated successfully when the bridge was reopened in December 2009.



Incentives were offered to shorten the amount of time the bridge would be closed.

Nominee: On Time.

Medium Project—\$26-199 Million

Michigan Department of Transportation

I-196 Baldwin Street Project

★ Under the I-196 Baldwin Street Project, I-196 was rehabilitated and two new ramps were added into the Jenison area. The Michigan DOT project included a major reconstruction and upgrade of Baldwin Street between Main Street and I-196 to accommodate the new ramps and associated traffic. Construction took place from February 1, 2008 to November 2009.



The on time completion of the project has relieved congestion for motorists.

Nominee: Innovative Management.

Medium Project—\$26-199 Million

Indiana Department of Transportation

Lloyd Expressway (SR 62) Evansville Project

★ The Lloyd Expressway (SR 62) is a major east-west corridor through Evansville. For years, the freeway configuration made an abrupt stop at the intersection of Lloyd Expressway and Fulton Avenue. To resolve this issue, the Indiana DOT built a new interchange. The expressway project entailed working adjacent to historical buildings, dismantling the old intersection, demolishing buildings, removing contaminated soils, navigating previous road and building projects, and maintaining traffic to achieve only 14 days of intersection closure.



The project was completed ahead of its target date with significant cost savings.

Nominee: Innovative Management.

Medium Project—\$26-199 Million

Iowa Department of Transportation

I-35 Story City Rest Area Project

★ The Story City southbound rest area was originally constructed in the late 1960s, and it was updated by the Iowa DOT in 2009. It is located along Interstate 35 in central Iowa and served more than 400,000 visitors in 2009. A multidisciplinary design team was assembled for the upgrade, including an artist, engineers, architects, and landscape architects.



Visitors prolong their stay at the site, taking time to enjoy the architecture.

