

INFORMATION RELEASE



Office of the Director

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
P. O. Box 2261 – Little Rock, Arkansas Telephone (501) 569-2227

Contact:
Randy Ort/David Nilles

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AHTD RECEIVES ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR HIGHWAY QUALITY

LITTLE ROCK (12-9) The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) is the recipient of a 2009 National Achievement Award from the National Partnership for Highway Quality (NPHQ).

The announcement was made in San Diego, California, by NPHQ, a partnership among federal, state and roadway industry leaders and officials that promotes highway quality, safety and service to the highway user.

The NPHQ National Achievement Awards recognize overall project quality on a highway construction project. They also recognize the partnership between state departments of transportation and private contractors; technical and materials innovations; the effectiveness and creativity of public involvement; the teams' effectiveness in meeting or exceeding expected deadlines, costs, and deliverables; responsiveness to environmental needs and opportunities; and adherence to other principles of quality management.

The Highway and Transportation Department received the 2009 Gold Level Award for a project that widened Highway 245 in Texarkana, Arkansas. The job was located at the Interchange of Highway 245 and Interstate 30 and also replaced the existing bridge structure at the Interstate 30 Interchange. An existing 222-foot, two-lane bridge was replaced with a 201-foot continuous W-beam span, five-lane structure.

The job was selected to demonstrate and evaluate High Performance Concrete (HPC). The AHTD partnered with Dr. Micah Hale of the University of Arkansas and the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Innovative Bridge Research and Construction (IBRC) Program to incorporate and fund this new material into the project. The intent for the HPC was to construct a bridge deck that was durable, that would have an increased service life, and that would have less maintenance cost over its service life. Special curing techniques were also used

on the HPC. The goal of the curing was to keep 100% humidity over the freshly placed concrete and then to keep the hardened concrete continuously wet for a period of seven days. Two Special Provisions, “High Performance Concrete for Bridge Decks” and “Curing Concrete for Bridge Decks” were included to provide guidance in the use of the High Performance Concrete and the wet curing. The result of the combination of these two special provisions resulted in a bridge deck that had only three shrinkage cracks at the conclusion of construction. This result was a sharp decline from the 30 to 40 such cracks typically found on a structure of this size and type.

Due to the contractor's aggressive scheduling and the commitment of all contractor and Department personnel, this project was completed in a very timely manner while achieving an extremely high level of quality.

The award was presented to AHTD Director Dan Flowers today at a business meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission in Little Rock. Bob Templeton, executive director of the NPHQ, made the presentation.

“This project exemplifies what can be accomplished when quality, customer focus, team work, safety and innovation are made top priorities,” Templeton stated.

“We are very pleased to receive this award,” stated AHTD Director Dan Flowers. “This was a very successful project and I think everyone that worked on the project should be proud of the results.”

“The Department strives to provide the most economical and safe projects possible. It is our goal to get the most out of the taxpayers’ dollar and to continue to lead the industry in innovation,” Flowers added.

NPHQ is the only nationally-formed organization dedicated to achieving total commitment to highway quality and customer satisfaction in every state. Its partners include the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET), the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), the American Concrete Pipe Association (ACPA), Delcan Corporation, Granite Construction Company, Kiewit Corporation, RedVector, URS Corporation, and Williams Brothers Construction Co., Inc.

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