

WisDOT: Announces 2018 Excellence in Construction Awards

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WisDOT Office of Public Affairs

608/266-3581, opa.exec@dot.wi.gov

Contractors honored for projects in Menominee, Shawano, Dodge, Dane, Winnebago and Milwaukee counties

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) announced six Excellence in Construction Awards for 2018 during the annual Contractor-Engineer Conference held in Middleton. Top winners include a grading project in Menominee County, asphalt paving project in Shawano County, concrete paving project in Dodge County, small bridge project in Dane County, large bridge project in Winnebago County, and a large contract project in Milwaukee County.

“Wisconsin is fortunate to have so many talented private contractors whose skill and experience help to overcome challenges in the field to deliver vital transportation improvements throughout the state,” said Beth Cannestra, director of WisDOT’s Bureau of Project Development. “The annual Excellence in Construction Awards are an opportunity for us to applaud the quality of private contractors’ work, and reflect on best practices moving forward.”

Excellence in Grading – Honors went to Musson Brothers, Inc. of Rhinelander for work on the WIS 47 project from the Shawano County line to Duquaine Road in Menominee County. Good communication with WisDOT and nearby stakeholders helped set this project apart, as workers minimized disruptions and stayed on time despite discovering poorer than expected soils at the job site.

Excellence in Asphalt Paving – Honors went to Northeast Asphalt Inc. of Green Bay for work on US 45 from Menzel Road to WIS 29 in Shawano County. The company safely minimized wait times for drivers during flagging operations, and worked with WisDOT to remedy several areas of poor pavement subgrade discovered under the former driving surface.

Excellence in Concrete Paving – Honors went to Ptaschinski Construction Inc. of Beaver Dam for work on WIS 67 and WIS 28 (Main St and Horicon Street) in the city of Mayville, Dodge County. The project included urbanized areas with the need to coordinate sanitary and water main replacement. The contractor was flexible with planning and equipment – well beyond the requirements of the contract – to help minimize closures and disruptions in town, and to help keep the project moving on time.

Excellence in Small Structures – Honors went to Kraemer North America of Plain for the US 14 (Black Earth Creek) Bridge in Dane County. The work unfolded as an emergency contract after historic rain and flooding rendered the bridges unsafe. In just eight weeks, after many long days and the work of multiple crews, the bridges were back in service.

Excellence in Large Structures – Honors went to Zenith Tech Inc. of Waukesha for the I-41 interchange ramps in Winnebago County. The I-41 interchange is the final project on the WIS 441 corridor west of Lake Butte des Morts. This project completed I-41 northbound and southbound pavement, remaining work on US 10, and two ramp movements.

Large Contract – Honors went to Walsh Construction Co. for Zoo Interchange Phase 2 in Milwaukee. Walsh developed and maintained a detailed schedule that included more than 4,600 activities; some of these detailed to the hour. Accurate monthly updates tracked progress and forecasted future work. This high level of detail and lean scheduling process, along with good cooperation with WisDOT, ensured all 23 interim completion dates were met.