

Illinois Agencies Present at Contractor of the Year Awards Ceremony

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ROSEMONT - The Illinois Road and Transportation Builders Association (IRTBA) hosted the 2017 Contractor of the Year Awards on Thursday, the state's largest gathering of transportation design and construction industry professionals.

"The ceremony provides state agencies the opportunity to recognize companies who have achieved outstanding success in 2017. Award winners have shown adaptability, creativity, cooperation, consideration, economy, and innovation," said Mark Barkowski, vice president of F.H. Paschen and incoming chairman of IRTBA.

Five major transportation agencies -- the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), the Illinois Tollway, Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT), Metra, and the Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) -- along with five county departments of transportation -- recognized companies that have given taxpayers an exceptional return on their investment by exceeding project expectations.

The **Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)** awarded the *New Bridge Construction Award of Excellence* to **Lorig Construction Company**, of Des Plaines, in recognition of the construction of the high-profile, flyover bridge carrying eastbound I-290 to eastbound IL-390 (formerly Elgin-O'Hare Expressway), located in Itasca. IDOT also awarded the *DBE Contractor Award of Excellence* to **Natural Creations Landscaping, Inc.**, of Joliet, for work performed for the roadway reconstruction of Illinois Route 59, from New York Street to North Aurora Road, in the towns of Naperville and Aurora. IDOT's *Hot Mix Asphalt Award of Excellence* went to **K-Five Construction Corp.**, of Westmont, for resurfacing of Interstate 55, from Weber Road to Willow Springs Road, in Will, DuPage and Cook Counties; and **Traffic Services Inc.** [sic], of Bartlet, won the *Work Zone Traffic Control Award of Excellence* on the same stretch of Interstate 55. The *Urban Improvement Award* went to **IHC Construction Company, LLC**, of Elgin, for reconstruction of the outbound I-55/US41 Interchange located in Chicago. A *Special Recognition Award* was given to **John Burns Construction Company**, of Orland Park, recognizing their work in the installation of LED dynamic messaging signs and additional CCTV cameras located along I-90/94 in Chicago.

The **Illinois Tollway** honored the joint venture of **Plote Construction Inc.**, of Hoffman Estates, and **Dunnet Bay Construction Company**, of Glendale Heights, for *General Contractor of the Year* for their work on Illinois Route 390. Tollway's *Special Recognition Project of the Year* was awarded to **Lorig Construction Company**, of Des Plaines, for the reconfiguration of ramps and reconstruction of the \$19 million Farnsworth Avenue Interchange project in Aurora.

The *Work Zone Traffic Control Contractor of the Year* award was presented to **Highway Safety Corp.**, of Addison, for their outstanding efforts in coordinating and cooperating with adjacent contracts to establish a safe work zone for both workers and motorists on various sections of the Illinois Route 390 Tollway.

The **City of Chicago Department of Transportation** selected **F.H. Paschen**, of Chicago, as the *Outstanding Transit Contractor of the Year* for their work on the new Washington Wabash Loop elevated station project. **Acura Inc.**, of Bensenville, was selected as the *Outstanding Streetscape Contractor of the Year* for their work on both the Morgan Street Streetscape project and the Broadway Streetscape project.

Metra honored **AECOM**, of Chicago, with the designation of *Professional Service Firm of the Year*, for their instrumental role in supplementing Metra's in-house Positive Train Control (PTC) management team. Metra recognized **James McHugh Construction Company**, of Chicago, as *Construction Firm of the Year*, for the Rock Island West Embankment project, which included construction at four bridge sites over various streets in Chicago. **HNTB Corp.**, of Chicago, was honored with Metra's *Vendor of the Year Award*, for their preliminary and final design of improvements to the 47th Street yard to double the in-house coach car rehab program.

The **Chicago Department of Aviation** granted their *Contractor of the Year* award to a joint venture between **Plote Construction Inc.**, of Hoffman Estates, and **K-Five Construction Corporation**, of Westmont. The project consisted of a mill and overlay on the runway and shoulder pavements that have bituminous surfaces. The profile at the intersection of Runway 14R-32L was raised over 15 inches in order to improve drainage. All runway lighting was adjusted and new LED fixtures were installed. The scope of work also included demolition of a portion of Taxiway F, reopening of Taxiway N3, and associated airport taxiway paving and reconstruction.

Five of the collar counties, including Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, and Will, also gave out Contractor of the Year Awards for the best localized projects of the year.

IRTBA also presented awards to multiple members. **Ozinga**, of Mokena, was honored for their commitment to bettering society through charitable giving, which earned them the *Road Builder Charities' Champion Award*. IRTBA honored a champion for safety, **John "Johnny B" Barkowski**, of **F.H. Paschen** in Chicago, with a posthumous *Golden Hard Hat for Safety Award*. The [IRTBA Green Council](#) awarded this year's *Green Industry Achievement Award* to **INTERRA, Inc.**, of Bolingbrook, for their commitment to innovation through action, leadership by example, and internal practices that encourage sustainability and overall industry improvement.

Additional awards were given to contractors in a number of categories. For a full list of award recipients and featured projects, [click here](#) or visit our website at www.irtba.org.

About Illinois Road and Transportation Builders Association

The Illinois Road and Transportation Builders Association (IRTBA) has spent over 75 years as the leading transportation industry trade association in Illinois. IRTBA member firms design, build, and maintain the state highways, transit systems, railways, and aviation systems. The core purpose of IRTBA's existence is to advance and promote the transportation design and construction industry in Illinois.