



REPORTER

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PROJECTS OF THE YEAR

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outstanding projects selected in 2023

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APWA announces the 2023



Public Works Projects of the Year



Each year, APWA presents the Public Works Projects of the Year awards to promote excellence in the management and administration of public works projects, recognizing the alliance between the managing agency, the contractor, the consultant, and their cooperative achievements.

The winners of the 2023 Public Works Projects of the Year Award are:

Disaster or Emergency Construction/Repair

<\$5 million: 120-inch Water Transmission Main Break (Great Lakes Water Authority, Michigan)

\$5 million but less than \$25 million: East Austin Emergency Utility Repair (City of Austin, Texas)

>\$75 million: Wortham Theater Center, Houston First Corp. (Houston, Texas)

Environment

<\$5 million: Tucson Boulevard Diversion Structure (Pima County, Arizona)

\$5 million but less than \$25 million: 27th Street Storm Interceptor (City and County of Denver, Colorado) *co-winner*

\$5 million but less than \$25 million: Lower Walnut Creek Restoration Project (Contra Costa County, California) *co-winner*

\$25 million–\$75 million: Neighborhood Storage Project (City of Wilmette, Illinois)

>\$75 million: Northwest Valley Infrastructure (City of Phoenix, Arizona)

Historical Restoration/Preservation

<\$5 million: Umtanum Suspension Bridge Rehabilitation, (U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Spokane Valley, Washington)

\$5 million but less than \$25 million: Main Street Bridge Replacement & US 202 Reconstruction (Town of Peterborough, New Hampshire)

\$25 million–\$75 million: 10th Ave SE Bridge Rehabilitation (City of Minneapolis, Minnesota)

Structures

<\$5 million: Arroyo Verde Park Playground Rebuild (City of Ventura, California)

\$5 million but less than \$25 million: Noisette Creek Pedestrian Bridge (North Charleston, South Carolina)

\$25 million–\$75 million: Fireboat Station No. 15 (Port of Long Beach, California)

>\$75 million: Memorial Park Central Connector (City of Houston, Texas)

Transportation

<\$5 million: Seminole Road Reconstruction and Streetscape (City of Norton Shores, Michigan)

\$5 million but less than \$25 million: US 131/M-179 Interchange Improvements (Gun Lake Tribe, Wayland, Michigan)

\$25 million–\$75 million: Hennepin Ave Downtown Reconstruction (City of Minneapolis, Minnesota)

>\$75 million: Sixth Street Viaduct Replacement Project, Los Angeles Bureau of Eng. (Los Angeles, California)

Small Cities/Rural Communities Projects of the Year:

Disaster/Emergency Construction/Repair: Superior Granular Activated Carbon Project (Town of Superior, Colorado)

Environment: Pine River's Rock Riffle (City of Pine River, Minnesota)

Historical Restoration/Preservation: High Bridge Rehabilitation (City of Eau Claire, Wisconsin)

Structures: Clair Donnelly Amphitheater (City of Maize, Kansas)

Transportation: SE Main Avenue/20th/21st Street Railroad Grade Separation Project



Seminole Road Reconstruction and Streetscape

Managing Agency: City of Norton Shores, Michigan. Primary Contractor: Brenner Excavating, Inc., Kamminga & Roodvoets, Inc. Primary Consultant: Eng, Inc. Nominated By: APWA Michigan Chapter

The Seminole Road Reconstruction and Streetscape project was a two-phase 0.81-mile project from Seaway Drive (US-31 BR) to Henry Street in the City of Norton Shores. Primarily a commercial area in the business district, the existing roadway was three to five lanes of asphalt with a concrete curb, gutter, and sidewalk on one or both sides. Improvements would consist of reconstruction and possible narrowing, stormwater improvements, replacement of traffic loop detectors at Henry Street, replacing the 12-inch cast iron water main from Henry Street to Park Street, including water services, placement of new 8-foot and 5-foot concrete sidewalks, repair of existing sidewalks and ramps to ADA standards, and necessary utility repairs. Also planned was new decorative lighting, landscaping, and relocating private utilities underground within the roadway right-of-way.

City officials wanted to create a visual entry point for Norton Shores as part

of the City's redevelopment plans for the central business hub. Making this an "entrance" to Norton Shores would help define the downtown area. The Seminole Road Place Plan, adopted in 2017, encourages mixed-use buildings, increased walkability, and creating public spaces around Seminole Road.

The corridor was the only access point to a large apartment complex, condo complex, and other residential roadways. Construction had to be managed to maintain access, and regular communication with property owners helped minimize construction disruption.

Evaluations for harm to historic properties or threatened and endangered species were done with no potential impacts found. Analysis was done to understand tree health, species, and canopy condition. Sidewalks were located to allow for tree planting and preservation of healthy trees. In addition, road studies and crash analyses were done to see the feasibility of lane reduction.

The project removed overhead utility lines and significantly reduced the number of utility poles to improve aesthetics, complement site lighting and landscaping, and provide adequate room for pedestrian pathways.

The uncertainty of the location of the City of Muskegon Heights 20-inch water main posed complications to designing the new water main and storm sewer. The main was found and recorded during construction, and conflicts with crossing utilities managed.

The City of Norton Shores Department of Public Works was on-site during the project's water main and sanitary sewer work. With multiple crews working, the staff could monitor all water main and sewer work performed, including obtaining GPS coordinates for all water service tap locations, curb stop boxes, bend locations, and sewer tap locations. The information will help in the future to identify where underground infrastructure is located.