



PRESS RELEASE

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Innovative Research and Construction Propels Razorbacks to Gold Level National Achievement Award

Highway 245 Interchange Improvements Earn National Recognition

Austin, TX/November 3, 2009 - The National Partnership for Highway Quality (NPHQ) today presented its Gold Level National Achievement Award to the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) for its Highway 245 Interchange Improvements Project.

This award-winning project widened Highway 245 and replaced the existing bridge structure at the I-30 Interchange. The existing 222 foot, two-lane bridge was replaced with a 201-foot continuous W-beam span, five lane structure, with "mechanically stabilized earth walls" at each abutment. The project included notch and widening of the existing roadway, minor drainage structures, asphalt concrete hot mix operations, signal relocation and erosion control items.

Partnering with the University of Arkansas and the Federal Highway Administration's Innovative Bridge Research and Construction Program, this project was selected to demonstrate and evaluate High Performance Concrete (HPC). The intent for the HPC was to construct a bridge deck that was durable, would have increased service life and less maintenance cost. Wet curing techniques were also used on the HPC. The result was a bridge deck that had only three shrinkage cracks at the conclusion of construction - a sharp decline from the 30-40 cracks typically found on a structure of this size and type.

In presenting the award, NPHQ Executive Director Bob Templeton said, "This project demonstrates what can be achieved when quality, customer focus, teamwork, safety and innovation are made top priorities."

Partners in this project included AHTD, Project Contractor Southern Pavers, Inc., R. K. Hall Construction, LLC, Cleve Batte Construction, Red River Hydro-Seeding, Inc., Murray, Thomas and Griffin, Inc, All Service Electric, Inc., Martin Marietta Materials, Lion Oil, Smith Ready Mix, Hanson Pipe and Products, inc., The Reinforced Earth Company and AFCO Steel, Inc.

The NPHQ National Achievement Awards recognize overall project quality, 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.

NPHQ is a national coalition of public highway agencies, industry organizations and private firms founded in 1992 as the National Quality Initiative. For more than 15 years, NPHQ continues to be the only National program that brings Federal, State and Municipal highway agencies and private industry together to combine their expertise and to cooperatively lead the advancement in highway quality, safety

and service to the highway users. For more information on the NPHQ and its awards: www.nphq.org.
To learn more about Highway 245 Interchange Improvements: www.arkansashighways.com/.

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