



PRESS RELEASE

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Maine DOT Boosts Safety While Compressing 2-3 Year Project Into 13 Weeks *I-295 Southbound Rehabilitation Project Earns National Recognition*

Austin, TX/November 3, 2009 - The National Partnership for Highway Quality (NPHQ) today recognized the Maine Department of Transportation for its commitment to teamwork, quality and safety throughout its I-295 Southbound Rehabilitation project.

The award winning \$28 million project replaced an 18-mile stretch of deteriorating concrete highway from Gardiner to Topsham, Maine - an integral section of I-295 that stretches between Portland and Augusta, connecting Maine's largest city with its capital. This was an unprecedented full road closure of the Interstate that spanned the summer of 2008 during the height of Maine's tourist season.

Full closure allowed Maine DOT to condense the schedule of a two- to three-year project into just 13 weeks, while maintaining safety by keeping motorists off the work site. An aggressive communications campaign helped to ensure the public was aware of the project and alternate routes.

Over 100,000 person hours were spent on the project during its short life - laying 181,000 tons of asphalt, rebuilding five bridges and installing seven miles of guardrail. The project was completed 20 days ahead of schedule as a result of 16-hour workdays and a six-day work week schedule that included holidays.

"This project team did an exemplary job of achieving NPHQ's National Achievement Award quality criteria as the 18-mile length of Southbound I-295 was rehabilitated, said Bob Templeton, Executive Director, during presentation of the Platinum Level Award. "Our awards program consistently draws out the elite highway and bridge projects that have launched innovations that deliver better performing projects faster and yield better service to highway users. This project is an example of how to do things right."

Maine DOT's project partners included Pike Industries, the general contractor; Garrand, a marketing and communications firm; Shaw Brothers Construction, Cianbro Corporation, RMI, Maine Line Fence Company and Swank Associated Companies. The team also included local first responders, municipal officials and business and community leaders throughout the project area.

"The project was a great success and underscored the reasoning to completely close the road to safely, quickly and effectively complete the work," said MaineDOT Commissioner David Cole. "We are honored to be recognized with such a prestigious award."

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 the I-295 Southbound Rehabilitation Project: www.maine.gov/mdot/.

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