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Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge Named a Top 10 Transportation Project

Public Encouraged to Participate in Online Vote for No. 1 Overall

COLLINSVILLE - Acting Transportation Secretary Erica Borggren announced today that the Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge has been chosen as one of 10 finalists in a contest to select the country's top transportation project. The competition was launched this week by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, AAA and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

"We are proud to be on such an exclusive list and encourage the public to consider voting for this historic project," said Acting Secretary Borggren. "The Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge was a huge undertaking and certainly deserving of this honor. It already has provided countless benefits, including improved safety and a significant reduction in congestion, resulting in an enhanced quality of life and more opportunities for economic development throughout the Metro East area."

To vote and learn more about the other projects selected, visit www.AmericasTransportationAwards.org. Voters can make their selections up to 10 times per day until Oct. 24.

The Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge, which opened in February, is one mile north of the Martin Luther King Bridge. It has two lanes in each direction, with the capacity to expand to three lanes. The bridge carries Interstate 70 traffic between Illinois and Missouri, connecting I-70 at the I-55/I-64/I-70 interchange on the Illinois side to I-70 near Cass Avenue in Missouri. Construction began in the summer of 2009.

The project, a joint effort by the Illinois and Missouri departments of transportation, created or supported more than 9,000 jobs.

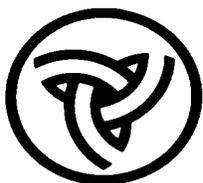


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For the competition announced this week, a record 36 states and the District of Columbia entered 73 projects that were judged in three categories: “Under Budget,” “Best Use of Innovation,” and, a new category this year, “Quality of Life/Community Development.”

The 10 finalists received the most points during four regional competitions. Online voting will determine which projects win the People's Choice Award. A panel of experts will select the Grand Prize winner. The two winners will each receive \$10,000 to donate to a charity or scholarship fund of their choosing. The awards will be presented Nov. 23 at the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials annual meeting in Charlotte, N.C.

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