

## **CMT Brings Home Honor Award for Bridge Project**

*\$16 million project completed ahead of schedule and within budget.*

The Consulting Engineers Council of Illinois awarded Crawford, Murphy & Tilly (CMT), Inc. with a 2004 Honor Award for their work in replacing the Shippingsport Bridge in LaSalle, Illinois. CMT provided preliminary engineering and final design services for the project after being selected by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) in 2001.

Funding limitations and environmental concerns dictated that the 70-year old bridge be replaced on existing alignment, which was expected to require closure for a three-year construction period. CMT was able to meet the challenge of developing an economical bridge design and on an expedited two-year construction schedule. In addition to completing the bridge ahead of schedule, the \$16 million project was brought in on budget with change orders totaling less than one percent of the construction cost.

The award also recognized several innovative solutions that CMT provided for the bridge project. The use of High Performance Steel (HPS) was critical to achieving the required vertical clearance on a limited horizontal distance along with providing other advantages. Wick drains were used to accelerate the predicted settlement of additional embankment from six years to 12 months. CMT also brought in an experienced river bridge contractor to serve as an advisor during the design process, the first time this approach has been used on an IDOT project.