

IL-29 Expressway Receives Engineering Excellence Award

CMT earns highest-rated rural transportation project in annual ACEC-Illinois competition

Springfield, Ill (January 29, 2005) - Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc. (CMT) recently received a special achievement award from the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Illinois. The Illinois Route 29 Expressway was the highest-rated rural transportation project honored at the ACEC-IL 2005 Engineering Excellence Awards luncheon on January 28, 2005 in Chicago.

CMT began work on the IL-29 Expressway project in 1993 when the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) selected the firm to provide a feasibility study for the expansion of the two-lane rural highway between Rochester and Taylorville in central Illinois. In a break from normal industry practice, IDOT retained CMT as the consultant throughout the project that included a location design study, environmental assessment, and final design. Construction of the first of three segments of the expressway was completed in August of 2004.



The IL-29 Expressway, shown here as it bypasses Berry, IL, features innovative drainage solutions uncommon for rural highway designs.

The project was highlighted by the increased emphasis placed on public involvement efforts in response to intense public interest. Positive interaction with Project 29, a grassroots organization whose call for a safer highway spurred the project along, lead organization members to request that IDOT retain CMT throughout the project. In addition, extensive meetings with area farmers concerned about potential flooding impacts resulted in the implementation of innovative drainage solutions for the rural highway project. Other project highlights included the preservation of endangered native Illinois prairie grass along the roadway corridor and a bike path that will run the entire length of the new expressway.

In nominating the IL-29 Expressway project for the award, IDOT District-6 engineers cited the high quality of CMT's designs in minimizing impacts to prairie grass and surrounding farmland, and the positive interaction of CMT's staff with affected property owners.