

January 8, 2009

CMT Project Wins APWA Project of the Year Award



The American Public Works Association Fox Metro Chapter recently announced the winners of their 2009 Public Works Project of the Year Award, and Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.'s (CMT) submittal on the City of Elgin's Spartan Drive Extension took the top spot in the under \$5 million category. The award will be presented to Elgin and CMT at an APWA branch meeting on January 13th in Dundee, Illinois.

The City of Elgin and the Elgin Community College made the project possible through a unique land swap deal. The City traded abandoned golf course land near the ECC campus in exchange for land along Randall Road. The City used the Randall land for retail development, and ECC received more land for campus expansion and access to the main artery of Randall Road. ECC and the City then split the cost of expanding Spartan Drive to connect Randall Road and McLean Boulevard.

ECC Building Director Paul Dawson said, "The college loves the new road. It is scenic and the curves add interest. You get an A+."

The extension of the 0.62-mile section of Spartan Drive, connected two north-south roadways through Elgin

Community College (ECC) and was a much anticipated improvement. The project called for the construction of the new, two-lane roadway, the reconstruction/realignment of the Renner Drive intersection and a substantial wetland mitigation. The roadway alignment runs through the golf course on ECC property between Randall Road and McLean Boulevard. One of the major challenges was the poor soil conditions on the site. The conditions resulted in excavations as deep as 20-25 feet in depth and replacement with borrow materials. Despite the adverse soil conditions and wetland mitigation, the project was successfully completed ahead of schedule and opened to the general public before the start of fall 2008 classes at ECC.

The Spartan Drive extension project is positively impacting the area by helping to alleviate the volume of traffic flowing through the residential area of the College Green Subdivision located south of Spartan Drive. The roadway maximized ECC's use of adjacent areas for athletic fields and future building sites. The project also revitalized and created new wetlands as well as improved the aesthetic appeal of the area with the planting of 200 trees along Spartan Drive. The resulting roadway is not only a scenic drive but also an accomplishment for the causes of conservation and progress.

CMT Staff involved on the project: Kevin Nelson, Kelly Farley, Mike Wittkop, Andrew Smith, Jeff Sedig.

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