



EXCELLENCE IN CONSTRUCTION PARTNERING First Annual Awards



ITD/AGC Annual Excellence in Construction Partnering Awards - 2020 Nomination Form -

Contract Number/Route/Milepost: 8515 / US-95 / 438.4 - 439.4	Construction Engineer: Justin Wuest
Project Name: JCT SH-53 IC, UPRR BR	Date Project Started: 07/08/19
Contractor Name: Scarsella Bros, Inc.	Date Project Completed if applicable: N/A
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1. Did the Contractor/ITD team participate in a Partnership Workshop or informal partnering?

Y ☐ N ☒

2. Category of Award (select one):

State Highway Projects (select size):

- ☐ Projects less than \$1 million
☐ Projects \$1 million - \$5 million
☐ Projects \$5 million - \$10 million
☒ Projects greater than \$10 million

Local Road Projects (select size):

- ☐ Projects less than \$3 million
☐ Projects greater than \$3 million

3. Application:

Please provide an overview of the project explaining scope of work, cost, and schedule. Be sure to include the below evaluation criteria where applicable.

Evaluation Criteria:

(1) Safety First, (2) Customer-Focused Results, (3) Innovative Problem Solving, (4) Overcoming Extraordinary Challenge, (5) Effective Contract Administration, and (6) Timely Completion of Project.

Project Overview:

This project has constructed a new interchange in place of the existing at-grade intersection, realigned and added bicycle lanes to SH-53, replaced a deficient railroad bridge, and constructed new frontage roads and a roundabout. The project is in its closing stages with a few cleanup items left to accomplish in the spring. A highly effective partnership between ITD, HMH Engineering (construction consultant), David Evans & Associates (engineer of record), and the contractor, Scarsella Bros, Inc. (SBI) and their subcontractors has fostered a cooperative work environment focused on safety, mobility, and providing Idaho taxpayers with a quality project.

Safety of the traveling public and construction staff has been the top priority of everyone involved. From the implementation of traffic-calming radar speed signs to collaboration with ISP, project staff has continually looked for ways to improve work zone safety. SBI reports a total of 47,000 hours of injury-free work on the part of their staff and that of their subcontractors. This focus on safety was especially crucial with the onset of COVID-19. SBI implemented their own set of procedures for employee safety, which kept staff healthy and saved untold hours of lost time from any potential outbreaks.

The design of this project minimized impacts to the traveling public since most of the work could be accomplished offline with SH-53 detoured along a frontage route and US-95 unrestricted. The public involvement team has kept locals and interested parties current with the project status through the project website, seasonal postcards, monthly email updates, press releases, and message boards around the project.

The project has faced numerous schedule risks, including late acquisition of right-of-way, delayed railroad agreements, utility conflicts, and a pandemic. The project team has worked together to mitigate risks as much as possible to keep the project on schedule. SBI implemented a value engineering change proposal which involved the construction of a highway transition with 24/7 work under single lane traffic. This reduced the time of traffic impacts by approximately one week and saved over \$240,000.

The curved edges of the interchange bridge deck posed a unique challenge to the bridge subcontractor, C.L. Heilman Company, Inc. In order to pave the deck, their innovative solution was to turn the rails for their paver transverse to the roadway and fashion “seesaw” pieces of rail at the high point of the roadway crown. This allowed for the paver to work from the outside edge into the middle, ride onto the seesaw, and then rock back to the other side of the crown by jacking the seesaw to slope the other way. This innovation allowed for a smooth bridge deck while still constructing the distinctive hourglass-shaped deck, which saved money in bridge materials and will set this bridge apart from other similar interchange designs. This single-point urban interchange is the first of its kind in North Idaho.

The contract has been administered effectively and according to all state and federal aid requirements. As a project of interest with FHWA and being funded by GARVEE, all change orders have been vetted by both parties in addition to the typical internal approval authorities. HMH has maintained a materials acceptance plan, ensuring that all materials requirements are met prior to authorizing payment for each item, and completing a bulk of the closeout work prior to project completion. All labor requirements have been met. Communication has been key throughout the project, with all parties working together to meet all contract requirements.

The majority of the project has been completed on time. Unfortunately, due to manufacturing and supply challenges driven primarily by covid, the installation of the signal and the subsequent opening of the interchange has been delayed by several months. This has pushed a small amount of work into next season. Nevertheless, the project team has performed admirably in trying to mitigate schedule impacts wherever possible and minimizing impacts to the traveling public. The amount of work safely accomplished amidst a global pandemic is to be commended.

With all the parties associated and all the moving parts to this complex project, its success is a testament to the hard work and effective communication of everyone involved. SBI and its subcontractors have tackled this project with a commitment to safety, workmanship, and cooperation. The construction team of HMH and ITD staff have fostered an atmosphere of teamwork and have worked with the contractor to develop practical solutions and ensure a quality finished product. DEA provided ITD with a high quality design, has been helpful and prompt in responding to questions, and has helped provide guidance when design expertise is needed. Together we have built a project that Idaho can be proud of.







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