



## PRESS RELEASE

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For more information:  
Monica Worth 540.987.9678  
Lisa Vander Heiden 218.370.9408

### **Beartooth Highway Team Earns National Achievement Award**

*Collaboration and Quality Control Give the Beartooth New Life*

*Austin, TX/November 13, 2007* – The National Partnership for Highway Quality (NPHQ) announced today that its 2007 National Achievement Award Special Recognition for a Small Project will go to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFLHD) and its project partners, the Gallatin National Forest, Yellowstone National Park, the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), Rice-Kilroy Construction Company Inc., and Robert Peccia and Associates in recognition of the Beartooth Highway, Segment 1, MTPFH 59-1(1) project.

The announcement was made in San Diego, California, by NPHQ, a partnership among federal, state, and roadway industry leaders and officials that promotes highway quality, safety, and service to the highway user.

Known for its high elevations and breathtaking views, the Beartooth Highway has suffered decades of neglect because of cross-jurisdictional issues, earning it the nickname the “orphaned highway.” As the roadway deteriorated, the WFLHD began addressing these issues and created a partnership to restore the All-American Road, including Segment 1 between Cooke City, Montana, and the Montana/Wyoming state line.

The agencies involved gathered at a partnering workshop in Cooke City in May 2004 to outline project expectations for the \$11.2 million Segment 1 project, which called for the reconstruction of 8.01 km of US 212. The challenges on this project included rugged terrain, a short construction season (four and a half months), and no weekend construction.

“All the partners knew that quality would be key to the success of this project,” said NPHQ Executive Director Bob Templeton, “so they made that their focus early on.”

The contractor was required to have a qualified quality control manager (QCM) onsite during all phases of construction. The QCM was responsible for coordinating and supervising all quality control and did so diligently, initiating corrective actions when the surveying crew incorrectly marked the clearing limits; requesting that extra equipment be

brought in to achieve proper sub-base compaction; and dismissing a revegetation contractor who was not performing up to specification.

The project came in under bid and prior to the adjusted, fixed completion date in spite of over 30 contract modifications totaling over \$4 million. Templeton called this a “remarkable achievement” and lauded the partners for their commitment to quality and innovation. “This project is a shining example of what we can achieve when we work together,” Templeton stated.

The NPHQ National Achievement Awards recognize overall project quality; the partnership between state departments of transportation and private contractors; technical and materials innovations; the effectiveness and creativity of public involvement; the teams’ effectiveness in meeting or exceeding expected deadlines, costs, and deliverables; responsiveness to environmental needs and opportunities; and adherence to other principles of quality management.

NPHQ is the only nationally-formed organization dedicated to achieving total commitment to highway quality and customer satisfaction in every state. Its partners include the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET), the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), the American Concrete Pipe Association (ACPA), Delcan Corporation, Granite Construction Company, Kiewit Corporation, RedVector, URS Corporation, and Williams Brothers Construction Co., Inc. More information is available at [www.nphq.org](http://www.nphq.org).