

**Leadership Category Winner**

**James H. Anspach, J. H. Anspach Consulting**  
**Nicholas M. Zembillas, TBE Group, Inc.**

Nicholas M. Zembillas and James H. Anspach are recognized leaders in the highway/utilities field and are greatly responsible for the growth of the Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE) practice to its present prominence in the project development arena. Their diligent efforts helped introduce the use of "SUE" to State Department of Transportations, and they continue to provide technical assistance, make presentations, and use every available avenue to help State Department of Transportation planners and designers better understand the need for reliable subsurface utilities data. Their efforts all feed into improved construction and untold millions of dollars in time and cost savings on transportation-related projects.



Jim Anspach

Nick Zembillas

**Leadership Category Honorable Mention**

**Ohio Department of Transportation  
 Utility Plan Reading Training Class**

In response to the Ohio Department of Transportation's utility counterparts' needs, the Utility Plan Reading Training Class was designed to enhance the efficiency and cost effectiveness of the utility relocation process for highway construction projects and eliminate delays caused by non-responsive utility relocation activity.

The 2-day course focuses on those components that are of critical interest to utility company relocation personnel and also expands on utility issues within the project Right-of-Way plans. Given the ever changing staffing roles of the utilities, the training is considered an effective means of maintaining expertise at the Department of Transportation and the utility companies.

Award Recipients:

- Ohio Department of Transportation:  
 Myra Binns, G. Raymond Lorello, and Mark Manzo

**Teresa Loop  
 Puget Sound Energy**

Teresa Loop demonstrated exceptional team-building skills that helped successfully coordinate utility relocation along an important State highway corridor, and helped change the way utility companies work together in Skagit County, Washington. The required utility relocation on the State Route 20 project was substantial and involved teamwork from two other utility companies to relocate five miles of utility poles, equipment, and service connections. Ms. Loop's proactive coordination with these other utility companies was so successful that Puget Sound Energy (PSE) has subsequently initiated a quarterly meeting with other companies that connect to PSE power poles.

**2009 Excellence in Utility Accommodation  
 and Relocation Awards Judges**

**Janis Gramatins**, Federal Highway Administration,  
 Washington, DC

**Steven R. Mills**, Federal Highway Administration,  
 Montgomery, AL

**Bimla Rhinehart**, California Department of  
 Transportation, Sacramento, CA

**Chuck Schmidt**, New Hampshire Department of  
 Transportation, Concord, NH

**Congratulations to the Nominees and  
 Winners of the 2009 Excellence in  
 Utility Relocation and Accommodation  
 Awards**

This Awards Program is conducted biennially by the Federal Highway Administration to honor outstanding achievement in the utility arena. The goal of this program is to showcase exemplary projects, programs, initiatives, and practices that successfully integrate the consideration of utilities in the planning, design, construction, and maintenance of transportation facilities.

The 2009 Excellence in Utility Relocation and Accommodation Awards demonstrate achievements in the following categories: Project Development, Construction Management, Innovation, and Leadership. The award recipients are being honored during the 2009 AASHTO Subcommittee on Right-of-Way and Utilities annual meeting in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. In this brochure, you will read about innovative projects, programs, initiatives, and collaborative efforts from around the country.

**Excellence Award Winners**

**Project Development Category Winner**

**Maryland Route 97/Randolph Road  
 Intersection  
 Montgomery County, Maryland**

This complex urban project, which will grade separate the MD 97/Randolph Road intersection using a bridge/tunnel, will also impact distribution and transmission facilities for multiple utilities. The Maryland State Highway Administration implemented Accelerated Construction Technology Transfer methodologies to address these numerous coordination challenges. The project team used value engineering and quality improvement techniques to successfully move utility relocations off the project schedule's critical path. This approach facilitated dramatic reductions in cost, schedule, and impacts to the traveling public and surrounding communities.



Maryland Route 97.

**Project Development Category  
 Honorable Mention**

**Route 17/Essex Street Interchange  
 Reconstruction  
 Bergen County, New Jersey**

Through an extensive project development process involving collaboration with 14 utility companies, \$10 million of utility relocations were accommodated as part of this \$40 million project. The use of subsurface utility engineering, significant pre-construction relocation, incentives/penalties, and other stakeholder negotiated provisions contributed to the success of the project and enabled the construction schedule to be reduced from 32 to 16 months.

Award Recipients:

- New Jersey Department of Transportation:  
 Manuel Viteri
- Taylor Wiseman and Taylor: Thomas Costello,  
 Anthony DiMauro, and Colleen Richwall



New Jersey Route 17 – Essex Street Bridge  
 Reconstruction.



## Project Development Category Honorable Mention

### Ambassador Caffery Parkway Extension Project Lafayette Parish, Louisiana

The Ambassador Caffery Parkway Extension Project cost approximately \$40 million and included \$7 million of utility relocation work involving 16 utility companies and six major oil pipelines. The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development's team diligently employed the "3 C's" (Coordination, Communication, and Cooperation) beginning before final acquisition of Right-of-Way to ensure all the conflicting utilities would be relocated prior to project advertisement. This approach identified opportunities for the pipeline companies to partner and use a single contractor when their crossings were in proximity to each other.

#### Award Recipients:

- Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development: Steven Deville, Trey Jesclard, Randy Richard, and Sandra Woolie



Ambassador Caffery Parkway Utility Relocation.

## Construction Management Category Winner

### Interstate 35W Bridge over the Mississippi River Hennepin County, Minnesota

The speed at which the Minnesota Department of Transportation had to replace the fallen I-35W bridge over the Mississippi River posed a significant utility relocation challenge. The contractor was required to hold a time-critical utility kick-off meeting, create preliminary and final designs

concurrent with the agreement writing, and provide preliminary design review to quickly obtain permit acceptance. Additionally, the contractor was required to engage multiple stakeholders on utility accommodation policy. The unique collaborative approach used on this project allowed this critical project to be completed 3 months ahead of schedule.

#### Award Recipients:

- Minnesota Department of Transportation: Mary Lacho
- Flatiron Construction Corporation: Matt Semerad
- TBE Group: Jeff A. Sowers



I-35W Bridge Replacement.

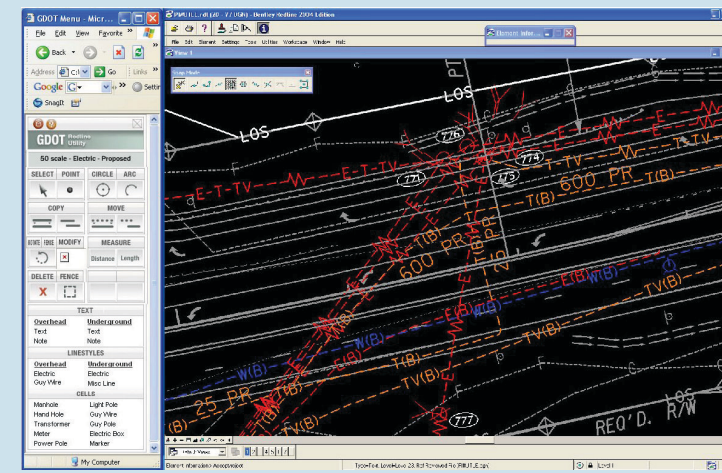
## Innovation Category Winner

### Georgia Department of Transportation's Utility "Redline" Project

Georgia Department of Transportation's Utility Redline Software greatly facilitates the transmittal of utility plan markups in electronic format for construction projects, thereby better facilitating project utility coordination efforts; significantly increasing plan quality; and further reducing both the Agency's and utility owner's printing costs. The software also aids in the implementation of GIS-based application; and is considered a monumental step in the Georgia Department of Transportation's ongoing mission to minimize project delivery schedules.

#### Award Recipients:

- Georgia Department of Transportation: Jun Birnkammer, Glenn Robertson, and Glenn Williams



Georgia Department of Transportation's Redline Software.

## Innovation Category Honorable Mention

### Florida Department of Transportation's Utility Coordination Web Site

The Florida Department of Transportation's Utility Coordination Web site eliminates the boundaries between design and construction by providing information regarding utility conflicts and utility relocation time-lines for all ongoing construction projects, allowing each utility agency to allocate its resources in the most efficient manner. This Web site also helps the contractor fully realize their impact on the utility industry if they desire to change the sequence of a particular construction activity.

#### Award Recipient:

- Florida Department of Transportation, Johnny Blakeney



Johnny Blakeney, Florida Department of Transportation.

## Innovation Category Honorable Mention

### Katy Freeway Reconstruction Program Harris County, Texas

This project consisted of the reconstruction of 23 miles of Interstate and involved 33 utility owners over four separate utility corridors. The use of an outsourced utility inspection and coordination team enabled the Texas Department of Transportation to apply their resources on other activities. The "corridor" approach to design and construction enabled both the Department and the utilities to maximize available crews and minimize costs. The use of a dedicated project-specific Web site allowed for quick transmission and review of project documents and exceptional coordination between project stakeholders. This project's processes and tracking elements were so successful that they are now used as a model for other large-scale projects in the State of Texas.

#### Award Recipients:

- Texas Department of Transportation: Frances Willison, David Roberts, and Stephen Stakemiller
- Parsons Brinckerhoff: Ken Stayer



Katy Freeway Duct Bank Relocation.