

NEWS RELEASE

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Wichita project named one of nation's 10 best

A project that eliminated a 100-year-old traffic problem in downtown Wichita has been named one of America's 10 best transportation projects.

The \$105 million Central Corridor project was named one of the 10 finalists in the 2010 America's Transportation Awards competition. It emerged as a finalist from regional competitions that included 43 projects from 29 states. It is now in the running for two awards: the grand prize to be selected by a panel of judges, and the People's Choice Award, which will be decided by popular vote. Online voting is under way and continues through Oct. 18. Kansans are encouraged to cast a vote for the project by visiting the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) web site at www.americastransportationaward.org.

The project, which began in 2005 and was completed in 2009, raised two miles of railroad track above the roadway, providing five new bridges to carry trains over thoroughfares below. For the first time in a century, street traffic and emergency vehicles can cross beneath the tracks without being stopped by trains. The project improves safety

and reduces emissions from vehicles, which sometimes could be delayed for up to 30 minutes. It also removes a major obstacle to economic development in downtown Wichita.

“Our city is honored with this national recognition,” said Wichita Mayor Carl Brewer. “But the praise needs to be shared with the local visionaries who initiated the project, as well as our state and federal partners who helped make it possible.”

TranSystems was program manager, overseeing the design and performing the construction inspection activities. The designer-of-record was HNTB and the general construction contractor was Dondlinger & Sons Construction Co. of Wichita. The project was a joint effort of the City of Wichita and the Kansas Department of Transportation.

America’s Transportation Award is sponsored by AASHTO, AAA, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

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