



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Context Sensitive Design Provides PennDOT A Gateway to National Award**

*Collaboration Transforms Boulevard of The Allies Project into Community Landmark*

Austin, TX/November 3, 2009 - The National Partnership for Highway Quality (NPHQ) announced today that the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) Boulevard of The Allies Project, located in the western end of the City of Pittsburgh's Oakland neighborhood, has been selected as a 2009 National Achievement Award Winner for a Major Structures Project.

"We are pleased to receive this prestigious award and recognition for this deserving project," District Executive Dan Cessna, P.E. said. "The new Boulevard of the Allies Bridge is remarkable achievement and a functional work of art."

The project included the demolition and reconstruction of the mainline bridge over Forbes Avenue, the replacement of the south and north ramps with new realigned and improved ramps and the elimination of the contra-flow traffic lane on Forbes Avenue. The changes included in the project represent dramatic improvements in traffic flow for the Oakland area. The project was designed by Wilbur Smith Associates and constructed by the prime contractor, Joseph B. Fay Company.

In building the new bridge, PennDOT worked closely with Oakland Transportation Management Association (OTMA), the Oakland Task Force, the University of Pittsburgh, and the City of Pittsburgh. Community input was crucial in the selection of the finishes on the project, such as vertical elements in the retaining walls, colors for the paint, coordination of the placement of large eagle emblems on the structure that are replicas of the originals removed from the old bridge, lighting and other features such as the type and style of barrier walls and railings.

The new Boulevard of the Allies bridge opened to traffic in November 2008. The structure and new connecting ramps incorporate both pragmatic and aesthetic features that not only benefit the region's transportation infrastructure, but have created a dramatic gateway into Western Pennsylvania's cultural, medical and educational epicenter in Oakland. The former bridge, built in 1928, had become a structurally deficient, weight restricted eyesore. The span carries about 28,432 vehicles over Forbes Avenue on an average day.

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 a national coalition of public highway agencies, industry organizations and private firms founded in 1992 as the National Quality Initiative. For more than 15 years, NPHQ continues to be the only

National program that brings Federal, State and Municipal highway agencies and private industry together to combine their expertise and to cooperatively lead the advancement in highway quality, safety and service to the highway users. For more information on the NPHQ and its awards: [www.nphq.org](http://www.nphq.org). To learn more about the Boulevard of the Allies: [www.dot.state.pa.us/pennidot/Districts/District11.nsf/Featured Boulevard of the Allies](http://www.dot.state.pa.us/pennidot/Districts/District11.nsf/Featured%20Boulevard%20of%20the%20Allies).

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