

Press Release

COAST MERIDIAN OVERPASS WINS THIRD INDUSTRY AWARD

Port Coquitlam, BC – DECEMBER 23, 2011... For some, the Coast Meridian Overpass (CMO) is a convenient way to move people, goods and services around the community. For others, the CMO is an engineering marvel worthy of notice and recognition.

The CMO has won its third engineering award within the span of a year. International Bridge Technologies Inc. (IBT), a member of the CMO design-build team led by SNC-Lavalin Constructors (Pacific) Inc., has received a prestigious Honor Award from the California branch of the American Council of Engineering Companies' (ACEC) 2012 Engineering Excellence Awards. The California-based IBT provided the CMO's structural engineering.

ACEC bestowed a single top prize, eight Honor Awards and nine Merit Awards. The CMO was one of only two Honor Award projects outside California, and the only Canadian project. The award entitles IBT to apply for a national ACEC award in the U.S.

While this is the CMO's third industry award, it is the project's first outside Canada. In November, the project received an Award of Excellence in the transportation category of the Canada-wide 2011 Canadian Consulting Engineering Awards. In March, the CMO received an Award of Merit in Engineering Excellence in the transportation category of the Consulting Engineers of British Columbia Awards. Design-build partner SNC-Lavalin submitted the application for both the national and provincial awards.

The City's largest-ever transportation project, the 580-metre-long cable-stayed structure opened to the public in March 2010 after a two-year construction period. Spanning the Canadian Pacific Railway yards, the CMO bridges the north and south sides of the community with four travel lanes, sidewalk and bicycle lanes.

Noted engineering accomplishments related to the CMO include:

- Longest push-launch in North America: one at a time, five sections weighing up to 1,500 tonnes were inched into place with hydraulic jacks and rollers, secured by cables attached to the 25-metre-tall steel pylons. The largest section was 125 metres long.
- Ingenuity and complexity of cable-stayed design: allowed for a two-metre reduction in the depth of the steel beams.

The CMO has significantly improved access for residents, businesses and emergency responders. Traffic studies conducted in the last year have noted marked improvements in traffic mobility between the north and south sides of the community. Visit www.portcoquitlam.ca/cm0 for more information about the CMO.

- 30 -

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