2010 Award Nominations

Environmental Excellence in Roadway Design, Maintenance, Construction & Enhancement
Environmental Excellence in Roadway Design

TH 61, Cook County, Tofte to Lutsen
Dave Mavec
Mn/DOT District 1
1123 Mesaba Ave.
Duluth, MN 55811
Reconstruction of TH 61 between the Onion River (near Tofte) and Lutsen, located in Cook County. This project included the reconstruction of 3.5 miles of TH 61 and the construction of a pedestrian/bike trail (Gitchi-Gami Trail). There were numerous natural resources in the project area including: the recreational trail, a wayside rest reconstruction (Ray Berglund) and trout stream issues.
Environmental Issues Addressed

The Onion River culvert was replaced with a bridge. The DNR had this culvert on their list of fish migration barriers during fall spawning runs on the North Shore.
Species such as the native brook trout (Coasters), steelhead & salmon will benefit from TH 61 no longer being a barrier to spawning fish.
Environmental Excellence in Roadway Maintenance

Emerald Ash Borer, Metro
Dewayne Jones
Mn/DOT Maintenance Superintendent
Waters Edge-1500 County Road B2
Roseville, MN 55113
The Mn/DOT Metro District Maintenance Operations Group is being recognized for their efforts to train each maintenance employee what the insect looks like, how the insect is spread and how to manage their tree debris in a manner to slow the spread of Emerald Ash Borer as a response to the Emerald Ash Borer find on May 14, 2009 in the City of St. Paul.
Environmental Excellence in Roadway Construction

TH 60 Bridge Reconstruction, Rice County
Chad Casey
Mn/DOT District 6
2900 48th St. NW
Rochester, MN 55901
Reconstruction of the TH 60 bridge over the Straight River located in the City of Faribault, Rice County. This bridge, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was rehabilitated to historic standards while meeting modern safety and traffic needs.
The river itself contains habitat for native mussel species. While no mussels were known to exist at the project location, there were known downstream beds. A temporary construction bridge was installed to protect the river from construction related impacts.
The Straight River is a DNR Designated Canoe route. The contractor (Ames Construction), Mn/DOT, DNR & the City worked to provide a canoe pullout area in the city park just upstream of the project.
Canoe access constructed to allow river users a safe pull-out area.
Environmental Enhancement Award

Chaska Historical Marker (Old TH 212)
The restoration of the Chaska Historical Marker has been selected for the first ever OES Environmental Enhancement Award. This award recognizes Mn/DOT Districts and Offices that preserve, protect, and enhance our roadside resources.

**Project Team**

**Metro Project Team:**
- Lynn Clarkowski, Cyrus Knutson, Nicole Peterson

**Site Development Unit Project Manager:**
- Kathryn McFadden, Landscape Architect
The marker was recognized as an important historic resource, exemplifying the distinctive and well constructed wayside rests developed by the Minnesota Department of Highways Roadside Development Division during the 1930s & 40s.
In 2007, the center pier partially collapsed. Originally, the District committed to repair the center pier, but in the end they sought and found funding to restore the entire site.

After Partial Collapse
Marker after Reconstruction (2009)
Original stones were reused whenever possible, and the stone benches were reconstructed.

The overgrown vegetation was removed, and new planting were established based on the original landscaping plan.

After Restoration
The Chaska Marker reconstruction completed by the Metro District and the Site Development Unit exemplifies Mn/DOT's commitment to preserve and protect its historic and environmental properties, and provide enhancement facilities along our roadways to improve the traveler's experience.