

2014 Excellence in Utility Relocation and Accommodation Awards

- [Construction Management](#)
- [Incentives](#)
- [Innovation](#)
- [Program Leadership – Individual & Team](#)
- [Project Development](#)

Congratulations to the winners of the 2014 Excellence in Utility Relocation and Accommodation Awards! The FHWA Excellence in Utility Awards recognizes exemplary projects, programs, initiatives and practices that successfully integrate the consideration of utilities in the planning, design, construction and maintenance of transportation facilities. The FHWA developed this biennial awards program to honor outstanding achievement in the utility arena.

This year's award winners demonstrate these exemplary practices and achievements in the following categories: Construction Management, Incentives, Innovation, Program Leadership, and Project Development. The award recipients were honored on April 30 during the 2014 American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) annual meeting of the Subcommittee on Right-of-Way, Utilities, and Outdoor Advertising Control in Salt Lake City, Utah.

We would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to the following professionals who have donated their time and expertise in judging this awards program.

Bryan Bradley
State Utility Engineer
Iowa Department of Transportation

Kevin Brodie
Operations Engineer
FHWA North Dakota Division

Dennis LaBelle
Director of Utilities
M & T Consultants, Inc.

J. Robert Memory
State Utility Agent, Utilities Unit
North Carolina Department of Transportation

Ahmer Nizam
Manager, Utilities/Railroad/Agreements
Washington State Department of Transportation

Lee Potter
Assistant Division Administrator
FHWA Wyoming Division

Mark Richter
Construction and Maintenance Engineer
FHWA Vermont Division

Scott Riddle
Vice President
KCI

Tom Swafford
Utility Coordination Program Manager
Utility Mapping Services, Inc.

Excellence Award for Construction Management

Custer Avenue Interchange Project, Montana Department of Transportation

This award recognizes the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) and Morrison-Maierle for their excellence in utility construction management for the Custer Avenue Interchange project. The project team engaged utility companies early in the design phase and continued to collaborate with these stakeholders throughout the process, resulting in efficient coordination throughout project development. The project team also used innovative approaches to address utility relocations and other challenges encountered during construction.

Their innovative and collaborative approach allowed them to avoid utilities during construction, and led to substantial cost savings and project completion ahead of an already significantly accelerated schedule.

Award Recipients:

- Montana Department of Transportation
- Morrison Maierle

Contact: [Lynn Zanto](#), Rail Transit and Planning Division Administrator, MDT



Construction on I-358



Workers doing construction on 411



Construction on 3635

Excellence Award for Incentives

Utility Incentive-Based Reimbursement Policy, Massachusetts Department of Transportation

This award recognizes the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) for their excellence in establishing an incentive-based reimbursement policy for utility relocations. Under the new policy, MassDOT will reimburse 50% of the actual costs incurred for necessary utility relocation only if the utility owner completes the work within a duration schedule approved by MassDOT.

This new procedure ties utility relocations to the construction contractor's schedule, thus strongly incentivizing coordination between the utility companies, construction contractors, and MassDOT. The

policy was developed as the result of a MassDOT/FHWA Every Day Counts initiative to improve and incorporate new processes to enhance projects that require utility relocations.

Award Recipient:

- Massachusetts Department of Transportation

Contact: [Guy Rezendes](#), MassDOT



Project completed before adoption of new policy



Project completed after adoption of new policy

Excellence Award for Innovation

US-89 State Street Reconstruction Project, Utah Department of Transportation

This award recognizes the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), CenturyLink, and Terra Technologies for their excellence in utility innovation for the US-89 State Street reconstruction project. The project team worked collaboratively to find a solution to protect in-place and relocate extensive

telecom facilities for the widening and full depth reconstruction of a high volume, congested, urban highway.

This effort cut relocation costs in half, reduced the schedule by one-fifth of the original estimate, eliminated service outages to utility customers, and minimized impacts to the travelling public. As a result of the team's work and success on this project, these innovations will be used on future projects in Utah.



Protecting in-place CenturyLink facilities using Terra Cap™



CenturyLink facilities being prepared for relocation using Terra Move™

Award Recipients:

- Utah Department of Transportation
- CenturyLink
- Terra Technologies

Contact: [Josh Glazier](#), Region Utilities and Railroads Leader, UDOT Region Three

Honorable Mention for Innovation

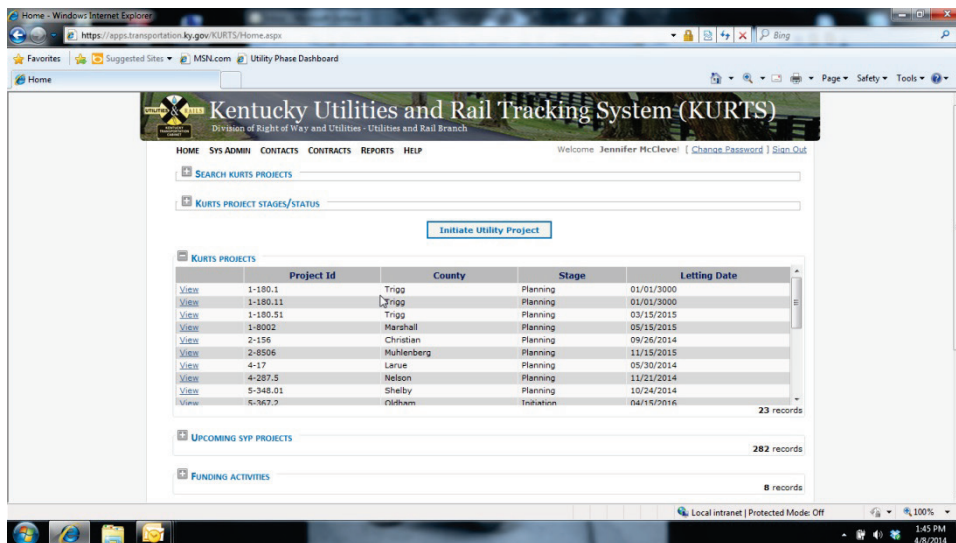
Kentucky Utilities and Rails Tracking System (KURTS), Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

This Honorable Mention recognizes the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) for their excellence in utility innovation for the Kentucky Utilities and Rails Tracking System (KURTS). KURTS provides a single, web-based solution for KYTC and the many utility companies who perform utility work statewide. Users internal and external to the department of transportation can share project specific utility information, such as agreements, invoices, change orders, and project status, in real time. KURTS allows KYTC users to track and direct the management of utility coordination processes.

Award Recipient:

- Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

Contact: [Jennifer McCleve](#), Branch Manager, KYTC



KURTS home screen

Excellence Award for Program Leadership - Individual

David Hausmann, South Dakota Department of Transportation

This award recognizes David Hausmann for his excellence in utility coordination leadership throughout the development, implementation, and evolution of a successful utility coordination program for the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT). Mr. Hausmann has provided outstanding leadership and dedication in efforts to encourage efficient coordination between SDDOT and utility companies on all projects.

Mr. Hausmann's leadership and dedication has been consistently proven throughout the development and implementation of a process to include utility companies in the design process, eliminating

unnecessary utility relocation and delays. Dave's leadership and expertise has resulted in major cost savings and has greatly improved utility coordination in all stages of project development.



Dave Hausmann, Advance Utilities Coordinator, SDDOT

Contact: [David Hausmann](#), Advance Utilities Coordinator, SDDOT

Excellence Award for Program Leadership - Team

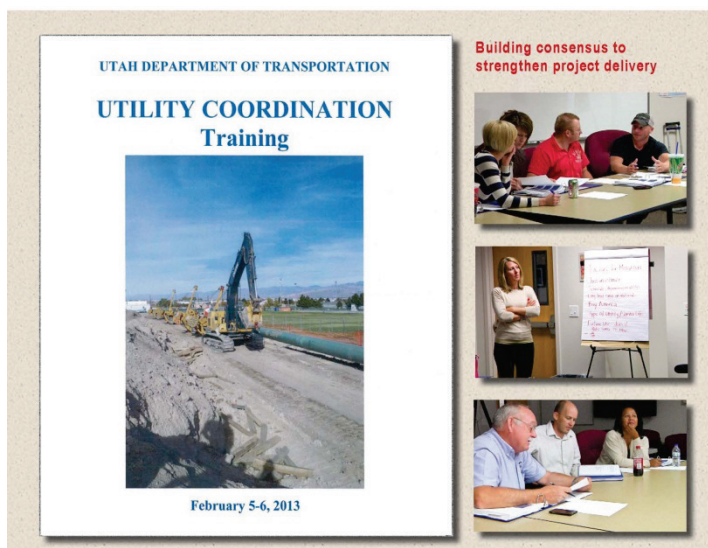
Utah Department of Transportation Utility Coordination and Accommodation Improvement Team

This award recognizes the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) and Cardno TBE for their excellence in utility program leadership for the overhaul of UDOT's Utility Accommodation Policy and Administrative Code and the development of a Utility Coordination Manual of Instruction. The team fully re-wrote UDOT's Utility Accommodation Policy and Administrative Code and created a new utility Coordination Manual of Instruction in order to promote statewide consistency and capture institutional knowledge and best practices for utility coordination.

The team's commitment to building consensus throughout the process enabled UDOT to successfully implement the two policies. This collaborative effort as a whole strengthened the relationship between UDOT and utility stakeholders and encourages the communication necessary for successful utility relocation during all phases of project development.



The Utah Department of Transportation Utility Coordination & Accommodation Improvement Team



Training Materials for the UDOT's Newly Revised Utility Coordination Process; Training Participants

Award Recipients:

- Utah Department of Transportation
- Cardno TBE

Contact: [Richard Manser](#), Statewide Utilities and Railroads Engineer, UDOT

Honorable Mention for Program Leadership - Team

Indiana Department of Transportation

This Honorable Mention recognizes the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) Utilities and Railroad Division's excellence in utility program leadership for the development of a Utility Coordination

training program. INDOT created the intensive two-day Certification training program to standardize the coordination process and improve communication between Utility and Consultant partners.



Cindy Kowalski, Parsons Transportation, emphasizing communication as one of the “soft skills” required to be an effective “On Point”-Utility Coordinator



Director Kenny Franklin discussing “Mutual Respect/a cultural shift” as a point of emphasis during training of the “New Paradigm”

Award Recipient:

- Indiana Department of Transportation

Contact: [Kenneth Franklin](#), Director of Utilities and Railroad, INDOT

Excellence Award for Project Development

Dallas Fort Worth Connector Reconstruction Project, Texas Department of Transportation

This award recognizes the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), NorthGate Constructors, CSJ Engineering Associates, and Atkins for their excellence in utility project development for the Dallas Fort Worth Connector reconstruction project. The project scope included expanding 18 lanes, improving several connector ramps, and building 39 new bridges. This work required the creation of over 300 design packages.

TxDOT and contractors collaborated with utility stakeholders throughout the process, allowing for early conflict resolution and design modifications that integrated all utility activities into the project schedule. Additionally, the team used innovative design approaches which helped eliminate conflicts between utility and project work. This effort resulted in over 100 successful relocations and a project delivered within budget and 4 months ahead of schedule.



Utility owner crews relocating overhead electric distribution lines at night under lane closure



Aerial photo looking east over the SH 114 and SH 26 intersection. There were 12 utility adjustments at this one intersection.



Northgate subcontractor installing steel casing at night across driveway for underground electric distribution lines.

Award Recipients:

- Texas Department of Transportation
- Atkins
- CSJ Engineering Associates, LLC
- NorthGate Constructors, JV

Contact: [Don Toner](#), Director of Strategic Projects Right of Way, TxDOT