Award wins: Canadian highway projects

The British Columbia Ministry of Transportation recently recognized CH2M HILL Canada with first and second place awards for two road improvement projects. The projects were nominated by clients, selected by a panel led by the ministry's deputy minister, John Dyble, and acknowledged at a presentation on January 26 by Dyble and Kevin Falcon, minister of transportation.

The Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project received first place for specialized engineering services. CH2M HILL, led by project manager Gary Webster, is providing program management services for the design-build-operate-finance project, the first public-private partnership transportation project in British Columbia. Improvements valued at CDN$450 million are being made to the narrow, winding, two-lane mountain highway. It is the only route connecting Whistler and Vancouver, and is being upgraded in preparation for the 2010 Winter Olympics.

"CH2M HILL showed flexibility and willingness to go the extra mile to manage changes and issues, as well as advise on an innovative procurement strategy that satisfied financial, schedule, and scope constraints," said Peter Milburn, assistant deputy minister.

The firm's second place award recognized the $12 million Highway 1 Joint Use Vehicle Inspection Station near Golden, British Columbia, for design and contract preparation. The team, led by Mike Baker of the Kamloops office, designed a median inspection station, fully integrated into the highway system, that includes weigh-in-motion capability and an interface with carrier pre-clearance technology.

The project was a first-of-its-kind joint initiative between the provinces of British Columbia and Alberta; CH2M HILL successfully managed the expectations of both, developing a design which became the basis for the ministry's new Commercial Vehicle Design Guide and also resulted in an approved design for acceleration and deceleration lane lengths to accommodate commercial vehicles. "CH2M HILL delivered, exceeding expectations and breaking new ground in more than one area," Milburn said.