Spotlighting transportation program management

For the fourth straight year, Engineering News-Record has ranked CH2M HILL the No. 1 program management firm in the United States, and the firm's strengths in this area are certainly being proven time and again on transportation programs across the country.

For these infrastructure programs, and for others around the globe, CH2M HILL is using its proven management systems and processes to plan, design, construct and deliver complex projects for the firm's clients.

Connecting Idaho, a statewide program

Connecting Idaho involves six corridors covering more than 70 miles of highway throughout the state. The Idaho Transportation Board selected Partners, a joint venture of CH2M HILL and Washington Group International, for the $1 billion, six-year Connecting Idaho-GARVEE (Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle) bond transportation program.

It is the single largest public works investment initiative proposed in the state's history, and one of the largest GARVEE programs in the U.S. CH2M HILL, as part of the joint venture, is working to speed delivery and optimize project and program management.

Program successes to date

The team is working in collaboration with the transportation department and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to develop various trial process improvements, called Special Experimental Project 15 proposals, to streamline the project-development approach. Proposals were submitted:

- to accelerate final design and right-of-way acquisition processes prior to completing the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process
- for Connecting Idaho Partners to act as the transportation department's agent for specific activities, with oversight by the department

Other successes include:
- conducting an advanced construction technology transfer workshop with the department and FHWA to bring national experts together with local leaders to explore innovative approaches to accelerate construction
- working with the consulting engineering community and contractors through a special outreach program to share information about GARVEE-funded projects and to gain input on new ideas for streamlining project development and construction
- sizing and bundling contract packages to streamline the process and maximize opportunities for Idaho companies

Tennessee Air National Guard

CH2M HILL is providing design, program and construction management for this $245 million relocation and base conversion program, the largest construction program undertaken by the Air National Guard in the past 20 years. The work involves constructing and relocating hangars, administrative and industrial buildings, and associated base infrastructure for the 164th Airlift Wing of the Tennessee ANG in Memphis. Scheduled for completion in 2008, the program will relocate the 164th Airlift Wing from the north end of Memphis International Airport to a 118-acre site at the southeast corner of the airport. While the Tennessee ANG is the end user, CH2M HILL is under contract to the Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority for these services.

As part of its program management services, CH2M HILL is providing recommendations for alternative delivery options, evaluating mass procurement for potential programwide savings, and maintaining a financial database that tracks multiple funding sources, the budget, reserves, and remaining budgets. In addition, to keep the program on schedule and budget, CH2M HILL introduced a new project delivery process to the airport authority and
NG—early contractor selection. By allowing contractors earlier involvement in the design and construction process, the team has provided significant value-engineering and constructability savings to the client and the program.

Its size and scope notwithstanding, one of the program’s most compelling features is the relationship among the diverse stakeholders. The program’s success depends on the full buy-in and cooperation of all involved, which is achieved by ongoing communication and updates on the project’s accelerated schedule, budget, and scope challenges.

When completed in the summer of 2008, this unique program will benefit the ANG and the greater Memphis community, which will be home to a state-of-the-art ANG base. The program is already proving to be a success for the companies and contractors involved in its design and construction. Many local jobs have been created, positively impacting the Memphis economy. This program demonstrates the multiple benefits that can take place when government, private enterprise, and the community work together for mutually satisfying outcomes.

City of San Antonio

Because of an increase in its capital improvements program and an expectation that its in-house staff soon would be overwhelmed with work, the City of San Antonio Public Works Department decided, for the first time in its history, to use a program management approach to ensure its projects are delivered on time and within budget, without compromising quality. The city selected CH2M HILL to deliver this program management approach, which has three primary components:

- storm water funding program
- local agency management funding program
- program management portal

To manage the work, CH2M HILL developed a web-based program management portal to support city staff and partners in monitoring and managing a wide range of projects. The portal provides easy access to centralized information on public works programs and projects, greatly enhancing communication and collaboration between team members and stakeholders. It also:

- reduces costs
- eliminates redundant data entry and rekeying of information
- reduces version control issues
- encourages project management efficiency

The portal provides a central collaboration capability that can be used by city staff and contractors to track program status, share data and share documents. The portal also improves communication among stakeholders, promotes accountability for project performance and streamlines management processes.