



2026 Public Works Project of the Year

PURPOSE: The MCAPWA Public Works Project of the Year Award was established to promote excellence in the management, administration, and implementation of public works projects by recognizing the alliance between the managing agency, the consultant/ architect/engineer, and the contractor who working together to complete public works projects.

Awards are given in four divisions. Please use the agency's total cost when selecting your division.

- Projects less than \$2 million
- Projects less than \$5 million
- Projects of \$5 million, but less than \$25 million
- Projects more than \$25 million

And five categories:

- Structures – to include new public structures or the preservation or rehabilitation of existing public structures including, municipal buildings and parks. Other structures as defined in the Historic Restoration/Preservation and Transportation categories shall not be considered in the structures category
- Transportation – to include roads, bridges, mass transit that serve any or all modes of travel, including bicycles and foot traffic. Other transportation projects as defined in the Historical Restoration/Preservation and Structures categories shall not be considered in the Transportation category
- Environment – to include treatment and recycling facilities, landfill reclamation projects, and sewer projects
- Historical Restoration/Preservation – to include historical restoration, preservation, and adaptive reuse of existing buildings, structures, and facilities, that are 75 years or older to qualify as historical
- Disaster or Emergency Construction Repair – to include the techniques and timing for safety, community relations, environmental protection, adverse conditions, and additional considerations.

ELIGIBILITY: Public works projects must be developed, owned, and maintained by public agencies. To be eligible for nomination, a project must have been “substantially completed” and available for public and/or agency use within two calendar years prior to nomination. If a project has multiple phases or segments, then “substantially completed” will be construed as that point when the final phase or segment is 90 percent completed and available for public and/or agency use.

Typical Public Works Projects include: Municipal Building or Fleet Maintenance, Solid Waste Management, Storm Drainage Control, Water or Sanitary Sewerage, Wastewater Treatment, Water Treatment, Erosion Control, Buildings, Handicap Accessibility, Road Rehabilitation/Construction, Wetlands Improvements / Restoration, Park and Playground Construction, Sidewalk Rehabilitation, Beautification Project, Traffic Control, Road / Ditch Maintenance, and other Municipal Projects

NOMINATION PROCESS: Submissions or Nominations shall include the Nomination Form and be limited to 20 pages, not including the Nomination Form or Photographs. Please adhere to the sequence

of and addressing each of the applicable Selection Criteria in your nomination; please also see Nomination Requirements below. No letters of recommendations, please.

NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS: Submissions of Nominations shall include:

1. Nomination Form
2. Narrative with the following information:
 - a. Role of the Public Works Department / Highway Crew (Managing Agency) in the project.
 - b. Role of any outside organizations (Primary Contractor and Primary Consultant) participating in the project.
 - c. Brief description of the applicant's project addressing each of the seven (7) Selection Criteria, as applicable
 - d. Location map and any representative project drawings.
3. Five to ten different, before and after, high resolution color photos reflecting the project. Please identify each photo with the project name and a caption.

SELECTION PROCESS: A panel of judges appointed by the President of the MCAPWA Board of Directors. Membership of the panel represents the public works field and other agencies with an active interest in the public works profession.

SELECTION CRITERIA: Criteria to be considered in the review and selection process.

1. Use of good construction management techniques and completion of the project on schedule.
2. Safety performance and demonstrated awareness of the need for a good overall safety program for workers and the public during and after construction, where applicable.
3. Community relations as evidenced by efforts to minimize public inconvenience due to construction, safety precautions to protect public lives and property, provision of observation areas, guided tours, or other means of improving relations between agency and the public.
4. Demonstrated awareness for the need to protect the environment. This includes any special considerations given to particular environmental concerns raised during the course of the project, as well as climate change and/or resiliency components for long-term community benefit.
5. Unusual accomplishments under adverse conditions including, but not limited to age or condition of the facility, adverse weather, soil or other site conditions over which there is no control.
6. Additional conditions deemed of importance to the public works agency, such as exceptional efforts to maintain quality control and, if value engineering is used, construction innovations as evidenced by time and/or money saving techniques developed and/or successfully utilized.
7. Use of alternative materials, practices, or funding that demonstrates a commitment to sustainability, climate change resiliency, and/or use of sustainable infrastructure rating system or the equivalent.

SUBMISSION: Submissions or Nominations shall be made electronically in PDF format via email to Barry Sheff, Woodard & Curran at bsheff@woodardcurran.com no later than Friday April 17, 2026. Nomination Form is available on the Chapter [website](#).

PRESENTATION: Award winners will be formally recognized during the Maine Chapter APWA 2026 Highway Congress on June 4, 2026 at the Skowhegan Fairgrounds.

For further information or questions, contact Barry Sheff at 207.558.3667 or bsheff@woodardcurran.com