

## 3 Metro Projects Win ACEC 2013 Engineering Excellence Awards

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*NASHVILLE, Tenn.--Metro Public Works Staff Accept Awards for 28/31<sup>st</sup> Ave Connector, Music City Bikeway, and KVB*

Metro Public Works received 3 ACEC (American Council of Engineering Companies) 2013 Engineering Excellence awards for the 28<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> Ave Connector, Music City Bikeway, and KVB projects at the ACEC banquet last week.

The 28<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> Avenue Connector multimodal boulevard runs 1/3 of a mile from Park Plaza to the South side of the Nashville and Western Railroad tracks, and accommodates multiple modes of transportation with wide sidewalks and dedicated bike paths. The Connector serves as the main thoroughfare for a new University Connector bus route linking six area universities and also includes a public art component with artwork on each side of the bridge. Led by Metro Public Works Engineering Division, project team members include Metro Water Services, Metro Arts Commission, Metro Parks, Metro Transit Authority, Gresham Smith & Partners, Littlejohn Engineering Associates, CDM Smith Inc., and Bell & Associates. Of the project, Mayor Karl Dean said, "The 28th Avenue Connector is an important and beautifully designed road for our city. The bridge reconnects two vital parts of Nashville, which will accelerate economic activity around that area. With this project, we have set a new standard for how to design and construct a signature street in our city. It has turned out to be one of the most attractive thoroughfares in all of Nashville."

The Music City Bikeway is a 26 mile continuous route that links Percy Priest Dam in eastern Davidson County and Percy Warner Park in west Nashville. It includes four greenways and attractions including the Cumberland River, Bicentennial Mall, the Nashville Farmers' Market, LP Field and Fort Nashboro. The Music City Bikeway was developed through a successful collaboration between Metro Public Works, RPM Transportation, Metro Parks, the Nashville Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and Walk/Bike Nashville. A portion of the Bikeway was funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. "A bike-friendly community promotes healthy living, reduces traffic congestion and is good for the environment," Mayor Karl Dean said of the project, "I expect both recreational riders and commuters will find the Music City Bikeway a practical and scenic way to get from place to place."

Korean Veterans Boulevard extends KVB from 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South to 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. The project includes a new modern, dual-lane roundabout in downtown Nashville. The roundabout at 8th Avenue, Lafayette Avenue and Korean Veterans Boulevard will function as the centerpiece of the revitalization of the SoBro area. The project includes roadway design, significant landscaping and hardscaping, rain gardens, lighting, traffic signals and extensive utility coordination. Under the leadership of Metro Public Works, Parsons Brinckerhoff was the prime consultant on the project which was completed with funding from and in cooperation with the Tennessee Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. Other team members include Florence & Hutcheson Consulting Engineers, Hawkins Partners, Inc, Civil Constructors Metro Water Services, and Metro Arts Commission. The resulting project, to be completed in mid-April, will be a complete, green street, which will provide an iconic "Gateway to Nashville's New Downtown".

John Gregor, Don Reid, and Jonathan Cleghon of Metro Public Works accepted the awards on behalf of Metro.

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About ACEC: The American Council of Engineering Companies of Tennessee, is an organization of more than 110 engineering companies. These firms employ more than 4,000 Tennesseans and contribute more than \$350 million annually to the state's economy. ACEC of Tennessee is a member organization of the American Council of Engineering Companies.

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