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## **Another Top Honor for Kane's Stearns Road**

Geneva, IL. June 7, 2012. The Transportation Development Foundation of the American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) has brought to 7 the number of prestigious awards granted Kane County for the Stearns Road Project opened to the public in December 2010.

Kane's Division of Transportation was awarded Top prize in the Local and Secondary Roads category at ARTBA's 13<sup>th</sup> annual Globe Awards event held in the Nation's Capital May 30. The honor cited specifically the project's contribution to environmental protection and migration along the 5-mile Stearns Road Fox River Bridge Corridor. The Globe Award also recognized the transportation construction-related product manufacturers and material suppliers that utilize exemplary environmental processes to protect and enhance the natural environment.

Stearns Road, celebrated as "an environmental corridor that happens to have a road in it," is a \$150 million-plus project, the largest in Kane's history, a major east-west crossing of the Fox River that includes eight new highway bridges in addition to the five miles of new roadway. The county made extensive enhancements to the surrounding area, including: procurement of 216 acres of new green space, creation of a 65-acre wetland restoration site and 35 acres of restored savannahs, as well as integration of state-of-the-art soil erosion and sediment controls. Project leaders also halted operations to allow spawning of a native fish known as the river redhorse, and relocated slippershell mussels.

The Globe Award nominations are reviewed and winners selected by an independent panel of industry professionals.

"This is a story of teamwork and collaboration that leaves the environment in a better place," Kane County Division of Transportation director Carl Schoedel said then. "I always describe this as a 'once in a career' project – especially at the County government level. My staff and I have been blessed to work on this project, and I thank the County Board for the opportunity to be part of the project team," he said.

Kane County Board Chairman Karen McConnaughay highlighted the context-sensitive project approach. "Stearns Road rewards the community with enhanced connections for the passage of wildlife and people. It interconnects major environmental sites within the corridor through newly created public access and linkages to the areas. We hear about sustainability goals evolving today, yet Kane County was years ahead in this effort," she said.

In February, the landmark Stearns project was awarded the 2012 Eminent Conceptor Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Illinois for engineering excellence. The ACEC top prize is presented annually to only one engineering project in the state.

In April, the project also received national recognition with the 2012 National Honor Award given by the ACEC national organization for excellence in engineering design. Stearns Road received one of twenty-four (24) such awards given at the national level.

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