2026 Engineering Excellence Awards

ACEC

American Council of Engineering Companies
of Ohio

February 19, 2026
The Exchange at Bridgepark
Dublin, Ohio

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Stantec
King Avenue/Grandin Road Bridge Replacement

THE ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The ACEC Ohio Engineering Excellence Awards Competition is a national program that has recognized engineering companies for the role they play in developing projects “that demonstrate a high degree of achievement, value and ingenuity.”

Every year, engineering companies from across the country enter their most innovative design projects and studies in state competitions, such as ACEC Ohio’s, with the top entries from each state advancing to the national competition in Washington.

Projects are judged according to these five criteria:

- Original or Innovative Application of New or Existing Techniques
- Perception by the Public
- Social, Economic, and Sustainable Design Considerations
- Complexity
- Successful Fulfillment of Client/Owner Needs

Congratulations to all the award winners in the 2026 ACEC Ohio Engineering Excellence Awards Competition!

Competition Judges

Cash Misel, P.E.	Former Assistant Director, Ohio Department of Transportation, retired
Jon Link, P.S.	Civil Engineering & Surveying Program Coordinator, Columbus State
William Shelley, P.E.	Former President, Shelley, Metz, Baumann & Hawk, Inc., retired
Lyle Flower, P.E.	Former Administrator of Consultant Services, Ohio Department of Transportation, retired
Mike Duffey, P.E.	Former Principal, SSOE Group, retired

2026 Scholarship Winners

Ethan Stofel
The Ohio State University
Shantonu Banerjee
University of Akron
Dylan Bambauer
University of Dayton

Kael Margraf
Ohio Northern University
Kyle Ziringer
Columbus State Community College

2026 Young Professional of the Year Award
Marcus Stoltzfus
Colliers Engineering

2026 Rising Leader Graduates

Anu Akuraju, *Compass Infrastructure Group*
Chad Boyer, *ms consultants, inc.*
Chip Cunning, *Mannik & Smith Group*
Chris Dekle, *OHM Advisors*
Cory Larkin, *Michael Baker International*
Gina Masell Haylett, *Jones & Henry Engineers*
Jacob Rettig, *Lanham Engineering*
James Leblond, *HDR*
Jerod Hiller, *AMT Engineering*
Jerry W. Curry Jr., *DGL Consulting Engineers*
Kevin Coon, *Osborn Engineering*
Kylor Johnson, *CTL Engineering*
Marcus Stoltzfus, *Colliers Engineering*
Michael Vogt, *E.L. Robinson*
Mike Taricska, *Burgess & Niple*
Nicholas Goodman, *Stantec*
Paige Sechrist, *Woolpert*
Samantha Robbins, *BREMA Resources*
Sean Oatman, *OHM Advisors*
Tyler Ruble, *Mannik & Smith Group*
Will Holik, *Jacobs*

2026 Engineering Excellence Award Winners

Outstanding Small Project:

DEL-CR163-4.31, Warrensburg Road Bridge Rehabilitation
Resource International, Inc.

Outstanding Projects:

Sugar Creek Water Treatment Plant Renovation
Burgess & Niple, Inc.
FRA-161 Widening
HDR
North Main Street Bridge Rehabilitation
HDR
Progressive Field Ballpark Improvement Project
Karpinski Engineering
Digital Delivery of the US 23 Roundabout
Michael Baker International
Benefit Analysis of Barrier Inlet Screens
ms consultants, inc.
Synthica St. Bernard Organics to Energy Project
RETTEW

Honor Projects:

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Washington Street and Cline Street CSO Interceptor Sewer
American Structurepoint, Inc.
Clark Countywide Roundabout Prioritization Study Project
Burgess & Niple, Inc.
Moler Street Overflow Interceptor Sewer
CHA Consulting, Inc.
Miller Road / Interstate 77 Complete South Half Interchange
Euthenics, Inc.
Magee Marsh Shoreline Protection Barrier
KS Associates, Inc.
SwiftAir Private Hangar at Wright Brothers Airport
LJB Inc.
Vandalia Bikeway Connector
LJB Inc.
Nelson-Kennedy Ledges State Park Falls Edge Glass Walkway
OHM Advisors
Columbus Avenue Improvements
Osborn Engineering & MKSK
I-270 South to I-70 East Flyover Ramp: Far East Freeway
PRIME AE Group, Inc.
West Main Street Corridor Improvement Project
Strand Associates, Inc.
Hopewell Culture National Park ACGP Improvement Studies Project
Terracon Consultants, Inc.
Sycamore Trails Park
The Kleingers Group
Cleveland Heights Integrated Overflow Control Projects
Wade Trim
Hueston Woods State Park Low Water Crossings
Woolpert

Synthica St. Bernard Organics to Energy Project
Grand Award Winner
RETTEW

The Synthica St. Bernard Organics to Energy facility is transforming how the Cincinnati region manages food and industrial organic waste, turning what was once a costly disposal problem into a clean, renewable energy solution. The first anaerobic digestion plant of its kind within 50 miles of Cincinnati, the $50 million facility converts 190,000 tons of food waste and oleo-organic byproducts annually into pipeline-quality renewable natural gas (RNG). That's enough energy to power approximately 4,000 homes annually, all while keeping methane-producing waste out of landfills and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The project stands out for its innovative use of proven technology in a new way. Anaerobic digestion has long been successful in Europe but remains underutilized in the United States. By designing a facility dedicated exclusively to food and industrial organics, rather than mixed municipal waste, RETTEW helped create one of the most advanced and efficient organics-to-energy systems in the nation. The process not only generates clean fuel but also produces a nutrient-rich soil amendment, completing a fully circular model of sustainability.

Building the facility presented complex challenges. The compact site required creative engineering solutions, including deep foundation systems and precise equipment layout to support massive digestion tanks. RETTEW's engineers also had to design for highly variable feedstocks, some with high salinity or viscosity, that could disrupt biological processes. Robust odor control systems were incorporated to ensure the plant operates cleanly and harmoniously within its industrial-residential setting.

Beyond its technical achievements, the facility provides significant social and economic benefits. It has created more than 50 regional jobs, supports local food manufacturers with cost-effective waste solutions, and adds millions in annual customer savings through reduced transportation and disposal costs. Over its lifetime, the facility will generate more than $500 million in economic impact while positioning Greater Cincinnati as a leader in renewable energy innovation.

The Synthica St. Bernard Organics to Energy Project demonstrates how forward-thinking engineering can turn everyday waste into lasting environmental, economic, and community value.

Outstanding Small Project

Resource International, Inc.

DEL-CR163-4.31, Warrensburg Road Bridge Rehabilitation

The preservation of a classic two-span truss bridge in one of the fastest growing counties in Ohio can be appreciated by many. Our team worked to efficiently design improvements to the truss bridge retaining its charmed aesthetics while extensively upgrading its strength, durability, and safety. The existing truss bridge and most truss bridges like it have an asphalt deck. Asphalt is a cheaper and quicker material, but it allows for water and salt to penetrate through the roadway surface causing damage and corrosion, and is prone to potholes and cracking, increasing structural deficiency and repair costs. With longevity and cost-effectiveness in mind, Rii suggested the use of a reinforced concrete deck using QC/QA Concrete, a verified high-quality, sustainable concrete mix that minimizes the risk of structural failure and offers a much longer life span of 30-50 years versus an asphalt life span of 10 years. A complexity of this rehabilitation project was the existing truss of the bridge being left in place while the abutment and piers were repaired, and the truss being raised up off the bearing for the concrete to be repaired. Thus, to guarantee a structurally-sound bridge it was critical of Rii's engineers to ensure a highly precise design that was actually feasible and constructible for the contractor. As with the unpredictable nature of bridge repair not found in total bridge replacements, the contractor discovered unforeseeable damage within piers and abutments, prompting Rii's team to swiftly revise plan details. With an increasing number of businesses and residents flocking to Delaware County, the rehabilitation and reopening of this bridge was essential for current and future demand. This truss bridge is a vital thoroughfare spanning over 200-feet of Scioto River and is the only east/west crossing between US 36 and SR 37 in the area. Traffic was detoured during its construction ensuring the safety of the local public and the contractor working over open water, with the bridge swiftly reopening to the public just four months later! Successfully meeting each of Delaware County's project goals and objectives, Rii's enduring design saved the County valuable funds, greatly extends the service life of the bridge, minimizes future maintenance costs and closures, and increases the bridge's general appraisal rating. Rii's design should take the bridge from a 4A to a 6-7A, reducing the need for arms-length inspection from every year to every other year –further saving the County approximately $15,000 each off year, which can they can allocate to other necessary programs.

Sugar Creek Water Treatment Plant Renovation

Outstanding Award Winner

Burgess & Niple, Inc.

The Sugar Creek Water Treatment Plant (WTP) is a cornerstone of the City of Canton's water infrastructure, serving more than 50,000 residents—representing half of the Water Department's customer base. Drawing water exclusively from one of Ohio's most productive buried valley glacial aquifers, supplemented by multiple storage reservoirs, the Sugar Creek WTP ensures a reliable and resilient supply of clean water. Originally constructed in 1962, the plant had not undergone a comprehensive renovation until this recent project.

Burgess & Niple (B&N) was selected by the city to design extensive renovations which included site, process, architectural, mechanical, plumbing, electrical and instrumentation and control improvements. One of the most significant project challenges was keeping this essential facility operational throughout the three-year construction, which was achieved through careful planning, regular project team collaboration and sequencing work to maintain consistent water output and minimize outages.

A cornerstone of the renovation was the implementation of advanced system redundancies, particularly in the wellfield's raw water supply. The engineering team renewed and duplicated the underground raw water main and installed strategically placed valves and interconnections. This design allows portions of the wellfield to be taken offline for maintenance, safeguarding operational reliability. Additionally, overhead electrical lines, previously susceptible to storm-related outages, were replaced with underground wiring. The rewiring enabled selective isolation of wells and pumps, ensuring that maintenance activities do not compromise overall system performance.

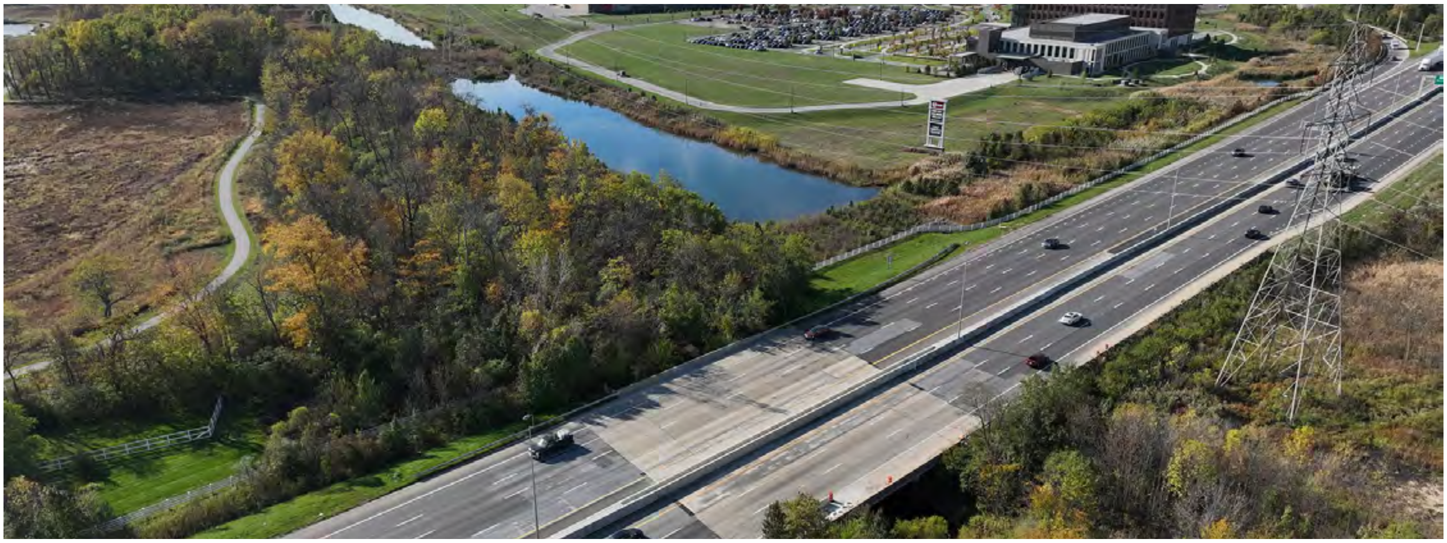
The project also introduced innovative process optimization and energy reduction measures.
Intelligent backwash sensors integrated with SCADA and an air-wash feature optimize filter cleaning. Comprehensive energy audits led to the installation of energy-efficient windows, skylights and upgraded HVAC systems, alongside the addition of multiple variable frequency drives and modern switchgear. Together, these innovations reduce operational power costs, conserve resources and help the city achieve its sustainability objectives while maintaining reliable water treatment operations.

The successful completion of this $37 million renovation, delivered ahead of schedule and on budget, marks a significant investment in Canton's public water infrastructure. The project's innovative solutions and commitment to operational continuity have yielded lasting benefits for the community, reinforcing public confidence in the city's ability to supply high-quality drinking water. Through these advancements, Canton exemplifies leadership in water resource management and a steadfast dedication to public health and environmental stewardship.

FRA-161 Widening

Outstanding Award Winner

HDR



When Intel, the multinational technology company, considered investing billions of dollars in a new chip manufacturing facility in the Columbus, Ohio area, one crucial factor stood between possibility and reality: infrastructure. Specifically, a key 6-mile segment of SR 161 and a 2-mile segment of interstate 270 needed to be widened to add capacity. This route would serve as a vital link for the facility's logistics, supply chain and workforce, and the timeline was a critical factor in securing the investment that would bring many jobs and billions of dollars in economic activity to the state. Before the project was announced to the public, ODOT and the Governor's office were already laying the groundwork for a historically quick highway widening project designed and built in just eight months, amid a global pandemic and potential supply chain disruptions.

Due to the nature of the project, the only option for success was strategic collaboration. Once the project was officially announced, in early 2022, the HDR team was selected in a special programmatic, and was brought on board to complete the project on the extremely abbreviated timeline. A project on this scale would typically span more than two years to design, but with the short turnaround, the team acted strategically and quickly with ODOT, the City of Columbus, the City of New Albany, and other contractors and consultants to get to work immediately. The teams implemented a management schedule hierarchy alongside weekly management meetings to identify issues and action items to address them in the most efficient and timely manner.

Speed wasn't the only challenge in this project. Delivering the project during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic meant navigating labor shortages and unpredictable material availability. Through a deliberate procurement strategy and a forward-thinking approach, the team worked to secure long lead time items in time and stockpile critical materials in advance to not delay the completion of the project.

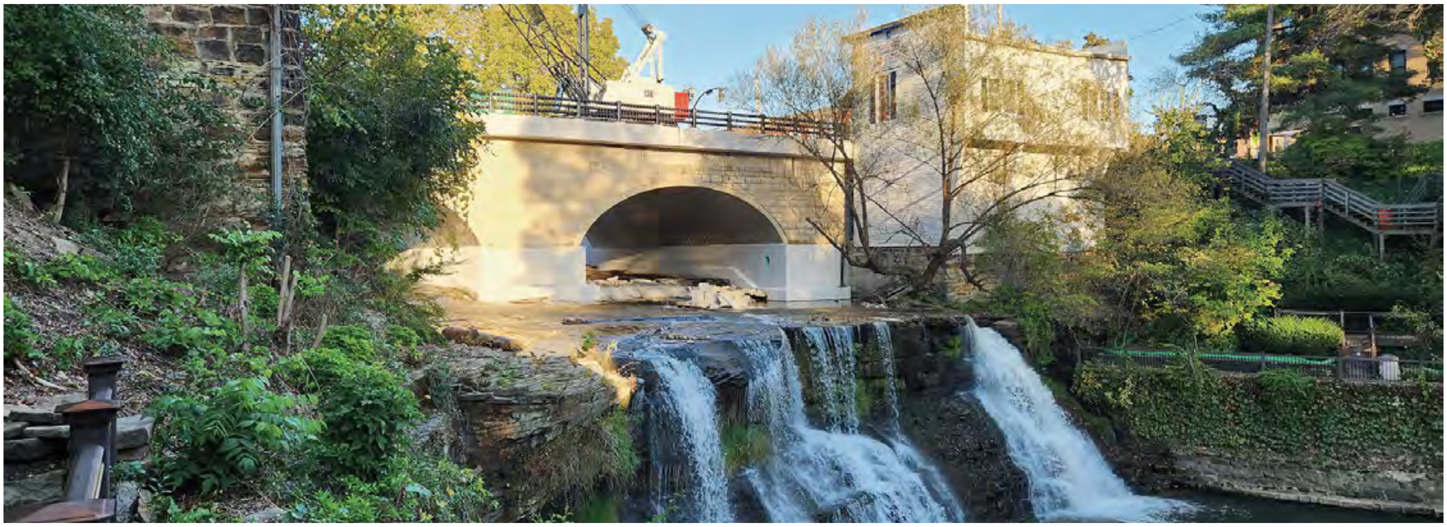
This project demanded innovation. Every aspect of this project, from planning to permitting and construction, required agility, precision and trust. Through constant coordination with ODOT, municipal partners and the contractor, seamless communication and complex challenges were maintained in real time. The result was a widened, modernized corridor that was delivered on time, on budget and positioned to serve the area's economic growth for decades to come.

This project is a powerful example of what can be achieved when engineering aligns with a shared mission. By accelerating infrastructure delivery without sacrificing quality or safety, the result was more than a widened highway; this project will serve as a reminder of the transformative potential of engineering in real-time, high-stakes developments.

North Main Street Bridge Rehabilitation

Outstanding Award Winner

HDR



The structure carrying North Main Street over the Chagrin River in the Village of Chagrin Falls, Ohio is more than just a bridge. It's the heart of the Triangle Park Historic District and a beloved symbol of the community. Perched above a scenic waterfall, this two-span stone arch bridge has long drawn visitors, appeared in Hollywood films, and graced the village's official logo. After more than 160 years of service, the bridge faced concerning deterioration, and the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works was confronted with a challenge: how to preserve its historic character while ensuring safety and accessibility for residents, businesses and visitors.

The answer came through ingenuity and collaboration. When the initial rehabilitation concept failed to attract bids due to construction risks and site constraints, the project team didn't give up; they reimagined the approach. They developed a method to line the existing stone barrels with precast concrete arches, pulled into place using a custom roller and winch system. This innovative solution preserved the original structure while reinforcing it from within, a breakthrough that combined modern engineering with historical preservation.

To restore the bridge's visual integrity, the team removed the overhanging sidewalks added in the 1980s and extended the barrels, adding sandstone-clad spandrel walls matching the historic façade. These changes allowed the original arches to be seen again, bringing back the bridge's inherent beauty and historical authenticity.

Throughout the process, the team worked together with the Village of Chagrin Falls and local businesses to minimize disruption. The bridge sits at the center of a bustling business district, and maintaining access was non-negotiable. Construction was carefully scheduled, to keep the district open and thriving. Overnight work was minimized due to the residents in the vicinity of the project. Even The Popcorn Shop, a building on the historic registry, was protected through a creative solution involving a masonry retaining wall and low strength mortar backfill.

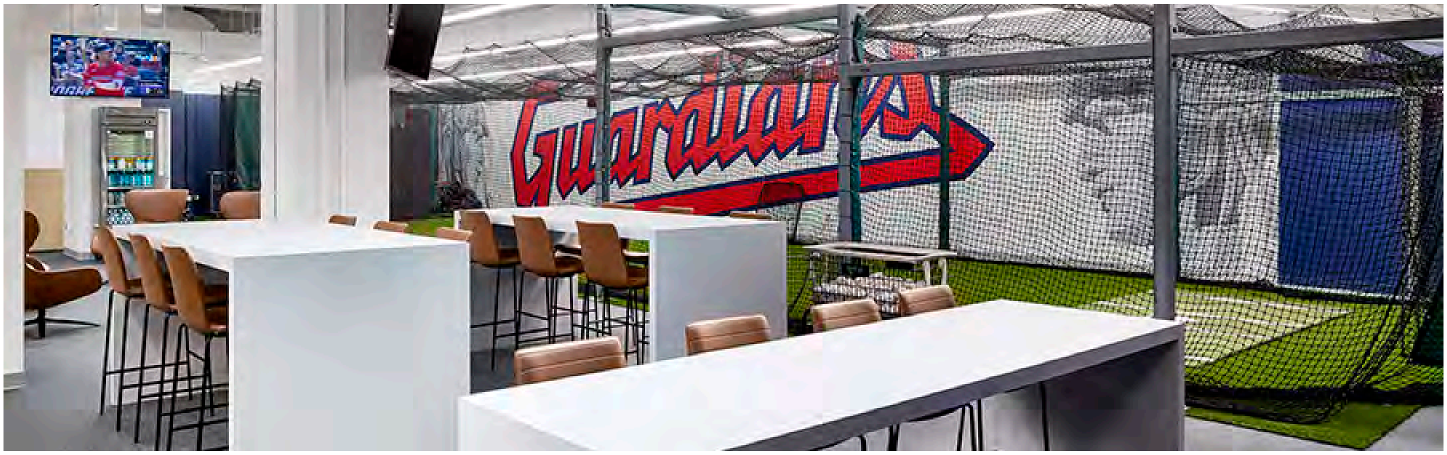
The complexity of the site demanded precision and tact. Tight work zones, utility conflicts, and the need to maintain traffic flow required not just technical excellence but thoughtful coordination. The team navigated these challenges with grace, allowing the bridge to remain a safe and accessible part of daily life.

Ultimately, the project didn't just restore a landmark; it demonstrated how transportation infrastructure can be seamlessly integrated with historical preservation and the day-to-day lives of a community. It reflects the highest standard of engineering excellence, not only in technical solutions but in the collaborative, client-focused approach that honored the past while building for the future.

Progressive Field Ballpark Improvements Project

Outstanding Award Winner

Karpinski Engineering



Opened in 1994, Progressive Field is the tenth-oldest ballpark in Major League Baseball. From its debut, it became a cornerstone of the city of Cleveland's revitalization and a defining stage for the Guardians, hosting countless memorable in-season and playoff games that have shaped the club's identity. Beyond that, the ballpark has served as a gathering place for the community, reflecting Cleveland's pride and resilience while driving economic and social activity in the surrounding neighborhoods.

As the most ambitious renovation phase in the ballpark's history, this multi-phase process focused on upgrading mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems across multiple areas throughout the ballpark including the East 9th Street Building, Administration Building, the new Terrace Club, Clubhouses, and Carnegie Club. The renovations were organized into phased projects rather than individual system upgrades, ensuring that each building's infrastructure was fully upgraded and operational before the start of the 2024 and 2025 seasons.

Notable achievements include designing new power distribution and HVAC systems to support the East 9th Building, complete with creative switchboard modifications to overcome supply-chain delays and maintain project timelines. In the Administration Building, the team engineered a new fifth floor and infilled atrium space, adding rooftop HVAC units and high-capacity switchgear while reusing existing infrastructure to reduce waste. Their analysis of the ballpark's total cooling load led to the installation of a supplemental air-cooled chiller, ensuring reliable capacity for expanded conditioned areas. In the Terrace Club, Clubhouses, and Carnegie Club, the team developed compact, high-performance systems to serve new kitchens, lounges, and player facilities – overcoming tight floor-to-floor constraints and structural limitations through precise coordination and innovative routing of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems.

Challenges such as limited floor-to-ceiling heights, the hydraulic slab foundation, and complex existing utilities were overcome through careful analysis, adaptive design, and detailed field modeling. Construction sequencing was closely align with the off-season calendar, ensuring that critical work could be completed efficiently while managing equipment lead times and system integration. Supply chain disruptions prompted rapid evaluation of alternative components and real-time adjustments to layouts, demonstrating the team's agility and problem-solving expertise.

These improvements exemplify the ingenuity required to modernize a complex, legacy facility within spatial and structural constraints. Engineering systems were transformed to achieve greater efficiency, resilience, and maintainability, extending the life of the ballpark. Advanced engineering solutions, phased construction strategies, and adaptive problem-solving preserved the stadium's historic character while equipping it to meet the demands of modern sports and entertainment. Progressive Field now stands as a symbol of teamwork and technical excellence, ready to serve the team, the fans, and the community for decades to come.

Digital Delivery of the US 23 Roundabout

Outstanding Award Winner

Michael Baker International

The intersection of U.S. 23 and SR 105 in Northwest Ohio presented a unique challenge due to its skewed geometry and high volume of commercial truck traffic. A 2018–2020 study by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) recorded 18 crashes at this location, underscoring the need for safety improvements. To address these concerns, ODOT implemented a single-lane roundabout—an increasingly favored solution for reducing severe angle crashes and improving traffic flow. Notably, as part of ODOT's initiative to modernize infrastructure development, this marked the first time the agency had completed a project utilizing two innovative methods: digital delivery and Progressive Design-Build.

Leveraging digital delivery and Building Information Modeling (BIM), the team aimed to enhance estimating and bidding accuracy, improve coordination across all phases—from planning to maintenance—identify design and construction issues early, reduce change orders, generate detailed as-built plans, and streamline plan signing and delivery. Digital delivery for this project included comprehensive modeling and coordination of key infrastructure components such as roadway design, drainage systems, culverts, lighting, signing and striping, as well as right-of-way planning. This pioneering approach set the foundation for future digital delivery efforts across the state.

Progressive Design-Build (PDB) was selected to test an innovative contracting method, with Michael Baker International serving as the Lead Designer and Kokosing Construction Company serving as the Lead Contractor. This method enabled early team selection, streamlined collaboration and integrated BIM/digital delivery, which allowed the team to enhance design, construction and asset management outcomes.

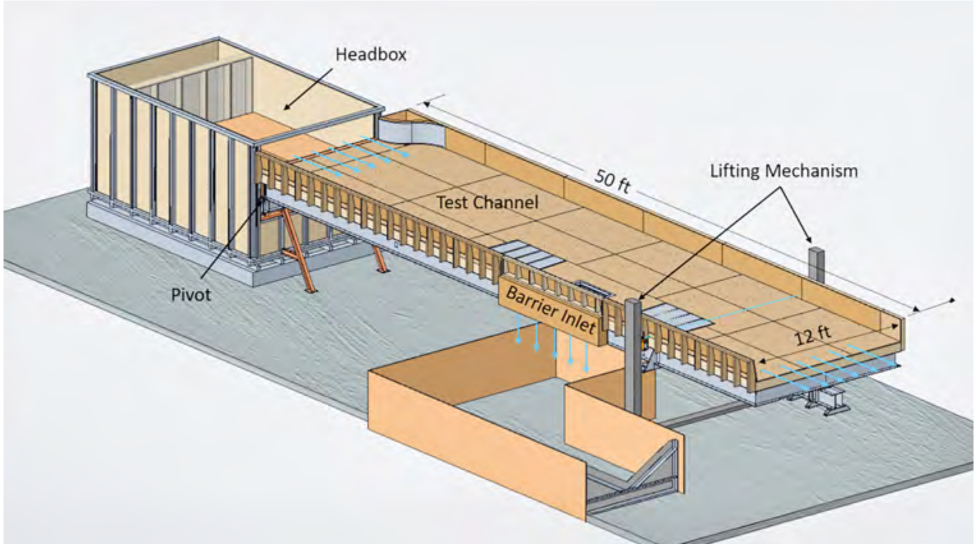
New lighting was added to improve visibility, helping drivers see each other more clearly at night and enhancing overall safety. Improved signage and striping also contribute to safer, more efficient navigation for all road users.
Roundabouts are proven to reduce severe intersection crashes, and it is expected to improve traffic flow for commercial vehicles, making it easier for businesses to operate and boosting regional connectivity. Additionally, the project included systems to clean stormwater and manage pavement runoff, helping protect local water quality.

Together, these innovations in design, delivery and safety not only addressed a critical infrastructure need but also set a new benchmark for how modern engineering can improve community well-being, support economic growth and lead the way in sustainable, data-driven transportation solutions.

Benefit Analysis of Barrier Inlet Screens

Outstanding Award Winner

ms consultants, inc.



Flooding and standing water on Ohio highways pose an ongoing safety risk, often leading to hydroplaning, crashes, and property damage. Barrier inlets are small drainage openings built along concrete highway barriers that help convey stormwater off the road. However, these openings are narrow and located close to traffic, and can easily become clogged with soil, leaves, hubcaps, and other roadway clutter. When blocked, they reduce the system's drainage capacity, causing water to pool on the roadway and debris to build up in the storm sewer below.

To address this ongoing issue, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) launched the Benefit Analysis of Barrier Inlet Screens study and selected ms consultants, inc. to lead the research effort. Working in partnership with The Ohio State University and The University of Iowa's IIHR–Hydroscience & Engineering, ms consultants evaluated the effectiveness of inlet screens designed to keep debris out while maintaining proper drainage and improving safety.

The study was conducted in two phases. The first phase focused on background research, staff interviews, review of commercially available screens, and the design of custom-made screens to fit ODOT's standard barrier inlet size. The second phase involved field testing and physical modeling. Because smaller lab setups could not accurately replicate how debris moves in real conditions, the team built a life-sized test channel—approximately 12 feet wide and 50 feet long—to simulate roadway slopes, runoff, and debris behavior.

Field monitoring took place along interstate highways in Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Columbus, where more than 270 pounds of roadway debris was collected and analyzed. Ultrasonic sensors connected to cloud dashboards tracked standing water and debris buildup in real time, sending text alerts when screen cleaning was needed. This technology helped keep drivers safe while allowing researchers to collect data continuously, even under active traffic conditions.

In addition to the challenge of installing and maintaining screens and monitoring equipment under live traffic, this project also faced the challenge of collecting data through two Ohio winters of snow, ice, and plowing operations. Despite these conditions, the inlet screens remained durable and effective, proving they could perform under extreme weather and operational stress.

A key achievement of the study was the development of custom-fabricated, universal-fit debris screens that can be used on any standard ODOT barrier inlet. These custom screens are easy to install, cost-effective, and extend the life of stormwater systems by keeping litter and debris out of Ohio's waterways while enabling fine sands and silt to pass through and avoiding clogging the screens.

This supports cleaner water and more sustainable stormwater management. Beyond Ohio, the design can be adapted by DOTs nationwide, helping other states achieve similar economic, environmental, and operational benefits. By combining practical engineering, life-sized testing, and real-time monitoring technology, the project delivered measurable results: safer roads, lower maintenance costs, and cleaner waterways. It not only met ODOT's goals but also set a new standard for how applied engineering research can improve safety, sustainability, and efficiency at both a state and national scale.

Columbia Road and Mason-Morrow-Millgrove Road Roundabout

Honor Award Winner

American Structurepoint, Inc.

The Columbia Road and Mason-Morrow-Millgrove Road Roundabout project in Warren County exemplifies how engineering innovation can deliver rapid, cost-effective, and sustainable infrastructure improvements. Initially scheduled for 2027, the project was expedited when this deficient T-intersection became a critical detour route for a nearby bridge improvement project.

American Structurepoint engineers designed the region's first modular roundabout, utilizing pre-manufactured, recycled plastic components engineered for withstanding heavy truck loads and severe weather. Construction was completed in only eight days with only one weekend road closure. The modular roundabout solution reduced construction costs from $1.7 million to $588,000. Post-construction data shows a 75% reduction in crashes and significant improvements in traffic operations. Sustainability was advanced by reusing local fill materials and reducing emissions through improved traffic flow. The project's improvements successfully delivered enhanced public safety, efficiency, and environmental stewardship. It also serves as a model for communities across Ohio seeking quick, cost-effective solutions to infrastructure challenges.

Clark Countywide Roundabout Prioritization Study Project

Honor Award Winner

Burgess & Niple, Inc.

The Clark County–Springfield Transportation Coordinating Committee Roundabout Study is Ohio's first countywide effort to identify and prioritize future roundabout locations to improve intersection safety. Partnering with Clark County, the City of Springfield and the Ohio Department of Transportation District 7, B&N developed a clear, data-driven process to evaluate more than 5,000 intersections and select the top 14 locations with the greatest potential to reduce crashes and improve traffic flow.

By combining innovative analysis with strong community engagement and an emphasis on safety, the project overcame years of local skepticism and built public support for change.

This groundbreaking study provides a replicable model for other communities and sets the stage for safer, more efficient travel throughout Clark County.

Moler Street Overflow Interceptor Sewer

Honor Award Winner

CHA Consulting, Inc.

The Moler Street Overflow Interceptor Sewer project showcases how innovative engineering can simultaneously protect communities and the environment. Partnering with the City of Columbus, CHA Consulting designed a new 96-inch interceptor sewer that redirects combined sewer overflows away from the Scioto River and into the city's massive OARS tunnel system for safe treatment.

Built entirely underground using trenchless construction methods, the project successfully overcame challenging soil conditions, active rail crossings, and contaminated materials, all while minimizing disruptions to nearby homes and businesses. CHA's creative design also preserved parkland trees and reused treated soil to reduce environmental impact.

By eliminating sewer overflows, reducing basement flooding, and improving water quality, the Moler Street project helps Columbus meet its long-term sustainability goals. It demonstrates the power of engineering to create cleaner, more resilient cities.

Miller Road / Interstate 77 Complete South Half Interchange

Honor Award Winner

Euthenics, Inc.

This project stands as one of the most challenging and rewarding in Euthenics' history. The completion of the I-77/Miller Road interchange, which included the southern ramps, bridge modifications, and road widening, required exceptional coordination and innovative engineering solutions. In partnership with the City of Brecksville, Euthenics delivered the design on time and under budget, enabling construction to be completed on schedule and below the original bid.

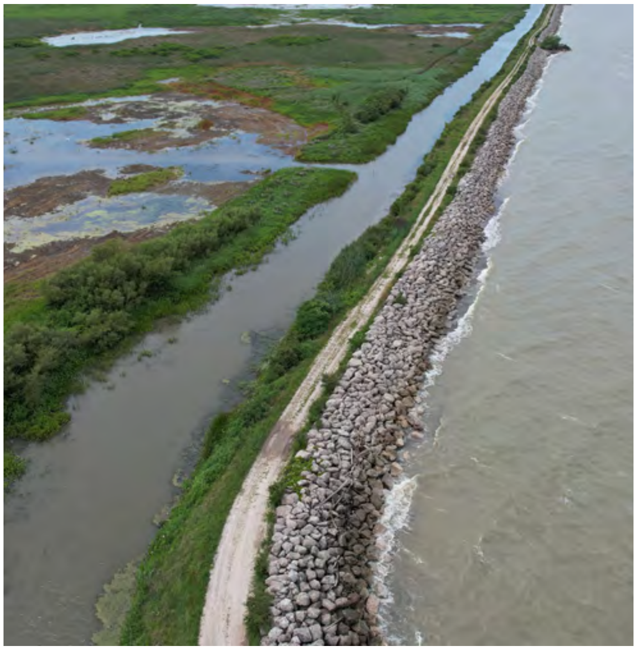
The project was driven by Sherwin-Williams' commitment to build its Morikis Global Technology Center, a landmark development bringing 900 technical and engineering jobs to the region. In just four years, the project moved from initial planning to final completion, successfully overcoming complex design, traffic, and utility challenges.

This achievement highlights Euthenics' dedication to engineering excellence, collaborative partnership, and positive community impact. The completed interchange enhances public safety, supports significant economic growth, and improves mobility for the entire region.

Magee Marsh Shoreline Protection Barrier

Honor Award Winner

KS Associates, Inc.



Magee Marsh is a nationally recognized wildlife area located along the Lake Erie shoreline between Port Clinton and Toledo. Managed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, it contains some of the state's finest wetlands and supports diverse wildlife species. KS Associates worked with ODNR to rehabilitate 1.3 miles of armor stone revetment that protects the marsh from Lake Erie's storms and waves. Without intervention, valuable habitat and vital wetland functions could have been lost.

KS led the design and oversaw construction for this large-scale coastal protection project, overcoming challenges such as phased funding, complex regulatory compliance, and the need for a continuous supply of 80,000 tons of armor stone for the project. KS completed the design two months ahead of schedule. Early project completion not exceeded ODNR's expectations, it also expedited the delivery of critical protection to one of Ohio's most important natural resources.

SwiftAir Private Hangar at Wright Brothers Airport

Honor Award Winner

LJB Inc.

At Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport, LJB helped bring a vision to life—a new 8,000-square-foot private airplane hangar. The LJB team provided full architectural, civil, structural, and survey services for the facility, which serves as the anchor for new private development at the airport and was thoughtfully designed to meet the owner's current needs while preparing for a future transition to corporate aviation use.

From a radiant heated floor to a 70-foot bi-fold hangar door and full-height glass, this isn't your average metal building. It also includes a custom-designed private utility system and a ramp connection to the airport taxiway—all completed to meet FAA standards. Delivered within budget and built for what's next, this project blends engineering precision with personal touches—right down to the Air Force blue exterior, a tribute to the owner's military service.

Nelson-Kennedy Ledges State Park Falls Edge Glass Walkway

Honor Award Winner

OHM Advisors

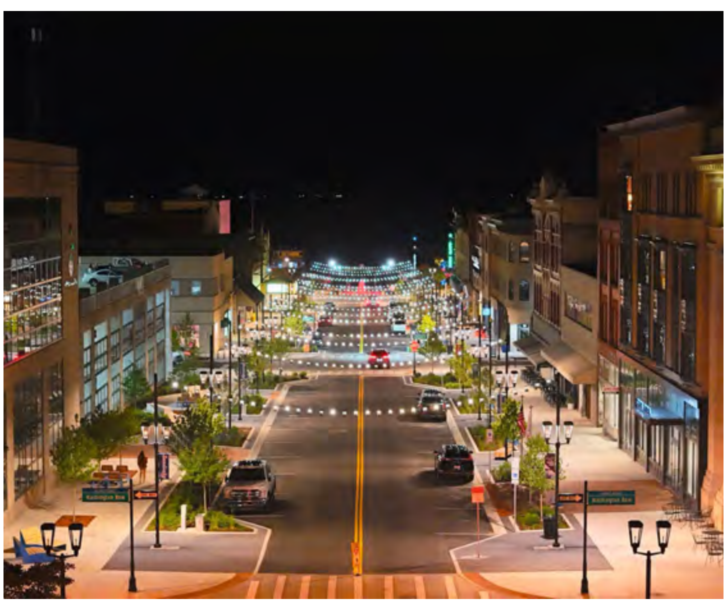
The Falls Edge Glass Walkway is a landmark addition to Nelson-Kennedy Ledges State Park, offering breathtaking views of a waterfall, gorge, and unique rock formations. Overcoming challenges posed by sheer cliffs and remote terrain, the design team used advanced 3D laser scanning technology to inform the design and construction solutions. The surveying data helped the team develop a design that harmonizes with its environment and a construction plan that minimized disruption.

When combined with renderings, the rich imagery helped foster public excitement about the park's upcoming addition. The resulting, S-shaped walkway is model of innovation and conservation. It enhances visitor safety, reduces ecological impact, and has significantly boosted tourism, drawing hundreds of thousands of visitors since its completion. In addition, the project supported Ohio's success as the 2025 National Gold Medal Award recipient for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management, making it an exemplary achievement in engineering and environmental leadership.

Columbus Avenue Improvements

Honor Award Winner

Osborn Engineering & MKSK



Osborn Engineering and MKSK advanced the vision outlined in the Downtown Sandusky Master Plan by crafting a comprehensive and transformative design for Columbus Avenue to be the most vibrant and dynamic street in the city's core. As the symbolic heart of Sandusky and the welcoming front door to City Hall, Columbus Avenue now serves as a model for urban revitalization integrating a dynamic mix of public realm enhancements—including upgraded streetscapes and pedestrian-friendly sidewalks—alongside multi-modal transportation improvements, smart technology, sustainable green infrastructure, and strategic parking solutions. This forward-thinking framework strengthened existing retail and ground-floor businesses, supports downtown residents, and enriches the experience for Sandusky's growing number of tourists and visitors.

I-270 South to I-70 East Flyover Ramp: Far East Freeway

Honor Award Winner

PRIME AE Group, Inc.

The Far East Freeway Project improved one of Central Ohio's busiest and most congested interchanges at I-70, I-270, and Brice Road. Working with the Ohio Department of Transportation District 6, PRIME AE Group provided Project Management CE Level 1 services, project inspections, and quality assurance material testing to help deliver a safer and more efficient corridor for thousands of drivers each day. The project introduced a new two-lane flyover ramp from I-270 southbound to I-70 eastbound, reduced weaving and crash potential, and kept traffic moving throughout construction. A Value Engineering Change Proposal saved ODOT approximately $800,000 while maintaining performance and safety.

Through strong teamwork, technical excellence, and commitment to public benefit, PRIME AE helped ODOT complete a transformative project that makes everyday travel safer and smoother for Central Ohio.

West Main Street Corridor Improvement Project

Honor Award Winner

Strand Associates, Inc.

Strand Associates Inc. ® was selected by the City of Troy, Ohio, to lead the design and coordination of improvements to 1.6-miles of the West Main Street corridor. Through innovative engineering and strong community collaboration, the project team transformed this key downtown route into a safer, more accessible, and more visually appealing roadway. The project introduced creative uses of existing techniques such as a road diet to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety, the use of chip sealing to reduce costs, and a duct bank to relocate utilities, all while addressing complex design challenges, including ADA compliance and underground basement encroachment.

By hosting open houses and engaging directly with residents and businesses, the project team built trust and ensured the final project reflected the community's vision. The result is a manageable utility network, enhanced pedestrian access, and a revitalized corridor that supports long-term business growth and community fulfillment.

Hopewell Culture National Park ACGP Improvement Studies Project

Honor Award Winner

Terracon Consultants, Inc.

Terracon's work at the Hopewell Culture National Historical Park Visitor Center Improvements project exemplifies innovation and stewardship in engineering and cultural resource management. Tasked with enhancing visitor experiences at three UNESCO World Heritage sites, Terracon deployed advanced, non-invasive geophysical technologies, including high-resolution magnetometry and electromagnetic induction to precisely locate sensitive archaeological features without the need for widespread excavation. This targeted approach minimized ground disturbance, reduced project costs, and accelerated schedules by focusing on resources only where needed.

Terracon's adaptive strategy included deep trenching and geomorphological analysis to address the unique potential for deeply buried artifacts. By integrating digital mapping, 3D photogrammetry, and robust compliance protocols, Terracon ensured regulatory adherence and preserving irreplaceable heritage. Their work will protect the past and set a new standard for balancing infrastructure development with cultural stewardship, providing a replicable model for future engineering projects at sensitive sites nationwide.

Sycamore Trails Park

Honor Award Winner

The Kleingers Group

The transformation of Sycamore Trails Park, one of Miamisburg's oldest and most cherished parks, created a unified 75-acre recreational campus that connects community and nature through innovative design and engineering. As lead civil engineer and landscape architect, The Kleingers Group guided a multidisciplinary team through this $10.25 million project from master planning through construction administration. Once divided into three disconnected areas with challenging terrain, unsafe access points, and sensitive environmental features, the park now features a central drive, two miles of walking trails, and reconfigured entrances that improve safety, accessibility, and connectivity while preserving wetlands, natural springs, and mature woodlands.

The redesign introduced universally accessible trails that traverse steep grade changes, a new bridge over Sycamore Creek separating pedestrians and cyclists from vehicles, and modern amenities including updated shelters, sports courts, nature-themed and fitness-focused playgrounds, and a timed 40-yard dash track. Strategic cost-saving measures and responsive community engagement kept the project on budget while enhancing recreational offerings. Since reopening, Sycamore Trails Park has welcomed more than 22,000 visitors in its first three weeks, with disc golf usage increasing fivefold—establishing the park as a premier, inclusive destination for residents and regional visitors alike.

Cleveland Heights Integrated Overflow Control Projects

Honor Award Winner

Wade Trim

Six sanitary sewer overflow control and system improvement projects in Cleveland Heights have advanced protection of public health and the environment. This package supports the City's Integrated Overflow Control Master Plan to reduce basement backups and eliminate 42 SSOs by 2036 to meet Clean Water Act requirements. Wade Trim served as prime design engineer, also providing construction inspection and management.

Detailed evaluation of unique "common trench" sewer systems and advanced modeling helped guide rehabilitation via sewer separation, rehabilitation, and flow redirection to deep intercommunity sewers. The project team assisted with funding applications that covered nearly half of total costs and navigated complex site constraints to optimize the sewer system and eliminate 3.6 million gallons, or 36%, of the City's annual SSO volume. Boosted infrastructure reliability and water quality realized through this package have resulted in no basement backups reported since implementation and a healthier, more sustainable community.

Hueston Woods State Park Low Water Crossings

Honor Award Winner

Woolpert

Hueston Woods' low-water crossings near the campground entrance and marina frequently overtopped during heavy rainstorms. When enough water backed up from the main crossing, the emergency egress road also flooded, rendering this critical exit impassable and creating a safety issue. Woolpert, a global leader in architecture, engineering, and geospatial services, was selected to replace these low-water crossings with structures less prone to overtopping.

The Woolpert project team provided design services for a 120-foot-span steel arched bridge and an 80-foot-span precast arch structure. The project also involved complex 2D hydraulic modeling, the evaluation of multiple structural alternatives, and a range of safety and amenity improvements. Woolpert skillfully maintained a focus on aesthetics and environmental stewardship throughout the project.

Ultimately, Woolpert's use of long-term, low-maintenance solutions delivered significant value to Hueston Woods and its visitors by reducing flood risks and enabling greater cost savings.

Washington Street and Cline Street CSO Interceptor Sewer

Honor Award Winner

American Structurepoint, Inc.

American Structurepoint partnered with the City of Norwalk to complete the final phase of a decades-long initiative to eliminate two combined sewer overflows (CSOs) to meet Ohio EPA mandates. The engineering team's innovative hydraulic modeling, the use of trenchless construction beneath petroleum lines, and strategic alignment optimization enabled cost-effective solutions to improve water quality and enhance public health. Completed within 3% of budget and on schedule, project improvements reduced untreated discharge by over 90%, increased system resilience to climate impacts, and set a replicable model for mid-sized municipalities. Through data-driven design, transparent public engagement, and interdisciplinary collaboration, the project exemplifies engineering excellence in infrastructure modernization and environmental stewardship.

Vandalia Bikeway Connector

Honor Award Winner

LJB Engineering

In a joint effort between the city, Miami Conservancy District, Five Rivers Metro Parks, and design team, this project created a much-needed connection for residents and cyclists in northern Montgomery County. LJB completed the feasibility study and final design for the construction of a 1.8-mile extension, linking the Old National Road Trail to the Great Miami River Recreational Trail. The final route blends on-road bike lanes, a two-way cycle track, multi-use paths, and a new prefabricated truss bridge over an active CSX railroad—successfully bridging a gap that once made safe bike and pedestrian travel challenging. This project now offers a smoother, safer, and more accessible route for cyclists, pedestrians, and active commuters alike. It's more than a connection—it's a community investment in mobility, health, and quality of life.

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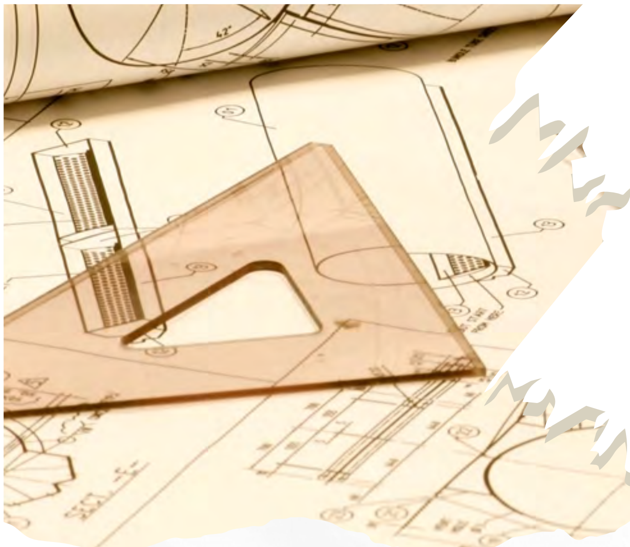

CELEBRATING ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE

2026 ACEC Ohio
Engineering Excellence Awards

DESIGNPRO INSURANCE GROUP

Tonight, we celebrate the extraordinary achievements of Ohio's engineering community. To each nominee and award winner: your work demonstrates the innovation, technical expertise, and commitment to excellence that defines our profession.

The projects being recognized represent more than exceptional engineering—they represent solutions that strengthen our communities, protect our environment, and improve lives across Ohio. From groundbreaking infrastructure to innovative problem-solving, your contributions showcase the transformative power of engineering.

Your dedication to meeting complex challenges, exceeding client expectations, and pushing the boundaries of what's possible inspires us all. Thank you for advancing the profession and setting the standard for engineering excellence.

Congratulations to every firm and professional honored today.

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We're honored to work with many of you in the room today, and we're proud to support ACEC Ohio and the engineering professionals who make a difference every day.

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2025	Stantec -- King Avenue/Grandin Road Bridge Replacement
2024	Jacobs -- I-480 Valley View Bridge Design-Build Project
2023	Burgess & Niple, Inc. -- BioCEPT Improvements at the Akron Water Reclamation Facility
2022	Strand Associates -- Lick Run Valley Conveyance System and Greenway project
2021	Mott MacDonald & Stantec -- Easterly CSO Tunnel System
2020	Gannett Fleming – Buckeye Lake Dam Improvement Project
2019	Jacobs Engineering – Dublin Road Water Plant Treatment Capacity Increase Project
2018	DLZ Ohio, Inc. – OARS-OSIS Augmentation & Relief Sewer Project
2017	Stantec – Scioto Greenways Project
2016	AECOM – University Medical Center New Orleans Project
2015	HNTB Ohio, Inc. – I-90 George V. Voinovich Innerbelt Bridge Project
2014	URS Corporation – Spaceport America Terminal & Hangar Facility Project
2013	THP Limited, Inc. – Central Riverfront Garage – Phase 2 Project
2012	ms consultants, inc. – I-70/I-71 Columbus South Innerbelt Study
2011	DLZ Ohio, Inc./HNTB/Spiro Pollalis – Main Street Bridge Replacement Project
2010	Wilbur Smith Associates – Euclid Corridor Transportation Project
2009	THP Limited Inc. – The Ascent at Roebling's Bridge Project
2008	FIGG – Veterans' Glass City Skyway Project
2007	HNTB Corporation – Perry Street Bridge Replacement Project
	Karpinski Engineering – Cleveland State University Recreation & Wellness Center Project
2006	DLZ Ohio, Inc. – River Chamber Stabilization & Demolition – Charleroi Locks & Dam Project
2005	Lantz Jones Nebraska Inc. – Knowlton Hall School of Architecture Project
2004	Burgess & Niple, Inc. – West Columbus Flood Protection Project
2003	W. E. Monks & Co. – Honda Transmission "Green" Building Project
2002	Parsons Brinckerhoff Ohio, Inc. – Fort Washington Way Reconstruction Project
2001	Civil Design Associates, Inc. – Atwood Lake Sewer System Phase I Project
2000	Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. – Aircraft Deicer Runoff Pilot Plant Treatability & Modeling Study

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