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K-23 construction project rated in top 10 nationally; online voting to decide People's Choice Award winner

A practical improvement project on K-23 in Gove County has been named one of 10 national finalists in the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) America's Transportation Award competition.

The K-23 project will compete with others around the country for the national Grand Prize and the People's Choice Award, which will be presented at the AASHTO annual meeting Oct. 16 in Detroit.

The Grand Prize is awarded to the state DOT project receiving the greatest number of points in judging by a panel of experts. The separate People's Choice Award is presented to the transportation project that receives the greatest number of online votes from the general public.

KDOT encourages the public to vote for the K-23 project at

<http://www.americastransportationaward.org/Voting.aspx> Voting begins today and will continue through Oct. 7.

The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act project was designed to improve 17 miles of the highway from the Lane-Gove county line to approximately the southern city limits of Gove. Work began on the project in March 2010 and was completed in August 2010.

Rebuilding the roadway included removing the deteriorated pavement, stabilizing the base and adding seven inches of new asphalt material. The new highway has 12-foot driving lanes and two-foot-wide paved shoulders with rumble strips – an added safety feature that alerts travelers who are driving too close to the road’s edge.

A portion of the original roadway dated back to the Depression-era Works Progress Administration and needed to be replaced. Using Practical Improvement standards, the cost effective approach to construction saved an estimated \$11 million dollars.

KDOT’s traditional approach to this project would have involved right of way acquisition and significant grading. The final cost of construction was \$7.8 million.

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