PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2026

ELIGIBILITY: Any public/private organization engaged in the practice of highway and transportation engineering/construction in Northwestern Pennsylvania is eligible to enter the awards program. Projects submitted must be directly related to a field of transportation. Examples of eligible types of projects include highways, bridges, traffic signals, ITS, railroads, public transit, bikeways, pedestrian enhancements / ADA compliance, river or lake transportation, and multi-use paths.

GENERAL CRITERIA: Entries must be submitted to ASHE through a member of the Franklin Section.

1. Projects entered in the competition must be within the Franklin Section (Crawford, Erie, Forest, Mercer, Venango, and/or Warren Counties).
2. Construction of projects must have been (or are currently scheduled to be) substantially completed between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2026.
3. Each entry must be prepared in accordance with these Criteria (Page 1) and Entry Form (Page 2).
4. See Page 3 for Rating Guidelines.
5. The ASHE Franklin Awards Committee reserves the right to determine eligibility of all entries.
6. Submittal shall be provided in pdf format with photos in high resolution jpg format by e-mail. Photo captions must be provided in the pdf submission, but not on the actual jpg images.

SUBMISSION: Deadline for entries is December 31, 2026. Please submit the award entries via email with a total file size under 20 megabytes to:
Bradley Kughn | c/o Colliers Engineering & Design Inc. | bradley.kughn@collierseng.com

CATEGORIES: Any highway/transportation construction project within the following construction cost categories:

CATEGORY A: $3,000,000 or less
CATEGORY B: Greater than $3,000,000

AWARDS: The owner, the designer and the contractor of the winning entry in each category will receive a plaque acknowledging their achievement. (Additional plaques may be purchased.) The ASHE Franklin Project of the Year Awards will be presented at a future 2027 monthly (TBD) ASHE Franklin meeting. The winner from each category will be asked to provide a brief presentation (15-20 min) at the future ASHE Franklin Meeting.

In addition, the scores for the winning projects will be evaluated and the highest ranked project will be forwarded to the ASHE Northeast Region as the Franklin Section's candidate project. The Region will consider their submission for the ASHE National Project of the Year Awards.

JUDGING: Entries will be judged on the basis of the submitted application according to the weighted Rating Guidelines on the third page.

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Please furnish all information requested below for each entry.

PROJECT NAME: _____
(limited to 40 characters)

Location: _____

CATEGORY:

____A. 3,000,000 or less ____B. Greater than $3,000,000

Entering Firm's Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Name/Title of Principal: _____

Signature of Principal: _____

Name of individual contact within Firm if different from principal: _____

Title: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Owner Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Contractor Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Budgeted Construction Cost: $ _____

*Actual Construction Cost: $ _____

Scheduled Project Completion Date: _

**Actual Project Completion Date: _____

*Provide explanation if difference between budgeted and actual is greater than 10%

Note: This is the date the project was substantially completed (or is scheduled to be at the time of submission) and must be **between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2026.

ASHE Franklin Section
Annual Outstanding Highway Engineering Awards
2026 Evaluation and Rating Guidelines

Each project submitted will be judged by a minimum of three ASHE members on the following criteria:

1. **New Application of Existing Techniques/Originality/Innovation 20%**
   - Does the project include unique or different techniques, materials, or equipment?
   - How did the project team work together to build an innovative or cost-effective project?

2. **Complexity 20%**
   - Does the project involve very complex criteria?
   - Were extraordinary problems of site, location, hazardous conditions, ecological studies, project requirements or similar elements present?

3. **Social/Economic Considerations 15%**
   - Does the project bring into play secondary benefits (i.e., are additional benefits realized as a spin-off)?
   - Does the project provide society with any useful advancement of social or economic benefits?

4. **Safety 15%**
   - Discuss and explain improvements to project area or traveling public's safety.
   - Is the public health, safety or welfare enhanced as a result of the project?

5. **Aesthetics and Sustainable Features 15%**
   - Does the project fit well into the surrounding project area?
   - Describe how the project embodies the principles of sustainability.

6. **Meeting and Exceeding Owner's/Client's Needs 15%**
   - Why was the selected alternative the most economical and cost-effective solution among the alternatives considered?
   - How did the final cost relate to original budget estimate and client's schedule?
   - How closely does the project meet the goals of the owner/client?

The pdf submittal shall contain:

1. A project narrative not exceeding 1500 words (single sided, 12 point font, 8 ½ "x11" pages).
2. Up to five construction drawings on 11" by 17" sheets.
3. Up to five photos, with captions, reflecting unique features of the project.
4. A statement of commitment that at least one representative from the project team will attend the awards presentation in February.