



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **I-76/I-676 Bridges and Pavement Project named finalist in America's Transportation Awards Competition**

### **Online voters and expert judges to choose winners from 12 projects nation-wide**

**(Trenton)** – The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) today announced the I-76/I-676, Bridges and Pavement, Contract 1 has been named a finalist in the 2024 America's Transportation Awards Competition.

"Having a New Jersey Department of Transportation project recognized as one of the best in the United States demonstrates the excellent work done by our staff and contractors," NJDOT Commissioner Fran O'Connor said. "We should all be proud that the NJDOT is a national leader in delivering projects that make our roads and bridges safer and improve the quality of life for our residents and travelers in our state."

The America's Transportation Awards, sponsored by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), AAA, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, is a competition in which state DOTs are recognized for the positive impacts State DOT projects have on their communities. There are four categories: Quality of Life/Community Development; Operations Excellence; Best Use of Technology & Innovation; and for the first time, Safety. Each category is designated by project budget size: small (up to \$10 million), medium (\$10 million to \$100 million), and large (\$100 million or more).

The I-76/I-676, Bridges and Pavement, Contract 1 project received honors in the Operations Excellence, Medium project category. [This year's finalists](#) were chosen from a selection of 106 projects nominated by 39 State DOTs to compete for the National Grand Prize, and the People's Choice Award. \$10,000 in cash awards will be given to the winners to donate to a transportation-related charity or scholarship program of their choosing.

An independent panel of transportation industry experts will select the Grand Prize winner, while the general public will decide the People's Choice Award winner through online voting. Online votes will be weighted to each state's population, allowing for greater competition between states with larger and smaller populations.

The winners will be announced at the AASHTO Annual Meeting in Philadelphia the week of October 29 – November 1, 2024. Online voting ends at 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, October 29, 2024.

**Cast your vote for NJDOT's I-76/I-676, Bridges and Pavement, Contract 1 project at [americastransportationawards.org](http://americastransportationawards.org).** Individuals may cast one vote per day per device (so you may vote once per day on each computer, phone, and tablet you have, and are encouraged to vote daily). Vote early and vote often!

## **I-76/I-676, Bridges and Pavement, Contract 1 Project**

The I-76 corridor, one of the nation's busiest highways, is essential to the economies of southeastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey. The I-76 Bridge over Klemm Avenue, Conrail, and the South Branch of Newton Creek in Gloucester City accommodates 11 lanes and handles more than 180,000 vehicles daily. The bridge replacement was done in stages using Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC) methods using prefabricated materials to minimize the impact to traffic and reduce construction time. This \$57 million project made long-term repairs to the bridge, which was recently subjected to several emergency repairs needed to maintain connectivity between New Jersey and Philadelphia via the Walt Whitman and Ben Franklin bridges. The bridge now provides safer and more efficient infrastructure for daily commuters, heavy truck traffic, and recreational access along the Delaware River.

For more information follow NJDOT news on X (Twitter) [@NJDOT\\_info](#), the [NJDOT Facebook page](#), or on Instagram [newjersey.dot](#).

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