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NDDOT's Sorlie Bridge project named as Top 12 finalist in America's Transportation awards competition—Winner determined by vote

The North Dakota Department of Transportation's (NDDOT) Sorlie Bridge project in Grand Forks, N.D. and East Grand Forks, Minn. has been named one of the Top 12 finalists in this year's America's Transportation Award competition. Twelve projects from 10 state departments of transportation are now competing for the national Grand Prize and the People's Choice Award.

As a finalist, the Sorlie Bridge project is in the running for two prizes: Grand Prize and People's Choice Award. The nation will decide through online voting which of the projects will receive the People's Choice Award. A panel of experts will select the Grand Prize winner. Online voting has begun and will continue through Monday, Oct. 31, at <http://AmericasTransportationAwards.org>. Individuals are welcome to vote once a day for their favorite project. The Grand Prize and People's Choice award winners will each earn a \$10,000 donation from the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) that will be donated to a non-profit charity of scholarship fund.

"This project is noteworthy in the fact that we were able to rehabilitate a bridge that has served the local community well for many years, dating back to 1929," said NDDOT Director, Grant Levi. "Although we continue to design and build many new projects, it's important for us to preserve history and still meet today's transportation needs."

The Sorlie Bridge project was a \$4.6 million project completed by the NDDOT in 2015. The project rehabilitated an aging bridge across the Red River to increase safety and maintain connectivity between the cities of Grand Forks, ND and East Grand Forks, MN. Through meticulous analysis, inter-agency collaboration and community outreach, the NDDOT saved nearly \$24 million by rehabilitating this critical bridge and adding several safety and aesthetics features, such as paint and LED lighting to preserve its rich history. During the construction phase, crews kept the bridge open to traffic to maintain the flow of 14,000 vehicles daily and reduce impacts to the traveling public.

For more information about the Sorlie Bridge project go to:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABM3K2y1Egk>.

