



2026 Project of the Year Awards Criteria

Purpose

The APWA Public Works “Project of the Year” Award was established to promote excellence in the management and administration of public works projects by recognizing the alliance between the managing agency, the consultant/architect/engineer, and the contractor who, working together, complete public works projects.

Awards are given in five divisions; each nomination can only qualify for one division listed below:

1. Projects less than \$5 million
2. Projects of \$5 million, but less than \$25 million
3. Projects of \$25 million to \$75 million
4. Projects more than \$75 million
5. Small Cities/ Rural Communities (population under 50,000)

And in six categories:

- a. Structures — to include new public structures or the preservation or rehabilitation of existing public structures including, municipal buildings and parks. Other structures as defined in the Historic Restoration/Preservation and Transportation categories shall not be considered in the structures category.
- b. Transportation — to include roads, bridges, mass transit that serve any or all modes of travel, including bicycles and foot traffic. Other transportation projects as defined in the Historical Restoration/Preservation and Structures categories shall not be considered in the Transportation category.
- c. Environment — to include treatment and recycling facilities, landfill reclamation projects, sewer projects, etc.
- d. Historical Restoration/Preservation - to include historical restoration, preservation and adaptive reuse of existing buildings, structures, and facilities, that are 75 years or older to qualify as historical.
- e. Disaster or Emergency Construction/Repair - to include the techniques and timing for safety, community relations, environmental protection, adverse conditions and additional considerations.
- f. Asset Management – to recognize a team or organization for advancements made in their Asset Management System. The Asset Management System refers to the global activities of the organization geared toward maximizing the value the community receives from infrastructure assets.

Eligibility

Public works projects must be developed, owned, and maintained by public agencies. To be eligible for nomination, a project must have been “substantially completed” and available for public and/or agency use within two calendar years prior to nomination. If a project has multiple phases or segments, then “substantially completed” will be construed as that point when the final phase or segment is 90% completed and available for public and/or agency use.

A project may only be nominated once for recognition as “Project of the Year” under any category.

For applications under category f, significant improvement and development in the organization’s asset management program within the two calendar years prior to nomination should be demonstrated.

Selection

SCAPWA Awards and Scholarships committee will receive and select award winners. Award winners will receive endorsements from the SCAPWA Chapter for inclusion into National APWA Award Applications.

Criteria

Criteria to be used in the selection process for Project of the year categories a-e include:

1. Use of good construction management techniques and completion of the project on schedule.
2. Safety performance and demonstrated awareness of the need for a good overall safety program for workers and the public during construction and after construction, where applicable.
3. Community relations as evidenced by efforts to minimize public inconvenience due to construction, safety precautions to protect public lives and property, provision of observation areas, guided tours, or other means of improving relations between the agency and the public.
4. Demonstrated awareness for the need to protect the environment. This includes any special considerations

given to particular environmental concerns raised during the course of the project, as well as climate change and/or resiliency components for long-term community benefit.

5. Unusual accomplishments under adverse conditions including, but not limited to age or condition of the facility, adverse weather, soil or other site conditions over which there is no control.
6. Additional conditions deemed of importance to the public works agency, such as exceptional efforts to maintain quality control and, if value engineering is used, construction innovations as evidenced by time and/or money-saving techniques developed and/or successfully utilized.
7. Use of alternative materials, practices or funding that demonstrates a commitment to sustainability, climate change resiliency, and /or use of sustainable infrastructure rating system or the equivalent.

Criteria to be used in the selection process for Project of the year category f include:

1. **Balanced Decision Making**– Describe how the agency has determined appropriate levels of service for an asset and how they balance it against risks and cost.
2. **Strategic Alignment**– Describe how the agency has tied their AM policy to maximizing value and aligned it with the vision, mission, and goals of the organization.
3. **Organizational Alignment**– Describe how agency staff has tied their various operations protocols, level of service analysis, program and budget development and prioritization to maximize the value the community receives from their infrastructure assets.
4. **Accountability**– Describe the community and stakeholder engagement and public reporting component the agency provides to the community regarding how well the agency is doing to maximize value from their infrastructure assets.

Submittal

Submit electronically via email to jsimpson@greenvillesc.gov or send four hard copies and one electronic copy on digital format to Jennifer Simpson, City of Greenville Public Works, 475 Fairforest Way, Greenville, SC 29607. (Please confirm delivery of the email. If file size restrictions are an issue, an FTP link can be provided by request.)

Deadline

April 17, 2026

Presentation

Representatives of the public agency, contractor, and consultant will be presented a plaque at the Annual Meeting during the Statewide Conference and featured in our Chapter newsletter.