



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Florida



2026 AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF FLORIDA (ACEC Florida) OUTSTANDING PROJECT AWARDS (OPA) PROGRAM

I. GENERAL

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Florida (ACEC Florida) annually recognizes outstanding achievement by its member firms and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) in accomplishing FDOT studies and projects. Firms are nominated for awards in eight project award categories: Outstanding Major Project, Outstanding Design-Build or CM at Risk Project, Outstanding Roadway Project, Outstanding Bridge Project, Outstanding PD&E / Planning Project, Outstanding Environmental Project, Outstanding Special Project, and Outstanding Safety Project. Nominations for each award category may be submitted annually by each of the seven FDOT Districts, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise and by Central Office. The ACEC Florida Outstanding Project Awards Committee comprised of FDOT and ACEC Florida representatives and hereinafter called "the Committee," will select the winner in each of the eight project categories.

To be considered for an outstanding project award, transportation projects or studies must have been included in FDOT's 5-Year Work Program and construction, or studies must have been completed between January 1 and December 31, 2025. Eligible transportation projects include conventional road and bridge construction; transit, airport, seaport, rail, and other inter-modal systems; ITS projects; traffic operations and safety; drainage and surface water management; environmental mitigation; project development and environmental (PD&E) studies; planning; and other transportation-related having unique or special features.

Each of the Districts, the Turnpike Enterprise and Central Office, may nominate only one project per award category. Any one project shall be submitted for an award in only one category. District nominated projects must be located in-total or in-part



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within the nominating District’s boundaries; Turnpike projects must be on the Turnpike System; and Central Office nominations are limited to the “Special Projects” category. Nominations will be submitted to ACEC Florida by the respective District Secretary, the Turnpike Enterprise Executive Director, or the Assistant Secretary for Engineering & Operations. Nominations will be submitted via a completed “ACEC-FLORIDA OUTSTANDING PROJECT AWARDS PROGRAM PROJECT NOMINATION FORM,” available from the ACEC Florida website. The nomination form may be supplemented with other relevant supporting documentation deemed appropriate by the nominating office. All nominations submitted by the District Offices, the Turnpike Enterprise and the Central Office will be evaluated and judged by the Committee, which shall determine the winner in each award category. The Committee shall consist of a suitable number of representatives from ACEC Florida member firms and representatives from the Florida Department of Transportation. ACEC Florida representatives shall be appointed by the current ACEC Florida Transportation Committee Chair and FDOT representatives by the Assistant Secretary of Transportation.

II. AWARD CATEGORIES:

1. Outstanding Major Project
This category includes all design-bid-build transportation and transportation related projects having a construction contract amount of \$75 million or greater.

2. Outstanding Design-Build or CM at Risk Project
This category includes all Design-Build or CM at-Risk transportation and transportation related projects.

3. Outstanding Roadway Project
This category includes conventional roadway projects or projects with significant roadway related elements worthy of award recognition.

4. Outstanding Bridge Project

This category includes bridge projects or projects with significant bridge related elements worthy of award recognition.

5. Outstanding PD&E / Planning Project

This category includes PD&E and Planning projects or those with significant PD&E or Planning-related elements worthy of award recognition.

6. Outstanding Environmental Project

This category includes all transportation or transportation related projects that provide ongoing environmental benefits, lessen impacts to surrounding ecosystems and/or increase sustainability.

7. Outstanding Special Project

This category includes all transportation or transportation related projects that incorporate innovative concepts to improve efficiency, minimize community/business/traffic impacts, increase pedestrian/bicycle mobility, and/or reduce project cost and/or duration.

8. Outstanding Safety Project

This category includes all transportation related projects that enhance and improve safety for any modal users including vehicles, pedestrians, and bicycles.

Note: To ensure an appropriate representation in each of the eight award categories and to enhance the prospects for more unique projects, the Awards Committee may opt to reclassify a nomination from the award category in which it was submitted to another applicable category.

III. NOMINATION EVALUATION CRITERIA:

The awards committee will consider only those nominations which conform to the following general requirements:



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- A. Construction of the nominated project or the nominated study must be completed between January 1 and December 31, 2025.
- B. The nomination form, supporting documentation and District endorsement must be submitted to ACEC Florida by Friday, March 13, 2026.
- C. To be recognized in an Outstanding Project Award category, nominated consulting engineering firms must have been members in good standing of ACEC Florida during the calendar year preceding the nomination deadline.
- D. A project may be nominated for an award only one time.

Nominations for each of the award categories may be evaluated and graded on the following criteria:

- 1. Complexity of project
- 2. Scheduling challenges
- 3. Innovative technical concepts
- 4. Cost-saving measures employed, and savings realized
- 5. Public involvement, acceptance, and support of project
- 6. Minimization of negative community, business, and traffic impacts
- 7. Partnering of project team members and stakeholders
- 8. Functionality of project
- 9. Aesthetics
- 10. Environmental impacts/benefits
- 11. Sustainability
- 12. Containment of construction cost overruns and time extensions
- 13. Technical/Engineering challenges overcome
- 14. Improvements to safety of facility users

Note: During any award nomination cycle, the Committee may modify or eliminate any of the above evaluation criteria or introduce new criteria as deemed appropriate. Revised nomination evaluation criteria will be published by ACEC Florida at least 45 days prior to the nomination deadline.



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IV. SUBMITTAL OF NOMINATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

A. Project nominations must be submitted using the online nomination form accessible from the [ACEC Florida Outstanding Project Awards homepage](#). Specified limitations in the length of descriptions and narratives must be adhered to.

B. The completed nomination form, project photo, supporting documentation, and District endorsement must be submitted to ACEC Florida (mglass@fleng.org) as a single PDF document.

C. An administrative processing fee of \$299, paid by the ACEC Florida consultant member, must be submitted to ACEC Florida with each nomination package on or before Friday, March 13, 2026. Payment may be made through the [ACEC Florida Online Store](#) or by mailing a check to:

American Council of Engineering Companies of Florida

P.O. Box 750

Tallahassee, FL 32302-0750

Attn: 2026 ACEC Florida Outstanding Project Awards (OPA) Program

*Please include the specific project name on the check to ensure it's assigned to the appropriate nomination application.