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NDDOT Watford City Bypasses named as Top 10 finalist in America's Transportation Award competition – needs your vote to win top honors

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) received word this week that the Watford City Southeast and Southwest Bypass project has been named one of the Top 10 projects for the America's Transportation Awards competition. As a Top 10 finalist, the Watford City Bypasses are now in the running for two prizes: Grand Prize and People's Choice Award. A panel of experts will select the Grand Prize winner and the People's Choice Award will be decided through online voting by going to: <http://nominate.americastransportationawards.org/Voting.aspx>. Voting begins today through Friday, September 11. Individuals can vote up to 10 times per day. The project with the most votes will win the People's Choice Award so we encourage everyone to vote for the Watford City Bypass project. Each award includes a \$10,000 prize that will be donated to a non-profit charity or scholarship fund. The American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials awards program was created to honor state transportation department projects that deliver value to communities.

The NDDOT worked with the community and local officials, KLJ engineering firm, along with the contractors Knife River and Philips & Jordan to design and construct bypass routes around Watford City to help take truck traffic around the city rather than through the downtown area. The project also benefited the city's economic activity by allowing people and goods to safely and efficiently reach their destination. By providing a route for through traffic, congestion within city limits has been reduced improving access to local businesses making them more appealing to local consumers.

"We appreciate the fact that a panel of national transportation peers recognized the excellent work of the NDDOT team and other transportation professionals," said Grant Levi, NDDOT Director. "The Department is committed to working with communities to ensure that the roadways are safe and the community's transportation system allows them to prosper."

"The construction and completion of these bypass projects has had a tremendous impact on the Watford City community. "The impact of these bypasses in our community is enormous," said Watford City Mayor, Brent Sanford. "The completion of these projects has significantly raised the quality of life in our community, as residents are no longer consumed by the daily frustration brought on by traffic congestion."

The Watford City Southwest Bypass is a 7.5 mile long, 4-lane roadway that cost approximately \$80 million. The Watford City Southeast Bypass is a 5.7 mile long, 4-lane roadway that cost approximately \$50 million.

The Watford City Southeast and Southwest Bypasses project also received the Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (WASHTO) America's Transportation award earlier this year. The project was recognized in the "Quality of Life/Community Development" category.