



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caltrans District 9 Bishop Recognized by the Federal Highway Administration For Excellence in Highway Design

Bishop- District 9 Director Tom Hallenbeck announced that the Inyo County, US 395 Blackrock Four-Lane Project won the 2010 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Award for Excellence in Highway Design for Rural Highways. This project converted 14.3 miles of two-lane highway to four-lane expressway with a 100-foot median. Using the latest engineering tools, extraordinary care was taken to preserve unique environmental features, retain native landscaping, and protect lava rock outcroppings along this stretch of Scenic Highway. This eliminated the need for irrigation systems and reduced long term maintenance, while preserving the natural scenic quality of the corridor.

The District also received the honorable mention award for the U.S. 395 Sherwin Summit Rehabilitation Project. This project was designed to preserve and blend with the spectacular rock outcroppings of the scenic Volcanic Tablelands while rehabilitating pavement, widening shoulders and medians, improving culverts and drainage, modifying chain-up areas, and relocating utilities.

David A. Nicol, Director of the FHWA Office of Program Administration stated in his letter of congratulations to District 9, "One of the most difficult challenges facing the transportation community is to provide context sensitive facilities that enhance safety, improve mobility, protect the environment, make effective use of limited resources, and deliver projects in a timely manner. These projects were recognized for embracing this challenge with resounding success."

Caltrans also received assistance from the Federal Highway Administration, the Inyo and Mono County Local Transportation Commissions, SKANSKA USA Civil West California District Inc., and Sierra Nevada Construction.

Information about all of the award-winning projects is available on the internet at: [.fhwa.dot.gov.eihd/2010](http://fhwa.dot.gov.eihd/2010).

