MDOT Michigan Department of Transportation

ACEC American Council of Engineering Companies of Michigan

14TH ANNUAL MDOT/ACEC

PARTNERSHIP CHARTER AWARD

CALL FOR ENTRIES | DEADLINE: DEC. 18, 2026



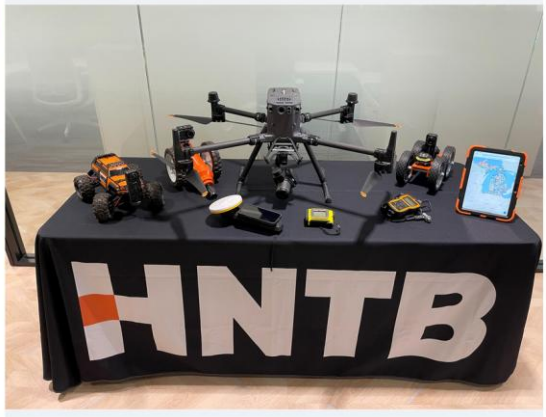
2025 MDOT/ACEC PARTNERSHIP AWARD WINNER

MDOT Ancillary Structures Program

HNTB Corporation and MDOT Bureau of Bridges and Structures







THE AWARD-WINNING PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION

PARTNERSHIP • INNOVATION • IMPACT

About the Award

Partnership Charter Award recipient(s) demonstrate a commitment to excellence by promoting an enhanced business partnership based on mutual trust, effective communication, continuous improvement, embracing innovation, and timely resolution of issues as stated in the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) Partnership Charter Agreement.

In doing so, the recipient adheres to the following principles:

1. Providing Cost-Effective, High-Quality Services
2. Partnering in Streamlining Business Practices
3. Engaging in Effective Communication
4. Commitment to Transparency and Accountability
5. Promoting Innovation and Sustainability

Eligibility Requirements

1. All consultants associated with the project must be ACEC members in good standing.
2. The project must be complete and ready for use between Nov. 1, 2024, and Oct. 31, 2026.
3. Entries may be open to any group within MDOT (i.e., project team, project studies/oversight teams).

Application Criteria

Include information that you consider important to your project, including unique aspects and obstacles that were overcome. Applications should be completed jointly by the project manager and consultant. Applications must address the five principles noted above. Failure to do so may disqualify the entry. Each of the five principles is of equal importance in the judging process.

Entry Procedures

1. Prepare the application.
The project manager and consultant must collaborate on the application. Applicants are solely responsible for identifying other significant participants in their projects and including that information at the time of submission.

2. Entry format and page limits.
A maximum of **eight single-sided pages** will be accepted, excluding the Official Entry Form page:

- **Project narrative:** Up to six pages in **Arial, 10-point font**.
- **Supporting materials:** Up to two pages, which may include visual graphics, charts, or graphs.

Include at least **three high-resolution digital images** of the project as separate email attachments.

3. Obtain all required signatures.
The project manager and consultant must each sign the Official Entry Form to confirm that they agree with the submission, that the project team worked well together, and that the resulting project exemplified the principles of the Partnership Charter. Entries not signed by both the project manager and consultant will not be judged. If multiple individuals are nominated on an application, all must be listed and sign the entry form. This information must be included at the time of submission.

4. Submit the completed entry by email.
Email the completed, signed Official Entry Form, entry materials, and project images to CollinsLightfootJ@Michigan.gov with the subject line **"MDOT/ACEC Partnership Award 2026."**

Entries must be **received by 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18, 2026.**

MDOT's Office of Organizational Development will deliver the application to the project's region engineer or bureau director.

5. Mail the entry fee.
A nonrefundable entry fee of $50 per project is required. Make checks payable to the **State of Michigan** and note **"MDOT ACEC Partnership Charter Award"** on the check.

Checks must be **mailed by 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18, 2026**, to:

Michigan Department of Transportation
Cashier's Office
P.O. Box 30648
Lansing, MI 48909

6. Additional requirements and publication information.
Additional supporting information may be required if your entry is selected as a winner. All entries become the property of MDOT and ACEC and will not be returned.

The winning project will be published on both the MDOT and ACEC websites and in a future Partnership Charter Award *Call for Entries* brochure. The best photo from the winning project will be selected for the brochure cover.

After You Have Submitted an Entry

Judging: Applications are evaluated by the project's region engineer or Bureau Director and the joint MDOT and ACEC Executive Committee make final determination of the winning project. Projects are judged in competition based on their merit relative to the contest criteria. Awards are based on the inherent qualities of each project as perceived by the judges. Winners will be notified by e-mail.

Awards: The award will be presented at the MDOT and ACEC Annual Workshop on Feb. 3, 2027. The project manager and consultant will each receive an award. Additional trophies may be ordered for a fee.

Rating Guidelines for Judging

Each entry will be evaluated based on the following five categories, which are key elements of the MDOT and ACEC Partnership Charter.

1. **Providing Cost-Effective, High-Quality Services……..20%**

- Has the project produced optimum results for expenditure at a standard of excellence?

2. **Partnering in Streamlining Business Practices…….20%**

- Have both the Project Manager and Consultant reduced waste and decreased losses where opportunities were available?

3. **Engaging in Effective Communication.....20%**

- Have the Project Manager and Consultant both played an active and effective role in the process?

4. **Commitment to Transparency & Accountability……...20%**

- Have the Project Manager and Consultant facilitated and disseminated all information within the organizations?

5. **Promoting Innovation and Sustainability……20%**

- Has the project consistently produced the most current standards/best practices in the industry today?

Questions?

For any questions or concerns, please contact:

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Ph: 517-281-6612

If you require assistance accessing this information or require it in an alternative format, contact the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) coordinator at Michigan.gov/MDOT-ADA.