

Recognition of Special Achievement Award: USACE Flood-Risk Management Project

The National Academy of Construction has selected the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area Flood Risk Management Project as the recipient of its Recognition of Special Achievement Award. The award highlights creativity, innovation, vision, and accomplishments of practitioners in the engineering, design, and construction industries.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, and its partners, the cities of Fargo, ND, Moorhead, MN, and the Metro Flood Diversion Authority, are working cooperatively to implement this critical project.

“NAC is thrilled to select this project for our Recognition of Special Achievement award,” said Edd Gibson, NAC president and CEO. “What stands out is the impact it will have on both North Dakota and Minnesota, as it is truly a generational project that will help citizens of both states for decades to come. And it provides a good road map on how to innovatively address resilience and sustainability in a large civil infrastructure project. All involved are to be applauded for their dedication to improving the lives of those in this region.”

The \$3B federal project includes a 30-mile diversion channel with upstream staging and floodwater storage as well as 21 bridges (18 highway, three railroad); two aqueduct structures; nearly 40 miles of levees and floodwalls; three large, gated control structures; 22 miles of dam embankment; four miles of U.S. Interstate-29 raise; and environmental and cultural mitigation and monitoring. The project will provide flood risk management for nearly 260,000 people and 70 square miles of infrastructure in the communities of Fargo, West Fargo, Horace, and Harwood, ND, and Moorhead, MN, and will save the nation millions of dollars annually in flood fighting and potential flood damages.

From concept to construction, USACE and its partners consistently solved challenges on the project, including splitting work between USACE and the non-federal sponsors for simultaneous design and construction. This expedited project completion by approximately 10 years when compared to traditional delivery methods. Additionally, as the first USACE project in the nation to leverage a public-private partnership delivery model, the St. Paul District and its partners are setting the example of how to deliver projects to the nation more efficiently in a resource-constrained environment.

“Congratulations to our USACE teammates and our partners, the cities of Fargo, Moorhead, and the Metro Flood Diversion Authority, for this well-deserved recognition,” said Lt. Gen. Scott A. Spellmon, 55th Chief of Engineers and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers commanding general. “In spearheading the Fargo-Moorhead Metro Area flood risk management project, the St. Paul District exemplifies the kind of innovation and partnership that we strive for as we work to protect communities and engineer solutions for the nation’s toughest challenges.”

The USACE flood-risk project is the second recipient of the Academy’s Recognition of Special Achievement Award. The La Guardia Airport Terminal B Project was the initial recipient and was recognized in 2022 at the Annual Meeting in Scottsdale, AZ.