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NEWS

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I-15 EXPRESS LANES PROJECT WINS TWO MAJOR AWARDS

The Interstate 15 Express Lanes project won two major awards in the last week, taking home top honors in the 2009 Tranny Awards as well as an achievement award from the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC).

In addition, the Smart Corner development project also won a Tranny Award at the 20th Annual California Transportation Foundation awards ceremony last week.

The Foundation chose Interstate 15 Express Lanes as the state’s Freeway Project of the Year, and tapped Smart Corner as California’s Transit Project of the Year.

“Working with our partners and all the communities in the region, SANDAG strives to stay on the cutting edge,” SANDAG Chair and Escondido Mayor Lori Holt Pfeiler said. “Our goal is to use the smartest, most efficient means to improve the quality of life in this region. These two projects do that. And we are very proud of this recognition.”

In awarding the Freeway Project of the Year Award to SANDAG, the California Department of Transportation District 11, and their contractors, the Foundation noted that the innovative new stretch of I-15 Express Lanes that opened in September 2008 established a balance between providing the benefits that come with carpool lanes while maximizing the use of the lanes to reduce traffic congestion. The expressway-within-a-freeway features four reversible lanes, direct access ramps, and a state-of-the-art automated toll collection system that allows solo drivers to use the facility for a fee.

The Transit Project of the Year award was given to SANDAG, Centre City Development Corporation, and their contractors in recognition of the mixed-use development near San Diego City College. In addition to serving as a major Trolley and bus hub, the innovative development serves as a new “origin” and “destination” point along the larger transit network, the Foundation noted. The development consists of a 19-story residential tower and a five-story office building linked by a Trolley station, ground-floor retail, and underground parking.

NARC chose the I-15 Express Lanes project as the 2009 recipient of its Major Metro General Achievement Award. The award is given in recognition of excellence in projects that exemplify regional cooperation, innovation, and regional impact.

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About SANDAG

The [San Diego Association of Governments](#) (SANDAG) is the San Diego region's primary public planning, transportation, and research agency, providing the public forum for regional policy decisions about growth, transportation planning and construction, environmental management, housing, open space, energy, public safety, and binational topics. SANDAG is governed by a Board of Directors composed of mayors, council members, and supervisors from each of the region's 18 cities and the county government.

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