

BRIDGEFARMER & ASSOCIATES, INC. HONORED WITH 2013 ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Loop 12 / SH 114 Highway Interchange in Irving is truly a Multi-Modal facility – the first of its kind in Texas.

(Dallas, Texas) – April 15, 2013 -- The Dallas-based civil engineering firm, Bridgefarmer & Associates, Inc., has been awarded the **2013 Engineering Excellence Award Gold Medal in Transportation** by the American Council of Engineering Companies of Texas, and a **National Recognition Award in the American Council of Engineering Companies “Engineering Excellence Awards”** competition for their design of the Loop 12 / SH 114 Highway Interchange in Irving, Texas. Mansoor Ahsan, P.E., Chief Executive Officer of Bridgefarmer & Associates, accepted the State Award at the ACEC of Texas Awards Banquet in Austin April 12, 2013.

Construction was completed this past fall, followed by a great celebratory ribbon cutting October 31. Not only is this the first time in Texas that a Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) highway and DART light rail share a single right-of-way, but it is rapidly transforming the way that North Texas commuters get to work and school via a truly Multi-Modal facility.

This Loop 12 / SH 114 Highway Interchange project in Irving was the first in a series of TxDOT reconstruction projects surrounding the former Texas Stadium site, where Loop 12, SH 114, SH 183, and Spur 482 intersect, and will collectively be known as the Irving Diamond Interchange. Future plans for this area include a mixed-use development on the former stadium site.



Mansoor Ahsan, Bridgefarmer CEO, accepts the ACEC of Texas 2013 Gold Award for transportation.



Design Complexity:

This 4-level interchange is the first of its kind in Texas where a light rail station is directly connected to a Multi-Modal facility, **bringing together roadway, rail, bicycle and pedestrian traffic.** Commuting UD students and teachers will be able to leave their cars at a Park and Ride lot along their route, ride the DART train to the University of Dallas station, and retrieve their bicycle from a secured storage facility to bike the final leg to class.

- The project included the design of 19 bridges and 33 retaining walls. Due to utilities and scarcity of right-of-way, this project required utilizing some complicated types of retaining wall systems, including the **first hybrid wall of Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE) on top of drilled shafts in the United States**, according to TxDOT engineers. Innovative Bridgefarmer engineers also adapted “Pre-stressed concrete” fabrication techniques for retaining wall fascia panels to provide added strength and more economical transporting to the project site.
- A second project, the DART Light Rail Transit (LRT) Orange Line and station running parallel to the SH 114, was under simultaneous design and construction within the same corridor.
- For the engineers and contractors, this project has been extraordinary on several different levels: Multi-modal facility planning and design; accelerated pace; coordination between more than 6 different governing agencies, and sensitive ROW acquisition from 4 affiliated private institutions of religion and education.

According to a University of Dallas spokesperson, “Completion of the Loop 12/Hwy 114 interchange and the University of Dallas DART station has positively affected everything from student recruitment to access and awareness. Evidence suggests the improvement of the surrounding area’s appearance alone has helped create an infinitely better first impression for prospective students and their families.”

About Bridgefarmer & Associates, Inc.: Founded in **1976**, Bridgefarmer & Associates, Inc. is an internationally recognized consulting engineering firm specializing in transportation projects. Bridgefarmer is headquartered in Dallas, TX and has offices in Austin, Houston, Little Rock, AR and Denver, CO. Bridgefarmer broke into the international scene in the late 1990s when they were hired by Panama Canal Railway Company to make improvements to the rail line that ran through Panama, connecting the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.

Bridgefarmer is currently a major player in other DFW Metroplex transportation projects:

- **I-635 Managed Lanes / LBJ Corridor in Dallas** -- Lead Design Engineer for this \$4 Billion Public Private Partnership.
- **DART (Dallas Area Rapid Transit) Orange Line through Irving** – Design Team member for these Design-Build projects totaling approximately \$615 Million.
- **DFW Connector Project in Tarrant County** -- Lead Design Engineer for 3 of the 6 sections of the estimated \$1.02 Billion Design-Build project.