

September 17, 2010

ARC Announces 5 Finalists to Design Safe Passage for Colorado Animals

The ARC International Wildlife Crossing Infrastructure Design Competition has selected five finalist teams to develop conceptual designs and 3-D models for a wildlife overpass along Interstate 70 near Vail, Colorado. The designs are intended to usher in a new generation of wildlife crossing infrastructure using new methods, new materials, and new thinking to reduce structural costs and increase adaptability and ecological function.

The finalists were chosen out of 36 team submissions from nine countries, representing more than 100 firms worldwide. The five teams in contention include more than a dozen firms in four countries with the landscape architects, engineers, and architects unique to each team. They are supported by ecologists, wildlife biologists, and other specialists.

"It was quite exciting to review the various multidisciplinary approaches put forward by such a wide array of talent," Tony Clevenger, senior wildlife ecologist at the Western Transportation Institute at Montana State University, who originated the idea for this competition, said in a statement. "Whittling it down to just five finalist teams was a real challenge."

Leading the finalist teams are:

- Balmori Associates of New York
- Janet Rosenberg & Associates of Toronto
- Michael Van Valkenburgh & Associates with HNTB of New York
- The Olin Studio of Philadelphia
- Zwarts & Jantsma of Amsterdam

Finalists must submit their original concept designs at the beginning of November for adjudication by an internationally recognized panel of experts. The finalist teams will attend a mandatory site visit later this month at West Vail Pass on I-70 in Colorado. The winning design team will receive \$40,000 at a public recognition ceremony during the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting in January in Washington.

The five finalists will be considered prequalified by the Colorado Department of Transportation in any subsequent request for proposals to develop and implement a wildlife crossing structure along I-70.

"One of the core values for the I-70 Mountain Corridor is safety; safety is a criteria that will be factored into every project that takes place," said CDOT I-70 Mountain Corridor Manager Peter Kozinski. "As we work with stakeholders to consider corridor improvements, activities and projects like this ARC competition can lead to safer solutions for all involved."

The competition hopes to generate new solutions that are applicable not only at West Vail Pass but which can be incorporated into wildlife crossing designs throughout the United States and Canada as well as around the world.

More information about the ARC competition is available at www.arc-competition.com.

Questions regarding this article may be directed to editor@ashtojournal.org.