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Consulting Engineers Recognized for Changing Toronto's Transportation Scene

(OTTAWA) October 25, 2016 – Revitalizing Union Station and Front Street and engineering a new kilometer-long rail underpass separating commuter rail from freight train tracks at one of Canada's busiest crossings definitely have had a positive impact to Toronto's transportations. For this reason, Tuesday evening in Ottawa, AECOM's **Union Station and Front Street Revitalization Project** and Parsons' **West Toronto Diamond Rail-Rail Grade Separation Project** were both recognized for their technical excellence and social, economic and environmental contribution to the Toronto community. For their ground breaking work, these GTA consulting engineers won Awards of Excellence at the 2016 Canadian Consulting Engineering (CCE) Awards gala.

"These Awards showcase the outstanding talent and expertise of consulting engineers across Canada," said ACEC President and CEO John Gamble. "By recognizing these projects with national awards, we highlight the important contributions of engineering firms to Canadians and the huge impact they have both here at home and around the world.



For its Union Station and Front Street Revitalization Project, which was an integral part of the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization, **AECOM** won an **Award of Excellence**. Union Station is Toronto's primary transportation hub for transit and rail passengers, with over 26 million people passing through it annually. Recognizing the challenges associated with the ageing infrastructure, the Toronto Transit Commission and the City of Toronto initiated the restoration and refurbishment of the station. Since an excavation of Front Street was needed for the Union Station project, the City

seized the opportunity to reduce costs and minimize future disruption with the Front Street revitalization at the same time.

A breath of fresh air, encouraging public transit and enhancing Torontonians' day-to-day

As a result of AECOM engineers' innovative work, Front Street is now an aesthetically pleasing public space that provides greater usability, functionality and safety for residents and visitors; and Union Station was improved by creating much needed additional space, safer pedestrian flow and enhanced access to GO Transit, VIA Rail, the PATH system, office towers and nearby attractions. "We are honored to receive this award recognizing our commitment to building a better world and bringing positive change in our communities," said Doug Allingham, Executive Vice President, Canada. "At AECOM, we drive innovation to create safe, sustainable and resilient environments for the generations to come."

Parsons won an **Award of Excellence** for its work on the **West Toronto Diamond Rail-Rail Grade Separation Project**. Metrolinx needed to accommodate projected growth, including the new UP Express airport train, in time for the Toronto 2015 Pan Am Games. Parsons team provided detailed design and engineering services for a new kilometer-long rail underpass separating commuter rail from freight train tracks at one of Canada's busiest crossings. Thanks to the work of these consulting engineers, the commuting public now gets more frequent train departures and shorter travel times. The project also supports business growth



through increased ridership, since the available labor pool expands geographically as commuter rail service improves.

Creatively minimizing railway operation interruption for the community's benefit

Using accelerated bridge construction, four railway bridges were built site-adjacent and slid laterally into place during four short-duration track closures, successfully completing the project with reduced railway disruption, eliminated diversions, and within the bounds of challenging constraints and site conditions. “The CCE Awards recognize only the most exceptional Canadian engineering projects,” said Mike Johnson, Parsons Group President. “We’re honored to receive this award in recognition of Parsons’ innovative approach to project design and engineering. We consistently deliver the highest quality projects while saving our customers time and money—and this award is a highly valued testament to that.”

In November, follow the [#20DaysOfExcellence](#) in engineering campaign on Twitter and at www.acec.ca/20daysofexcellence to watch videos of other award-winning projects like these and to learn more about the impact of consulting engineering on our quality of life.

The award-winning projects are described in full in the October-November 2016 issue of *Canadian Consulting Engineer* at <http://www.canadianconsultingengineer.com/digital-edition/>.

About award-winning firms

AECOM is a fully integrated firm working with governments, businesses and organizations globally to develop and implement innovative solutions to the world’s most complex challenges. www.aecom.com/ca/

Parsons, celebrating more than 70 years of growth in the engineering, construction, technical, and professional services industries, is a leader in many diversified markets with a focus on infrastructure, industrial, federal, and construction. Parsons delivers design/design-build, program/construction management, and other professional services packaged in innovative alternative delivery methods to federal, regional, and local government agencies, and private industrial customers worldwide. www.parsons.com

About Awards co-sponsors

ACEC represents companies in Canada that provide professional engineering services to both public and private sector clients. These services include the planning, design and execution of all types of engineering projects, as well as providing independent advice and expertise in a wide range of engineering and engineering-related fields. For more information about ACEC and the 2016 Canadian Consulting Engineering Awards, please visit www.acec.ca.

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Multimedia (includes project description, video, photo):

[AECOM project photo](#)

[AECOM project page on acec.ca](#)

[Parsons project photo](#)

[Parsons project page on acec.ca](#)

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