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2025 UCA Project of the Year Nominated for Prestigious International Tunneling Award

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Yellow Line Tunnel Rehabilitation Project selected as sole U.S. finalist



Members of Kiewit's WMATA Yellow Line Tunnel Rehabilitation Project team with the 2025 UCA Project of the Year Award at June's Rapid Excavation and Tunneling Conference® (RETc 2025) in Dallas, TX.

After receiving recognition as the 2025 Underground Construction Association (UCA) Project of the Year at RETc 2025, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Yellow Line Tunnel Rehabilitation Project was announced as one of three finalists for the International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association's (ITA) Project of the Year (Between €100 and €500 million).

The WMATA Yellow Line Tunnel Rehabilitation Project, led by Kiewit Infrastructure Co., included updating two 50-year-old transit tunnels totaling about 3,000 feet in length. The work involved rehabilitating the tunnels to provide structural upgrades to the segmental steel tunnel liners,

corrosion protection, leak mitigation, and systems upgrades to extend the useful life for at least another 50 years. Other firms involved in this landmark project include Burns Engineering (electrical engineer), RK&K (lead design firm and civil engineer), Schnabel Engineering (structural engineer), and subcontractors Blastec Inc., F.D. Thomas, Mass. Electric Construction Co., and Ribeiro Construction.

With an overall total of 51 submissions from 27 countries across all seven award categories, the project represents the only finalist selected from the United States. The winners of each award category will be revealed on October 1, 2025, as part of the ITA Tunnelling Awards 2025 in Belgrade, Serbia.

“We are thrilled to see the 2025 UCA Project of the Year be nominated for another prestigious award, especially by our good friends at ITA,” said Leon J. Jacobs, UCA Chair. “The team behind the WMATA Yellow Line Tunnel Rehabilitation Project could not be more deserving of this high honor.”

The Underground Construction Association (UCA) serves as the accredited U.S. delegate to the International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association (ITA) with the goal of connecting American practitioners in the underground construction industry to a global network of professionals and the exchanging of expertise.

Watch the UCA Awards at RETC 2025 video here: media.smenet.org/uca-awards-at-retc-2025/

See the ITA Awards 2025 finalists: awards.ita-aites.org/all-finalists

About UCA

The Underground Construction Association, a Division of SME (UCA) brings together tunneling’s brightest and most dedicated professionals. Global association members advance their careers with world-class technical resources, educational programs, networking opportunities and professional development tools from UCA. Our members are focused on sharing best practices

in safety, environmental stewardship and technological advancements. UCA. *Inspiring tunneling professionals worldwide.*