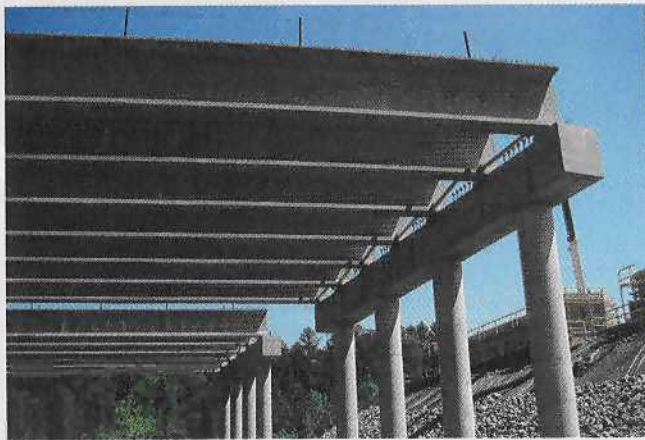


TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGY

Toll Road Shortens North Carolina Commute

The Western Wake Freeway, in Wake County, N.C., is a 12.6-mile extension of NC 540, providing an expansion to the Triangle Expressway that will help to complete the I-540 outer loop around Raleigh and Wake County. The six-lane, controlled-access toll road is expected to save customers up to 20 minutes per round trip. Fully funded by municipal bonds, this \$446-million project began in July 2009 and is scheduled to open in 2012. The project includes 32 bridges.



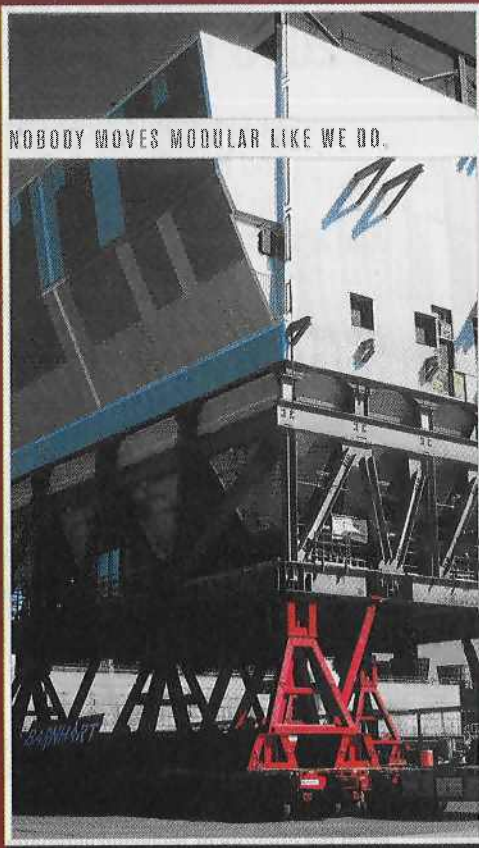
"This will be the first project in the United States designed and built to utilize an all-electronic toll collection system, meaning there will be no toll booths and no stopping to pay tolls," says Peter Graf, design manager with The LPA Group, a unit of Michael Baker Corp. The North Carolina Turnpike Authority (NCTA) signed a design-build contract with the Raleigh-Durham Roadbuilders to complete the Western Wake Freeway segment of the Triangle Expressway. The Turnpike Authority short-listed three design-build teams, choosing the Raleigh-Durham Roadbuilders on a best-value basis.

Facility users will purchase an electronic transponder that will automatically charge for road use. For those without a transponder, overhead gantries with high-speed camera-imaging systems will capture license-plate information tracked through the N.C. Dept. of Motor Vehicles, and drivers will be billed. When the bonds are paid back in full, the tolling will be removed.

"The project includes aesthetic bridges, retaining walls, overhead sign supports and noise walls with a stone-and-brick theme that is common to the architecture in the Raleigh area," says Graf. "Including these aesthetic features is a first in North Carolina and will help this highway stand out as a landmark for the community. The partnership between NCTA, NCDOT and Raleigh-Durham Roadbuilders has been key to keeping the project schedule on track." ■

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