



MOW WOW!

Members of the MOW facility construction team are Al Nijland, seated, and from left, Bob Babbitt, Dave Compton and Rick Noone. Not pictured are Linda Bybee, Frank Foster and Joe Wright.

Metro Green Line Maintenance of Way Facility is Design-Build Success Story

By STEFANIE SPIKELL

(Feb. 28) The recently constructed Metro Green Line Maintenance of Way (MOW) Facility is a design-build success story. The project was completed on time and under budget with a minimum of change orders and no claims.

"What a success this was for our first design-build effort," said Joel Sandberg, deputy executive officer, Engineering. "We budgeted \$5.4 million and completed the project for \$3.9 million. I credit the exceptional team work for the success of the project."

The maintenance of way facility is located at 1680 East Imperial Highway and includes a 23,500-square foot storage building on a 65,000-square foot site. The building houses a parts storage area with an automated parts carousel and three maintenance shop areas, office, and employee convenience areas.

The MTA project team consisted of Al Nijland, Engineering; Frank Foster, Contracting; Bob Babbitt, Third-Party Coordination; David Compton, Construction; Lynda Bybee, Public Affairs; Rick Noone, office engineer; and Joe Wright, construction inspector.

A strong commitment

According to Nijland, senior engineer for the project, there was a strong commitment to timely review by the contractor and the MTA

design review team.

"By allowing the contractor to continue its design efforts while intermediate submittals were being reviewed, we were able to start construction exactly on schedule," said Nijland. "This level of partnership continued throughout the construction phase and really paid off in the end."

Babbitt, who led the coordination efforts with outside agencies, said "This project had all the makings of a very difficult one. With the new facility being located on property belonging to Caltrans and its proximity to a community childcare center in a residential area, we were concerned about opposition."

The MTA construction management staff and the contractor were proactive in communicating construction concerns with the multiple agencies, utilities and neighbors impacted by the activity. The staff addressed potential conflicts at an early stage and reached solutions in cooperation with interested parties.

Good performance specs

"Earl Corporation is a seasoned design-build company and we benefited from their expertise," said Compton, the resident engineer. "Our engineers wrote a good performance specification and the company just took it from there."

He noted that the project's cost growth was contained at five percent, considered very low for the industry.

"We are extremely proud of the outstanding commitment of the team that helped prevent claims," Compton said. "Everyone had the right attitude from the beginning and since this was our first design-build project, worked extra hard to make it a success."

"The new facility is now a welcome part of the neighborhood and the construction phase a pleasant memory for all participants," said Babbitt, the third-party coordinator.

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