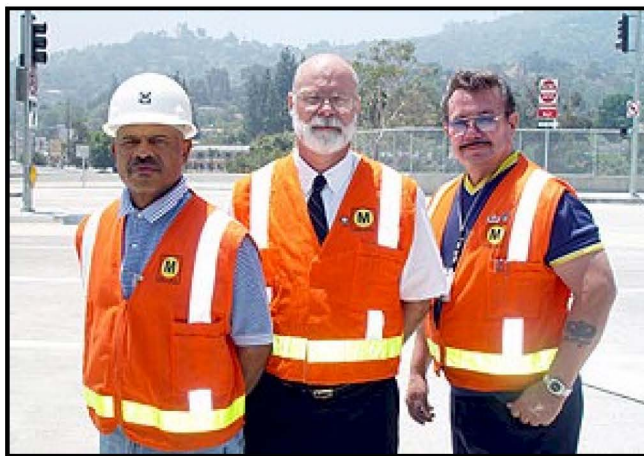


101 Freeway Overpass Built with No Lost-Time Injuries to Workers

(June 19, 2002) Bridge building is one of the riskiest occupations in the construction industry.

So, when the MTA's new 101 Freeway overpass opened, last week, after two and a half years of construction – with no lost-time injuries – that was an accomplishment any engineer could be proud of.



^ MTA Construction Safety Manager James Brown, left, with construction safety engineers Steve Nix, center, and Ruben Maldonado. PHOTO BY LUIS INZUNZA

And, proud they are. MTA Construction Safety Manager James Brown credits the contractor, Brutoco Engineering Construction Company (BEC) with closely adhering to federal, state and MTA safety regulations and with correcting safety hazards before anyone could get hurt.

"We live Safety's First and we are elated that BEC lived it with us," says Brown.

He also applauds the efforts of construction safety representatives Steve Nix and Ruben Maldonado who helped monitor the project on a daily basis. MTA Construction Management staff Roger Dames, Fred Smith, Bobby Hupp and JMA Consultants staff Scott McConnell, Bob Grinely and Bruce Bemis also supported the safety effort.

As the representative primarily responsible for safety on the overpass job, Nix met weekly with construction managers, held "toolbox" safety meetings with workers and took other measures to help keep injuries down.

Positive safety culture

"The teamwork created a positive safety culture that influenced craft-level workers," says Brown.

Over 29 months of construction beginning in January 2000, BEC amassed 215,000 hours free of lost-time injuries. The company achieved that goal even though trades on the job included ironworker, carpenter, driller, laborer, operating engineer and electrician.

BEC also had only 2.8 "recordable" injuries per 200,000 manhours, compared with the national average of 7.8 such injuries per 200,000 manhours. During one 19-month period, there were no incidents at all.

BEC's sterling performance will have earned the company a total of \$254,000 in monthly safety bonuses by the time the contract is closed. Construction workers also received individual awards, including caps and jackets, for working safely.

"Everybody wins," says Nix. "The workers don't get hurt. The contractor receives a bonus and the MTA doesn't have to pay a higher premium on our liability insurance."

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