

2009 is coming to a close, but Sizeler Thompson Brown Architects is not slowing down! We've had a very busy December...

Sizeler Thompson Brown Architects is extremely proud to announce that it has been named one of New Orleans CityBusiness' *2009 Best Places to Work*. New Orleans CityBusiness, partnered with the Human Resources Management Association to maintain objectivity, selects the honorees based on a multitude of criteria including salary, health care benefits, paid time off, and employee programs. Employees also completed a survey gauging their satisfaction levels. The firm's annual participation in Art for Arts' Sake, the YLC's Streetcar Named Inspire, the Intern Development Program, and financial support of continuing education were all highlighted as morale boosting and team building initiatives that attract and retain top notch professionals.

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and New Orleans Regional Planning Commission (RPC) hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony last week to mark the grand opening of the New Orleans Regional Transportation Management Center, designed by Sizeler Thompson Brown Architects.

The \$12.4M, 29,120 SF, facility allows DOTD staff to actively monitor real-time traffic information on roadway conditions and distribute this information to drivers and emergency response personnel by using a variety of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) tools including traffic cameras and vehicle detectors, Dynamic Message Signs, Twitter and the 511 Traveler Information System. As a result, drivers can avoid traffic congestion by planning alternative routes, and emergency response personnel such as Motorist Assistance Patrol, police and firefighters can decrease the response time to an incident and clear lanes of travel more quickly.

"The New Orleans RPC will provide the planning support for further development and deployment of Intelligent Transportation System technologies to keep motorists informed and to reduce travel time and delay for the driving public," said RPC Executive Director Walter Brooks.

Orleans Parish officials and representatives from the Orleans Parish Communications District broke ground on a state-of-the-art facility to house the 911 communications network for the following Orleans Parish agencies: The Orleans Parish Communications District; New Orleans Police Department; New Orleans Fire Department; Homeland Security; and New Orleans Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

The two-story structure, designed by Sizeler Thompson Brown Architects, will house the Warren E. McDaniels 9-1-1 Center. It will also house all of the support facilities necessary to stay functional during a wide range of possible emergencies. Back-up generators, redundant system back-up, sleeping, and other design components will allow the facility to stay fully functional for a week without outside help, if necessary.

Sizeler Thompson Brown Architects wishes everyone a very happy and safe holiday season!