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Veterans Memorial Bridge Replacement Project Set to Begin, February 4, 2010

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News Release for February 4, 2010

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VETERANS MEMORIAL BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT SET TO BEGIN

The Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) announced today that construction on the new bridge to replace the Veterans Memorial Bridge is set to begin this May. Reed & Reed, Inc. of Woolwich was selected as the contractor for the \$63 million project. The Veterans Memorial Bridge connects the cities of Portland and South Portland and carries over 22,000 vehicles a day.

“This bridge is a gateway to Maine’s largest metropolitan area, and this bridge is vital to move vehicle, pedestrian and bicycle traffic safely and efficiently between Portland and South Portland,” said David Cole, MaineDOT Commissioner. “It also must be a fitting tribute to Maine’s many veterans who served their country.”

Reed & Reed was selected as the “design-build” contractor by MaineDOT after MaineDOT had evaluated the three design-build proposals that were submitted. Reed & Reed’s team includes Falmouth-based T.Y. Lin International as the team’s lead design and engineering firm.

The design-build plan submitted by Reed and Reed involves a community-centered plan to replace the Veterans Memorial Bridge. This plan includes significant public involvement that will invite public input on specific aspects of the project. A design-build process allows for a faster construction schedule while allowing input into the project. The bridge will also honor Maine’s veterans with design attributes.

“The new bridge is designed to last 100 years, so it is extremely important that we include all modes of transportation, rightfully honor our veterans, and engage the communities in its design and construction. The design-build process allows us to do that,” said Cole.

The design team will hold a public meeting early this spring to gather further community input and finalize the design elements of the bridge. Construction on the new bridge is estimated at 33 months. The new bridge is expected to open to traffic in July, 2012 with the removal of the old bridge completing in December, 2012.

Along with T.Y. Lin as the design team, Reed & Reed will utilize three other Portland-based firms that will provide additional services for the project: architectural firm SMRT for landscape design services; GZA GeoEnvironmental for geotechnical engineering services; and Barton & Gingold for the pre-construction public education process and ongoing communications throughout the project.

MaineDOT utilized a “best value” scoring process in its selection of the design-build team that takes into account the technical value of innovations and features of the design and construction concepts as well as the cost of the project.

The Reed & Reed team was awarded the highest technical score and they submitted the lowest bid price of \$63.1 million. The other teams submitting proposals included the Lane Construction

Corporation / Figg Engineering with a bid of \$68.4 million; and the Cianbro Corporation / Louis Berger with a bid of \$69.6 million.

“We are thrilled to be building this important bridge project and consider this award an honor, especially given the qualifications of our competitors. Our team worked hard to develop a number of innovative design concepts and the expertise that Reed & Reed brings to this project makes all of our employees very proud,” said Jackson Parker, President and CEO of Reed & Reed. “Reed & Reed has a long history of building many of Maine’s bridges, including the Casco Bay Bridge Approach Spans Substructure; the Brunswick-Topsham Bypass; and Maine’s award-winning Penobscot Narrows Bridge in a joint venture. Our designer, T.Y. Lin International, also has a long history of designing many of Maine’s bridges including the Casco Bay Bridge and the Topsham-Brunswick Bypass.”

An informational web site and regular email updates will be available to any interested members of the public in the near future.

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