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Moving forward with concrete results

General Mitchell International Airport Runway Intersection Project Wins National “Excellence in Concrete Pavements Award

Madison, WI. (January 3, 2014) – The American Concrete Pavement Association (ACPA) has named its 2013 recipients of its Annual “Excellence in Concrete Pavements” Awards, which recognize quality concrete pavements constructed in the United States and Canada.

The awards program encourages high-quality workmanship in concrete pavement projects, and serves as a way to share information about challenging and highly successful projects. Projects are evaluated and voted on by judges from across the country and represent various stakeholder groups in the transportation-construction community. The program recognizes contractors, engineers, and project owners who completed outstanding projects.

The awards fall into 13 categories applicable to construction and preservation of highways, roadways, airports, and industrial pavement facilities. The program requires projects to be completed in the calendar year prior to judging (2012).

The General Mitchell International Airport Runway Intersection rehabilitation project won the Gold Award in the Overlays (Airports) Category. “Major pavement repairs in the intersection of the two main runways had been avoided for many years due to the complexity and the requirements for no delays to the airlines. An innovative solution had to be found to meet the special needs of this project. The GMIA engineering staff, the consultant engineering firm of RDM and Walsh Construction delivered an excellent project while working with the airlines”, said Kevin McMullen, President of the Wisconsin Concrete Pavement Association. “WCPA accepted the award on behalf of the GMIA engineering staff at the awards ceremony on December 6, 2013 in Puerto Rico. We look forward to honoring the entire project team as soon as it can be arranged”, he further added.

Overlays (Airports)

Overlays (Airports)—Gold Award

Project: General Mitchell International Airport (GMIA) Field Runway Intersection Rehabilitation, Milwaukee, Wisc.
Owner: Milwaukee County: Airport Division - GMIA
Contractor: Walsh Construction
Engineer: RDM

Milwaukee's General Mitchell International Airport (GMIA) has over the years spent an increasingly large amount of maintenance dollars on rehabilitating the asphalt intersection of Runways 1L-19R and 7R-25L. In a pavement condition survey conducted by the Wisconsin DOT in 2008, this pavement was determined to be at a state where normal maintenance could not keep up with the deterioration.

GMIA commissioned a study to determine alternatives to repair or replace the pavement. The study consisted of surveying grades and profiles, coring to determine pavement sectional depths and soil conditions, non-destructive testing to determine the structural capability and predicting expected life.

While focusing on determining how to best repair or replace the pavement through the intersection, numerous critical issues needed to be considered:

1. Operational requirements for the intersection,
2. Constructability of any rehabilitation or reconstruction technique,
3. Cost considerations,
4. Design life expectancies and
5. Potential maintenance requirements after the area is repaired.

The two runways are the primary runways at General Mitchell airport. Basically, every aircraft operation goes through this intersection 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. This left a very narrow construction window.

To accommodate the schedule, numerous innovations were designed into the project and properly executed during construction. The project was executed as planned and in accordance with the design. The Airport was able to replace approximately 75% of all existing asphalt pavements with concrete and open in a timely manner each weekend morning. The contractor finished the project on time and within budget.

About the Excellence Awards

This year the awards represent 13 categories of construction and preservation of concrete pavements used for highways, roadways, airports, and industrial pavement facilities. In all, 31 awards were presented to 25 contractors.

The ACPA Excellence in Concrete Pavements awards are made possible, in large measure, because of the generous time commitment of independent judges from across the United States and Canada. The judges each spend many hours reviewing executive summaries, project details, photographs, and other details and aspects of project submittals.



ACPA presents awards in both gold and silver levels. Judging is based on a point system, with independent judges awarding points for quality construction, addressing unique and unusual challenges, innovation, traffic management, and other criteria. In the case of ties, award judges present awards to co-winners.

About the ACPA and WCPA

The ACPA is the national trade association for the concrete pavement industry. The Wisconsin Concrete Pavement Association (WCPA) is ACPA's local affiliated organization. ACPA and WCPA represent members in marketing/promotion, government affairs, and research/technical support associated with concrete pavements used for highways, airports, streets, and roads.

ACPA's and WCPA's members include paving contractors, cement companies, equipment manufacturers, material and service suppliers, ready-mixed concrete producers, allied associations/organizations, bonding and insurance companies, consulting firms, and other allied organizations and individuals.

Founded in 1963, the American Concrete Pavement Association is headquartered in Chicago at 9450 Bryn Mawr Ave., Suite 150, Rosemont, IL 60018. Phone: 847.966.2272. The Association's Washington, DC office is located at 500 New Jersey Ave., NW, 7th Floor, Washington, DC 20001. Phone: 202.638.2272. Visit ACPA's website at www.acpa.org.

Founded in 1952, the Wisconsin Concrete Pavement Association is headquartered in Madison, Wisconsin at 4001 Nakoosa Trail, Suite 101, Madison, WI 53714. Telephone: 608-240-1020. Fax: 608-240-1019. Visit WCPA's website at www.wisconcrete.org.

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