

Wisconsin Avenue Reconstruction in Appleton Wins National Award for Excellence in Concrete Pavements

Madison, WI. (December 4, 2012) – The American Concrete Pavement Association (ACPA) has named the recipients of its 23rd 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 14 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 (2011).

The reconstruction of Wisconsin Avenue in the City of Appleton received the Gold Award for the *Municipal Streets and Intersections (>30,000 SY)* Category. “It was very evident from the beginning of the construction of the Wisconsin Avenue project that it was going to be a special one. The businesses, City of Appleton, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, OMNNI Associates and Vinton Construction Company were all so well prepared for the project”, said Kevin McMullen, President of the Wisconsin Concrete Pavement Association. “The quality of engineering and construction of this project was excellent. Everyone involved in the project deserves credit for building the best city street in the nation. I was honored to celebrate with Vinton Construction and OMNNI Associates at the award ceremony and very honored to accept the award on behalf of City of Appleton and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. And, I look forward to honoring them as soon as possible in Wisconsin”, he further added.

Municipal Streets & Intersections (>30,000 SY) — Gold

Project: Wisconsin Avenue, Appleton, Wisc.
Contractor: Vinton Construction Company
Owner: The City of Appleton, Wisc.
Engineer: OMNNI Associates

Wisconsin Avenue is a primary east/west urban arterial that carries more than 17,000 vehicles per day through a commercial area in Appleton. The corridor has 28 intersections and more than 140 driveway openings. Unfortunately, it also had a crash rate that was 2.5 times higher than the statewide average.

A \$5.7 million dollar construction project took aim at the accident rate, but also accomplished much more for this roadway and the businesses and people it serves.

The project involved reconstructing a two mile urban segment of Wisconsin Avenue (State Trunk Highway 96), from State Trunk Highway 47 to County Trunk Highway E. Reconstruction of this corridor required an extraordinary level of planning and effort to deliver, while at the same time minimizing the impact on the more than 125 businesses within the project limits.

Formal planning began in 2005. The Wisconsin DOT, City of Appleton, and OMNNI Associates met monthly for more than two years with the Wisconsin Avenue Design Committee. Comprised of local business owners in the project area, the committee provided the design team input on roadway design, streetscaping, and construction staging.

The meetings resulted in overwhelming support for a project that would improve the look and the functionality of the corridor. The design expanded the roadway to a consistent, four-lane cross section with left turn lane additions and intersection geometric improvements throughout the corridor.

On-street parking was generally eliminated; however, indent parking was designed along a three-block area. The project incorporated a mid-block pedestrian hybrid beacon (HAWK), which was one of the first installations in the State of Wisconsin.

The project used three stages of construction that included allowing local traffic into the work zone to access businesses. The traffic section of special provisions was six pages long, detailing 22 different intersection staging requirements and special access requirements for 26 commercial properties.

Construction began in late March of 2011. A total of 150 working days were allotted to Vinton Construction to complete the project. Completing the multi-staged project in one construction season required higher than normal production rates and extra efforts that included working weekends and scheduling concurrent controlling operations, while meeting the requirement to maintain local vehicular and pedestrian access to the businesses within the construction zone. To keep the project on schedule, the contractors generally worked 12 hour days during the week and 10 hour days on Saturdays.

To meet the project schedule, the contractor had to start work on the project in the last week of March. An early March spring thaw greatly benefited construction start-up, but the project fell behind schedule when a storm blanketed Appleton with 8 in. of heavy snow in mid-April. Vinton paved the first section of mainline concrete pavement on May 4, just two days behind the original schedule. The schedule was challenging, not only because of the weather and the 67,000 SY of concrete pavement, but also because of other work items. The project included 74,200 SY of concrete pavement removal; 39,300 CY of excavation; 33,000 tons of base aggregate; 55,100 SY of 8.5-inch doweled concrete pavement; and 11,650 SY of 8.5-inch doweled high early strength concrete pavement over 6 in. aggregate base. There was over 185,000 sq. ft of concrete sidewalk and driveways, 19, 000 sq. ft of which were colored and stamped concrete. There was also a considerable amount of electrical work on the project, including nearly 6 miles of conduit and 25 miles of cables and wires that were needed for traffic signals, decorative lighting, and fiber optic interconnect.

The contractor developed a detailed project construction schedule and provided weekly schedule updates that were posted to a project website. Every morning the project engineer posted a daily reminder of work areas and traffic impacts. The website provided a constant flow of information, including a Twitter feed to alert followers when new information was posted.

Vinton Construction is well known in Wisconsin for their excellent project coordination, and their extraordinary efforts on the Wisconsin Avenue project was a key component of the project success. The Wisconsin DOT, OMNNI Associates, the City of Appleton, and Vinton worked in a true partnership, and every aspect from conception to completion was carefully thought out, well executed, and very successful.

As a result, the City of Appleton has a revitalized corridor which will spur business redevelopment for many years to come.

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 technical website at www.acpa.org. Visit ACPA's public website at www.pavements4life.com.

Founded in 1952, the Wisconsin Concrete Pavement Association is headquartered in Madison, Wisconsin at 2423 American Lane, Madison, WI 53704. Telephone: 608-240-1020. Fax: 608-240-1019. Visit WCPA's website at www.wisconcrete.org.

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High resolution photos of award winners and projects are available on request. Please indicate your choice, as well as whether you can accommodate batches up to 15 MB in size.