Adopt-A-Highway Annual Awards Ceremony

ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT Deputy Secretary for Engineering John Walsh, left, presents the Outstanding State Group of the Year Award to members of the In Memory of Mary A. Cashion Adopt-A-Highway group. The award was presented at the annual Adopt-A-Highway Awards Ceremony on April 29, 2010. From left are: Walsh, Brenda Cashion, Macie Cashion and Kelli Brown.

District Winners

District 1
CK NAACP Youth and Mt. Bethel
Kershaw County

District 2
Bottletree Antiques
Abbeville County

District 3
Vulcan Materials - Pacolet
Spartanburg County

District 4
In Memory of Mary A. Cashion
Cherokee County

District 5
Midland Elementary School
Marion County

District 6
Walling Grove POA
Beaufort County

District 7
Town of Neeses
Calhoun County

Initiative Awards

Carlton Bridges
Cherokee County

Barbara Clinton
York County

Angela Crouch
Charleston County

Engineer of the Year

1st - Fred Fleming
Spartanburg County

2nd - Ryan Dannelly
Greenville County

3rd- Tom Hammond
Kershaw County

Coordinator of the Year

1st - Carlton Bridges
Cherokee County

2nd - Denise Brown
Anderson County

3rd- Dee Michaelson
Kershaw County

Achievement Awards

Sandy Arrington
Spartanburg County

Denise Brown
Anderson County

Barbara Clinton
York County

Angela Crouch
Charleston County

Jeff Davis
Greenwood County

Dorothy Johnson
Williamsburg County

Heidi Johnson
Lexington County

Veronica Miller
Beaufort County

Debbie Sams
Abbeville County

Willie Dean Stewart
Orangeburg County

Kimberly Timmons
Berkeley County

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ect consisted of milling some of the existing asphalt interstate and replacing it with approximately 10 inches of high-strength concrete.

The interstate was widened toward the median to add shoulders where needed to provide a finished typical section that has a 4-foot inside paved shoulder, two 12-foot travel lanes, and a 10-foot outside paved shoulder.

Walsh said six overpasses were raised to meet interstate standards and the flyover bridge that connects I-26 westbound to I-385 northbound was replaced.

"We've done safety grading, slope improvements, median cable guardrails were installed, and we've also installed guardrails on the outside," Walsh said. "It's a significant improvement…This road will be in a condition where we will not have to disrupt traffic for quite some time."

Walsh thanked the Secretary and Commission for supporting the SCDOT staff throughout the project. He also thanked others including District 2 for managing the project; District 2 Engineering Administrator Christy Hall; Traffic Engineering; and the Federal Highway Administration.

Commission Chairman Daniel H. Isaac Jr., of the 1st Congressional District, acknowledged Commissioners in attendance including Ken Willingham, At-Large; Commissioner Harrison Rearden, 6th District; Commissioner R. Eddie Adams, 3rd District, and his wife, 10th Judicial Circuit Solicitor Chrissy Adams; and former commissioners Marion P. Carnell and William "Bud" Turner.

"It is a rarity in construction of any kind that a project comes in ahead of schedule and under budget," Isaac said. "That is a testimony to leadership and unity, people working together."

Adams said the project "is an opportunity to show that government works."

"It shows if we believe in a project and support it and have the support of the Delegation and we have support of the citizens, and we have an experienced staff including the Secretary and his staff…these projects can be done."

South Carolina Senator Danny Verdin, of District 9, said, "A tremendous amount of gratitude needs to be expressed to the Commissioners, the Secretary and to the Department."

Verdin acknowledge in attendance fellow lawmakers including Chairman of the Laurens County Legislative Delegation Michael A. Pitts; State Representative Mark Willis, District 16; State Representative Garry Smith, District 27; and State Senator John Scott Jr., District 19.

Pitts said I-385 is "vital" to Laurens County and the Upstate, saying that the finished project was well worth some "minor inconveniences" for travelers.

"This state is dependent on commerce and tourism," Pitts said. "We have to have good highway infrastructure for the major part of our economy. This is a prime example of what the future should look like."

Laurens County Council Chairman James A. Coleman thanked the many local officials in attendance. "This road is a vital part to our economic development effort here in Laurens County," Coleman said.

Nick Wolf, Project Manager for the McCarthy Improvement Company, thanked the many subcontractors and the local support.

"I'd like to thank the DOT," Wolf said. "The attention they paid to this project was like none I've ever been on. We had a real good partnering effort to get this project done."

Rob Perry, SCDOT Program Manager for Project Upstate RPG who oversaw the preconstruction, said the project never once got behind schedule.

"When you close an interstate, and it's something we've never done, it's kind of scary," said Rob Perry, Program Manager. "I think that's what kind of shocked most of the people originally. We're here today, 23 days early, and it's great. The construction folks did a wonderful job and I'm glad we could support them."

Laurens County Resident Construction Engineer Nick Waites, who oversaw the construction for SCDOT, said: "I'd like to thank my staff for the long hours away from home and for working around the clock. Overall, I'm very pleased with everybody's coordination and teamwork and the work we've done in the time frame."