



PRESS RELEASE

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North Carolina DOT Replaces Seven Bridges on Ocracoke in Less Than 74 Days *Small Project Makes Big Impact in Coastal Community and Earns National Recognition*

Austin, TX/November 3, 2009 - The National Partnership for Highway Quality (NPHQ) announced today that North Carolina's Ocracoke Bridge Replacements Project in Hyde County has been selected as a 2009 National Achievement Award Winner for a Small Structures Project. Project partners include the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT); the National Park Service; Hyde County; contractor, Carolina Bridge Company, Inc.; designers Mulkey, Inc. and Simpson Engineers & Associates, P.C.; subcontractors RPC Contracting, Inc. and Reynolds Fence and Guardrail, Inc.; and, materials suppliers Bay Shore Concrete Producers and Florence Concrete Producers.

The \$8 million NCDOT project consisted of replacing seven bridges with a 0.61 mile section of roadway on Ocracoke Island at the North Carolina Outer Banks in Hyde County in less than 74 days during the winter months of November through March.

The project offered its partners several challenges, including the remoteness of the island, which is accessible by ferry only, unpredictable weather during the winter season, and working with the National Park Service on federally protected property that is the habitat of fourteen endangered or threatened species of plants and animals.

Driving project completion was the demand for the road to be accessible during prime economic season that would eventually bring thousands of tourists to this remote Outer Banks Island. The final decision was made to replace the bridges by closing a three mile section of NC 12, diverting traffic onto a 3.2 mile beach detour accessible only by four wheel drive vehicles. By opting for this alternative and carefully planning for up to one year in advance, construction of the new bridges was completed without significant impact to the community and was finished ten days ahead of schedule.

The use of innovative techniques such as pre-project pile driving analysis and the extensive use of pre-cast elements provided long-term benefits that not only helped to ensure this project's success but are expected to be used on other NCDOT projects.

"This project serves as a model of success not only for North Carolina but for the entire country," said NPHQ Executive Director Bob Templeton. "Not only was the project completed ahead of schedule but partnerships between NCDOT, its contractors, resource agencies and the community were strengthened. Public trust was renewed with the delivery of a superior quality project built with full consideration for the desires of the community it serves today."

The NPHQ National Achievement Awards recognize overall project quality, the partnership between State departments of transportation and private contractors; technical and materials innovations; the effectiveness and creativity of public involvement; the teams' effectiveness in meeting or exceeding

expected deadlines, costs and deliverables; responsiveness to environmental needs and opportunities; and adherence to other principles of quality management.

NPHQ is a national coalition of public highway agencies, industry organizations and private firms founded in 1992 as the National Quality Initiative. For more than 15 years, NPHQ continues to be the only National program that brings Federal, State and Municipal highway agencies and private industry together to combine their expertise and to cooperatively lead the advancement in highway quality, safety and service to the highway users. For more information on the NPHQ and its awards: www.nphq.org. To learn more about The Bridges of Ocracoke: www.ncdot.org/projects/NC12

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