PRESS RELEASE

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SANDY FORKS ROAD EARNS NORTH CAROLINA'S FIRST SILVER CERTIFICATION

Highest Scoring Greenroads Project Yet

RALEIGH, NC – JANUARY 16, 2018 – Greenroads Foundation is pleased to announce that Raleigh's Sandy Forks Road Widening Project earned North Carolina's first Greenroads Silver Certification. The project is also recognized as the highest rated project internationally. The Foundation manages a third-party certification program that assesses the sustainability of transportation capital projects from design through construction using the Greenroads Rating System. Sandy Forks is the 45th project to be certified since 2012 and began pursuing certification in 2014. More than 130 projects currently seek certification in 11 states and 8 countries.

The 2.5-mile-long corridor was built in the 1970s and had become a rough, uneven road surface with a worn path created by local residents walking along the road's edge. Chris Johnson, City of Raleigh Division Manager for Roadway Design & Construction, worked with project engineering firm RK&K and prime contractor Carolina Sunrock to design and construct a modern, sustainable roadway complete with pedestrian sidewalks, LED lighting, improved drainage, and green infrastructure to manage stormwater run-off.

"Not only does this design include stormwater features that treat all of the increase in impervious area from the project, which is not typical of transportation projects in North Carolina, but this comprehensive project also transforms a beat-up, dark roadway into a safe residential street that welcomes residents and fits the character of the community. This was our office's first Greenroads Project and we are proud to have been part of its success," shared Jeff Meador, RK&K Stormwater Project Manager.

City of Raleigh Sandy Forks Widening Project Scorecard. The Project met all 12 Project Requirements and is the highest scoring project to date. (Original photo by City of Raleigh)

As North Carolina's first Greenroads Project, the engineering and construction teams embraced the opportunity to learn more about sustainable practices for transportation projects and three team members obtained individual green credentials as Sustainable Transportation Professionals (STP) through the Foundation's Education Program. Chris Buck, Project Coordinator for Carolina Sunrock, shared, "I gained a lot from the STP credential that I used on this project and will definitely use on future projects."

The $9.9 million project includes several firsts for Raleigh. The City learned through an early assessment suggested by the Greenroads certification process that adding an additional one inch of asphalt to the road design could extend the life of the road by an additional 15 years. By doing so, the City saves significant tax payer funds on long-term maintenance and reconstruction costs, with a return on investment estimated at up to 20% over the life of the project.

Other firsts for the City include the inclusion of a bioretention cell within the median of the corridor which treats and removes pollutants including nitrogen, phosphorus, and hydrocarbons, reducing environmental impacts downstream in the Neuse watershed. RK&K recommended incorporating the stormwater management device within the median to provide both functional and aesthetic benefits. Another first was the use of warm-mix asphalt pavement instead of traditional hot-mix asphalt. This best practice reduces emissions and energy cost during installation and reduces the heat that constructions crews must deal with – especially during North Carolina's July temperatures. Carolina Sunrock also tracked the removal of the existing asphalt and then recycled it for use on the repaving portion of the project, thus reducing the amount of waste that was sent to the landfill.

The project earned points for installing fixtures for public use including benches and a functional sculpture by Baltimore Artist Jan Rosen-Queralt that filters water. (Photo courtesy of the City of Raleigh)

Above is one of three bioretention cells for collecting, filtering, and infiltrating stormwater. Below it is a photo showing the dedicated bike and pedestrian lanes and the stormwater features contained within the median. (Photos courtesy of Carolina Sunrock)

The Greenroads certification process raised awareness of the amount of waste that these projects typically generate and encouraged us to find ways to incorporate material back into the project rather then send it to

landfill. This builds on Carolina Sunrock's existing focus of using recycled concrete in our projects," said Randy Talley, Sunrock Project Manager.

Team members across every aspect of the project commented on the relative ease of integrating the Greenroads process into their existing procedures while expanding their understanding of sustainability. In addition to the resources provided by Greenroads, the teams worked together to ensure material tracking and project documentation were maintained throughout the project.

"I was familiar with LEED certification and appreciated that Greenroads brings that level of attention to sustainable transportation projects. Raleigh's interest in incorporating sustainability into projects gave me the political support to recommend this project for certification and use it as a learning tool for our team," commented Chris Johnson, City of Raleigh Division Manager for Roadway Design and Construction.

The project has drawn interest from other area communities seeking ways to integrate sustainability into their public and transportation projects. Residents also praise the project and enjoy 5-foot bicycle lanes and 6-foot sidewalks along both sides of the roadway as well as benches positioned along the corridor where they can rest. In addition, three spots along the corridor are dedicated to educating the public on Raleigh's history with water and the special features incorporated into the project.

The community also enjoys the work of Baltimore Artist Jan Rosen-Queralt. The City worked with the Public Art and Design Board on the inclusion of an 18-foot-tall stainless steel and copper sculpture that emulates the movement of water. The sculpture collects and filters water before releasing it back to the environment, much like the bioretention cell it adorns.

"This project highlights the benefits communities gain when transportation project leaders actively seek ways to integrate sustainability and livability factors in public projects," said Jeralee Anderson, CEO of Greenroads Foundation. She added, "The partnership with the art community to develop a functional, artistic element that compliments the filtration work of the bioretention cell is an example of community organizations working with public projects to bring additional sense of place to residents."

To view time lapse video of the project click here. In addition, click here to view a recently developed project video produced by the City of Raleigh that highlights the features of the project and provides details on how bioretention and stormwater devices work. For case studies and further details on Greenroads Certified Projects and Greenroads Pilot Projects, visit www.greenroads.org/portfolio. For more information on Greenroads' individual STP accreditation, click here. Images available upon request.

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ABOUT GREENROADS FOUNDATION

Established in 2010, Greenroads Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, which advances sustainability education and initiatives for transportation infrastructure. As the developer of the Greenroads Rating System, the Foundation manages the certification process for sustainable roadway and bridge construction projects in the U.S. and internationally. For more information, visit www.greenroads.org and join us on Facebook at facebook.com/greenroads.

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