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ROAD 77 BECOMES THE FIRST CERTIFIED GREENROADS PROJECT IN ISRAEL

Road 77 Increases connectivity, improves stormwater management, and preserves native plants.

Ramat Ishay, Israel—Greenroads Foundation is pleased to announce that the improvements to Road 77 from Tel Kashish to Ramat Ishay in the Upper Galilee region has received a Bronze Greenroads Certification. This project met all project requirements and earned a total of 46 points, becoming the first project to earn Greenroads Certification in Israel.

The \$88 million project involved the widening and new construction of 6 kilometers of the Road 77 highway, a regional roadway, agricultural roads, and bike paths connecting to a nearby train station. In addition to increasing accessibility between villages and the business center of Tel Aviv, the project reduces noise and light pollution for the surrounding area with new permanent noise barriers and LED lighting.

"Having the first Greenroads certification in Israel is an important milestone for this country," said Ofer Levy, Chief Engineer with prime contractor, Solel Boneh Infrastructure.



Image courtesy of Sharon Anavi



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"This project had an extremely committed team led by Netivei Israel, Solel Boneh Infrastructure, and AVIV AMCG. The team was all in from the start and totally convinced they could do it, and with that attitude we knew they would," said Jeralee Anderson, CEO of Greenroads International.

The project team took special care in designing and carrying out landscaping and extensive revegetation along the corridor. This included the removal of invasive species and the preservation of local oak trees and native geophytes, or plants with underground organs like bulbs or tubers.

"A new railroad line opened recently, and the new bicycle lane adjacent to the new and modern highway complete this project, enabling students and residents to use the new connection between the villages to the rail-station. This actually connects the north of Israel to Tel Aviv, the center where most of the business and commercial activity happens," Levy said.



Project team members Ofer Levy, Chief Engineer with Solel Boneh Infrastructure, and Annie Geller Balaban, STP, Head of Green Building and Greenroads at AVIV AMCG Management & Consulting, on a site visit in 2018.

Levy said the Greenroads Certification process was a "unique and innovative experience. We felt like we were working with a professional team from Greenroads that could both examine our work and at the same time lead us through this new process."

The Greenroads Team worked together to provide collaborative training experiences for all team members and ensure the rating process was successful. The project is owned by Netivei Israel. Design was led by Levy-Shtark Engineers LTD, the prime contractor was Solel Boneh Infrastructure, and management consulting was conducted by AVIV AMCG.



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"We really appreciated the effort that all the supporting teams invested to prepare certain documents for us in English from Hebrew," said Anderson.

"The manual is very clear, built in a way that one can follow the stages and prepare step-by-step submissions until achieving the relevant credits. We found the website and the e-system of Greenroads very friendly and useful in a way that saves time and lets you invest most of the time on important issues," Levy said.

Specific features the project that earned points include:

- Ambient noise reduction of at least 6dBA on the corridor, reducing perceived volumes in the areas by over 34%
- 74% of materials and supplies purchased and sourced locally
- 4 kilometers of new bike lanes and 12 kilometers of new sidewalks
- Over 90 percent of available land in the project area was revegetated with native species

Currently, there are over 130 registered <u>Greenroads Projects</u> valued at over \$33 billion in 11 states and 8 countries in the world. This project, which began as a Greenroads Pilot Project, is the first to certify in Israel and the third international project certification completed since the program started in 2010.



Image courtesy of Sharon Anavi

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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 sustainability certification process for surface transportation construction



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