



City of River Falls News Release

For Immediate Release:

November 26, 2013

For More Information Contact:

Reid Wronski, Director of Public Works/City Engineer

(715)426-3409

rwnski@rfcity.org

CITY OF RIVER FALLS CASCADE AVENUE PROJECT RECEIVES APWA-MN PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD

The American Public Works Association - Minnesota Chapter (APWA-MN) has selected the Cascade Avenue Reconstruction Project as a recipient of their 2013 Minnesota Chapter APWA Project of the Year Award. The project is truly a complete road and infrastructure makeover that has transformed Cascade Avenue from an outdated and embarrassing entry to the City into a striking gateway to the City and fabulous front door to UW-RF.

According to the Chapter, projects that receive the APWA-MN Project of the Year Award typically involve innovative project management, financing, and multi-agency participation and provide future value to the public works profession and perception by the public. They also take social, economic, and sustainable design considerations into account. Key attributes of the Cascade Avenue Reconstruction Project closely matched the criteria used to evaluate projects including:

- The project's key partnership involving the City of River Falls, University of Wisconsin River Falls, and Wisconsin Department of Transportation allowed the project to be funded through an innovative, cooperative teaming agreement making it unnecessary to use local property taxes to pay for the project.
- A public involvement process that over 125 different people attended one or more of the seven public meetings that helped shape the vision for Cascade Avenue.

- Project completion six months ahead of contract requirements.
- Final construction cost for this project was \$3.65 million, 9% below the contract award, 20% below the engineers' estimate, and most importantly, well below the preliminary estimates used for drafting cost share agreement.
- Construction of the project was managed to provide minimal disruption and inconvenience to the 7,000 students, faculty and staff at UW-River Falls whose campus was bisected by the project.
- Innovative and opportune storm water management was integrated into the design and the roadway width was decreased by 35%, from 56 feet to 36 feet providing a significant decrease in impervious surfaces.
- Street lighting for this project uses LED fixtures, reducing energy consumption and carbon footprints by 75% compared to traditional street lights.

It may seem unusual for APWA Minnesota Chapter to recognize a project located in Wisconsin. It reflects on the fact that APWA-MN is a valuable regional public works organization and the City of River Falls is within the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. City staff are members of this chapter because it provides close and convenient networking and educational opportunities with other Public Works agencies in the immediate region. The public works challenges faced by other outlying metro communities reflect closely on many of the challenges that the City faces.

The project was led by Reid Wronski, Director of Public Works/City Engineer, working with a consulting engineer team from Short Elliott Hendrickson managed by Dave Simons. The project was constructed by Hass Sons, Inc. under the direction of Kirk Boettcher. All three were present to receive awards from APWA-MN at their Fall Conference on November 21, 2013.



####