Concrete overlay for three-mile stretch of County Road 22
An interview with Charles Cadenhead, PE, Anoka County

What was the problem?
County Road 22 in Nowthen, located in the northwest part of Anoka County, is one of only two roads that touches the east and west boundaries of the county. This particular three-mile stretch of road had been there 25 years, and the asphalt needed to be reconditioned.

What was the solution?
We chose concrete overlay after talking to McLeod County engineers about a recent overlay project they were happy with, and also Matt Zeller and Bob McPartlin at CPAM who helped with questions and the development of our plans and specifications. We also did a life-cycle analysis of concrete versus asphalt. This road didn’t require any major geometric changes, and we diverted traffic so we could pave the whole road at one time which added efficiency and ensured a consistent, final product.

Key facts about the project
- Carries a fair amount of traffic, including truck traffic.
- Used approximately 9,500 cubic yards of concrete.
- Started the overlay at the end of June 2011 and was done by end of July 2011.
- Milled off two inches of the bituminous and made a subgrade correction. We also repaved all the shouldering and striped it.
- Cost $1.8 million.
- Expected to last 30 years.

Final comments
This road rides like glass, it looks clean, and the striping is recessed so we’ll get long life out of that. We credit our county commissioners for their willingness to look at new methods for keeping our infrastructure in good shape.

Owner: Anoka County
County Engineer: Doug Fischer, PE
Contractor: PCI Roads, LLC
Suppliers: Aggregate Industries, Brett Admixtures, Construction Materials, Headwaters Resources, Hilti, Lafarge and Sanders Saws

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For more information, contact Charles Cadenhead, PE
Charles.Cadenhead@co.anoka.mn.us