



SCDOT-APPROVED RINKER MATERIALS® CONCRETE COMPONENTS REINFORCE NEW STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The primary road in the unincorporated community of Carolina Forest since 1995, Carolina Forest Boulevard was widened from two lanes to four lanes to help with growing traffic congestion. “There’s just too much traffic. The widening of Carolina Forest Boulevard is long overdue,” said resident Michael Lobes.

The 5.72-mile upgrade of Carolina Forest Boulevard between Gate Way Drive to River Oaks Drive features a 60’ cast-in-place bridge and nearly 18,300 linear feet of closed drainage using Rinker Materials® reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) with a premium single offset rubber gasket joint. The RCP was South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) approved and the joint was specified by Horry County. Funded by the community-supported RIDE 3 (Ride Improvement & Development Effort) One-Cent Capital Projects Sales Tax, the \$54 million project was completed by local engineers and contractors using locally sourced materials.



“The local contractor, Southern Asphalt, has extensive experience with our SCDOT-stamped products for installing drainage systems using a variety of different joint assemblies, so we were a good fit for the job,” said Alex Cobb, Account Manager for Rinker Materials, which manufactured the gasketed RCP at their plant in Aynor, S.C. “A training seminar we conducted for area decision-makers highlighting best installation and inspection practices for concrete pipe in coastal areas also helped reinforce our capabilities on this type of project.”

Horry County RIDE Program Manager, Jason Thompson, P.E. shared, “Rinker Materials provided quality materials that will provide many years of maintenance free service life. The installed culverts were videoed for final acceptance and the single rubber gasket joint provided us a very tight and clean seal. Horry County Government appreciates the opportunity to continue to work with Rinker Materials.”

Designed by engineering firm Thomas & Hutton, the stormwater management system consists of RCP ranging from 18” to 60” in diameter with the capacity to handle annual area rainfall of around 50 inches, which is more than 10 inches above the national average. In addition to the new drainage system, the expansion of Carolina Forest Boulevard includes multi-use paths along the road, new traffic signals and additional medians to safely relieve traffic congestion for the nearly 35,000 residents.

“It’s nearly impossible to get out of our neighborhood, so I’m hoping when they open this road up, that it just gives us an easier chance to get out of here,” said Jade McCurry, who lives in Covington Lake East.



