

Promoter's spotlight:

PROJECT: Golden Corral Restaurants
LOCATION: Raleigh, NC
CONCRETE SUPPLIER: Carolina Sunrock
CONCRETE CONTRACTOR: Certified Concrete Construction
CIVIL ENGINEER: Withers and Ravenel
AREA: 56,900 SF
YARDAGE: 880 CY
CONCRETE: 5" and 6" Conventional Concrete
PROMOTER: CRMCA

Golden Corral Development Corporation (GCDC) is a recent addition to the Carolinas Ready Mixed Concrete Association's (CRMCA) Regional Account Program (RAP). As part of this program GCDC receives assistance from the CRMCA and our team of national technical experts to help solve problems, assist in keeping projects on schedule (in particular paving projects), and deliver innovative solutions to meet the needs of the Accounts. It was a combination of these services that led to the latest Golden Corral restaurant in Raleigh, NC being paved entirely with concrete placed directly on grade, designed and constructed in accordance with ACI 330.

Golden Corral is a nation-wide restaurant chain with nearly 500 stores in 40 states. They have been voted the #1 Grill Buffet restaurant for 13 years straight by *Nation's Restaurant News*. According to Ted Fowler, CEO of Golden Corral, their corporate vision is "To be the leading family restaurant system by making pleasurable dining affordable to every guest, at every restaurant, every day." This is evidenced by their commitment to build aesthetically attractive, culinarily pleasing and physically functional stores for their customers. The latest store in Raleigh, NC only builds on this concept. According to at least one recent customer, "the parking lot at this store was one of the first things that caught my eye. I'm used to black roads and parking lots and this one was white. It looks very clean and was brighter at night. That made me feel safer with my children."

The CRMCA successfully approached Golden Corral regarding this project through their civil engineer, Withers and Ravenel (WR). The CRMCA had an existing relationship with Patrick O'Toole, P.E., Project Engineer for WR, having assisted Pat with concrete pavements on two previous projects. Pat helped to open lines of communication with Golden Corral to discuss the opportunity for concrete paving. The CRMCA then



worked directly with GCDC and WR to finalize the design thickness, detailing and construction specifications. The CRMCA also provided a list of recommended contractors that GCDC could contact to get quotes.

As the project progressed, GCDC and WR requested the participation of the CRMCA at the pre-construction meeting. GCDC had taken a quote from their slab-on-ground contractor for the exterior paving and they wanted to assure that this contractor could handle the exterior paving since it presented different environmental concerns than the interior slab-on-ground. It was after this meeting that GCDC decided to proceed in another direction and use one of the CRMCA-recommended contractors; a CRMCA contractor member, Certified Concrete Construction.

During this time, the CRMCA formed a direct relationship with senior GCDC representatives. As they began asking questions about three upcoming projects in Dallas (Garland) and Houston, Texas, the CRMCA began networking with industry experts to assist us with helping provide GCDC a better pavement solution. With the assistance of Corey Zollinger, P.E., Director of Market Development and Paving Solutions with CEMEX, the CRMCA-team was able to assist GCDC's geotechnical engineer in modifying their initial recommendation from a 6" deep, 8% lime soil stabilization to an 8" deep, 4% lime/4% cement stabilization to provide a more stable pavement platform. Additionally, the team assisted GCDC with obtaining an engineered concrete pavement, similar to that in which they obtained on the Raleigh, NC project.

At the end of the day, GCDC was able to achieve a better performing, engineered concrete pavement in Raleigh, NC for approximately the same initial cost as their standard asphalt pavement profile. The engineered, and well-constructed, concrete pavement should continue to perform well beyond the design-life of the store, require little-to-no maintenance, and be an asset upon selling the store should GCDC ever choose.