

Feature Story Précis

(Working Headline)

Fabled Speedway Races Toward Better Fasteners

(Subheading)

Asphalt Anchors keeps rumble strips secured

Background:

For over 50 years the Charlotte Motor Speedway in North Carolina has entertained motorsports fans. With a mile-and-a-half long speedway and hosting ever popular events like the Coca-Cola 600, Monster Energy All-Star Race, and Bank of America Roval 400, it's a good thing that the complex has over 80,000 seats to hold all its fans. Charlotte Motor Speedway has always been an innovator within the racing world and among other things it was the first facility to host night racing, plus setting the world record for the largest HDTV until its partner track, Texas Motor Speedway, broke its HDTV record in 2014. Charlotte Motor Speedway is the gold standard for what motor speedways can and should be.

Problem:

The Charlotte Motor Speedway features a wide range of different motorsports every week, from monster trucks to dirt racing and, of course, NASCAR. Because of this, the track needs to be changed and reconfigured in a clean and efficient manner. Commonly this is done with rumble strips or Kerbs, as they are known in the racing industry. Kerbs are brightly colored humps that direct the drivers where to turn. This solution comes with its own problems, however; because as anyone who has watched racing knows, racers don't always stay on track. So, it was up to John Pitts, the Director of Project Management for Speedway Motorsports, Inc. (the parent company of Charlotte Motor Speedway and 7 other speedways) and the SMI Development Team to find something to bolt the rumble strips to the asphalt that would be strong enough to take hits from cars, but also easy enough to remove so the course could be efficiently changed when needed.

Answer:

"We looked everywhere for a fastener that would fit the bill, with limited success until we came across BoltHold™. After further review of the product specs online, we decided BoltHold™ Asphalt Anchors could be a viable solution, and we were

right,” said John. BoltHold anchors are specifically designed by Asphalt Anchors Corp. (AAC) for situations like this, where an object needs to stay in place on asphalt until its owners want to move it.

Without damaging the surface of the asphalt, BoltHold anchors will remain in place, resisting pull of up to 2,500 pounds per anchor in thin asphalt. The quick installation is as simple as drilling a one-inch diameter hole in the asphalt, filling it with a specially designed grout provided by AAC, and then putting the anchors in. The total process takes minutes but lasts as long as you’d need it to.

Results:

“The 12-inch penetration into the subgrade allowed for solid anchoring and removal. Reinstallation really was a huge advantage when using BoltHold,” John said. “The flat top of the anchors makes it so that they are always flush with the grade, and lets drivers pass over it seamlessly. I believe that we made the right decision for this unique application to use AAC’s BoltHold.” After over a year of testing and use, it seems John and the drivers are enjoying the superior results of these asphalt anchors. The anchors had withstood numerous 160 MPH collisions; the strips, not always.

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(Location photos and captions available.)

