



The Asphalt Pavement Alliance is a partnership of the National Asphalt Pavement Association, the Asphalt Institute, and the State Asphalt Pavement Associations.

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
March 23, 2026

For more information, contact:
Kent D. Starwalk, 615-255-5751
or kent@trba.org

Beth Emmons, 615-741-7736
or beth.emmons@tn.gov

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WINS PERPETUAL PAVEMENT AWARD: BY PERFORMANCE

The Asphalt Pavement Alliance (APA) announced that the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) has earned national recognition by winning a **2025 Perpetual Pavement Award: By Performance**—highlighting Tennessee’s commitment to long-life asphalt pavement.

To qualify for this prestigious award, pavements must be at least 35 years old and demonstrate exceptional durability, structural integrity, and long-term performance. Engineers at the National Center for Asphalt Technology (NCAT) evaluate nominations and validate winners based on strict criteria including performance under traffic, environmental conditions, and maintenance history.

Perpetual Pavement Award: By Performance

TDOT received the By Performance award for State Route 53 from LM 0.24 to LM 2.46 in Smith County. Originally constructed in 1981, this 2.2-mile roadway has delivered more than four decades of reliable service while maintaining excellent structural performance.

The roadway carries approximately 2,500 vehicles per day and has experienced over 136,000 equivalent single-axle loads (ESALs) during its service life. Despite this usage, the pavement has required only two resurfacing treatments—completed in 1996 and 2008—and has experienced no structural failures or drainage issues.

The pavement continues to perform with only minor surface-level wear, demonstrating the long-term durability and efficiency of asphalt pavement in supporting rural transportation networks across Tennessee.

This recognition highlights Tennessee’s commitment to maintaining cost-effective, high-performing infrastructure that delivers long-term value to the traveling public.

TDOT will be recognized for its excellence in delivering high-performing, long-life asphalt pavements that serve communities across the state.

###



Asphalt Pavement Alliance

www.DriveAsphalt.org

The Asphalt Pavement Alliance is a partnership of the National Asphalt Pavement Association, the Asphalt Institute, and the State Asphalt Pavement Associations.

The National Asphalt Pavement Association (www.asphaltpavement.org) represents the interests of U.S. asphalt producers/contractors before Congress, federal agencies, and other national trade and business organizations. NAPA supports an active research program designed to improve the quality of asphalt pavements and paving techniques used in the construction of roads, streets, highways, parking lots, airports, and environmental and recreational facilities.

The Asphalt Institute (www.asphaltinstitute.org) is the international trade association of petroleum asphalt producers, manufacturers, and affiliated businesses. AI promotes the use, benefits, and quality performance of petroleum asphalt, through engineering, research, marketing, and educational activities.

The State Asphalt Pavement Associations (www.sapainc.org) represent the interests of asphalt pavement producers and paving companies at the state and local level across the United States.