



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WINS PERPETUAL PAVEMENT AWARD: BY PERFORMANCE**

The Asphalt Pavement Alliance (APA) announced that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has earned national recognition by winning a **2025 Perpetual Pavement Award: By Performance**—highlighting Virginia’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**

VDOT received the By Performance award for Interstate 81 Southbound from MP 121.397 to MP 123.442 in Montgomery County. Originally constructed in 1972, this 2.045-mile interstate segment has delivered more than 50 years of reliable service while supporting significant traffic volumes and heavy truck activity.

The roadway carries approximately 26,600 vehicles per day, with nearly 24 percent truck traffic, and has experienced an estimated 65 million equivalent single-axle loads (ESALs) over its lifetime. Despite these demanding conditions, the pavement has required only periodic maintenance, including resurfacing treatments in 2000 and 2013.

Constructed over clayey, poorly draining subgrade soils typical of the region, this section of I-81 has successfully resisted common distresses such as rutting and fatigue cracking. The pavement continues to demonstrate excellent structural performance despite challenging environmental conditions, including seasonal rainfall and snowfall.

This recognition highlights Virginia’s commitment to delivering resilient infrastructure capable of performing under heavy traffic loads and challenging soil and climate conditions.

VDOT will be recognized for its excellence in delivering high-performing, long-life asphalt pavements that provide lasting value to the traveling public.

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## Asphalt Pavement Alliance

[www.DriveAsphalt.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.sapainc.org)) represent the interests of asphalt pavement producers and paving companies at the state and local level across the United States.