



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

MEDIA RELEASE

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ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WINS THREE 2021 PERPETUAL PAVEMENT AWARDS

The Asphalt Pavement Alliance (APA) announced today that the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) has won a 2021 Perpetual Pavement Award: By Performance (PPA), a Perpetual Pavement Award: By Design and a Perpetual Pavement Award: By Conversion. This is ARDOT's 12th PPA: By Performance since the program began in 2001. This is ARDOT's first PPA: By Design and PPA: By Conversion during these awards' inaugural year. ARDOT is one of only two road owners to win a 2021 PPA in all three categories.

For all three prestigious PPAs, the pavements must meet strict Perpetual Pavement criteria and demonstrate the characteristics expected from long-life asphalt pavements: excellence in design, quality in construction and value for the traveling public. Engineers at the National Center for Asphalt Technology (NCAT) evaluated the nominations and validated the winners.

To qualify for the PPA: By Performance, a pavement must be at least 35 years old and never experienced a structural failure. The average interval between the resurfacing of the winning pavement must be no less than 13 years. ARDOT earned this award for a 5.38-mile section of State Highway 9, Section 11 from mile marker 18.75 to mile marker 24.13 in Stone County. This two- to three-lane pavement is more than 43 years old.

The winning section of AR 9 has a current daily traffic count of 5,900 vehicles. The estimated loading since the original construction is 1.8 million equivalent single-axle loads (ESALs). As the years between resurfacing have averaged 27.5 years, this section of AR 9 easily meets the criteria for a PPA: By Performance.

"We appreciate the Asphalt Pavement Alliance for recognizing ARDOT for the performance of Highway 9 in Stone County," said ARDOT Director Lorie Tudor. "It is an honor to be selected for our 12th Perpetual Pavement Award for Performance and to be acknowledged by our industry peers."

To qualify for the PPA: By Design, the winning pavement must be a newly designed and constructed asphalt road built over new or reconditioned subgrade that meet strict Perpetual Pavement criteria. ARDOT earned this award for four-lane Interstate 49, Section 29 from mile marker 102.59 to mile marker 105.14 in Benton County. This 2.557-miles section was opened to traffic in 2021 and constructed by Hutchens Construction Company, LLC. The Average Daily Traffic (ADT) on this roadway is currently 8,200 vehicles with 20% trucks.

“We appreciate the Asphalt Pavement Alliance for recognizing ARDOT for the design work on this new section of Interstate 49 in Benton County. It is an honor to be selected for our first Perpetual Pavement Award for Design for this important project,” added Tudor.

The PPA: By Conversion requires the pavement be a new asphalt road constructed over an existing road that meet strict Perpetual Pavement criteria. The ARDOT winning project is Interstate 530, Section 5 from mile marker 23.76 to mile marker 29.89 in Jefferson County. This section was completed in 2016 by Cranford Construction Co. and rehabilitated a portion of this primary route between Pine Bluff and Little Rock, Ark. Rehabilitation was needed due to the deterioration of the original concrete surface. The Average Daily Traffic (ADT) is currently 20,000 vehicles with 13% trucks. Trinity Smith from ARDOT is the Engineer of Record for both the I-49 and I-530 projects.

“We appreciate the Asphalt Pavement Alliance for recognizing ARDOT’s pavement rehabilitation efforts on Interstate 530 in Jefferson County,” said Tudor. “It is an honor to be selected for our first Perpetual Pavement Award for Conversion and to have our rubblization and overlay method of rehabilitating our interstate highways officially recognized.”

The winning sections of AR 9, I-49 and I-530 all meet the criteria for a PPA and will continue to serve the travelers in Ark. well into the future requiring little maintenance. ARDOT will be honored by Arkansas Asphalt Pavement Association (AAPA) and will be presented with an engraved crystal obelisk for each winning project.

“One key indicator of quality in construction is a smooth, long-life pavement,” said Amy Miller, P.E., National Director of the APA. “Long-life asphalt pavements serve the community, reduce the money needed for maintenance, and conserve raw materials, ultimately leading to a truly sustainable structure that exemplifies the triple bottom line. Asphalt roads can be engineered to last indefinitely with only routine maintenance and periodic surface renewal. Perpetual pavements use fewer natural resources and offer road owners and users what they want most – an economical, smooth pavement that serves the community for decades.”

The Asphalt Pavement Alliance is a coalition of the National Asphalt Pavement Association, the Asphalt Institute, and the State Asphalt Pavement Associations. The Asphalt Pavement Alliance’s mission is to establish asphalt as the preferred choice for quality, performance and the environment.

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The Asphalt Pavement Alliance (www.driveasphalt.org) is a partnership of the Asphalt Institute (AI), National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) and the State Asphalt Pavement Associations. The Asphalt Pavement Alliance’s mission is to establish asphalt as the preferred choice for quality, performance and the environment.

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 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 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.