



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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TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WINS RECORD NUMBER OF PERPETUAL PAVEMENT AWARDS

The Asphalt Pavement Alliance (APA) announced today that the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) has won a 2021 Perpetual Pavement Award: By Performance (PPA) for a 2.55-mile section of State Route 50 lane mile 24.21 to lane mile 26.76 in Maury County. Reconstruction of this two-lane arterial was completed in 1978. With 17, TDOT holds the record for the most PPAs: By Performance earned since the program began in 2001.

To qualify for this prestigious award, 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. The pavement must 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.

The award-winning section of SR 50 was opened to traffic over 44 years ago. The original reconstruction consisted of a 5-inch base (aggregate treated with calcium chloride), 3.5 inches of black base, a 3-inch binder course, a 1.25-inch leveling course and a 1-inch-thick surface course. Since 1978, the project has been resurfaced three times, with a net overall increase in thickness of 1.35 inches.

This two-lane roadway currently has an annual average daily traffic (AADT) of 9,652 vehicles. Since its reconstruction, the pavement has experienced over 11.5 million equivalent single-axle loads (ESALs).

As the years between resurfacing have averaged 14.3 years, this section of SR 50 easily meets the criteria for a PPA and has served the traveling public in Tenn. well for over 44 years. TDOT will be honored by Tennessee Road Builders Association (TRBA) and presented with an engraved crystal obelisk.

“It’s been approximately 44 years since this stretch of SR 50 has had major work performed. Since that time, some minimal and very economical resurfacing projects have stood the test of time and served residents and visitors in Maury County,” said Paul Degges, TDOT Deputy Commissioner and Chief Engineer. “The Tennessee DOT is thankful to the Asphalt Pavement

Alliance for this Perpetual Pavement Award, and for all our road building partners who help make Tennessee roads among the best in the nation.”

“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.