



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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TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WINS 2021 PERPETUAL PAVEMENT AWARD

The Asphalt Pavement Alliance (APA) announced today that the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Abilene District, has won a 2021 Perpetual Pavement Award: By Performance (PPA) for an 8.92-mile section of Interstate Highway 20 from mile marker 315 to mile marker 324 in Callahan County. Original construction of this four-lane divided highway was completed in 1973. This is the third PPA for TxDOT and the first since 2005.

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 IH-20 was opened to traffic almost 50 years ago. The original construction consisted of 6 inches of lime-treated loam-clay subgrade, a 23-inch subbase consisting of crushed granular limestone flexible base material, followed by a single course surface treatment underseal. The base layer consisted of 8.5 inches of asphalt stabilized base material. The final riding surface consisted of 1.5 inch of asphaltic concrete pavement. The total pavement thickness constructed was 39 inches.

This two-lane roadway currently has an annual average daily traffic (AADT) of 22,791 vehicles. Since its construction, the pavement has experienced 60 million equivalent single-axle loads (ESALs).

With its next scheduled maintenance not until 2026 and with the years between resurfacing averaging 13.3 years, this section of IH-20 meets the criteria for a PPA and has served the traveling public in Texas well since 1973. TxDOT will be honored by Texas Asphalt Pavement Association (TXAPA) and presented with an engraved crystal obelisk.

“The Texas Department of Transportation, Abilene District, is honored to receive national recognition, having been chosen by the Asphalt Pavement Alliance for the selection of IH-20 from MM 315 to 324 in Callahan County for the 2021 Perpetual Pavement by Performance Award,” said Daniel Richardson, P.E., Director of Maintenance, TxDOT Abilene District. “This is a

testament to TxDOT's long-standing commitment to provide quality roads for the citizens and travelers on Texas highways. This section of IH-20 is evidence that good design, construction and maintenance practices can result in roads that perform very well over a long period of time. As one of the oldest asphaltic pavement sections of IH-20 currently in service in Texas, this section of pavement has performed very well over its 49-year life. It is rut free, smooth and quiet. The selection of high-quality materials, good construction practices and attentive inspection have resulted in a very durable roadway for a highway that is subject to very high freight truck traffic and cyclical winter weather freeze-thaw events. The success of this project and others in Texas is due to the strong partnership between TxDOT, industry and the contracting community.”

“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.sapa-inc.org) represent the interests of asphalt pavement producers and paving companies at the state and local level across the United States.