



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

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
June 22, 2023

For more information, contact:
Amy Miller, P.E., 904-591-3333
or amiller@asphaltroads.org

At ARDOT, Ellen Coulter, 501-569-2953
or ellen.coulter@ardot.gov

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WINS THREE 2022 PERPETUAL PAVEMENT AWARDS

The Asphalt Pavement Alliance (APA) announced today that the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) has won a 2022 Perpetual Pavement Award: By Performance (PPA), a Perpetual Pavement Award: By Design, and a Perpetual Pavement Award: By Conversion. This is ARDOT's 13th PPA: By Performance since the program began in 2001 and second PPA: By Design and PPA: By Conversion since the awards' 2021 inaugural year. This is ARDOT's second consecutive year to win a 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 2.8-mile section of Arkansas Highway 24, Section 6, in Ouachita County. Although this roadway was originally opened to traffic in 1941, the staged construction, from when the project was evaluated as meeting Perpetual Pavement criteria, was completed in 1977.

The winning section of Highway 24 has a current average daily traffic count of 1,700 vehicles. The estimated loading since the original construction is over 8.6 million equivalent single-axle loads (ESALs). As the years between resurfacing have averaged 36 years, this section of Highway 24 easily meets the criteria for a PPA: By Performance.

"We appreciate the Asphalt Pavement Alliance for recognizing ARDOT for the performance of Highway 24 in Ouachita County," said ARDOT Director Lorie Tudor. "It is an honor to be selected for our 13th 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 subgrade that meets strict Perpetual Pavement criteria. ARDOT earned this award for 7.7 miles of two-lane Arkansas Highway 530, Section 8, in Lincoln

County. This section was opened to traffic in 2015 and constructed by Pine Bluff Sand & Gravel Co. and D & D Paving Inc. The Engineer of Record is Mike Burns with Crafton, Tull & Associates Inc. The Average Daily Traffic (ADT) on this roadway is currently 3,550 vehicles with an estimated loading over 1 million ESALs to date.

“We appreciate the Asphalt Pavement Alliance for recognizing ARDOT for the design work on this new section of Highway 530 in Lincoln County. It is an honor to be selected for our second Perpetual Pavement Award for Design for this regionally significant project,” added Tudor.

The PPA: By Conversion requires the pavement be a new asphalt road constructed over an existing road that meets strict Perpetual Pavement criteria. The ARDOT winning project is Interstate 40, Section 33, in Pulaski County. The Average Daily Traffic (ADT) is currently 48,000 vehicles with 39% trucks. This four-lane divided section was converted from a jointed Portland cement concrete pavement (PCCP) to a Perpetual Pavement by Cranford Construction Co. in 2003. The Engineer of Record is Stan King from HDR Inc.

“We appreciate the Asphalt Pavement Alliance for recognizing ARDOT’s pavement rehabilitation efforts on Interstate 40 in Pulaski County. It is an honor to be selected for our second Perpetual Pavement Award for Conversion and to have our cost effective rubblization and overlay method of rehabilitating our interstate highways officially recognized as a means of creating a perpetual pavement,” said Tudor.

The winning sections of Highways 24 and 530 and Interstate 40 all meet the criteria for a PPA and will continue to serve the travelers in Arkansas well into the future requiring little maintenance. ARDOT will be honored by the 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 (www.driveasphalt.org) 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.

###

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.