



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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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WINS TWO 2022 PERPETUAL PAVEMENT AWARDS

The Asphalt Pavement Alliance (APA) announced today that the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has won a 2022 Perpetual Pavement Award: By Performance (PPA) and a Perpetual Pavement Award: By Conversion. This is IDOT's second PPA: By Performance since the program began in 2001, having earned its first PPA: By Performance in 2004. It is IDOT's second consecutive PPA: By Conversion since the awards' 2021 inaugural year.

For both 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. IDOT earned this award for a 2.8-mile section of U.S. Route 50 in Trenton. This two-lane pavement was originally opened to the public in 1986 and was constructed as an experimental project to evaluate mechanistic design principles.

"We are honored to be recognized with this award, once again. This section of U.S. 50 has served southern Illinois well for almost 40 years. The minimal amount of maintenance and rehabilitation has kept traffic moving," said Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman. "Illinois is one of a few states that has its own mechanistic-empirical pavement design method, which was developed and utilized for this project. The U.S. 50 project shows that long-term performance can be achieved and a testament to our pavement design procedures."

The PPA: By Conversion requires the pavement be a new asphalt road constructed over an existing road that meets strict Perpetual Pavement criteria. The 10.97-mile four-lane award-winning section of Interstate 74 is located between Peoria and Bloomington and was constructed by United Contractors Midwest Inc. and Advanced Asphalt Co. in 2021. The original surface was a continuously reinforced concrete pavement. The existing concrete was rubblized and an aggregate base layer was used for profile corrections.

“Focusing on maintaining our existing assets is a top goal of the Illinois Department of Transportation,” added Osman. “We are proud to receive back-to-back awards in this category. The I-74 project was a good candidate for this method of pavement replacement. This recognition shows that our strategies are having positive impacts on our transportation network and confirmation we are investing the public’s resources wisely.”

The winning sections of U.S. Route 50 and Interstate 74 meet the criteria for a PPA and will continue to serve the travelers in Illinois well into the future requiring little maintenance. IDOT will be honored by the Illinois Asphalt Pavement Association (IAPA) 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.

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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.