



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

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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 2022 Perpetual Pavement Award: By Performance (PPA) for a 5.22-mile section of State Route 34 in Greene County. This four-lane roadway was completed in 1979. With an impressive 18, TDOT continues to hold 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 State Route 34 is over 43 years old and has not experienced a structural failure or any drainage issues. The original construction consisted of a 5-inch stone base (stabilized with calcium chloride), 8.5 inches of bituminous base, a 5-inch binder course, and a 1-inch surface course. Since 1979, the project has been resurfaced two times, with a net overall increase in thickness of only 1.5 inches.

This four-lane arterial currently has an annual average daily traffic (AADT) of 19,199 vehicles. Since its construction, the pavement has experienced over 1.2 million equivalent single-axle loads (ESALs).

As the years between resurfacing have averaged 17.5 years, this section of State Route 34 easily meets the criteria for a PPA and will continue to serve the traveling public in Tennessee for many years with little maintenance. TDOT will be honored by the Tennessee Road Builders Association (TRBA) and presented with an engraved crystal obelisk.

“The Tennessee Department of Transportation is thankful to the Asphalt Pavement Alliance and honored to receive TDOT’s 18th Perpetual Pavement Award: By Performance,” said Will Reid, TDOT Deputy Commissioner and Chief Engineer, “This stretch of SR 34 has served residents

and visitors in Greene County for more than 40 years. We'll continue our commitment to excellence in managing and improving the transportation system in the state of Tennessee.”

“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.