



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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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WINS THREE 2022 PERPETUAL PAVEMENT AWARDS

The Asphalt Pavement Alliance (APA) announced today that the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) 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 WSDOT's ninth PPA: By Performance since the program began in 2001. It is also their third PPA: By Design and PPA: By Conversion in as many years. WSDOT is one of only two road owners to win a 2022 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. WSDOT earned this award for a 2.67-mile section of two-lane State Route 2 in King County, which is more than 72 years old.

The winning section of State Route 2 has a current traffic volume of approximately 3,500 vehicles per day with 12% trucks which has resulted in an estimated loading of 4.9 million equivalent single axle loads (ESALs) since 1950. As the years between resurfacing has averaged 22.3 years with an increased thickness of only 3.4 inches, this section of State Route 2 easily meets the criteria for a PPA: By Performance.

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. WSDOT earned this award for a 3.84-mile section of State Route 167 also in King County. The project opened to traffic in 2019 and Guy F. Atkinson Construction LLC and Miles Resources were the contractors.

“These awards exemplify WSDOT’s commitment to innovation and excellence. We take great pride in delivering high quality projects and maintaining a state of good repair across our state highway system. US 2 and SR 167 are two of our busiest highways. The SR 167 southbound HOT lane extension provided exceptional value. While the project falls within our improvement program, addressing congestion, safety and mobility for the thousands of travelers who use it each day, it is also critical that a quality pavement will serve the public for years to come and minimize impacts by avoiding undue disruptions for unplanned maintenance response to emergent issues, “ said Northwest Regional Administrator Brian Nielsen. “Similarly, US 2 in Skykomish demonstrates our commitment to lowest life cycle cost solutions. The longevity and resiliency of this highway segment is a testament to those who have designed, constructed, and maintained it for over 70 years.”

The PPA: By Conversion requires the pavement be a new asphalt road constructed over an existing road that meets strict Perpetual Pavement criteria. The WSDOT winning project converted 4.41-miles of Portland cement concrete rehabilitated pavement on the southbound lane of Interstate 5 in Cowlitz County to a high-quality, sustainable Perpetual Pavement asphalt. Kerr Contractors Inc. completed the project in 2011.

“The Washington State Department of Transportation is honored to receive this national recognition for top quality pavement and preservation work in Southwest Washington,” said Carley Francis, WSDOT Southwest Regional Administrator. “This award highlights the great work of our engineers, partners and contractors, all working together to ensure quality and efficiency in maintaining a resilient transportation infrastructure with limited funding.”

The winning sections of State Routes 2 and 167 and Interstate 5 all meet the criteria for a PPA and will continue to serve the travelers in Washington well into the future requiring little maintenance. WSDOT will be honored by the Washington Asphalt Pavement Association (WAPA) 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.drivesphalt.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.