



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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ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WINS 2024 PERPETUAL PAVEMENT AWARD

The Asphalt Pavement Alliance (APA) announced today that the Arkansas Department of Transportation has won a 2024 Perpetual Pavement by Performance Award for Route 7 in Union County.

This award honors agencies whose roadways demonstrate the characteristics expected from long-life asphalt pavements: excellence in design, quality in construction, and value for the traveling public. To qualify for this prestigious award, a pavement must be at least 35 years old, never experienced a structural failure, and have an average interval between the resurfacing of the winning pavement of no less than 13 years. National Center for Asphalt Technology engineers evaluated the nominations and validated the winners.

The Arkansas Department of Transportation won the award for a 2.36-mile segment of Route 7 that has demonstrated exceptional longevity and durability since its original construction in 1951. Initially built over existing gravel with a chipseal surface, the road has required minimal maintenance over its 73-year lifespan. In 1987, the lanes were widened from 9 to 11.5 feet with new binder and surface courses. The only subsequent treatment was a minor resurfacing in 2014, consisting of cold milling and a half-inch surface course. Despite supporting unrestricted vehicle weights up to 80,000 pounds and handling an average of 3,000 vehicles daily with 10% truck traffic, the pavement remains remarkably smooth with minimal rutting. The road has withstood more than 6.2 million equivalent single axle loads while requiring just two treatments in 35 years, exemplifying Perpetual Pavement performance.

“Asphalt roads can be designed, built, and maintained to indefinitely prevent deep distresses,” said Dr. Buzz Powell, P.E., Technical Director of the APA. “The resulting Perpetual Pavement structure is an excellent investment for taxpayers because it only requires periodic surface renewal, has the most preservation options, and never requires reconstruction. Advantages of Perpetual Pavements include durability, economics, sustainability, and smoothness. The smoothness advantage of asphalt pavements is indefinitely extended with Perpetual Pavement since deep distresses that cause roughness never occur.

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.