



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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MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION WINS 2024 PERPETUAL PAVEMENT AWARD

The Asphalt Pavement Alliance (APA) announced today that the Maryland Department of Transportation - State Highway Administration has won a 2024 Perpetual Pavement by Design Award for northbound US 29 in Howard County.

This award honors agencies whose outstanding design practices on their roadway networks meet Perpetual Pavement design standards. To qualify for this prestigious award, the completed project must have asphalt mixture binder and surface layers, and be at least two miles in length - municipal roadways must be at least 1,200 feet in length. A National Center for Asphalt Technology engineer evaluated the nominations and validated the winners.

The Maryland Department of Transportation - State Highway Administration won the award for a 2.76-mile segment of northbound US 29 in Howard County that carries an average of 132,500 vehicles daily. Originally constructed in the 1970s, this corridor was expanded in 2017 from two to three lanes to improve traffic flow and safety. A gap-graded Superpave mix (also known as stone matrix asphalt) was used as the top asphalt layer, improving friction and increasing skid resistance for safer travel conditions. The road's Perpetual Pavement design helps to prevent fatigue cracking and limit structural rutting in the subgrade, ensuring a smooth, safe ride for the traveling public in years to come.

“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.