



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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NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WINS 2024 PERPETUAL PAVEMENT AWARD

The Asphalt Pavement Alliance (APA) announced today that the New Mexico Department of Transportation has won a 2024 Perpetual Pavement by Performance Award for New Mexico Route 6, a section of historic Route 66.

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 New Mexico Department of Transportation won the award for a nearly nine-mile section (New Mexico Route 6) of the original Route 66. Opened in 1928, this two-lane highway serves over 3,200 vehicles daily despite challenging conditions: extreme temperature fluctuations, variable soil conditions ranging from sandy to clay-rich, and seasonal monsoon rains. Modern drainage solutions, reinforced subgrades, and advanced asphalt technologies have been implemented that maintain the road's historic character while never increasing the pavement section by more than four inches. The project demonstrates a balance between honoring Route 66's cultural significance and embracing innovative Perpetual Pavement techniques. As part of New Mexico's 474-mile stretch of Route 66—the longest in the nation—this section continues to connect communities while supporting heritage tourism.

“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.