



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  
April 14, 2025

For more information, contact:  
Buzz Powell, 904-446-0758  
or [bpowell@asphaltpavement.org](mailto:bpowell@asphaltpavement.org)

At Washington State DOT, Scott Klepach, 509-577-1624  
or [scott.klepach@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:scott.klepach@wsdot.wa.gov)

## **WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WINS 2024 PERPETUAL PAVEMENT AWARD**

The Asphalt Pavement Alliance (APA) announced today that the Washington State Department of Transportation has won a 2024 Perpetual Pavement by Design Award for US Highway 12 in Walla Walla 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.

Washington State Department of Transportation won the award for a new 10.46-mile section of US Highway 12 in Walla Walla County. This new segment replaces a dangerous two-lane highway with a modern four-lane controlled-access thoroughfare. Opened to traffic in 2023, this infrastructure improvement addressed serious safety concerns that plagued the previous route, which had experienced over 1,000 crashes resulting in more than 500 injuries and 20 fatalities. The Perpetual Pavement design separates opposing traffic flows to enhance safety for both local residents and the approximately 8,000 daily travelers—a sustainable, safe transportation solution that protect lives.

“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](http://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.

###

— MORE —

The Asphalt Institute ([www.asphaltinstitute.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.sapainc.org)) represent the interests of asphalt pavement producers and paving companies at the state and local level across the United States.