



MEDIA RELEASE
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WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS WINS 2024 PERPETUAL PAVEMENT AWARD

The Asphalt Pavement Alliance (APA) announced today that the West Virginia Division of Highways has won a 2024 Perpetual Pavement by Conversion Award for the Kenna – Fairplain project on Interstate 77 in Jackson County.

The Perpetual Pavement by Conversion award honors agencies that demonstrate outstanding design and construction practices, specifically in constructing new asphalt roads over existing roads. To qualify for this prestigious award, the converted pavement must meet Perpetual Pavement design criteria: 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 West Virginia Division of Highways received the award for its Kenna-Fairplain project on Interstate 77 in Jackson County. In 2018, the division transformed 2.45 miles of four-lane highway using an advanced technique, rubblization. This method breaks down existing concrete pavement into a flexible base, which is then overlaid with asphalt. Rubblization prevents reflection cracking—a common issue when new asphalt is placed over old concrete—and creates a more durable and longer-lasting road surface. The rehabilitated section now handles an average of 22,276 vehicles daily and has already withstood an estimated 20 million equivalent single axle loads, showing how modern rehabilitation techniques can transform aging infrastructure while ensuring long-term 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.