



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

At West Virginia Division of Highways, Jennifer Dooley, 304-414-6825  
or [jennifer.j.dooley@wv.gov](mailto:jennifer.j.dooley@wv.gov)

## **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 Design Award for the Powell Mountain section of US Route 19 in Nicholas 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 West Virginia Division of Highways won the award for the Powell Mountain section of US Route 19 in Nicholas County. Built in the 1990s, this 2.58-mile stretch, with two northbound and three southbound lanes, has endured over 8.6 million equivalent single axle loads. Despite a 5% grade and heavy truck traffic, the pavement required its first overlay only in 2024—nearly three decades after construction: a hot mix asphalt skid-resistant surface course, a hot mix asphalt base course, and an open-graded free-draining base course. The mountain highway's resilience, despite carrying an average of 10,300 daily vehicles, demonstrates how a Perpetual Pavement design requires minimal maintenance.

“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.

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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.