



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

May 28, 2020

For more information, contact:

Amy Miller, P.E., 904-591-3333

or amiller@asphaltroads.org

At SCDOT, Pete Poore, 803-737-1270
or poorej@scdot.org

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WINS 2019 PERPETUAL PAVEMENT AWARD

The Asphalt Pavement Alliance (APA) announced today that the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) has won a 2019 Perpetual Pavement Award (PPA) for a 10-mile section of four-lane Interstate 26 in Calhoun and Lexington counties. This is the eighth PPA for SCDOT.

To qualify for this prestigious award, a pavement must be at least 35 years old and never experienced a structural failure. The average interval between the resurfacing of the winning pavement must be no less than 13 years. The pavement must demonstrate the characteristics expected from long-life asphalt pavements: excellence in design, quality in construction and value for the traveling public.

Engineers at the National Center for Asphalt Technology (NCAT) evaluated the nominations and validated the winners.

The award-winning section of I-26 running from mile marker 129 to mile marker 139 is a four-lane roadway constructed in 1961. The original construction consisted of 14 inches of earth-type base course, 6 inches of bituminous stabilized Macadam base course, .6 inches of surface treatment, 2.4 inches of asphalt concrete binder course and then 1.4 inches of asphalt concrete surface course. In 1989, SCDOT resurfaced the road with 2.7 inches of binder course, 1.4 inches of surface course and 0.4 inches of open-graded friction course.

The road has a current annual average daily traffic (ADT) volume of 61,100 vehicles per day, which has resulted in an estimated loading of 61 million equivalent single-axle loads (ESAL) since construction was completed in 1961.

The road has performed well during its 58 years of use. Resurfaced only once since its construction, I-26 exceeded the minimum average interval of 13 years required to win the PPA.

“The South Carolina Department of Transportation is pleased and honored to have been chosen by the Asphalt Pavement Alliance to receive this Perpetual Pavement Award,” said State Pavement Design Engineer, Jay Thompson, P.E. “This is a testament to SCDOT’s long-standing commitment to provide quality roads for the citizens of South Carolina. This section of I-26 is evidence that good design and construction practices can result in roads that minimize maintenance costs and perform well into the future.”

— MORE —

As a winner of a 2019 PPA, SCDOT will receive an engraved crystal obelisk, and its name and project will be added to a permanent plaque that is kept at NCAT.

“One of the keys to sustainability is long life,” said Amy Miller, P.E., Executive Director of the APA. “Asphalt roads can be engineered to last indefinitely with only routine maintenance and periodic surface renewal.

“The advantages of these perpetual pavements are significant. Life cycle costs are lower because deep pavement repairs and reconstruction are avoided. User delays are reduced because minor surface rehabilitation requires shorter work windows and can avoid peak traffic hours. And there are environment benefits because minimal rehabilitation, combined with recycling any materials that are removed from the pavement surface, reduces the amount of material resources required over the pavement’s life.”

The Asphalt Pavement Alliance 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.

###

The Asphalt Pavement Alliance (www.driveasphalt.org) is a partnership of the Asphalt Institute (AI), National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) 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.

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.asphaltpavement.org/sapas) represent the interests of asphalt pavement producers and paving companies at the state and local level across the United States.