



MEDIA RELEASE

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SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WINS 2020 PERPETUAL PAVEMENT AWARD

The Asphalt Pavement Alliance (APA) announced today that the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) has won a 2020 Perpetual Pavement Award (PPA) for a 6-mile section of four-lane Interstate 26 in Berkeley County that was originally constructed in 1962, marking SCDOT's ninth PPA.

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.

Opened to traffic in 1962, the award-winning section of I-26 is a four-lane road that runs from mile marker 187 to mile marker 193 in Berkeley County. The original construction consisted of 8.0 inches of earth-type base course, 8 inches of stabilized asphalt earth base, 4.7 inches of asphalt concrete binder course, and 1.4 inches of asphalt concrete surface course.

In 1982, the project was overlaid with 1.4 inches of surface course and 0.7 inch of single treatment type C. In 2001, the project was milled to a depth of 1 inch and overlaid with an open-graded friction course (OGFC). Then in 2011, the project was milled to an average depth of 1 inch and overlaid with 1 inch OGFC.

Today, I-26 has a traffic level of 51,600 vehicles per day and has accumulated more than 45 million equivalent single-axle loads (ESAL) in its 58 years of life.

This pavement has performed well since its construction in 1962. Resurfaced only three times during its service, the pavement has 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, Eric Carroll, 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.”

“One key indicator of quality in construction is a smooth, long-life pavement,” said Amy Miller, P.E., National Director of the APA. “Long-life asphalt pavements serve the community, reduce the money needed for maintenance, and conserve raw materials, ultimately leading to a truly sustainable structure that exemplifies the triple bottom line. Asphalt roads can be engineered to last indefinitely with only routine maintenance and periodic surface renewal. Perpetual pavements use fewer natural resources and offer road owners and users what they want most – an economical, smooth pavement that serves the community for decades.”

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.

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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.