



PROGRESS

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2007 Annual Asphalt Contractors' Workshop

The 51st Annual Asphalt Contractors' Workshop-Minnesota Quality Initiative Workshop was held February 27, 2007, at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center, MN. The goal of the workshop is to communicate the advancing technology of designing, constructing, and maintaining Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) roadways to the benefit of roadway users and tax payers.

The workshop has been a joint effort between Mn/DOT, FHWA, University of Minnesota, Minnesota Public Works Association, Minnesota County Engineers Association, American

Council of Engineering Companies, Pavement Research Institute, and the Minnesota Asphalt Pavement Association.

There was an exciting and diverse range of topics and speakers. Highlights from the morning's general sessions include discussions of "What's After MVST?" by Jim Wafler, James Wafler Consulting Services, "Warm Mix Asphalt Projects Near and Far" by Matt Corrigan of the FHWA, "Sustainability with HMA" by Howard Marks of NAPA, "Perpetual Pavements in China" by Dr. Dave Timm of Auburn University, and "Bituminous Specification Updates" by John Garrity, Joe Thomas, and Rick Kjonaas of Mn/DOT.

The topics in the afternoon were more detailed and included Paving Green, Off the Beaten Path, Bituminous Scene Investigation, Unique Paving, and Technology in Pavement Design. Traveling to Minnesota through blizzard-like conditions from Alabama (that had highs in the 70s) was Buzz Powell from the National Center for Asphalt Technology (NCAT) who spoke on coarse and fine graded stone matrix asphalt as well as the European technology of paving two lifts at once.



*Matthew Corrigan,
Federal Highway Administration*



*Howard Marks,
National Asphalt Pavement Association*

A special thank you to all the speakers, moderators, trade show booth participants, and the planning committee of the 2007 Contractors' Workshop!

Photos continued on page 2.

Fuel Costs Dropping

Tavio Headley, an Economist with the American Trucking Association (ATA), discussed at the World of Concrete, that diesel prices have fallen to \$2.43 a gallon, a 59-week low, as was published in the February 2007 *Public Works* magazine. The article continues by stating that according to Headley, diesel prices have fallen because of a sharp drop in crude oil prices, and the mild winter in most of the United States has prompted refiners to manufacture more diesel fuel since heating oil supplies are high.



*Dr. David Timm,
Auburn University*



*John Garrity, Mn/DOT
Bituminous Engineer*



*Rick Kjonaas, Mn/DOT
Assistant State Aid Engineer*



*Buzz Powell, National Center
for Asphalt Technology*

NCAT Evaluating Perpetual Pavement Data from China



NCAT hosted three visitors from China to discuss the data that has been collected on the first Perpetual Pavement built in China. NCAT, working along with FHWA, Indiana DOT, and Heritage Research, assisted in the construction and instrumentation of the test sections. NCAT is now involved in the collection and analysis of data and preparation of reports. This data is important because it will be used to validate the Perpetual Pavement criteria for axle loads much greater than we see in the U.S. Dr. Dave Timm is leading the NCAT effort on this project. ■

Calendar of Events

World of Asphalt Show & Conference • Monday, March 19 - Thursday, March 22, 2007
Georgia International Convention Center • Atlanta, GA • For more information visit: www.worldofasphalt.com

Flagger Train the Trainer Seminar • Monday, April 9, 2007 from 12:30 to 4:30 pm
Department of Transportation, St. Cloud, MN

Bituminous Smoothness Training Workshop • Wednesday, April 11, 2007
Radisson Hotel, Roseville, MN

Winter 2007 Season for Bituminous State Aid Seminars

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) and the Minnesota Asphalt Pavement Association (MAPA) continue to work together again this winter with educational outreach classes to Mn/DOT's Districts.



Pictured l to r: Doug Haeder, Mn/DOT District 7 State Aid Engineer; Jill Thomas, MAPA; John Garrity, Mn/DOT Bituminous Engineer; Rich Wolters, MAPA; and Ron Bumann, Mn/DOT State Aid.

The Bituminous State Aid Seminars are a one-day seminar in each district with presentations and class discussion on specifications, sustainable pavement and design, new technology, cost savings, and an interesting photo slide show of construction projects by Ron that is always a hit!

Asphalt... The Green Pavement

At www.PaveGreen.com, asphalt is showcased as the sustainable material for constructing pavements. The web site addresses four major characteristics of asphalt:

- energy & recycling,
- performance,
- water quality, and
- clean air & cool cities.



The web site is useful for explaining the environmental friendliness of asphalt to neighbors, schools, environmental advocates, and local news media. For more information, go to www.pavegreen.com.

Lt. Gov. Molnau Appoints Lisa Freese as Mn/DOT Deputy Commissioner

On February 1, 2007, Lt. Gov./Transportation Commissioner Carol Molnau announced the appointment of Lisa Freese as the new Deputy Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT). Freese replaces Doug Differt, who retired in December.



importance of transportation to the citizens of Minnesota and to our economy.”

Congratulations Deputy Commissioner Freese.

Source:

www.dot.state.mn.us/newsrels/07/02/01-freese.html

“Lisa brings 23 years of government planning expertise to this position,” said Molnau. “She understands the

NCAUPG Meeting in Minnesota

The North Central Asphalt User-Producer Group (NCAUPG) Meeting was held in Bloomington, Minnesota, on January 10th and 11th, 2007. Approximately 185 people attended the two-day conference, which included a Keynote Address by Charles Potts, CEO, Heritage Construction and Materials and presentations on National Transportation Issues by King Gee, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Associate Administrator for Infrastructure and John D'Angelo, FHWA Asphalt Team Leader.

Several other presentations were made at the conference including the benefits of Recycled Asphalt Pavement (RAP) and recycled asphalt shingles in hot-mix asphalt (HMA) pavements, strategies on cost control, warm-mix asphalt (WMA), efficiency of operations and mix design, performance testing, intelligent compaction, and perpetual HMA pavements. The conference was very informative and provided an opportunity to be reacquainted with peers involved in transportation. ■



Charles Potts, CEO, Heritage Construction and Materials



King Gee, Federal Highway Administration Associate Administrator for Infrastructure

Fact NOT Fiction

The Federal Highway Trust Fund is projected to be bankrupt by the first quarter of 2009. We are spending less today on an inflation adjusted basis than we did when the interstate system was established in 1954. The 4 cents per gallon fuel tax would be 38 cents per gallon if it had been indexed to inflation. We are now more than 20 cents per gallon short of the original Federal gas tax revenue.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released updated projections on revenue for the Highway Trust Fund, forecasting further declines. CBO released new estimates projecting that the Highway Account of the Highway Trust Fund would be \$3.6 billion in deficit early in Fiscal Year 2009. The Transit Account would not suffer the same fate because of accounting changes made in the last surface transportation authorization, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

The release also showed actual revenues for FY 2006 came in at \$1 billion less than projected, adding to the deficit projection. If the numbers hold, the result could be as much as a \$12 billion reduction in obligations in FY 2009. ■

FHWA Offers Grants to Spur Innovation

The Federal Highway Administration



(FHWA) will award multiple grants in support of the Highways for LIFE Technology Partnerships Program. Applications for the program can be submitted from March 1 to April 15. As many as 12 awards could be awarded at \$200,000 each and three awards at \$500,000 each. The purpose of the Technology Partnership Program is to invite partner organizations and companies to work with the highway construction industry to accelerate the adoption of promising innovations. The program seeks to adapt proven non-highway related innovations or to refine existing highway equipment, materials, practices, or processes that have not become adopted as common practice.

To view the draft solicitation, visit the Federal Business Opportunities web site at <http://www.fbo.gov/> and search "Highways for Life Technology Partnership Program." ■

Perpetual Pavement Training for Low Volume Roads

The design of perpetual pavements for Hot-Mix Asphalt (HMA) pavement is typically associated with high volume roadways. However, as the February 26th day of training showed, this is not the case. Low volume roadways can be designed as perpetual pavements – or long-life pavements.

Dr. David Timm of Auburn University provided training in

perpetual pavement software, called PerRoad, with an emphasis on designing for low-volume roadways. Participants learned the fundamentals of mechanistic-empirical design for HMA pavements and applied the new technology to local roads.

For more information on the available software and design method, contact Jill Thomas, MAPA, at jthomas@mnapa.org. ■



The Legalities of Construction Projects

The second annual Legal Training was held at the Earle Brown Center on February 26th. Bob Huber from the law firm Leonard, Street and Deinard, P.A., taught the class for construction training with an audience comprised of agency, industry, and consultant representatives.



Using hypothetical projects and audience participation, Bob illustrated legal principles that are important to understand and apply. The class focused on three topics: defective specifications, delayed or restricted site access, and “murder” clauses. Audience participation was key to this informative event. ■

AAA Survey Reveals Motorists Views on Transportation Issues

According to a new AAA survey released earlier this month, more than 70 percent of the public agree that more money is needed to maintain and improve the nation’s transportation system because current efforts are lagging.

AAA’s “Pockets of Pain” report is the result of a nationwide survey gauging public opinion on transportation funding issues in congested areas as well as the rest of the country. In it, 64 percent of motorists – roughly two-thirds of those surveyed – believe that in the last three years, the traffic they experience has become more congested.

Spotlight on Don Theisen, P.E., Washington County Engineer

An interview by Jill Thomas, P.E.

Don Theisen approaches his job as the Washington County Engineer from the greater good perspective, similar to the view he has had from one of the mountains he's climbed.

In fact, he says he learned everything about being a County Engineer that he needed to know from his dad in the family bar business: listen to every story like it's the first time you hear it, make sure people feel better after they visit with you, hire the best and let them do their job, and work hard and have fun.

Don's first non-family job was on a road crew with Ramsey County during high school summers. While in college, he interned with Bloomington Public Works, and Geotechnical Engineering Corp. He graduated from the University of Minnesota with his Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree in 1983 and headed west to California to work for three years in Los Angeles for Pacific Soils, Inc. His responsibilities included going down 100-foot deep with 30-inch diameter borings to record bedrock dip and orientation, seismic analysis for slope stability, and designing rock anchors for a housing development near the Rose Bowl area.

Don felt this was one of the best jobs, but unfortunately the worst location, so he escaped every weekend to teach mountaineering for the Sierra Club. In 1986, Don climbed El Capitan in Yosemite Valley and slept in a hammock hanging from thousands of feet on the side of the mountain before returning to Minnesota.

In 1987, Don began working as the Assistant Chisago County Engineer and after only a year, became the County Engineer. He met his wife Gail, who at that time owned a rootbeer drive-in at the north end of Taylors Falls with her brother.

A glimpse at his future job location came in 1992 when Don became the Assistant Washington County Engineer for 6 years. For a three-year term, Don was the Dakota County Engineer, but then returned in 2001 as the Washington County Engineer. In May of 2005, he succeeded Don Wisniewski (a mentor for Don) as the Director/County Engineer of Washington County.

As the Washington County Engineer, Don is responsible for 135 full-time employees, 625 lane miles of county roads (624.5 miles are hot-mix asphalt), 75 signals, 4,300 acres of parkland including seven regional parks and one county park, 15 buildings totaling 750,000 square feet, and the review of 200 plats per year. His 2007 budget is approximately \$125,000,000.

In 2007, Washington County will be building new roads, parks, and buildings including the first true multi-lane roundabout project at the intersection of two County State Aid Highways, the opening of two new County Service Centers and a library, a new regional park, and the start of construction on a \$60,000,000 campus expansion.

With heavy pressure for expansion, Don has maintained the predominately hot-mix asphalt pavement



network through pavement preservation and appreciates the ease of widening/adding turn lanes to the flexible pavement system. Washington

County is seriously considering porous HMA pavements for future parking lots.

With the current and future workload in Washington County, Don feels fortunate to have a great County Board, Administration, colleagues, and staff. He feels he is like the person driving behind the snowplow – he has the easiest drive on the road.

Don is involved in many professional organizations in different capacities. He is the current Minnesota County Engineers Association (MCEA) President, the Minnesota American Public Works Association (MN-APWA) Chapter Board member, the Past President of the Minnesota Association of Asphalt Paving Technologists (MAAPT), the Scandia Elim Lutheran Church Council President, and he has coached his daughters' softball teams for 8 years.

Don and Gail were married in 1992 and have two daughters, Hannah (age 13) and Lilia (age 10). Don enjoys his annual trips to the Boundary Waters with his daughters in the summer, friends in the fall, and dedicated campers in the winter. Gail is currently a Special Education Teacher in the Forest Lake School District. ■

Best of luck Don, and keep building 'em black!

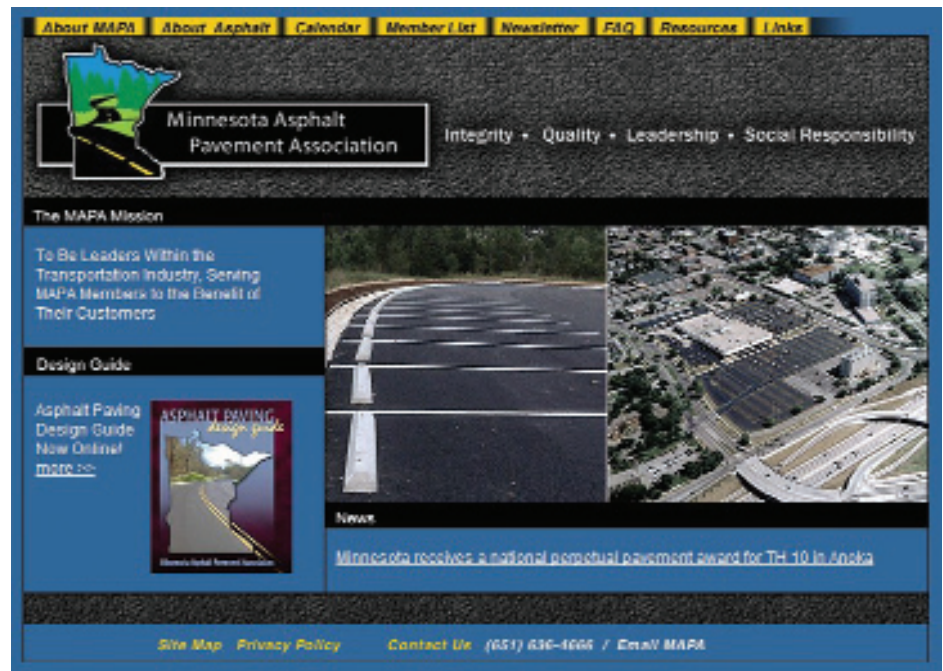


MAPA Wins National Award for Web Site

The National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) announced that the Minnesota Asphalt Pavement Association (MAPA) has been named the winner for the state asphalt pavement association category of NAPA's Outstanding Web Site competition.

MAPA received the award on February 20, 2007, at NAPA's 52nd Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA. The award recognizes web site designs that promote the use of hot-mix asphalt in the HMA industry.

Please visit MAPA's web site at www.asphaltisbest.com.



Price of Construction Materials

It has been published that the cement producers have an early start on spring price hikes (*Engineering News Record Construction Weekly* publication dated February 5, 2007). The publication shows a steady increase in the price of Portland cement and ready-mix concrete, and a steady decline in the price of paving asphalt (PG 58).

MAPA Contractor Members

Aggregate Industries NC Region
Anderson Brothers Construction Co.
Barton Enterprises, Inc.
Bauerly Companies
Bemidji Bituminous, Inc.
Bituminous Paving, Inc.
Bituminous Roadways, Inc.
Buffalo Bituminous
Commercial Asphalt Company
DMJ Corporation
Duininck Bros., Inc.
FPI Paving Contractors, Inc.
Hardrives, Inc.
Hawkinson Construction
M. R. Paving & Excavating, Inc.
Mark Sand & Gravel Company
McNamara Contracting, Inc.
Midwest Asphalt Corporation
Minn-Dak Asphalt, Inc.
North Valley, Inc.
Northern Paving, Inc.
Northland Paving, LLC

Northstar Materials, Inc.
Northwest Asphalt, Inc.
Pine Bend Paving, Inc.
Plehal Blacktopping, Inc.
River Bend Asphalt Company
Rum River Contracting Company
Shamrock Enterprises of Rochester LLC
Tower Asphalt, Inc.
Tri-City Paving, Inc.
Ulland Brothers, Inc.
Valley Paving, Inc.
Wm. Mueller & Sons, Inc.
W W Blacktopping, Inc.

MAPA is pleased to welcome a New Contractor Member:
T.A. Schifsky & Sons, Inc. (Producer)
2370 E. Highway 36
No. St. Paul, MN 55109
Phone: (651) 777-1313
E-mail: info@taschifsky.com

MAPA's Associate Members

Accurate Test Systems, Inc.
Aggregate Industries
American Agency, Inc.
American Engineering Testing, Inc.
American Surface Lines, LLC
Anderson Industrial Scales, Inc.
Antigo Construction, Inc.
Area Lakes Testing
Arr-Maz Custom Chemicals
Asphalt Surface Technologies Corp.
Astleford International Trucks
Bomag Americas
Braun Intertec Corporation
Brock White Company LLC
Carlson Paving Products, Inc.
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Cedarleaf, Cedarleaf & Cedarleaf, Inc.
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Citicapital Construction Equipment Finance
Clarence Richard Company
Cobb Strecker Dunphy & Zimmermann Inc.
Construction Bulletin
Custom Welding & Metal Fab, Inc.
Dahl Trucking
Dan Krivit & Associates
Decorative Pavement Marking, LLC
Dillman Equipment
J.D. Donovan, Inc.
Dresser Trap Rock Company
Engius LLC
Erickson Engineering Company
Esch Construction Supply, Inc.
Ess Brothers & Sons, Inc.
FC Stone
T.C. Field & Company
Five Star Industries, Inc.
Flint Hills Resources, LP
Gencor Industries, Inc.
GME Consultants, Inc. (now American Engineering Testing)
Grant Thornton LLP
Hayden-Murphy Equipment Co., Inc.
Herzog Contracting Corp.
Humboldt Manufacturing
I.R.A.Y. Auction
Independent Testing Technologies, Inc.
Ingersoll Rand Company
Inspec, Inc.
Interpoll Laboratories, Inc.
Interstate Engineering, Inc.
Intex Corporation

J-CRAFT
Klein Agency, Inc.
Kraemer Mining & Materials, Inc.
Laser Control, Inc.
Leonard, Street & Deinard, P.A.
Lubrication Technologies, Inc.
Marathon Petroleum Company LLC
Martin Marietta Aggregates
Max Steinger, Inc.
Metro Quality Testing, Inc.
Minnesota Petroleum Marketers Assoc.
Minnesota Trucking Association
Murphy Oil USA, Inc.
Northern Balance & Scale
Northwest Process Equipment, Inc.
Olson & Price, Ltd.
Ortonville Stone Company
Partek Supply, Inc.
Prinsco, Inc.
R & G Construction Company
RDO Equipment Co.
Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers (America) Inc.
RJF Agencies
Road Fabrics, Inc.
Road Machinery & Supplies Co.
Roadtec, Inc.
Ruffridge-Johnson Equipment Co., Inc.
RB Scott Company, Inc.
SPC Engineering & Testing, Inc.
STORK Twin City Testing Corporation
Swanston Equipment Companies
Sweeney Brothers Tractor, Inc.
Testquip, LLC
TexPar Energy, LLC
Tricon Metals & Services, Inc.
Tri-County Aggregate, Inc.
Tri-State Aggregate Machinery
Troxler Electronic Lab., Inc.
Ulteig Engineers, Inc.
Unique Paving Materials Corporation
United Rentals Highway Technologies
Vance Brothers
Wenck Associates, Inc.
Wheeler Lumber LLC
Widseth Smith Nolting
Ziegler, Inc.

Welcome to Our Newest Associate Member
Johnson Crushing, Inc.



www.asphaltisbest.com

Minnesota Asphalt
Pavement Association

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