



VAA Asphalt News

The Newsletter for Members and Friends of the Virginia Asphalt Association

June/July 2011 Issue



In This Issue:

- Paving in 2011 & 2012
- VDOT Proposed Specifications & Changes for 2012
- 2010 Asphalt Paving Awards
- Research Projects
- New Central Office Asphalt Program Manager
- Fall Asphalt Conference
- VAA Invitational Golf Tournament
- Carbon Dioxide Petition
- Homebuilders Sue EPA
- Fugitive Dust
- EPA Air Pollution Initiatives
- VA Climate Panel

Paving in 2011 & 2012 Showing Benefits to VDOT

Starting fiscal year 2011, VDOT faced two challenges—improve road conditions and reduce the maintenance budget balance. To address both challenges, VDOT turned to the asphalt industry and others for assistance.

In January and February of 2011, VDOT advertised and awarded over \$300 million in plant mix schedule contracts. These contracts, along with on-going work, were meant to improve the overall pavement network condition and reduce VDOT's maintenance budget balance.

Based on VDOT's

State of the Pavement 2010 report, 21.6% of VDOT's interstate system and 26.7% of the primary system were rated as deficient compared to the overall goal of 18% per system. Through the increases in funding for paving, by June 2012 VDOT hopes to have the interstate system at only 18% deficient and the primary system at 20%. By June of 2013, VDOT's anticipates both interstate and primary mileage at 18% and to make improvements to the secondary system.

For the maintenance budget, VDOT ended FY 2010

with a balance of \$529 million. For FY 2011, the projected balance is \$485 million.

Currently, VDOT plans to advertise \$400 million in paving schedules for 2012. This will keep VDOT moving towards improved roads and reduced budget balances into the future.



VDOT Proposed Specifications and Changes for 2012

As paving gets into full swing, summer is the time to plan for new specifications as well as modifications to existing specifications and special provisions for the next paving season. In a joint VDOT/VAA meeting held on July 19th, ten different specifications/special provisions were discussed. Most of the discussion revolved around asphalt materials and placement; however, a few special provisions (SP's) did relate to traffic engineering items.

For asphalt materials and placement, many of the proposed changes were mi-

nor. The special provisions (SP's) for use of shingles in asphalt concrete were modified to allow binder bumping with shingles and the associated shingle percentages in mixes. SMA gradations were modified to account for the 8 sample process variability. Additionally, coarse aggregate requirements were adjusted. Language on the VST core comparisons was clarified. High modulus high binder base mixes will be designed using the AC content at 3.5% VTM for base mixes designed at 2.5% VTM. The density testing frequency for asphalt patches

will be reinserted into contracts. Finally, details around the ACOT-1 standard and special provisions were finalized.

In terms of traffic engineering items, language regarding vertical differences between mainline and ramps/exits were reviewed. Also, modifications to the B-VI tape were discussed as well as inclusion of a SP for Polyurea.

All specifications/SP's will be finalized in draft form and sent to VAA members for comments.



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2010 Asphalt Paving Awards

Have you ever wanted to see your name in lights? How about your face on the cover of a popular magazine? While VAA does not have a marquee sign or a glitzy magazine, the Association does publish an annual membership directory. The front and back covers are reserved for the VDOT paving award winners—maintenance and construction. For the inside covers, the VAA municipal and commercial award winners are featured. In addition, the 2012-2013 Membership Directory will spotlight a new paving award category—Federal, Military, Toll and Airport projects. This new category will recognize quality paving by VAA members on projects not covered under the existing VDOT or VAA categories. All winners will also be featured in our bimonthly newsletter and on the VAA website.



Evaluation of the 10 finalist for the VDOT paving awards began in June. Submissions for the VDOT categories were made by the VDOT districts. To be considered for a VAA award, contractors must submit the project information by August 1 to the VAA office. Questions on the submittal process can be directed to Caroline Fahed at cfahed@vaasphalt.com. Submittal application and information can also be found on our website, (www.vaasphalt.org). Do not miss the deadline and opportunity to feature your company in the next directory.

VAA Members Participate in Research Projects

VAA members are participating in numerous research related projects with VDOT. Much attention has been given to the Quiet Pavements Initiative, but VAA members are assisting in three other high profile studies.

The first study is evaluating the impacts of high RAP percentages on asphalt mixes. This pooled study, in which VDOT is participating, is being lead by the University of New Hampshire. While the primary focus is low-temperature cracking, it will look at other

issues such as binder bumping and fatigue criteria.

The second study is similar to the pooled fund study and is being conducted by VCTIR and Virginia Tech. This study is looking at various aspects of asphalt mix performance with respect to varying percentages of RAP. Both of these high-RAP focused projects will use mixes with up to 40% RAP.

The final high profile research project deals with bond strength on milled surfaces. Earlier research by VDOT showed no differences in bond strength between

milled surfaces with and without conventional tack coat. This phase of the research will focus on bond strength using trackless tack coat.

As results are available for these projects, **VAA Asphalt News** will publish summaries and web links to final reports.



VDOT Names New Central Office Asphalt Program Manager

On June 13, Mr. Thomas "Tommy" Schinkel, P.E. was named the new Asphalt Program Manager for the VDOT Central Office Materials Division.

Tommy joined VDOT in 2002 as an asphalt field and lab technician for the Salem District as part of the VDOT scholar intern program. After graduating from Virginia Tech, he joined the

Materials Division as an engineer trainee.

Over the next few years, he worked in all of the Materials Division sections gaining valuable experience. In 2005, he was promoted to assistant manager for the concrete program. Except for a 3 month period as Acting Geotechnical Program Manager, he dealt with the quality assurance program in the con-

crete section. In October 2009, he was named Manager of the quality assurance section dealing with areas such as concrete pipe, precast concrete, miscellaneous material suppliers and AASHTO material reference lab accreditation program.

Tommy brings a diverse background to the asphalt program. Please take a moment to welcome him.

Time to Register for the VAA Invitational Golf Tournament

The VAA Invitational Golf Tournament will be hosted at Mattaponi Springs Golf Club in Ruther Glen on October 5, 2011. The tournament is open to all avid golfers in the transportation industry. Pre-arranged or VAA selected foursomes will play Captain's

Choice on one of the top public golf courses in Virginia. Prizes include: 1st and 2nd place teams, longest drive, longest putt, closest to the pin and cash raffle prizes. Registration/practice begins at 11:00 am with a shot gun start at 12:00 pm. Golf is followed

by a barbecue at 5:30. If golf doesn't fit your schedule, then please join us for just the barbecue. Sign-up sheets for the golf and barbecue can be obtained from the VAA website (www.vaasphalt.org) or contact Caroline Fahed at cfahed@vaasphalt.com.

Plans Underway for 24th Annual Fall Asphalt Conference

Mark your calendar for the 24th Annual Fall Asphalt Conference. The conference will be held October 3 - 5, 2011 at the Jefferson Hotel in Richmond.

The conference will start at 12:00 pm, on October 3, with registration. At 1:00 pm, day one will start with a focus on the status of the industry and VDOT. New this year will be a District Administrators Panel that will allow questions from the attendees. Also on day one the Awards for "Virginia's Best" paving projects for 2010 will be announced.

October 4th will feature technical and research presentations from VDOT, VCTIR and industry representatives. VDOT will present specification changes for the 2012 paving season. VCTIR will outline the asphalt research

projects recently completed and currently underway. Industry members will share their experiences completing high-profile projects such as the quiet pavements.

During the morning of October 5th, VAA members are invited to attend a members only business meeting. Brochures and registration sheet will be mailed August 1, 2011. Register for the conference with VAA and book your hotel room with the Jefferson Hotel. Remember to sign up prior to August 29 to get early bird rates.

*Day Two Attendees
will be Awarded
Seven Continuing
Education Credits.*

Mark Your Calendar

- ♦ VAA Fall Asphalt Conference
Richmond, VA.
October 3 - 5
- ♦ VAA Invitational Golf Tournament
Mattaponi Springs Golf Club
October 5
- ♦ International Warm Mix Conference
St. Louis, MO
October 11-13
- ♦ SEAUPG Annual Meeting
Savannah, GA
November 14-17
- ♦ NAPA Annual Meeting
Palm Desert, CA
January 21-25, 2012

In Memoriam

Leslie L Williams, Jr., Executive Vice-President of The Blair Bros, Inc., died Monday, June 6. Leslie had been with Blair Bros for 25 years.

Joanne Czarnecki, wife of Ernie Czarnecki (Bert & Ernie, LLC Consultants) died on Friday, June 24, 2011.

Robert "Bob" Ather-ton passed away July 11, 2011. He spent his professional career at VDOT.



NEWS & NOTES

Charlottesville Route 29 Bypass Funding was approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board at their July 20, 2011 meeting in Richmond. \$197 million is provided in the amended six year plan for the construction. **Downtown/Midtown/MLK Extension Project** is moving



forward according to a Governor's news release on July 20. **Liquid AC Prices** are continuing to climb this year with the July index at \$634 per ton. At the beginning of the year AC was \$473 a ton. As the economy slows, crude oil prices seem to have stabilized for now and will hopefully stop the current uptrend.

Governor McDonnell Announced that Virginia has ended FY 2011 with a Surplus of \$311 Million. Despite that good news, Moody's Corporation put the state's AAA bond rating on a downgrade watch notice due to the absence of a federal budget deficit agreement and our proximity to D.C.

Member News



Diamond Achievement Commendation

Congratulations to the following VAA members for receiving the NAPA Diamond Achievement Award for Hot Mix Asphalt Plants. Branscome, Inc., Branscome—

Richmond, Superior Paving Corp, Virginia Paving Company and W-L Construction & Paving, Inc. The awards are given for excellence in plant operations and environmental compliance. **Welcome to Seaboard Asphalt Products Company** our newest Additive & Paving member. For more information on this company

contact Shawn Campbell at his email address sales@seaboardasphalt.com. **Welcome to Spivey Pavement Marking** our newest Pavement Marking member. For more information on this company contact: Nicole McGowan at her email nmcgown@spiveyppm.com

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

EPA Air Pollution Initiatives

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is planning to implement a series of new measures this year to reduce emissions of air pollutants to better protect public health. The most important change will be the lowering of the current National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone from the current 75 parts per billion (ppb) to a level between 60 and 70 ppb. If the level is lowered to 65 ppb by EPA almost the entire state of Virginia would fall into non attainment status. This could have a significant impact on the air permitting process as companies would have a more difficult time increasing production levels or modifying air permits. The state implementation plan to meet the new standard would require industries to lower emission levels and could require additional controls beyond current levels at asphalt plants.



EPA has also proposed a new interstate air pollutant transport rule to replace the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) that was thrown out by the courts several years ago. The "Cross State Air Pollution Rule" was announced on July 7 and will have a direct impact on power plants in 28 states and the District of Columbia by requiring emissions reductions to prevent air pollutants from crossing state lines and affecting downwind states. Additional rules, expected in the near future, will include more specific emission reductions as well as an implementation plan and schedule.

Other actions by EPA include: issuance of a Maximum Achievable Control Technology rule for particulate matter, setting a new mercury in air standard, and new hourly standards for a number of air pollutants. The likely outcome of all of these changes is stricter air permit requirements, higher utility costs that will be passed on to customers, and difficulty in getting approvals for new or modified air permits. Since asphalt plants are considered as "minor sources" by the EPA and DEQ, the initial focus of these changes will be on larger companies (majors), but minor sources may also be impacted by the expanded areas of non-attainment.

Carbon Dioxide Petition Seeks to Limit Fossil Fuel Emissions



Emma Serrels and Kids Vs. Global Warming, a group of concerned citizens have filed a petition with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Virginia Air

Pollution Control Board to establish a regulation that strictly limits fossil fuel carbon dioxide emissions and to establish an effective emissions reduction strategy that will achieve an atmospheric concentration of no more than 350 ppm of carbon dioxide by 2100. The petition also calls for the regulations to ensure that emissions from fossil fuels peak in the year 2012 with a minimum reduc-

tion of 6% per year until 2050.

The petition is going through DEQ's public notice process and the staff is to report back to the Air Board at their next quarterly meeting in September. The petitions have been filed in a number of states, so it is likely that major environmental interest groups like the Sierra Club will join the petitioners.

VA Air Regs. Review

DEQ is undertaking a review of their air regulations for Stationary Existing Sources. The review is conducted periodically to determine if there should be changes made based on public comment and new federal guidelines. Asphalt Concrete Plants and Asphalt Paving Operations are among the regulatory categories being reviewed by DEQ. No major changes are expected from this review.

VA Climate Panel

Governor Bob McDonnell will not continue pursuing the findings and recommendations by the Virginia Global Warming Commission identified in 2008 under the Kaine Administration. Secretary of Natural Resources Doug Domech cited the uncertainty in the causes of climate change and that solutions would need to be a global issue as opposed to actions taken by individual states. Any movement toward controlling greenhouse gases will likely come from EPA actions.

Homebuilders' Group Sues EPA

The National Association of Homebuilders is challenging the EPA strategy for restoring the Chesapeake Bay. The group believes that the EPA program would make permits for residential and light commercial development more difficult to obtain and add burdensome high costs to the process.

The EPA has already been sued by the American Farm Bureau Federation earlier this year citing similar

concerns and assertions that the EPA has gone beyond its legal authority under the Clean Water Act with their proposed Chesapeake Bay clean-up strategy. A Number of Environmental groups are siding with the EPA in the lawsuits including the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.



Fugitive Dust

DEQ has prepared a fugitive dust guidance document in response to directions from the Virginia Air Pollution Control Board. The board denied a petition by the Sierra Club and other citizens that were concerned about dust that was tracked primarily out of coal plants in SW Virginia. The document is limited to coal plants and will not directly impact asphalt operations. Tracking is barred in most air permits.