The 25th Anniversary Fall Asphalt Conference hosted by the Virginia Asphalt Association and VDOT was a complete success. Over the day and a half conference on October 1 and 2, more than 250 people attended from across the Commonwealth. Attendees from VDOT and the asphalt industry heard presentations on a variety of issues from 2013 specification changes to future paving plans.

The conference started at 1 pm on October 1st with a presentation by Commissioner Greg Whirley. Commissioner Whirley reiterated his efforts to “sweep the corners clean” of VDOT funds and now we need to concentrate on more cost-savings opportunities. VDOT and industry have identified opportunities in the past; now the district administrators and local contractors need to develop additional recommendations to reduce paving costs further. Over the next few weeks, DA’s were directed to host meetings and provide a recommendation report to him for consideration.

Following Commissioner Whirley’s discussion, Mr. Ron White of Superior Paving Corporation discussed ways to control costs in a down economy. He reviewed the different ways contractors have reduced costs by implementing warm mix technology, increasing RAP percentages in mixes, and streamlining operations. Then, Mr. White presented suggestions for VDOT to consider in reducing costs. Some areas that warrant further discussion were time limits on paving operations, allowing higher per-
Day 1 concluded with the recognition of the best VDOT and non-VDOT paving projects of 2011 (see Pages 4 and 5). Day 2 was full of technical sessions provided by VDOT and industry representatives (see Page 6 for a summary of presentations). All presentations from the Fall Asphalt Conference are available at the VAA and VDOT websites.

Over 200 Attend Annual Fall Asphalt Conference (continued from page 1)

The third presentation of the day was by Mr. Trenton Clark—VAA Director of Engineering. Mr. Clark focused on Pavement Economics. He provided pavement performance data, cost data, and ways to increase the life of asphalt pavements. The last segment of the opening session was the District Administrators Panel. All nine districts were represented on the panel by the DA or their designee. The panel outlined their plans for the 2013 paving season as well as provided other comments to the attendees.

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VAA Invitational Golf Tournament Big Success

It was a beautiful day for the VAA invitational Golf Tournament. Over 100 golfers turned out to enjoy the unseasonably warm weather on October 3, 2012. This year’s tournament was held at a new venue, Independence Golf Club in Midlothian, Virginia. Home of the Virginia State Golf Association, it was voted 3rd best public course in the country.

The tournament kicked off at 12:30 with a modified shotgun start. By 5:30 the score cards were in and the tournament-winning team was named - a foursome made up of David Branscome, Branscome Paving; David Branscome Jr. also of Branscome Paving; Mal Kerley, VDOT; and Richard Schreck, VAA. The second place winning team consisted of Mike Culik, Virginia Paving; Carl Voigt, Bitumar USA; Rob McKeever, Virginia Paving; and Wilson Whitehurst, Whitehurst Transport. The longest putt was won by JT Talley of Landsaver Environmental. The closest to the pin prize went to Leon Malczewski of VDOT and the longest drive was made by Dave Horton of Virginia Paving. The free registration raffle for next year’s VAA Tournament was won by Mathew Stone of Colony Construction. And, to top it all off, there were numerous winners of $100 cash prizes as all of the Gold Tee and Mulligan cash was raffled back to players.

All retired after the tournament to an excellent barbecue dinner supplied by Independence Golf Club.

Next year’s tournament will again be held at Independence Golf Club on October 9, 2013. Mark your calendar’s now for next year’s tournament. We look forward to seeing you all on the golf course in 2013!
Superior Paving Sweeps VDOT Construction & Maintenance Awards

New this year, 2011 paving projects were subjected to an updated scoring system for determining the top VDOT construction and maintenance paving awards. The new system gave more credit for an excellent paving job completed under difficult conditions such as heavy traffic, numerous intersections, excessive geometric changes and specialty asphalt mixes.

VDOT districts submitted two construction projects and six maintenance projects for evaluation by the four judge panel. In the construction category: Staunton District submitted the Happy Creek Project outside of Front Royal; Culpeper District submitted the rehabilitation of Interstate 66 westbound just east of Marshall. From the data submitted by each district and site reviews by panel members, I-66 paved by Superior Paving Corporation, of Gainesville, was awarded the 2011 Statewide Construction Paving Award. This project entailed the deep milling and replacement of the asphalt in the outside lane with milling and overlay for the inside lane. The final surface was a SMA-9.5 with 76-22 binder. The ride quality was excellent with an overall average of 49 inches per mile. Congratulations to Superior Paving!

Six maintenance projects were submitted for statewide award consideration. The Bristol District submitted a section of I-81 paved by W-L Construction and Paving; the Salem District submitted a section of SR 100 paved by Adams Construction; the Fredericksburg District submitted I-95 northbound paved by Superior Paving; the Culpeper District submitted US 211 crossing the Blue Ridge Mountains paved by Superior Paving; the Staunton District submitted I-64 at Waynesboro paved by B&S Construction; and the NOVA District submitted the SR 7 porous friction course project paved by Superior Paving. The competition for the maintenance award was fierce. The top three candidates were I-64, I-95 and SR 7. In the end, SR-7 Porous Friction Course demonstration project paved by Superior Paving was named the 2011 maintenance award winner. In addition to noise reduction, the final surface was very smooth. Congratulations to Superior Paving!

Virginia Cold Pavement Recycling Conference

The end of November will feature a new conference and learning opportunity for VDOT, the asphalt paving, and consultant industries. The Virginia Department of Transportation and Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI) will host the Virginia Cold Pavement Recycling Conference in Richmond. The day and a half conference will be held at the Wyndham Virginia Crossings Hotel and Conference Center.

The purpose of the conference is to provide information on various cold pavement recycling techniques such as cold in place recycling, cold plant recycling and full depth reclamation. The presenters are national experts in these technologies through their experience. VDOT has recently completed several of these projects and intends on performing more projects in the coming years.

This conference will provide an opportunity to interact with experts from industry, transportation agencies and academia. The early registration fee for the conference is $200. Early registration ends October 26th; after October 26th the fee increases to $250. Make plans to attend this conference and learn more about cold pavement recycling.

http://www.cpe.vt.edu/paveconf/

Virginia Pavement Recycling Conference
November 26-27, 2012
Glen Allen, Virginia

www.vaasphalt.org
While VDOT projects may get the most attention, asphalt contractors pave a variety of projects each year for other clients. These clients range from the FHWA to hospitals to local governments. This year’s submissions for “Virginia’s Best” ranged from an indoor tennis court in Virginia Beach to the Skyline Drive in the Shenandoah National Park. The three categories in which a project can be nominated are—Best Commercial, Best Municipal and Best Non-Traditional (i.e., Special Project). Several projects were submitted for consideration in each category. Using the project information and pictures provided by the contractors, a short-list of top projects were developed and a field review completed.

The winner of the 2011 Non-Traditional category was S.L. Williamson for their project on the Skyline Drive. This project provide the challenges of long hauls, small loads, and variable weather.

The winner of the 2011 Commercial category was Virginia Paving for their work at the Princess Anne Hospital in Virginia Beach. This project was complicated with the numerous pavement sections required.

The winner of the 2011 Municipal category was Virginia Paving for their work in the City of Fairfax. This paving schedule included over 80,000 SY of milling and the use of SM-9.5E as a final surface course.

For 2012, the Greenest Project award category will be added.
Summary of Day 2 at the Fall Conference

Session 3—Specs

Day 2 of the Fall Asphalt Conference focuses on the technical aspects of paving. Session 3, which started at 9 am, covered the materials and paving-related specification changes for 2013. Mr. Tommy Schinkel—VDOT Asphalt Program Manager, outlined the various changes. The changes included gradation adjustments for the SMA-9.5, modification of the SMA trial section language, and the minimum dosage rates for anti-strip. Other changes in the specifications were related to modifications of the Materials Certification Schools for asphalt plant and field. The specification language needed to match the new certifications and levels. Finally, Tommy announced the mandatory use of the PLAIDS system in 2013 for entering lab test data.

Mr. David Rush—VDOT Work Zone Safety Coordinator, presented the changes associated with the 2011 Work Area Protection Manual. Some of the changes were in 2012 contracts, primarily those advertised after July 1st. Some of the notable changes are the addition of signs to the back of vehicles entering and leaving the work zones, the use of rotating lights, and the safety apparel.

The last presentation of the session was made by Trenton Clark—VAA. Trenton covered the topics discussed in the last VAA/VDOT Pavement Marking Committee meeting held in August. Trenton highlighted the draft Temporary Pavement Marking Policy document and the Wet-Night Visibility study being performed by VTTI.

Session 4—Research Updates

Research leads to innovation and innovation leads to strides in the transportation industry. In Virginia, industry and VDOT work hand in hand to develop and implement new materials and processes. Dr. Jose Gomez—VCTIR Director, provided an overview of the pavement and asphalt research being performed at VCTIR. Many of these projects have industry partners. Mr. Kevin McGhee—VCTIR Principal Scientist, updated the attendees on the quiet pavement project. He discussed the noise measurements and the NCAT test sections. Mr. McGhee also covered the SMA research project which lead to gradation changes with the SMA-9.5. Mr. David Shiells—NOVA District Materials Engineer and Mr. David Branscome—Branscome Paving, presented the SR-234 Park and Ride Permeable Parking Lot project. This project should be completed in the Spring of 2013. The final presentation in the session was by Dr. Nelson Gibson—FHWA. Dr. Gibson outlined FHWA’s plans for the ALF in McLean.

Session 5

Like many other states, Virginia is increasing its use of pavement recycling technologies. Dr. Brian Diefenderfer—VCTIR Scientist, presented on the status of recycling research. Following his presentation, Mr. Andy Babish—VDOT State Materials Engineer, covered the pavement recycling specifications and implementation plans. For 2013, no more than 2 projects per district will be considered. All projects will require Central Office Materials review and approval prior to advertisement.

Dr. Ray Brown—Director Emeritus

Dr. Ray Brown, Director Emeritus of the National Center for Asphalt Technology at Auburn University was the featured speaker in Session 5—Recycling. Dr. Brown covered the history of the NCAT Test Track and the success of asphalt pavement recycling at the track. The recent cycle at the test track included sections with 50% RAP produced using normal and warm mix technologies. Dr. Brown stressed the need to use RAP to reduce overall costs as well as reduce the amount of virgin materials consumed. At future Fall Conferences, updates on the VDOT sections’ performance at NCAT will be made.

Session 6—Moving Virginia Forward

The last session of the conference focused on moving Virginia forward. Mr. David Shiells—NOVA District Materials Engineer and Mr. David White—Superior Paving Corporation, presented the I-66 Pavement Rehabilitation Project. This project included over 55,000 SY of concrete patching and nearly 100,000 tons of asphalt to restore I-66 from US 50 to the Capital Beltway.

Mr. Gilbert DeLeon—FHWA Team Leader, presented the new federal transportation funding bill MAP-21. This bill provides 2 1/2 years of stable funding.

Mr. Shiells made a third presentation at the Fall Conference on the Asphalt Quality Task Force. Mr. Shiells gave a background and purpose of the task force along with the 13 task force recommendations.

The final portion of Session 6 was dedicated to Chief Engineer Kerley and his hand-picked panelist. Mr. Kerley announced the re-establishment of two asphalt field engineer positions, which was a task force recommendation. Also, he stated his support of the other task force recommendations and directed the task force to continue their work. After his comments, the panel answered various questions from the audience members.