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 SPRING 2023



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The first Asphalt Road-EO to be held at the TXAPA Campus in Buda, TX since 2019 will take place April 14-15, 2023. After two consecutive virtual competitions, we are excited to welcome 37 students comprising 11 teams from six universities throughout Texas and Oklahoma back to Buda for an in-person match.

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Jason Exum
R.K. Hall Construction Ltd.
2023 TXAPA President



Welcome to the first issue of *Texas Asphalt* for 2023. It's also a first for me as TXAPA's 2023 President. I am honored to have been elected to this role, and I'm committed to leading and carrying on the work of our past president Eric Schranz, our board of directors, and committees. This work is directed by TXAPA's membership. I believe we represent the very best the Texas asphalt pavement industry offers, and I am excited to serve you and contribute to the great legacy we have collectively established.

My presidency will focus on several key initiatives. First, our workforce development initiative will continue to receive the oversight and support of TXAPA's Board of Directors. We will review our progress at each monthly board meeting, fine tuning as necessary to achieve our goal of creating a sustainable workforce solution. We are taking a four-point approach with our marketing and awareness campaign, Workforce Rangers community outreach, partnerships with Texas high schools to create an asphalt-specific Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, and our partnership with TxDOT Connect U2 Jobs and the Texas Transportation Institute to create a 15-week highway construction course as part of the FHWA Highway Construction Workforce Partnership.

Regionalization is another key area of focus in 2023. Texas is a very large state, and we have come to a point where, to adequately fulfill our duties as an association, we must find ways to serve our members

at a more micro level. Regionalization allows us to do that. The concept is to section the state into regions and target services accordingly, with a designated representative assigned to each. These representatives will help create better relationships with TXAPA members, as well as with the local DOT, cities, and counties in their regions. Most important, each representative will be an expert in the region's particular challenges which can vary greatly in a state of this size.

With the advent of the Environmental Product Declaration, or EPD, sustainability is another key focus in 2023. At the recent NAPA Annual Meeting, sustainability was the undercurrent to every session. The message is clear, big changes are coming, they will be federally mandated, and your business will need to adapt or suffer the consequences. We must dedicate considerable muscle to helping our industry become more knowledgeable about sustainability issues that will impact us much sooner than we expect. We are building out the sustainability section of [Texasasphalt.org](https://www.texasasphalt.org) with more information and resources and, as we did in 2022, we will continue to plan educational opportunities with sustainability experts open to all TXAPA members.

2023 already promises to be a big a year. Along with workforce development, regionalization, and sustainability, our final charge is one that we always must keep in the forefront of our minds, which is to promote quality asphalt and its application for all types of projects. If we take our eyes off quality, then everything else is a moot point. I know we all agree, and I continue to count on all of us to deliver the durable, smooth, safe, high-quality product for which we are known.

Finally, as president, I want to thank our biggest source of support, the tremendous TXAPA staff. If you want to be involved and active in the association, you will have no better team than this one. With everything we have on the books for 2023, there are endless opportunities to plug in and use your talents for the good of the industry. Any staff members can help you get connected. I look forward to working with all our members to make 2023 another stand out year in TXAPA history! 🌟

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Emily Adams,
Director of
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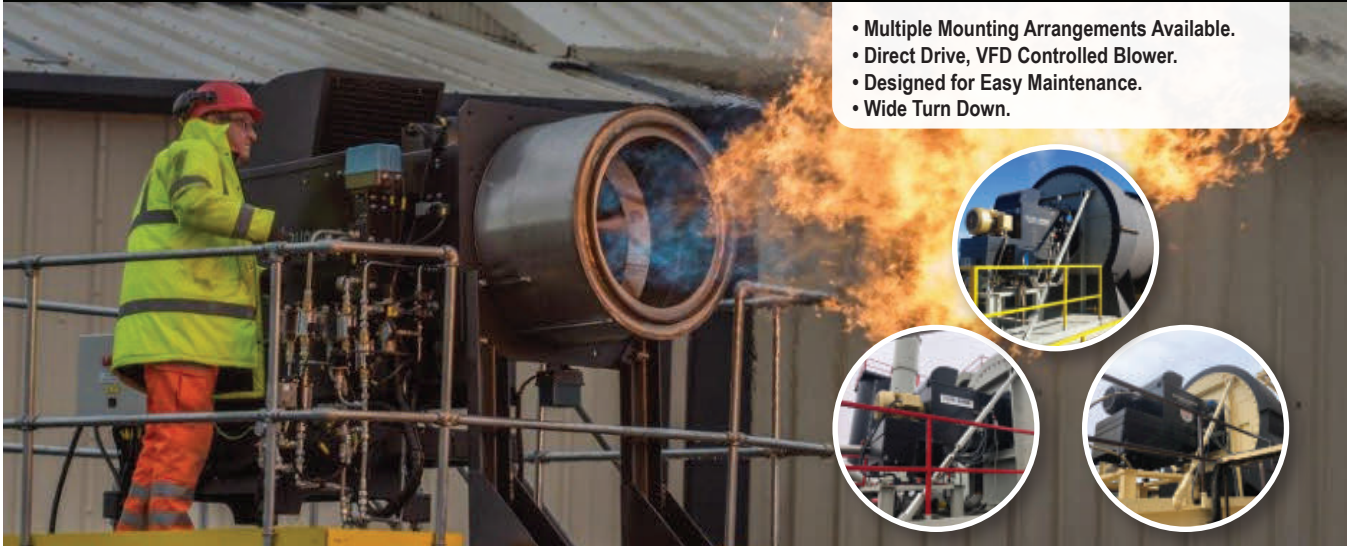
As I write this, it's a beautiful spring day, and I am so thankful to be on the other side of freezing rain and ice storms. We were incredibly lucky to have near perfect conditions for our annual Winter Classic Golf tournament in which we raised another record amount for the TXAPA

Scholarship Program. As we settle into the warmer months and the prime paving season is upon us, I'm excited to look ahead to our next big event, our student asphalt engineering competition, the Asphalt Road-eo. The Road-eo returns to the TXAPA Campus this year on April 14-15, after the pandemic necessitated two consecutive virtual competitions. I was fortunate to be part of the very first Asphalt Road-eo held in December of 2017 and have watched it grow into a key component of TXAPA's commitment to workforce development. The students who journey to compete make life-changing connections with industry and TxDOT. Many report that the competition is a turning point

in their search for a career post-college. The TXAPA members and TxDOT personnel who attend and serve as volunteers, are crucial to fulfilling the purpose of the event. Their passion for our industry shines through to these promising young participants, many of whom leave with employment opportunities in addition to a newfound passion for asphalt engineering. In addition to an eye-opening experience, the winning team now receives a \$2,000 TXAPA Scholarship each, with second place receiving a \$1,000 scholarship each. For these reasons and more, the Asphalt Road-eo is quickly becoming a go-to event for universities throughout the country. ★

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EDUCATION AND SERVICE: ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PLAY A VITAL ROLE

Ryan Pryor
KLP Construction Supply
Associate Member Advisory
Committee Chair



Let me begin by expressing how honored and thrilled I am to be Chair of the TXAPA Associate Member Advisory Committee for 2023. Our committee has changed significantly and positively over the past few years, leading to many successful endeavors, including the Managing Asphalt Pavements Conference and Tradeshow. A notable characteristic of our industry is exceptional people dedicated to making a difference. They have built the asphalt pavement industry into what it is today, and I look forward to working with the committee, the TXAPA Board of Directors, and membership to continue pushing our industry to new heights.

2022 was a very successful year for the Associate Member Advisory Committee. It was a blessing to see our members back in force at conferences, showcases, and meetings. I want to give a special thank you to Barrett Reese, the 2022 Associate Member Chair. His leadership was vital in delivering one of the most successful years this committee has ever had. We were able to increase committee participation once again and improve how we operate our events that support the TXAPA Scholarship Program.

As expected, 2023 will undoubtedly bring us a new set of opportunities disguised as challenges. Most notably, continued supply chain lag and labor shortages have been looming since last year. Unfortunately, there are no quick fixes to serious issues. However, these problems highlight why our role within TXAPA is so essential. Innovation, technology, and education are critical in the attempt to combat these issues moving forward. Texas is funding more infrastructure improvement and roadway projects than ever before. The MAPS Conference and Trade Show is the epicenter of the education opportunities we need to continue to supply. This year's agenda will allow a complete look into the design, construction, and maintenance programs with a documented history of success. TXAPA has scheduled the 2023 MAPS Conference for May 15-17, and all signs point to it being the biggest and best to date! We have partnered with the V.G. Young Institute of County Government to offer continuing education credits to our County Commissioners and other attendees, a much-needed development to attract an important segment of asphalt pavement users. Engineers will continue to be able to earn professional development hours.

In closing, I want to mention how impactful being a part of TXAPA has been for us at KLP Construction Supply. My goals as 2023 Chair are to put on unique educational events and golf tournaments (sign up quickly, they fill up fast) and to encourage folks to find an interest and get involved. TXAPA is the leader in asphalt paving expertise, and its dedicated members make it all possible. Let's continue to add to our membership and expand our horizons together.

Here is to even more success in 2023! 🍀

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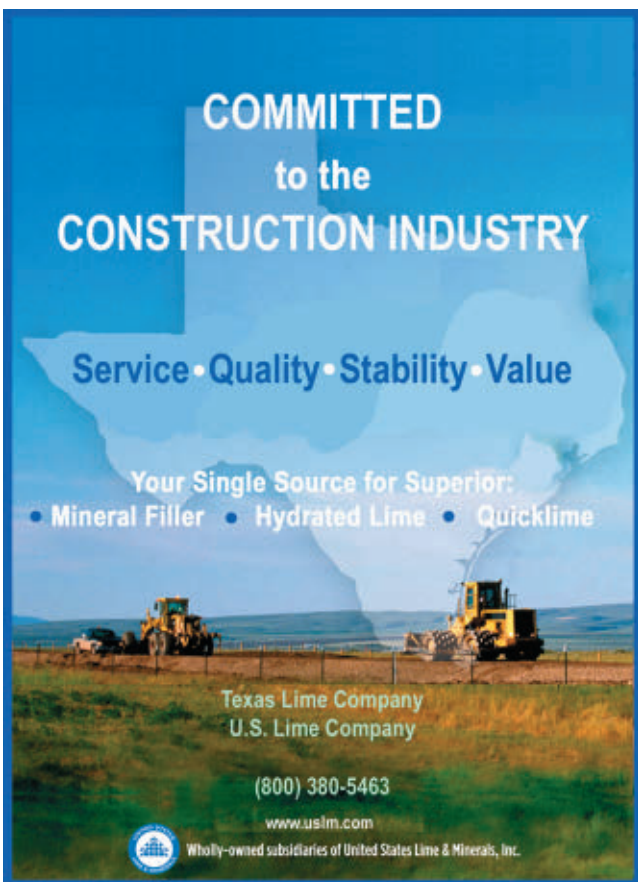
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NEW YEAR, NEW CHALLENGES, AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO SUCCEED!

Tracy Cumby
Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions, Inc.
Major Associate Member Chair



2023 is here and we are off and running into a new year. This article will review what the Major Associates Committee worked on and accomplished in 2022. Although we dedicated much of our time and effort to the 2024 Specification Book, we addressed several other items. Here is a summary:

TxDOT 2024 Specification Book: Major Associate members participated in reviewing proposed changes to existing specifications and provided comments to the rewrite committee.

Binder Technician Training Program: Major Associate members discussed with TxDOT Materials and Test Division (MTD) training development. TxDOT awarded the contract to TXAPA; TXAPA will conduct the training at its Buda Campus

Diluted Emulsions & TxDOT Dashboard: Major Associate members worked with MTD to find an acceptable resolution to test diluted emulsions and report test results. The Liquid Asphalt Working Group (LAWG) reviewed draft specifications for diluted emulsions. MTD added comments to the dashboard indicating "diluted sample."

Annual Supplier Report Cards: Major Associate members discussed with MTD the plant inspection program and participated in modifying an overall report card with grade scoring; LAWG reviewed a sample of the modified report card.

HIGH-PERFORMANCE BINDER SPECIFICATION:

- Major Associate members worked with MTD when TxDOT scheduled a high-profile project to let without adequate industry knowledge of the new high polymer binder spec.
- Major Associate members provided comments and samples of PG binders to TxDOT lab to determine possible grades.
- Major Associate members and TxDOT are planning more and smaller test projects to learn about the new product requirements.

Material Handling and Ownership: Major Associate members discussed with MTD the asphalt and emulsions chain of custody issues

(Who owns the material, where does ownership responsibility end?) and storage of asphalt and emulsions at contractor facilities.

2022 was a busy year, and 2023 appears to be the same. As TxDOT and Industry work to complete the changes to the 2014 specifications, we will be able to welcome the new 2024 spec book and take a break from an exhaustive undertaking.

So, what will the hot-button issues be for 2023? Sustainability is likely to take first place as our industry recognizes the changing landscape of the workforce and how we do business internally and with our agency partners. Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) are something we will hear more about in days to come. EPDs will establish a credit system for construction firms committed to measuring and reducing the environmental impact of their processes. We will also need to address workforce scarcity issues for the sustainability of our industry. TXAPA has already taken steps to increase awareness of our industry and attract young adults with training and scholarship opportunities.

Sustainability will affect us all, from the physical buildings and plants we operate from, to the hard-working employees on the front lines, to the equipment that places the High-Quality hot mix pavements and Seal Coats that have sustained our industry to this point. Our member firms must be aware of the changes we need to make and the changes that regulate and allow us to continue what we do. Keeping the lines of communication open will be vital to staying informed and attending the Major Associate member meetings is a great way to keep up.

I hope to see you all at the upcoming meetings in 2023. Let me know you would like to discuss anything; I am always open to your ideas. You can reach me at tracy.cumby@ergon.com. Thanks for all you do, and let's have a safe and productive 2023. ☘

TXAPA HAS ALREADY TAKEN STEPS
TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF OUR
INDUSTRY AND ATTRACT YOUNG
ADULTS WITH TRAINING AND
SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.



KIEWIT INFRASTRUCTURE SOUTH WINS PRESTIGIOUS SHELDON G. HAYES AWARD

AFTER TWO YEARS and three rounds of judging, the National Asphalt Pavement Association has announced Kiewit Infrastructure South as the winner of the 2022 Sheldon G. Hayes Award for. The Sheldon G. Hayes Award is awarded for excellence in construction. It has been awarded annually by the National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) since 1971 and recognizes the country's highest quality pavements. All contractor's projects earning a Sheldon G. Hayes Award are measured against industry best practices, rated for smoothness a year after construction, and visually inspected to ensure the project lives up to our criteria. NAPA also recognizes the Texas Department of Transportation for their partnership in achieving this recognition. Said Texas Transportation Commission Chairman J. Bruce Bugg, Jr., "This roadway is a prime



example of a project that was delivered effectively and efficiently while keeping safety a top priority." Congratulations to

the people of Kiewit and TxDOT for building a quality roadway worthy of national recognition!

TXAPA MEMBER FIRMS ACHIEVE NATIONAL RECOGNITION

EVERY YEAR, TXAPA gathers an immense amount of engineering data from our Texas Quality Pavement Award winners to submit to the National Asphalt Pavement Association Quality in Construction Awards program for consideration. Please join us in congratulating these TXAPA member firms for their national recognition as NAPA Quality in Construction Award winners:

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J. Lee Milligan, Inc. and Amarillo District SH 70  Roberts County, TX	Zack Burkett Co. and Abilene District US 277  Jones County, TX	Jagoe-Public Company and Wichita Falls District US 287 Montague County, TX	Texas Materials Group, Inc., Gulf Coast, A CRH Company, and Austin District US 290  Bastrop County, TX	Madden Contracting Co., LLC, Longview Asphalt, Inc., and Lufkin District US 96  San Augustine County, TX

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2023 TXAPA MEMBERSHIP MEETING: SAFETY IS STILL JOB ONE

TXAPA members gathered for the annual Membership Meeting a little later than usual this year. Kicking off with the Winter Classic Golf tournament on Valentine's Day, the meeting returned to the Dallas/Fort Worth Marriott Hotel & Golf Club at Champions Circle. The tournament benefits the TXAPA Scholarship Program and with over \$17,000 raised from the tiger drive, extortion hole, and closest-to-the-pin contests, TXAPA members again exceeded the previous year's record. After the tournament, Associate Member Advisory Committee Chair Ryan Pryor with KLP Construction Supply, and HMAAC Director Corey Schwarz handed out prizes to the first, second, third, and last place teams, and contest winners. The day ended with a welcome reception where members reconnected and enjoyed socializing, hors d'oeuvres, and cocktails.

The Membership Meeting started early the next morning with an #EndTheStreakTX safety share from TXAPA consultant Chuck Fuller. Fuller asked the audience a series of questions around Texas traffic fatalities statistics. He then revealed the surprising answers (more than 3,000 people were killed in traffic fatalities during lockdown!) and reminded the audience there had not been a deathless day on the Texas transportation system since November 7, 2000. After his impactful presentation, Fuller gave the floor to Fort Worth District Engineer David Salazar, who joked that his talking points had been stolen. In his welcome message, Salazar reinforced the importance of ending the streak, a theme that carried throughout the morning. Salazar also spoke extensively about sustainability and the importance of getting ahead of the inevitable new federal requirements for environmental product declarations. Next up was TxDOT's Director of Engineering and Safety Operations, Jessica Butler. Butler accepted the role in September

2022 and this marked her first time to speak at a TXAPA meeting. She outlined her priorities for both engineering and safety, stating that she did not feel it was too ambitious to believe that we could end the streak and soon, see a day without a Texas traffic fatality. Following Butler was Carl Johnson, TxDOT's Director of District Operations. Johnson acknowledged TXAPA Executive Vice President Harold Mullen for receiving the TxDOT Road Hand Award, and gave updates on the activities of several TxDOT-TXAPA Joint Committees. He finished out his time on stage with a detailed look at the Energy Sector and the Unified Transportation Plan. Rounding out the morning, Emily Adams, TXAPA's Director of Marketing gave a tour of the newly redesigned website (Texasasphalt.org).

After a break, members gathered for the Associate, Major Associate, or Regular Member meeting portion of the program. The day culminated in a luncheon wherein outgoing president Eric Schranz, Austin Bridge & Road, LP passed the gavel to incoming

president Jason Exum, R.K. Hall Construction Ltd. Together Schranz and Exum acknowledged TXAPA outgoing board members and committee chairs and announced the first ever winner of the Eric Johnson Leadership and Service Award, Mr. Mike Brown, Texas Materials, A CRH Company. Harold Mullen then returned to the stage to announce the winners of the prestigious Sheldon G. Hayes Award as well the 2022 NAPA Quality in Construction Award Winners. Mullen noted that this was first for TXAPA, because the NAPA Annual meeting usually does not take place before the TXAPA membership meeting. "Thanks for bringing the Sheldon G. Hayes back to Texas!" was heard rising from the audience as members from Kiewit Infrastructure South took the stage to say a few words. Workforce development was the final thought of the day as Mullen welcomed Nathali Weisman to the stage. Weisman debuted the "I Built This," campaign video to thunderous applause sending meeting attendees back to work feeling proud. 🚧



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MANAGING ASPHALT PAVEMENTS CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW NOW CERTIFIED TO GRANT CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

Early in 2019, the Texas Asphalt Pavement Association (TXAPA) launched a new conference for local governments called Managing Asphalt Pavements, or MAPS. Since then, MAPS has grown rapidly. In 2022, the conference evolved to include a full-fledged heavy equipment trade show. Now, in 2023, the Commissioners Education Committee of the County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas has approved MAPS for 10 hours of continuing education credits for County Commissioners who attend every session of the conference.

The MAPS Conference & Equipment Tradeshow is scheduled for May 15-17, 2023 at the BASE at ExtraCo Events center in Waco, Texas. The fee to attend is \$125 each or \$105 each for groups of five or more. The conference kicks off with a reception on May 15,

2023, from 4:00 – 6:00 PM and will close with the Texas Quality Asphalt Pavement Awards luncheon. The awards honor the men and women responsible for building the highest quality non-TxDOT projects completed in Texas in 2022. These events bookend some

of the best asphalt pavement education available; aimed at the specific needs of cities, counties, and other non-TxDOT project owners. Attendees will learn from industry experts, academia, and their peers. There will also be plenty of time to explore the heavy equipment show, attend demonstrations, and learn about the latest in asphalt pavement and related technology.

The MAPS Conference is thoughtfully planned to address a wide range of local government concerns. There are three tracks: Design and Planning, Materials Construction and Maintenance, and New Technology (not CE eligible). Topics include essential QC/QA, mix types, maintenance, and how to stretch your budget while best preserving your roadway network. Our presenters are available to answer questions outside of their sessions and in addition, interested parties can schedule free onsite educational seminars with TXAPA. With so much information and assistance available, there are infinite reasons to attend.

Attendees are eligible for special rates at the official conference hotels. To view the full agenda, and register for the event. Visit texasasphalt.org



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MAPS 2023 - AGENDA

BASE at Extraco Events Center | 4401 Bosque Blvd, Waco, TX 76710

SCHEDULE**

MONDAY MAY 15, 2023

12:00 PM-6:00 PM	Check In
4:00 PM-6:00 PM	Welcome Reception and Exhibits Open

TUESDAY MAY 16, 2023

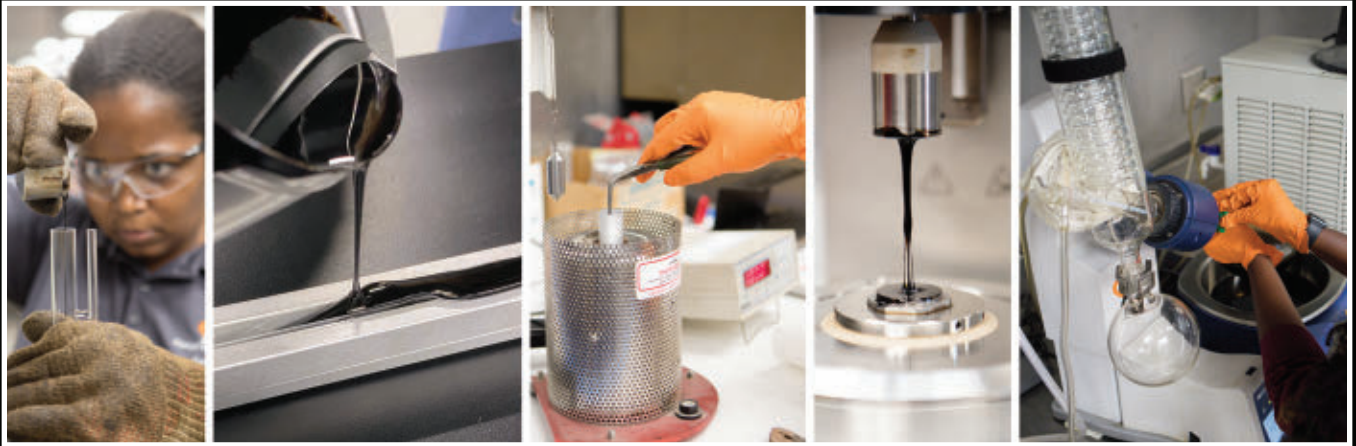
7:00 AM-9:00 AM	EXHIBITS OPEN AND BREAKFAST		
9:00 AM-9:50 AM	GENERAL SESSION: FUNDAMENTAL TERMS AND CONCEPTS		
	DESIGN AND PLANNING	MATERIALS, CONSTRUCTION, AND MAINTENANCE	NEW TECHNOLOGY
10:00 AM-10:50 AM	(Home Grown) Pavement Management	Essential QC/QA What to Do if You Can't Do It All	TBA
11:00 AM-11:50 AM	Base Stabilization	Contingency Planning	TBA
12:00 AM-1:20 PM	GENERAL SESSION/LUNCH: FREE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND TOOLS OF THE TRADE		
	DESIGN AND PLANNING	MATERIALS, CONSTRUCTION, AND MAINTENANCE	NEW TECHNOLOGY
1:30 PM-2:20 PM	HMA Mix Types	What If We Do Our Own Paving?	TBA
2:30 PM-3:20 PM	Hot Mix Asphalt Overlays	Patching Material—Your Maintenance MVP	TBA
3:20 PM-4:00 PM	Demonstrations and Exhibits Open		
	DESIGN AND PLANNING	MATERIALS, CONSTRUCTION, AND MAINTENANCE	NEW TECHNOLOGY
4:00 PM-4:50 PM	Maximize Your Budget and Preserve Your Roadway Network	Getting Sticky with It	TBA
4:50 PM-6:00 PM	Happy Hour and Exhibits Open		

WEDNESDAY MAY 17, 2023

7:00 AM-8:00 AM	EXHIBITS OPEN AND BREAKFAST		
8:00 AM-8:50 AM	GENERAL SESSION: ASPHALT PAVEMENT—AN EVER-EVOLVING TECHNOLOGY		
	DESIGN AND PLANNING	MATERIALS, CONSTRUCTION, AND MAINTENANCE	NEW TECHNOLOGY
9:00 AM-9:50 AM	Specifications	Recycled Material	TBA
10:00 AM-10:50 AM	Panel—Flexible Pavement Inspection 101	Paving and Compaction	TBA
10:50 AM-11:30 AM	Demonstrations and Exhibits Open		
11:30 AM-1:00 PM	TEXAS QUALITY ASPHALT PAVEMENT AWARDS LUNCHEON		
1:00 PM	Meeting Adjourn		



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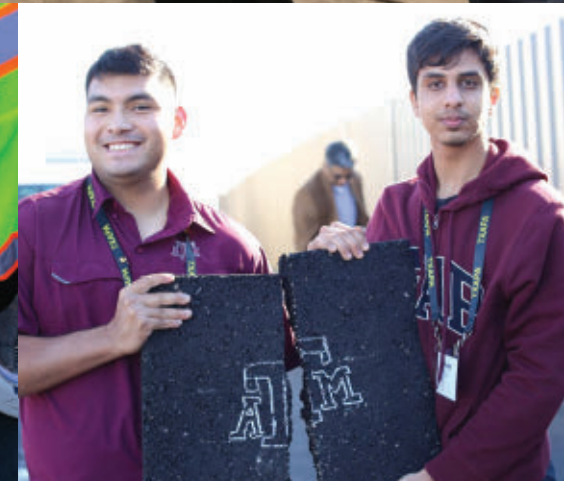
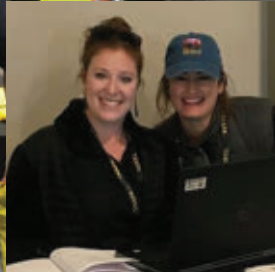
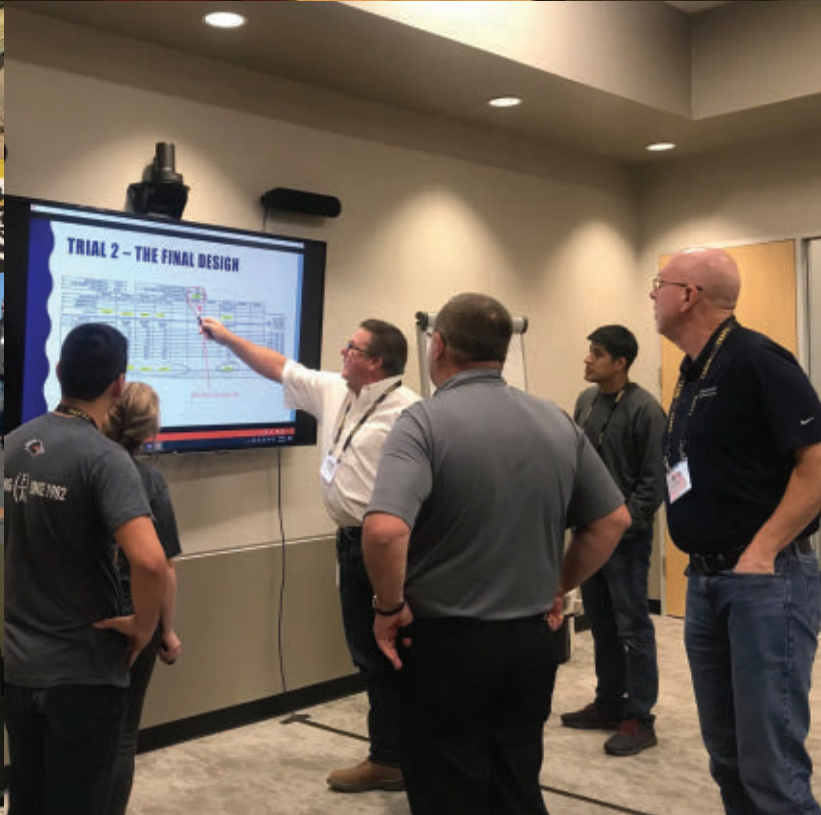
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STUDENTS GEAR UP FOR SIXTH ANNUAL ASPHALT ROAD-EO

The first Asphalt Road-EO to be held at the TXAPA Campus in Buda, TX since 2019 will take place April 14-15, 2023. After two consecutive virtual competitions, we are excited to welcome 37 students comprising 11 teams from six universities throughout Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana back to Buda for an in-person match. This year, competitors hail from Texas State University, the University of Oklahoma, the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Texas at El Paso, the University of Texas at San Antonio, and the University of Texas at Tyler. For those unfamiliar with the Road-EO, it is an engineering competition for university students, sophomore to senior level. The concept for the Road-EO is like the

famous ASCE Concrete Canoe Competition, with one big exception. While concrete is a practical choice for structures, and sometime for canoes, asphalt is a road-building material through and through. The Asphalt Road-EO gives students a taste of what it is like to evaluate the needs of a roadway project, take on a design challenge, and create a product close to the real thing. A prospective civil engineer couldn't beat the Rodeo regarding hands-on, practical experience! Each team produces a 2x2 slab of pavement from the same materials (provided by TXAPA member firms to ensure consistency).

Volunteers from industry and the Texas Department of Transportation subject the slabs to tests designed to emulate rutting

and cracking and measure skid resistance. The goal is to come as close as possible to a mix design that balances these properties, what is known as Balanced Mix Design, or BMD. In addition to the physical properties testing, teams go before a panel of judges to present their design rationale and defend it if necessary. Competitors may earn extra points for successfully incorporating waste materials into their designs and may lose points for expensive additives unless they can show a cost-benefit. The Road-EO can be intense, but it's worth it. Past participants say that the event changed their career trajectory. That is by design. One of the main objectives of the Quality Paving and New Technology committee, which oversees the planning of the Road-EO, is to expose participants to the people of the asphalt pavement industry and TxDOT. The industry tends to be a "best-kept secret." Once someone learns about the opportunities to do meaningful work with passionate, like-minded people, it's a game changer. When young people compete in the Road-EO, it opens their eyes to possibilities they didn't know existed.

Designer note, please use the following text as a design element to draw the eye—color just an example.

JUST THE FACTS

Teams consist of 3-4 undergraduate students and include a faculty mentor or advisor. Each student on the winning team receives a \$2,000 TXAPA Scholarship; second-place winners receive \$1,000 each. The event starts with a welcome dinner and mixer the night before the competition, which lasts from 8 am to 4 pm the following day. 📍



2018 Asphalt Road-EO competitors from Texas State show off their entry, a 2x2 slab of asphalt.

TXAPA REFRESHES MONTHLY WEBINAR, WELCOME TO 'EVERYDAY ASPHALT'



Jim Warren and TxDOT's Michael Dawidczik talk about all things aggregate.

In the spring of 2020, TXAPA launched a weekly broadcast called TXAPA Live. At the time, we were experiencing a worldwide pandemic. With most people sequestered at home, the broadcast was a way for the association to continue serving its members with industry news and information. Texas' governor had declared heavy-highway construction a necessary activity, so our members went to work daily, continuing to

build Texas' infrastructure. As the long days of the pandemic eventually led to a return to normalcy, TXAPA Live went from weekly to bi-weekly and finally became a monthly broadcast. The content, once quite varied, homed in on engineering, and steadily, host Jim Warren's audience began to grow. At the tail end of 2022, TXAPA decided it was time to rebrand TXAPA Live! It served its original purpose, and there was no denying the

platform had evolved. Thus, Everyday Asphalt was born.

The idea behind the new name and logo is that asphalt pavement is a practical product used worldwide by millions daily. Engineering can get quite heady, and asphalt pavement isn't usually the native tongue of the folks tasked with constructing it. They are often city employees, consulting engineers, and others who could use pro tips from those who understand asphalt best and can make challenging concepts digestible. If that doesn't describe Jim Warren and the industry and DOT folks who join him on Everyday Asphalt, what does? TXAPA officially describes Everyday Asphalt as a monthly online series inspired by Warren's Engineer Asphalt Essentials Course register now online at texasasphalt.org. The content is practical, with lively discussions about asphalt pavement materials, design, construction, and maintenance. Jim Warren and an all-star lineup of outstanding industry professionals dig deeper into the how-tos of building longer-lasting, more durable asphalt pavements. And while they're at it, they aim to have a little fun. PDHs are available for each session. Get in on the action every third Thursday at 3 PM CST.

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EVERYDAY ASPHALT 2023 SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

Register online at texasasphalt.org. Everyday Asphalt airs monthly on the third Thursday at 3 PM CST. Topics are subject to change. Visit our YouTube Channel to watch past episodes.



January Materials Aggregate Engineering Tests and Recycled Materials	February Pavement Design Designing for Heavy Duty Pavements and IRI	March Construction Warm Mix Asphalt, Compaction Aids, Sustainability
April Maintenance Talking with TxDOT's Maintenance Division	May Materials Proper Selection of PG Binders, Optimizing Recycled Binders, Black Rocks, and Mix Economics	June Pavement Design Longer Life Pavement Design with Perpetual Pavements and PAVExpress, Designing Smooth Pavements
July Construction How to Achieve Award-Winning Pavement Status, the 80/20 Rule, Fundamentals for Building Better Texture and Ride.	August Maintenance Prepping for Success and Improving Performance With RAP and Proper Alternatives.	September Materials What Will BMD Do for Me? Fundamentals of Asphalt Mix Performance Tests
October Pavement Design Pavement Design for Everyone PAVExpress for High, Medium, and Low Volume Traffic	November Construction Staying Hot with Cool Weather Paving, Fundamentals of Managing Thermal Heat Loss in Production and Paving	December Maintenance Basics of Protecting Asphalt Pavements During a Winter Freeze, Snow, and Extreme Temperatures

INSPECTORS MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR ASPHALT EDUCATION



INSPECTOR ASPHALT EDUCATION is recommended for TxDOT Inspectors, CE&I Firms, and City/County Inspectors. This program will focus on TxDOT specifications and projects. Participants will better understand the roles, responsibilities, and critical aspects of production and construction necessary to provide proper inspection services for asphalt pavement projects. Each class will be held throughout six sessions, meeting from 8-10:30 AM CST twice weekly for three weeks.

Format: Live, virtual classes; documentation and homework via LMS (learning management system)

Enrollment Fee: \$195

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- Oct 17, 19, 24, 26, 31, Nov 2 🌟



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HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP



It's no surprise to owners of Texas road construction companies that the pandemic's so-called Great Resignation hit the transportation and construction industries the hardest. Finding enough entry-level employees is a growing issue here and across the nation. These road-building worker shortages could impact all of us when it comes to safety, mobility, and the economy.

"We think part of the answer to the workforce problem is simply making sure the word gets out about the excellent career opportunities that this industry offers," said Charles Gurganus, a pavement engineer with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI).

Gurganus applied for and received a federal grant awarded through the Texas Department of Transportation which attempts to "increase the number of individuals trained and hired in highway construction trades and crafts."

The Highway Construction Workforce Partnership was developed after various national transportation associations alerted the Federal Highway Administration of the workforce problem, Gurganus explains.

He developed a 15-week in-class and in-field curriculum that even provides hands-on experience with the equipment used in building roads. Once completed, the students will have the certifications required to start work immediately.

"In applying for the grant, I discovered that about 15% of the population of the Brazos Valley—which consists of seven counties around Bryan-College Station—live in poverty. That alone told me that a career that pays well, has room for advancement, and provides plenty of self-worth could help a lot of people."

Finding those people is the task that has fallen on Rick Davenport, a TTI Project Specialist working with Gurganus.

"My assumption was that you simply talk to people in the community. I figured everyone knows someone that needs a career opportunity," he explained. "But I quickly found out that it's just not that easy. You must dig deeper."

Davenport spent a lot of time speaking with community leaders, including mayors, county judges, youth pastors, and even probation officers. Although there was a lot of positive feedback and excitement about the life-changing potential the project offers, results were not immediate.

"Although mayors and pastors may be helpful over time in directing us to those individuals who could benefit from the Highway Construction Workforce Partnership, speaking with leaders from the Brazos Valley Council of Governments (BVCOG) and with the counselors from the numerous high schools in the region have been the most helpful," Davenport said.

BVCOG is an association comprised of the governments in the region and has a workforce component in each county. The organization has knowledge about the workforce issues related to the individual communities.

High school counselors quickly pointed Davenport to the Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs within the district. CTE offers high school students the job skills required for various occupations.

"We are just beginning our work with the teachers and principals of these CTE programs, but we have already planned a "meet and greet" class between interested high school seniors and employees from local paving and construction companies," Davenport says. "Having young workers who can talk to students about their experience

in the industry seems to be the best way to reach these seniors."

A total of three 15-week classes are being planned as part of the program. The first will take place this spring, with two more occurring over the next year.

"A big thank-you goes out to the Texas Asphalt Paving Association and to Blinn College. We've partnered with them both," Gurganus says. "Like us, they are excited and hopeful that we are able to find and connect with these kids and transform their lives through this career opportunity." ❖

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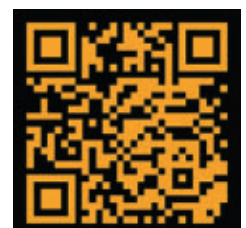
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AIR PERMITTING AFTER THE PM_{2.5} NAAQS RECONSIDERATION

BY ERIC SHELANDER, AIR TEAM LEADER, WESTWARD ENVIRONMENTAL INC.

Permitting air emissions for hot mix asphalt plants in Texas hasn't changed much in the last 20 years, but a recent announcement from EPA is likely to change that. Every 5 years, the EPA is required to review the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) to ensure they are still protective of public health and the environment, based on new data and studies. The EPA's initial evaluation concluded that they should retain the current Particulate Matter (PM) NAAQS in December 2020, but in June 2021, EPA announced it was reconsidering the fine particle (PM_{2.5}) NAAQS. On January 6, 2023, EPA announced its proposal to revise the current primary (health-based) annual PM_{2.5} standard down from its current level of 12.0 µg/m³ to 9.0-10.0 µg/m³.

EPA will take public comments on the proposed change for 60 days after it is published in the *Federal Register*. The final decision and exact change to the PM_{2.5} NAAQS won't be announced until late 2023. Once a final decision is made by the EPA on the PM_{2.5} NAAQS, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) will be required to implement the revised PM_{2.5} NAAQS on all air permits after its effective date. While new permits that require modeling will see the effect immediately, standard permits will need to be amended which requires the TCEQ to conduct stakeholder meetings to solicit comments on proposed changes and to post public notices in newspapers as well as in the *Texas Register*.

The majority of hot mix asphalt plants in Texas utilize a standard permit to authorize their air emissions. The Standard Permit for Hot Mix Asphalt Plants hasn't changed since it was issued in 2003. This change in the annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS will likely cause the TCEQ to amend the standard permit to show it is still protective of public health and the environment. Amending the Standard Permit for Hot Mix Asphalt Plants could lead to stricter permit requirements such as, but not limited to, smaller production limits, increased

distance from the property line, and dryer baghouse specifications based on the results from TCEQ's air dispersion modeling.

If the standard permit is amended, all new and modified standard permits must comply with the new requirements. Existing standard permit hot mix plants wouldn't be required to meet the new requirements until the later of either their standard permit renewal date or 24 months after the effective date, as based on 30 Texas Administrative Code §116.605(d) (1). Standard permits with renewal dates within 24 months of the amendment may be renewed without having to comply with the new requirements but will eventually be required to demonstrate compliance no later than 24 months after the effective date of the amendment. When being renewed, if a hot mix plant can't or doesn't want to meet the new amended requirements, the permittee would be forced to apply for a New Source Review (NSR) permit.

NSR permits are custom permits that require air dispersion modeling to show that the plant's emissions meet the NAAQS. Modeling will be more difficult for the annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS due to the high background concentrations found in many populated areas of Texas. The background concentration can

be as high as 8-10 µg/m³ leaving little to no room for the NSR permit's modeled emissions. Compared to NSRs under the current PM_{2.5} NAAQS, future NSR permits could require a combination of lower annual production, increased distance from property lines, better dryer baghouse efficiencies, or increased dryer stack height. Hot mix plants currently authorized by an NSR permit would only have to show compliance with the new PM_{2.5} NAAQS if new modeling is triggered by an amendment or alteration.

The most likely change from the EPA is for the annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS to be reduced to 9.0-10.0 µg/m³, but the EPA is asking for comments on further reductions of the annual PM_{2.5} to 8.0 µg/m³ and the 24-hour standard to be reduced from 35 µg/m³ to as low as 25 µg/m³. Even if the more conservative PM_{2.5} standards are not put in place now, it shows the range of changes the EPA is likely to take in the future. The EPA's final decision later this year will likely have a big impact on future air permits in Texas, making it more difficult to find sites for plants and take longer to permit. It will be important for members of TxAPA and Westward to monitor and provide feedback on any proposed changes by the TCEQ, so that we can prepare for the future. ☺



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2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For TXAPA event registration options, go to texasasphalt.org

**TXAPA Exhibiting at Event*

MARCH 20-22, 2023

TxDOT Construction, Materials, and Alternative Delivery Conference*

MARCH 27-30, 2023

2023 AASHTO resource Technical Exchange Conference*

APRIL 12-14, 2023

TxDOT Aviation Conference*

APRIL 14-15, 2023

Asphalt Road-eo Student Engineering Competition, TXAPA Campus in Buda, TX

MAY 1-4, 2023

TxDOT Materials Academy, TXAPA Campus in Buda, TX

MAY 15-17, 2023

MAPS 2023, BASE at Extraco Events Center, Waco, TX

JUNE 27-29, 2023

Texas American Public Works Association (TX-APWA) Annual Conference*

JULY 9-12, 2023

NAPA Midyear Meeting, Kansas City, MO

SEPTEMBER 18-21, 2023

48TH Annual Meeting of the Texas Asphalt Pavement Association, La Cantera Resort & Spa, San Antonio, TX

SEPTEMBER 20-22, 2023

2023 Texas Civil Engineering Conference (CECON)*

OCTOBER 4-6, 2023

TML Annual Conference and Exhibition*

JANUARY 16-17, 2024

TXAPA Membership Meeting, Horseshoe Bay Resort, Marble Falls, TX

TxDOT LETTING SCHEDULE

April 4 & 5, 2023	Sep. 6 - 7, 2023
May 4 & 5, 2023	Oct. 5 - 6, 2023
June 1 & 2, 2023	Nov. 1 - 2, 2023
July 6 & 7, 2023	Dec. 5 - 6, 2023
Aug. 2 & 3, 2023	

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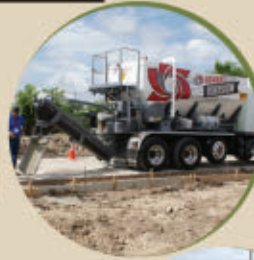
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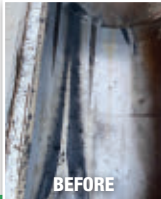
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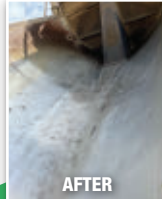
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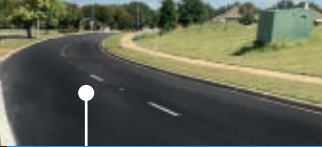
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