# TxDOT-TXAPA Quality Asphalt Pavement Awards Program

A Joint Program from the Texas Department of Transportation and Texas Asphalt Pavement Association

## Introduction

The Quality Asphalt Pavement Awards Program is a joint effort of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Texas Asphalt Pavement Association (TXAPA) to encourage quality-built Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) pavements and excellence in production, placement, and quality assurance through recognition of TxDOT, the contractors, and most importantly, the individuals responsible for Texas's highest-quality HMA projects.

## Program Eligibility

- The Quality Asphalt Pavement Awards are open to all TxDOT Districts and TXAPA members.
- A TxDOT District or TXAPA Member responsible for the project may nominate more than one HMA project for award consideration.
- A TxDOT District and TXAPA members are also eligible to win more than one award.
- Award winners must be members of the TXAPA.
- Each nomination form must be signed by the TxDOT District Engineer or Director and the TXAPA Member to be considered an official nomination.

## Project Eligibility

**Dense-Graded Mixes Division and Specialty Mixes Division**

- The HMA pavement must be completed in the prior calendar year.
- TxDOT project, including design-build, constructed under any TxDOT HMA specification.
- A project nominated in the Dense-Graded Mixes and Specialty Mixes Divisions will not be eligible for nomination in the Complexity Paving Division.
- For a project with multiple locations, select one location that best represents the project. The chosen location's HMA pavement section will determine the award category.
- The minimum TONS USED quantity for the surface course must be at least 5,000 tons for THICKNESS of 1.25-inch or greater and must be at least 2,500 Tons for THICKNESS of less than 1.25-inch. For a project with multiple locations, the chosen location's HMA pavement section will be used to determine the minimum TONS USED.
- For a project with multiple types of final roadway driving surfaces, select the final roadway driving surface that best represents the project. The HMA pavement section of the final roadway driving surface chosen will determine the award category.

**Complexity Paving Division**

- HMA pavement constructed with a higher degree of difficulty due to plan requirements and/or field conditions. A project must meet at least three of the complexity paving category criteria as shown in the nomination form.
- The HMA pavement must be completed in the prior calendar year.
- TxDOT project , including design-build, constructed under any TxDOT HMA specification.
- A project nominated in the Complexity Paving Division will not be eligible for nomination in the Dense-Graded Mixes Division or the Specialty Mixes Division.
- For a project with multiple locations, select one location that best represents the project. The chosen location's HMA pavement section will determine the award category.
- The minimum TONS USED quantity for the surface course must be at least 5,000 tons for THICKNESS of 1.25-inch or greater and must be at least 2,500 Tons for THICKNESS of less than 1.25-inch. For a project with multiple locations, the chosen location's HMA pavement section will be used to determine the minimum TONS USED.
- For a project with multiple types of final roadway driving surfaces, select the final roadway driving surface that best represents the project. The HMA pavement section of the final roadway driving surface chosen will determine the award category.
- We encourage all Districts to review their HMA pavements and nominate at least one project completed in the calendar year 2026.


**P.O. Box 1468**
**Buda, Texas 78610**
**Phone** (512) 312-5043
**Email** bkohl@texasasphalt.org
**texasasphalt.org**

## Award Categories

| **DENSE-GRADED MIXES DIVISION** | |
|---|---|
| Category | HMA Requirements |
| FULL-DEPTH | Final roadway driving surface is constructed under TxDOT Standard Specification Item 341, 344 or 346.<br>Total HMA thickness of project is four (4) inches or greater. |
| OVERLAY | Final roadway driving surface is constructed under TxDOT Standard Specification Item 341, 344 or 346.<br>Total HMA thickness of project is less than four (4) inches. |
| **SPECIALTY MIXES DIVISION** | |
| Category | HMA Requirements |
| FULL-DEPTH | Final roadway driving surface is constructed under TxDOT Standard Specification Item 342, 347 or 348.<br>Total HMA thickness of project is three (3) inches or greater. |
| OVERLAY | Final roadway driving surface is constructed under TxDOT Standard Specification Item 342, 347 or 348.<br>Total HMA thickness of project is less than three (3) inches. |
| **COMPLEXITY PAVING DIVISION** | |
| Category | HMA Requirements |
| DENSE-GRADED MIXES | Final roadway driving surface is constructed TxDOT Standard Specification Item 341, 344 or 346. |
| SPECIALTY MIXES | Final roadway driving surface is constructed TxDOT Standard Specification Item 342, 347 or 348. |

** TxDOT-TXAPA Quality Asphalt Pavement Awards Committee is responsible for placing the nominations within the individual categories of large, medium and small.*

** For projects with a final roadway driving surface constructed under a TxDOT special specification, the appropriate category will be based on the type of surface mix.*


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## Rating and Selection Process

Quality Asphalt Pavement Award-nominated projects are rated based upon what the riding public sees and feels: surface appearance and the smoothness of the ride. Each evaluation consists of four rating sections. A rating section is a portion of the pavement in one direction of travel of approximately ½ the overall length of the project. Score each section for surface appearance and the smoothness of the ride based on a rating scale of 10–40. Specifically:

- 10–20: Good
- 21–30: Very Good
- 31–40: Exceptional

To determine the overall rating of a project, the four appearance scores and the four ride scores are added for a maximum project score of 320. If the project is limited to one direction of travel, scores are entered for only two rating sections. The total score of the two sections is doubled to determine the overall project rating.

A team of evaluators visits each nominated project and rates the project based on the rating guide. The evaluation team consists of one TxDOT and one TXAPA industry representative. The TxDOT representative is not eligible to evaluate projects in their home district. The TXAPA member is not eligible to evaluate projects in which they were responsible for the production or placement of the HMA.

When the evaluation team has completed their project review, they forward their results to the TxDOT-TXAPA Quality Asphalt Pavement Awards Committee. The committee determines two finalists in each category and selects a final evaluation team to evaluate those projects. Upon the completion of all evaluations the committee makes the final determination of award winners.

## Award Presentations

TXAPA presents Quality Asphalt Pavement Awards at the Annual Meeting, held in September. Awards winners are notified in advance and invited to attend an awards luncheon and presentation of awards. Award winners also receive special recognition in their home districts.

TXAPA submits all award-winning projects to NAPA (National Asphalt Pavement Association) for possible national awards recognition. TXAPA publicizes it's award winners in Texas Asphalt Magazine and other association and industry publications.

## Nominee Submission

Send completed nomination forms to Becky Kohl:

Texas Asphalt Pavement Association
Email: bkohl@texasasphalt.org
Phone: (512) 312-5043

## Rating Guide

| | SURFACE APPEARANCE | SMOOTHNESS OF RIDE |
|---|---|---|
| **31- 40 Points** (Exceptional) | • Uniform and consistent throughout in texture<br>• Clean, tight longitudinal joints<br>• Few, if any, fat spots<br>• Few or no discernible roller marks | • Consistently smooth ride throughout<br>• Transitions smooth at pavement ends or bridges<br>• No significant bump at transverse joints<br>• No discernible surface irregularities affecting the ride: rutting, roller marks, etc. |
| **21-30 Points** (Very Good) | • Long sections of uniform surface appearance<br>• Isolated areas of minor segregation or surface imperfections<br>• Isolated and minor imperfections in longitudinal joints: separation, raveling, overlapping, etc. | • Long sections of consistently smooth ride<br>• Isolated areas of minor chatter or uneven surface<br>• Minor roughness in transition areas<br>• Discernible bump at transverse joints |
| **10-20 Points** (Good) | • Random or widely scattered areas of surface imperfections<br>• Noticeable end-load segregation<br>• Discernible roller marks or auger shadows prevalent<br>• Noticeable problems with longitudinal joints prevalent | • Widespread surface irregularities: dips, bumps, chatter, etc.<br>• Some roughness exists in transition areas<br>• Minor bump at transverse joints |


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## DENSE-GRADED MIXES AND SPECIALTY MIXES DIVISION

### PROJECT INFORMATION

| DISTRICT | PROJECT CSJ | HIGHWAY/COUNTY | HMA COMPLETION DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

| PROJECT LIMITS | AREA ENGINEER NAME/PHONE/EMAIL |
|---|---|
| | |

| BEGIN/END GPS COORDINATES | HMA PRODUCER | DESIGN/INSPECTION CONSULTANT |
|---|---|---|
| | | |

| PRIME CONTRACTOR NAME/PHONE | HMA PLACEMENT CONTRACTOR |
|---|---|
| | |

### PAVEMENT SECTION

| HMA PAVEMENT LAYER | *TXDOT SPECIFICATION # | *TYPE OF HMA | THICKNESS | TONS USED |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | **CONTINUOUS LAYERS (PLACED IN TRAVEL LANES OR FULL-WIDTH OF ROADWAY) | | |
| SURFACE | | | | |
| ***INTERMEDIATE | | | | |
| ***BASE | | | | |
| LEVEL UP | | | | |
| PAVEMENT REPAIR | | | | |
| MILL AND INLAY | | | | |
| | | **** NON-CONTINUOUS LAYERS | | |
| SPOT LEVEL UP | | | N/A | |
| | | LAYERS PLACED ON SHOULDER AND/OR IN PAVEMENT WIDENING | | |
| SHOULDER ONLY | | | | |
| SHOULDER AND WIDENING | | | | |
| WIDENING ONLY | | | | |
| WIDENING ONLY | | | | |
| | | PROJECT TONS PLACED (CONTINUOUS, NON-CONTINUOUS, SHOULDER AND WIDENING) | | TOTAL TONS |
| | | | | |

** HMA item and type required by plans to construct pavement repair.*
*** HMA layer placed the substantial length of the project.*
**** See TxDOT's HMA specification for definition.*
***** Do not include pavement repair or mill and inlay when constructed as non-continuous.*

### REQUIRED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Award winners are required to submit QC/QA reports for all lots within two weeks of being notified of award win.
- Include a project location map or enough information to direct evaluators to the project.
- Include the project IRI Data with your submission.

### TXAPA CONTRACTOR VERIFICATION BY TXAPA MEMBER

By my signature below, I verify that the HMA pavement quality is exemplary and I commit to help coordinate recognition for project personnel should the project win an award.

☐ **I verify that a District Designee, equipped with the rating guide (enclosed), performed a drive-through of each project considered for nomination. This extra step should assist the District in the determining of worthy projects.**

TXAPA MEMBER SIGNATURE DATE

TxDOT DISTRICT ENGINEER OR DISTRICT DIRECTOR SIGNATURE DATE



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## COMPLEXITY PAVING DIVISION

### PROJECT INFORMATION

| DISTRICT | PROJECT CSJ | HIGHWAY/COUNTY | HMA COMPLETION DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

| PROJECT LIMITS | AREA ENGINEER NAME/PHONE/EMAIL |
|---|---|
| | |

| PRIME CONTRACTOR NAME/PHONE | HMA PRODUCER | HMA PLACEMENT CONTRACTOR |
|---|---|---|
| | | |

| DESIGN CONSULTANT | INSPECTION CONSULTANT |
|---|---|
| | |

### PAVEMENT SECTION

| HMA PAVEMENT LAYER | *TXDOT SPECIFICATION # | *TYPE OF HMA | THICKNESS | TONS USED |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | **CONTINUOUS LAYERS (PLACED IN TRAVEL LANES OR FULL-WIDTH OF ROADWAY) | | |
| SURFACE | | | | |
| ***INTERMEDIATE | | | | |
| ***BASE | | | | |
| LEVEL UP | | | | |
| PAVEMENT REPAIR | | | | |
| MILL AND INLAY | | | | |
| | | **** NON-CONTINUOUS LAYERS | | |
| SPOT LEVEL UP | | | N/A | |
| | | LAYERS PLACED ON SHOULDER AND/OR IN PAVEMENT WIDENING | | |
| SHOULDER ONLY | | | | |
| SHOULDER AND WIDENING | | | | |
| WIDENING ONLY | | | | |
| WIDENING ONLY | | | | |
| | | PROJECT TONS PLACED (CONTINUOUS, NON-CONTINUOUS, SHOULDER AND WIDENING) | | TOTAL TONS |
| | | | | |

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### COMPLEXITY PAVING CATEGORY CRITERIA

| PLAN REQUIREMENTS | FIELD CONDITIONS |
|---|---|
| • Nighttime Work<br>• Milled areas paved the same day<br>• Limited daily work hours<br>• High volume intersecting roadways must remain open<br>• Other – Describe below | • ADT > 50,000<br>• Paving length repeatedly disrupted<br>» Several concrete/brick paver transverse crosswalks<br>» Numerous water valves/sanitary sewer manholes<br>» Several bridges on a short length project<br>» Bulb outs into roadway: parking, landscaping, ADA<br>• Existing curb and gutter<br>• Raised islands for turn lanes<br>• Curb-only sections with inlets (gutter in front of inlets only)<br>• High density of private/public intersections<br>• Unforeseen pavement stability<br>• Other – describe below |

List a minimum of three plan requirements and/or field conditions for this nomination:

1.

2.

3.

4.



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## COMPLEXITY PAVING DIVISION

### PROJECT INFORMATION

| DISTRICT | PROJECT CSJ | HIGHWAY/COUNTY |
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I verify that the HMA pavement quality is exemplary and commit to help coordinate recognition for project personnel should the project win an award.

| TXAPA MEMBER SIGNATURE | DATE | TxDOT DISTRICT ENGINEER OR DISTRICT DIRECTOR SIGNATURE | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |



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