



ASPHALT INSTITUTE

ASPHALT INSTITUTE - VIRGINIA OFFICE UPDATE

Third Quarter 2020

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Greetings. I hope each of you and your families are doing well and staying safe. Asphalt Engineer's Regional Engineers travel is still somewhat limited but I got some travel in recently (as described below). We are staying busy and being productive while mostly working from home. Here are a few things that have been going on with AI and me specifically in the third quarter (July, August, September) 2020.

SEAUPG Annual Meeting

The 2020 SEAUPG Annual Meeting is going to be in Knoxville TN November 17-19. This will be a hybrid meeting with both in-person and virtual participation. It looks like there will be few if any agency folks participating due to travel restrictions resulting from the pandemic. Danny Gierhart and I will attend and we will look forward to seeing you there or connecting with you virtually. You can register for either the virtual or in-person meeting and see the program agenda [here](#).

The Binder Task Group (BTG) meeting is an important part of AI's role in the SEAUPG meeting. Each year, this meeting is where we can focus on topics that are important for the liquid asphalt industry and to the fourteen SE state DOT representatives. This year the BTG will be held virtually on November 5 2020. I will let you know the details of how to participate in the virtual BTG when they have been finalized.

NCHRP Project 09-63

Asphalt Institute has been awarded a research project titled "A Calibrated and Validated National Performance-Related Specification for Emulsified Asphalt Binder". The objective of this research is to develop a national performance-related material specification for emulsified asphalt binder for use with chip seals and microsurfacing/slurry seals that is similar in concept and format to AASHTO Standard Specifications M 320, Performance-Graded Asphalt Binder, and M 332, Performance-Graded Asphalt Binder Using Multiple Stress Creep Recovery (MSCR) Test.

As part of this project REs are visiting surface treatment projects around the country, we are visiting emulsified asphalt surface treatment (chip seal, slurry seal and microsurfacing) projects to establish test sections for further studies which includes conducting a distress survey of the pavement prior to the application, as well as determining application rates during the treatment application and collecting aggregate and emulsion samples. I recently participated in

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a chip seal and microsurfacing project in Virginia and a slurry seal project in Maryland for this project.

FHWA Pavement Resiliency Peer Exchange Meeting

I recently represented AI in a virtual FHWA Pavement Resiliency Peer Exchange Meeting. What is pavement resilience? FHWA defines it this way: "...the ability to anticipate, prepare for and adapt to changing conditions and to withstand, respond to and recover rapidly from disruptions". The need for resilient pavements is largely based on the desire to reduce the costs and disruption caused by extreme weather events and natural disasters. According to the GAO, federal appropriations for disaster relief between 2007 and 2013 increased 46 percent relative to the previous six years....total cost of weather disasters \$312 billion in 2017.

My takeaway from this meeting: While pavement resiliency may seem like just another industry buzzword, AI members should understand that this topic seems to be a growing focus of both FHWA and local, state and federal lawmakers. Attendees of this meeting were told that FHWA plans to publish guidance of best practices that state agencies should consider and that it is likely that there will be legislative actions related to infrastructure (including pavements) resilience in the future. In the event that agencies start building pavement resilience into their programs, specific impacts on the liquid asphalt industry are yet to be determined.

What Else?

I completed an article that has been published in the fall edition of ASPHALT magazine titled "Georgia addresses pavement performance problems linked to high RAP usage". There are a number of other good articles from Regional Engineers in this edition of the magazine. The digital version of the magazine is attached.

Thank you for being a member of Asphalt Institute. As always, please let me know if I can assist you in any way.

Bob Horan