



Asphalt Institute Oklahoma Office Report

2nd Quarter 2021

Danny Gierhart, P.E.

Hello, everyone. I hope you are all finding plenty of work as the prime paving season of 2021 rolls on. Folks seem to be open to meeting in person more and more. This past quarter, I've spoken at in-person meetings in Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, and Alabama.

Here's a few items of interest and things I was involved with this past quarter:

- As I mentioned last report, our Pavement Inspector Certification (PIC) online training is taking off. We have seen several cities sign their inspectors up for PIC. My hope is that we can get hundreds of cities across the globe to adopt PIC as their official inspector orientation and training program. My colleague Bob Humer has been effective in this regard out west, and I am currently planning to visit several city engineers across the southeast.
- Arkansas DOT (ARDOT) has had some recent changes. Rex Vines has been appointed as ARDOT's Deputy Director and Chief Engineer. His tenure began on April 10. Rex is easy to communicate with, and I anticipate he will serve well in his new position. Steve Frisbee is now the Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations, and also began serving in this position on April 10.
- AI was awarded the contract to update the 2000 Hot-Mix Asphalt Paving Handbook. AI's engineering team will split into writing and reviewing teams for the rewrite of this much-used manual. The update will place a greater emphasis on airfield paving practices than previous versions. It will also include updated photos and discussions of the latest technologies, equipment, methods, and standards. It's anticipated that this effort will take about 18 months to deliver the final manuscript.
- The SEAUPG board has decided to return to Knoxville, TN on November 16-18 for an in-person annual meeting. There will be an online component for those unable to attend in person. Bob Horan and I serve as AI representatives on the SEAUPG Board. The Board is putting the finishing touches on the 2021 Annual Meeting Agenda, and I think you'll find it engaging if you can make it. Our own Mike Anderson will be presenting on a couple of interesting topics. One topic will be the NCHRP 20-44(19) work to facilitate actions needed to assure the timely adoption by the AASHTO Committee on Materials and Pavements (COMP) of the proposed AASHTO standards produced in several NCHRP projects. Mike will also discuss the basics of recycling agents, more commonly referred to as "rejuvenators." Bob Horan and I will each moderate a session of the meeting and have been working with John Christensen on the agenda for SEAUPG's Asphalt Binder Task Group meeting to be held on Tuesday morning of that week.

Thank you,

Danny