

Wisconsin DOT Earns Award From Asphalt Industry

SE Region recognized for innovative measures to save costs in project delivery

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Contact: Deb Schwerman (608) 698-4510

Madison – The Wisconsin Asphalt Pavement Association (WAPA) awarded its 2024 State Asphalt Award to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Southeast Region during the association’s 65th Annual Conference in Wisconsin Dells.

When it was originally let in February of 2023, WisDOT’s plan to reconstruct Interstate 41 from 84th to 35th Streets received bids that were well beyond the agency’s budget.

The agency went back to the drawing board to reevaluate its proposal, this time working closely with the asphalt industry to learn the reasons for the expenses and to identify potential alternatives that could save money.

WisDOT let the same project again in July 2023, this time including provisions that would reduce expenses such as extended full lane closures, longer weekend closures and increased off-peak weekday hours, and using echelon paving methods, among other solutions.

The adjusted schedule led to considerable cost savings, a higher-quality and more durable pavement, and a safer work environment.

“By working with the asphalt industry, WisDOT not only saved money for Wisconsin’s taxpayers, but it increased safety for everyone on the road,” said Deb Schwerman, WAPA Executive Director. “The value of providing workers with a safe environment, where they can focus on the task at hand without the constant fear of inattentive or inebriated drivers entering the work zone, cannot be overstated.”

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“Asphalt. Wisconsin rides on us.” Established in 1948, WAPA is a statewide, non-profit organization representing the interests of the asphalt industry on a wide range of issues related to pavement design, construction, maintenance, specifications, costs, marketing, and policy at the local, state, and federal levels. WAPA’s mission is to promote quality asphalt pavements that are safe, sustainable, durable, and cost-effective.

For more information, please visit www.wispave.org or contact Deb at deb@wispave.org

