

CALIFORNIA ASPHALT INSIDER

The latest news and views from the California Asphalt Pavement Association

Vol. 11, Issue 7 <> Feb. 12, 2018



www.calapa.net

IN THIS ISSUE

[As San Diego hosts national asphalt conference, attention turns to federal government on infrastructure funding](#)

[CalAPA-sponsored IRF fellow for 2018 is Yanlong Liang, a graduate student researcher from UC Davis](#)

[Tech Term of the Week: Crack](#)

[Quote of the Week: Abraham Lincoln](#)

CALENDAR

(Always on-line [HERE](#))

*

'Quality HMA Paving'
training class

Tuesday, Feb. 13, 8 a.m. to
noon

National University, Rancho
Cordova Campus, 10901 Gold
Center Drive, Sacramento
Contact: Ritha Nhorn (916)
791-5044

Register [HERE](#).

*

'Quality HMA Paving'
training class

Tuesday, Feb. 20, 8 a.m. to
noon

City of San Leandro, 999 E.
14th Street, South Offices
Building Conference Room,
San Leandro

Greetings!

This weekly bulletin contains the latest news and information of interest to the asphalt pavement industry in California. Please feel free to distribute this newsletter to others who may be interested in asphalt pavements.

→ As San Diego hosts national asphalt conference, attention turns to federal government on infrastructure funding

Partisan budget battles in Washington that resulted in two brief government shut-downs in 2018 gave way to an unlikely compromise late last week that should provide a measure of stability to federal transportation funding over the next two years.

The attention now turns to the release, expected today, of the Trump administration's promised plan to improve the nation's infrastructure. Some details of the plan that have surfaced in recent weeks indicate it will be far more than the \$1 trillion initially touted by the president, but also may come up short in a mechanism to pay for it.

The official White House website paints a dire picture of the state of the nation's infrastructure, stating, "Nothing more visibly reveals the failure of Washington than the crumbling roads, bridges, and infrastructure that dot America's landscape. Instead of putting people to work, fragmented and unpredictable federal approval processes drag on for years and sometimes decades. It's time to lighten the federal touch, provide clear rules of the road for new technologies, and empower communities to modernize this archaic system."

Indeed, presidential candidate Donald Trump spoke often on the campaign trail of the nation's deteriorating infrastructure, pledged on Election Night in 2016 and again during his inauguration in January 2017 that it would be one of the top priorities of his new administration. Most of the talk has been of a plan topping \$1 trillion, but details have been in short supply and paying for it remains the major sticking point.



So far in 2018 it has been budget battles, including raising the nation's debt ceiling, that kept lawmakers shouting at each other on cable TV news shows rather than legislating. That changed late last week with a dramatic bipartisan budget compromise was passed by the House and Senate and signed by President Trump Friday morning. The 650-page bill boosts spending for the military and a host of domestic programs, including disaster relief for California. It keeps funding the government until March 23 to give House and Senate appropriators time to hammer out an omnibus \$1.3 trillion spending bill that will fund the federal government until Sept. 30.

Contact: Ritha Nhorn (916)
791-5044
Register [HERE](#).

*

'Quality HMA Paving'
training class (& optional
lab tour)
Thursday, Feb. 22, 8 a.m. to
noon

University of Nevada, Reno,
1664 N. Virginia St., Harry
Reid Engineering Laboratory
Building, Room 109-110, Reno,
Nevada

Contact: Ritha Nhorn (916)
791-5044
Register [HERE](#).

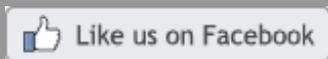
*

SIGN UP NOW!
CalAPA Legislative 'Fly-In'
to the State Capitol in
Sacramento
March 13-14
Register [HERE](#).
Contact: Russell Snyder (916)
791-5044

*

SAVE THE DATES!
Spring Asphalt Pavement
Conference & Equipment
Expo
April 25 & 26, 2018
Doubletree Hotel, 222 N.
Vineyard Ave., Ontario.
For sponsorship and exhibitor
information, contact Sophie
You at (916) 791-5044
Details soon!

SOCIALIZE



Jay Hansen, National Asphalt Pavement Association executive vice president, said the budget compromise "came out of the blue -- no one expected it." Nevertheless, he said it was good news for the asphalt pavement industry.

"The budget the Congress passed last week includes \$20 billion for infrastructure -- that's \$10 billion per year, for 2018 and 2019," he told *Asphalt Insider*. "The next step is for the Appropriations Committees to take that \$10 billion number for this construction season and put it in the 2018 appropriations bill. A good portion of that should be allocated to our markets."

Hansen is in San Diego this week for NAPA's annual meeting, where federal funding is expected to be a hot topic of discussion. The infusion of new dollars in last week's budget deal could impact what projects are put out to bid this construction season, Hansen said. "I expect, for 2018, a lot more contracts will be signed than was originally envisioned prior to this agreement."

But will it tee up a grand bargain on transportation? That remains to be seen.

"I would consider this a down-payment on the Trump infrastructure plan," Hansen said. "The Trump infrastructure plan will come out on Monday (today), and at that point Congress will review that plan, there will be hearings, and it is up to Congress to take it up or not, and whether they have the time to do that in this congressional cycle, we're not sure."

That means transportation advocates will be combing through the Trump administration blueprint when it is released later today. If, as some have suggested, it changes the federal-state ratios for receiving federal matching funds, it may give states such as California -- which last year passed its own transportation funding bill known as SB1 -- an advantage in capturing federal dollars.

"The states that help themselves are more likely to get the projects," Hansen said. "What you have done in California (with SB1) is great, if you can hold on to it. You are ready for what ever comes."

Transportation advocates continue to press members of Congress to take action with a steady drip-drip-drip of phone calls, letters, e-mail messages and meetings. One such on-line tool available [HERE](#) allows you to send a message to your elected representative on the issue. While members of Congress don't read every letter or e-mail that is sent to them, they do receive regular summaries of how many people contacted their offices and the subject-matter, which helps them understand what is on the minds of voters back home.

Years of grass-roots advocacy like this culminated last year with the passage in the state Legislature in Sacramento



***NAPA's Jay Hansen
(pictured at the 2013
CalAPA Spring Conference)
says last week's
unexpected federal budget
compromise may
ultimately be good news
for the asphalt pavement
industry.***

CHOOSE ASPHALT

Asphalt is used on about 93 percent of paved roads in California and across the U.S. Why? Because it's smooth, quiet, safe, durable and 100 percent recyclable. Visit the [Asphalt Pavement Alliance](#) website learn more about why asphalt is the right choice now more than ever.



GET TECHNICAL

Are you an engineer, designer or technical professional who makes decisions on pavement type selection? The DriveAsphalt website has technical reports and other resources may be just what you're looking for. Click [HERE](#) for more information.



CalAPA

California Asphalt Pavement Association (CalAPA)

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 981300
West Sacramento, CA 95798

Main office:
1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 211
West Sacramento, CA 95691

(916) 791-5044 (phone)

BACK ISSUES

Did you miss an issue of the

of SB1, the \$50 billion Road Repair & Accountability Act, and voters in 22 of California's 58 counties have also endorsed investing in transportation. The third-leg of the wobbling funding stool resides in Washington, and without a long-term plan to address chronic shortages in the Highway Trust Fund the infrastructure investment and protection goals will remain unfulfilled.

CalAPA will continue to make the case for responsible investments in our transportation infrastructure through our annual state Capitol "Fly-in" to Sacramento March 13-14 (details [HERE](#)), and also by participating with the National Asphalt Pavement Association at the "Transportation Construction Coalition Fly-in" to Washington, D.C. on May 15 & 16. For more information on what the asphalt industry is doing on the national level, click [HERE](#) to visit NAPA's legislative advocacy page. CalAPA's Legislative Action page is [HERE](#).



From left, Barry and Anna Takallou with CRM chat with Vulcan's Mike Murray at this week's NAPA Annual Meeting in San Diego.

→ CalAPA-sponsored IRF fellow for 2018 is Yanlong Liang, a graduate student researcher from UC Davis

This year's CalAPA-sponsored participant in the International Road Federation Fellowship program is Yanlong Liang, a graduate student of engineering at the University of California, Davis.

As part of the "Road Scholar" fellowship, Liang and other IRF fellows traveled to Washington, D.C., for events last month coinciding with a Transportation Research Board conference, and had the opportunity to meet with numerous leaders of industry, agencies and academia.

Liang holds a bachelor's degree in Transportation Engineering, and a master's degree in Highway & Railway Engineering from China's Southeast University, and is currently working on his Ph.D at UC Davis.

He has conducted research at the Pavement Material National Research Center in China on permeable asphalt pavement performance, investigating Warm Mix Asphalt (WMA) production and construction, and modeling fatigue behavior of asphalt pavements.

As a graduate student researcher at the University of California Pavement Research Center, Liang has participated in studies of the performance of Rubberized Hot Mix Asphalt, rubber asphalt binder specifications, studying aging properties of



Jeff Reed, left, and Yanlong Liang



The Caltrans-industry Joint Training & Certification Program (JTCP) for materials technicians is holding classes in Northern and Southern California. Click [HERE](#) to visit our JTCP resource page to learn more.

DESIGN!

PAVEExpress
Specify & Verify Pavement
Designs Online for Free
www.pavexpressdesign.com

LEARN!

We can bring CalAPA's popular training classes to your facility at a date and time convenient to you! Click [HERE](#) to view our "hosted" training class flier, or contact CalAPA at (916) 791-5044 for details. This service is available to public agencies and CalAPA members only.



We hope you enjoy CalAPA's *Asphalt Insider*. We are committed to providing you with the most up-to-date information on technical issues, regulation, news, analysis and events in California that may impact the asphalt pavement industry. Click [HERE](#) to contact us with any comments or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Russell W. Snyder, CAE

Executive Director

California Asphalt Pavement Association (CalAPA)

The *California Asphalt Insider* is an official publication of the California Asphalt Pavement Association. For more information or to inquire about membership, call (916) 791-5044, or click [HERE](#) to send us an e-mail.

Copyright © 2018 California Asphalt Pavement Association - All Rights Reserved.

www.calapa.net