

CALIFORNIA ASPHALT INSIDER

The latest news and views from the California Asphalt Pavement Association

Vol. 13, Issue 17 <> April 27, 2020



Est. 1953
www.calapa.net

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CALENDAR

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

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'Asphalt Pavement 101' class
(WEBINAR ONLY)
Tuesday, April 28, 8:30 a.m.
to 12:30 p.m.
Contact: Sophie You (916)
791-5044
Details [HERE](#).

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.

→ SPECIAL REPORT: Looking ahead to an uncertain future and a phased reopening of the California economy amid COVID-19

A phased reopening of the California economy at some unspecified future date dominated the news last week as road repairs progressed under more stringent safety protocols brought about by the coronavirus pandemic.

Reduced vehicle traffic on roadways brought about by various "stay at home" orders to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus attracted news coverage of accelerated paving work being done amid the crisis.

In the San Francisco Bay Area, meanwhile, officials announced they would be enforcing more stringent public health guidelines with regard to face coverings in public, including essential workers.

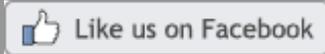
With transportation funds expected to be depleted because of dramatic drops in vehicle travel, and the corresponding reduction in fuel tax revenue, transportation advocates were pressing lawmakers to consider infrastructure investments in a menu of economic stimulus proposals being considered at the federal level.

At the same time, CalAPA's educational mission continued uninterrupted, albeit utilizing web technology in the place of in-person technical knowledge-transfer classes. More than 50 industry and agency personnel attended an "Asphalt Pavement 101" class remotely on April 23. The interactive webinar, conducted by CalAPA instructor Roger Smith, received high marks from attendees. "Concise while covering a lot of information," one attendee wrote. "The course was very thorough," wrote another. It will be held again on Tuesday, April 27. Registration is [HERE](#).

As of April 24, the California Department of Public Health reported there were 39,254 confirmed cases of coronavirus and 1,562 deaths in California. The CDPH central repository for COVID-19 information in California is [HERE](#). Los Angeles County continued to be a hot spot of COVID-19 cases, with a reported 18,517 people infected and 848 deaths as of April 23.

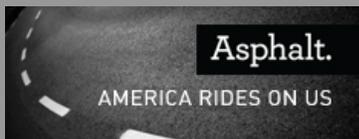
The coronavirus is easily transmitted via airborne droplets expelled by those who have been infected, and the COVID-19 illness it brings about in some of those infected can lead to hospitalization and death. There is no known cure. To slow the spread of the virus, public health officials have issued a series of "social distancing" and other orders across the state and nation to slow the spread of the virus.

SOCIALIZE



CHOOSE ASPHALT

Asphalt is used on about 95 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

Generally, the health orders issued carried exemptions for the preservation of essential services related to health, safety and the protection of vital infrastructure, such as utilities, transportation systems and housing, and supply chains critical to ensuring Californians continue to have access to food, medical care and other services during the emergency. Road construction, along with the upstream supply chain supporting it, was generally considered an essential activity so long as proper safety precautions were in place.

Guidance on face coverings and other workplace issues, including for essential workers, continue to proliferate across the state. The City of San Francisco published guidelines for how to operate an essential business [HERE](#), which included guidance on what steps to take when a worker is suspected of contracting COVID-19.

The National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA), a CalAPA partner, continued throughout the week to update its COVID-19 information page [HERE](#). CalAPA COVID-19 "Member Alerts" continue to be posted on the CalAPA website [HERE](#).

CalAPA staff this week will continue with phone interviews of members to gauge the impact of the coronavirus on operations as a follow-up to the previous survey reported to the CalAPA Board of Directors on April 15. CalAPA Regional Director Bill Knopf is directing the industry assessment efforts.

Although he has released a framework for eventually reopening the California economy, Gov. Gavin Newsom has so far not released any timetable for doing so. He issued a statement Friday praising Congress for passing the latest federal COVID-19 assistance bill, but said more must be done.

"I strongly urge the President and federal lawmakers to follow through on their commitments to quickly provide further assistance to our state and local governments," Newsom said. "State and local governments are on the front lines of this pandemic, and even governments like California that entered this crisis with record fiscal reserves are forecasting record revenue losses. Without further assistance, critical and life-preserving government functions could be put at risk -- public safety services like police, emergency response and firefighting, health care initiatives that are protecting vulnerable residents from COVID-19, food assistance for needy children, and direct relief for unemployed workers to name just a few. A quick recovery for all of California's businesses and residents during this unprecedented time will require flexible federal support."

The governor is expected to release a revised state budget next month that will project a large drop in revenues related to the pandemic, which has left millions of Californians jobless.

Transportation California, a CalAPA partner, released a letter last week that was sent to federal lawmakers urging Congress to address the long-term transportation funding crisis on the federal level.

"Transportation California writes to urge inclusion of transportation infrastructure funding in a future round of federal economic stimulus in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic," the letter stated. "Passage of a long-term surface transportation bill would also be extremely beneficial as we collectively try to recover the nation's economy from the current public health crisis. These two actions together -- immediate infrastructure investment paired with a long-term transportation blueprint -- will have a multiplier effect on the economy and allow California and other states to keep vital transportation projects on track, keep people working and businesses

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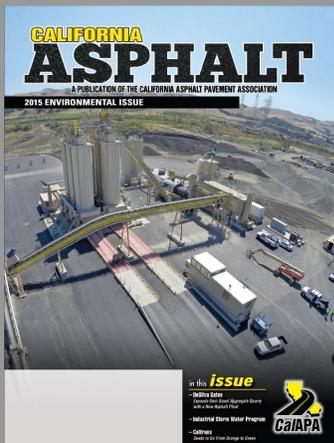
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BACK ISSUES

Did you miss an issue of the *California Asphalt Insider*? No problem! Past editions of the newsletter are available at the CalAPA newsletter [archive page](#).

MAGAZINE



CalAPA produces a highly regarded magazine, *California Asphalt*, and an annual membership directory. To view current and past issues of the magazine, click [HERE](#). For advertising sales information, click [HERE](#) or call Kerry Hoover with Construction Marketing Services at (909) 772-3121.

STAY INFORMED

going, and plan for our future."

With less vehicles on the road during the crisis, media reports of accelerated highway repairs continued to circulate last week. Once such report that appeared on Fox News in the San Francisco Bay area is [HERE](#). A previous print report on the topic that quotes CalAPA members is [HERE](#).

As the full extent of the impacts from the pandemic continue to unfold, CalAPA will continue to keep the industry informed of pertinent information as it becomes available. For more information, contact CalAPA at (916) 791-5044, or visit the CalAPA Safety page on the association's website [HERE](#).

→ Latest Caltrans specifications include changes in RAP, rut-resistance requirements

Caltrans recently released the latest version of the 2018 Revised Standard Specification (RSS). A link to the Caltrans website where the latest Standard Specification and RSS can be found [HERE](#). The RSS provides the latest specification language update for the Caltrans Standard Specifications.

In relation to Section 39, the section that is devoted to asphalt pavements, the RSS includes significant changes related to the use of Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement (RAP) in asphalt mixes and the changes to the rut resistance testing requirements.

CalAPA members partnered diligently with Caltrans to incorporate these improvements that increase the sustainability of asphalt mixes and improve the efficiency and reliability of the rut resistance testing.



CalAPA continues to promote the sustainability of asphalt mixes. An important aspect of these mixes is the ability to use the material from an existing road in the asphalt mixes for the construction and maintenance of roads. The RSS increases the RAP percentage allowed in an asphalt mix from 15 percent to 25 percent. The increase in RAP requires a change to the specified binder grade of the mix. The binder change addresses the potential for decreased crack resistance when more RAP is used in the mix. A previous *Asphalt Insider* story on this topic that appeared on Aug. 20, 2018 is [HERE](#).

The industry also identified several concerns with the use of AASHTO 324 (Hamburg Wheel Track Test) to identify rut resistance when testing both conventional and asphalt rubber mixes. These concerns were shared with Caltrans in late 2018. A team of industry and Caltrans experts worked during the first half of 2019 to complete the test method revisions and specification language changes. The changes to the testing protocols were incorporated in a new Caltrans Test Method, CT389. The specification now refers to CT 389 in lieu of AASHTO 324 and modifies the rut testing acceptance criteria.

An April 15, 2019 *Asphalt Insider* story about the Hamburg Wheel Track test can be found [HERE](#).

→ Senator gets an up-close view of social distancing on a pavement operation

CalAPA member Pavement Recycling Systems invited state Sen. Scott Wilk to see first-hand how a pavement maintenance operation can be

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conducted safely.

The purpose of the tour was "demonstrating that our industry company members are getting the much needed infrastructure work done, and we are doing it in compliance with all Government Covid-19 directives," PRS said in an employee communication.

The April 16th project visit took place in the City of Lancaster in Southern California. Company President Doug Ford was able to explain the procedures put in place to maintain social distancing and showed the senator modifications made to the equipment protecting crew members from potential exposure to the virus, such as the plastic in-cab dividers.



Sen. Scott Wilk (right) listens as Steve Ward with CalAPA member PRS explains a pavement maintenance operation.

The Legislature has not met in person this month, with few exceptions, but the construction industry has been proactive in reaching out to individual members to demonstrate the essential nature of infrastructure work and how it is being performed safely.

CalAPA thanks Legislative Committee member Steve Ward for sharing photos of the project visit.

→ Tech Term of the Week

Each week we highlight a word, acronym or other reference commonly used in the asphalt pavement industry in California.

MARSHALL MIX DESIGN: An asphalt mix design method originally developed by Bruce Marshall of the Mississippi Highway Department around 1939 and then refined by the U.S. Army. The Marshall Method seeks to select the asphalt binder content at a desired density that satisfies minimum stability and a range of flow values.

→ Paving Pointer of the Week

Each week we highlight a key point or best practice of interest to asphalt paving crews, inspectors and others working in the field. We welcome suggestions. More tips can be found in our Asphalt Parking Lot Construction Checklist [HERE](#).

PRE-CONSTRUCTION REVIEW: Every paving project should start with a detailed review of the project's contract, plans, and specifications. Any questions arising from this review should be promptly directed to the design firm's engineers.

→ Safety Tip of the Week

Each week we highlight a key tip or best practice to ensure that asphalt plants and paving operations are safe, comply with appropriate regulations and are accident-free. We welcome suggestions. More tips can be found in our Safety Checklists posted



on our *Safety Resources Page* [HERE](#).

COVID-19 WORKER PROTECTIONS: The federal Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) has released guidance for the construction industry on how to reduce the risk of exposure to the coronavirus. The guidance includes the proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), proper hygiene and social distancing. You can read the guidance [HERE](#).

→ Quote of the Week

"Success always demands a greater effort."

Winston Churchill

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, events and trends 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)®



Visit the CalAPA Safety resources page [HERE](#).

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.
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