

# NAPA ActionNews

## National Asphalt Pavement Association

Friday, April 18, 2008

### Issue Stories

#### NAPA provision in SAFETEA-LU technical corrections bill approved by Senate.



The Senate on April 17 approved a bill making technical corrections to SAFETEA-LU by a vote of 88-2. The bill would free up \$1 billion in transportation spending for 500 earmarked projects that have been held up due to errors in the 2005 law. The bill also fixes SAFETEA-LU by providing additional spending for highway research programs such as the asphalt pavement research program and includes a change sought by NAPA to increase the federal match from 50 percent to 80 percent for such research. The

House of Representatives passed a similar SAFETEA-LU Technical Corrections Bill last year. The House and Senate now need to reconcile their bills into one version so it can be sent to the President for final approval.

#### Sen. McCain calls for gas tax holiday.



Republican Sen. John McCain on April 15 called for Congress to institute a "gas-tax holiday" by suspending the 18.3 cent federal gas tax and 24.4 cent diesel tax from Memorial Day to Labor Day. He said reduced gas prices would "help to spread relief across the American economy." During consideration of the SAFETEA-LU technical corrections bill this week, Sen. Jon Kyl (R-AZ) proposed Sen. McCain's gas tax holiday plan as an amendment. The amendment was pulled after Democrats threatened a second-degree amendment to impose a windfall profit tax on the oil and gas sector to compensate

for the lost revenue in the Highway Trust Fund. Other Senators supporting the Kyl Amendment are Warner (VA), Burr (NC), Lieberman (CT), Graham (SC), Martinez (FL), Wicker (MS). The TCC and ATM Coalitions, including NAPA, are lobbying on this issue to make sure all members of Congress and U.S. Senators understand the effect their amendment will have on the highway construction program. Click on this link <http://fs1.hotmix.org/jay/mccaingastax.pdf> to download the state-by-state impacts of Sen. McCain's gas tax holiday proposal.

#### Devolution bill introduced in the Senate.



Sen. Jim DeMint (R-SC) has introduced S. 2328, the Transportation Empowerment Act, to return control of nearly every highway program to the states and reduce the federal gas tax from 18.3 cents to 3.7 cents. The bill would devolve both federal highway and mass transit projects and their funding sources to states, allowing each state to determine its own transportation priorities and funding revenues. Currently, 44 percent of the highway market for asphalt pavements is funded through the federal program. According to Senator DeMint, states could adjust their state gas tax rates and keep

all the revenue. However, that assumes that the revenue raised at the state level would be used for transportation purposes only.

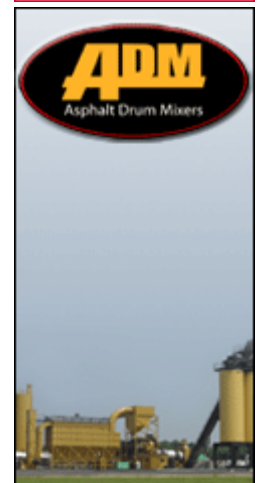
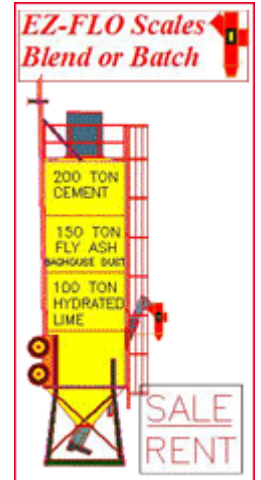
#### Deadline for TCC Fly-In hotel room rate is April 21.



Educating members of Congress on the impact of cutting the gas tax and the need to fix the Highway Trust Fund revenue crisis are two excellent reasons to come to Washington and fight for the highway construction market during the TCC Legislative Fly-In. The Transportation Construction Coalition Fly-In on May 20-21 in Washington, D.C. is just four weeks away. All attendees are urged to book their rooms at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill before the April 21 deadline. Ask for the TCC Fly-In rate of \$285 per night. After April 21, the room rates will



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increase dramatically. Go to <http://legislative.hotmix.org> to download the TCC Legislative Fly-in registration information, agenda, and brochure. Contact Jay Hansen, Vice President–Government Affairs, at [jhansen@hotmix.org](mailto:jhansen@hotmix.org), for more information.

### Large warm-mix project is underway in Texas.



On April 15, one of the largest warm-mix projects to date in the U.S. began on Business Route 287, northwest of Fort Worth, Texas. Sunmount Corporation, a division of Lane Construction Corporation, began the 50,000-ton job with the mix at 235° for the initial paving. The project began with a mill and fill of 10 inches on the shoulders of the road, using about 600-800 tons per day of warm-mix asphalt produced using Evotherm. After completing the shoulder work, Sunmount will do a 2-inch overlay of the main road. The project is scheduled to take about five months. "We will be using warm mix in both the shoulder work and the main road," said Jason McLear, General Manager for Sunmount. "Already our workers have noticed

the cooler temperatures and lack of smell. It has also reduced the number of passes by our rollers needed to obtain the required densities." TxDOT has scheduled additional projects of more than 100,000 tons of warm mix during this paving season.

### Lehman-Roberts conducts second warm-mix demo.



On April 15, Lehman-Roberts Co. conducted its second test of the Terex warm-mix system at the company's Memphis, Tenn. facilities. Operating under much more favorable weather conditions than the January test, the Lehman-Roberts team showcased the system for private customers and local municipalities. Three mixes were used for the demo: a Tennessee specification with limestone aggregate, a Mississippi specification with gravel aggregate, and a standard hot mix to serve as the control. All mixes contained RAP. The

Terex system injects water into liquid asphalt cement. The resulting foaming action evenly coats the aggregates and allows the resulting mix to be placed at the target temperature of 260°. One warm-mix section was placed in a high-traffic volume area to see how it will perform over time. The second warm-mix section was placed side-by-side with the standard HMA section. Samples of all three mixes were tested for AC content, gradation, theoretical gravity, bulk specific gravity, air voids, moisture content, and stability. Density for the three mixes was 93-96 percent. "The warm mix stayed workable for a longer time than the traditional hot-mix section," said Patrick Nelson, director of special projects for Lehman-Roberts. "The warm-mix also produced less heat and fumes than the standard mix. We believe these lower temperatures should also add to the life and performance of the liquid binder."

**ATM issues report on transportation and the economy.** The Americans for Transportation Mobility (ATM) Coalition and the National Chamber Foundation of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce have issued a study concluding that the U.S. transportation system is failing to keep pace with the demands of a 21st century economy. "If the United States declines to invest in transportation infrastructure, our economy will become less productive and less competitive," warned ATM Executive Director Janet F. Kavinoky. "Without an adequate transportation system, the nation's economic growth is at risk," Kavinoky added. The report points out the need to develop a national consensus among citizens, businesses, and political leaders on the importance of increased investment in transportation infrastructure and the need for more public investment in infrastructure, using all potential revenue sources. NAPA serves on ATM's Management Committee and helped fund the study which has been widely distributed to members of Congress, the media, and business groups. The report may be downloaded at <http://legislative.hotmix.org>.

### Federal highway investment creates jobs.



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Highway

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has updated its estimate of the number of jobs that result from transportation investment. FHWA estimates that more than 34,779 jobs are created for every \$1 billion of federal highway investment, plus the state match. In 1997, a FHWA analysis determined that each \$1 billion of federal-aid highway expenditures, plus a 20 percent state share, supported 47,500 jobs. But inflation has eroded the buying capacity of transportation dollars in terms of jobs.

### President Bush to pass on submitting a FY 2010 budget.



The Office of Management and Budget has announced that President Bush will not send Congress a fiscal 2010 budget before he leaves office. During the year leading up to reauthorization of highway and transportation programs, the U.S. Department of Transportation would normally be preparing the administration's reauthorization proposal, in this case by September 2008. OMB has now indicated that federal agencies do not need to submit budget requests and supporting documents in September as they normally do. Congress and the President need to agree on a new highway and transportation reauthorization bill by September 30, 2009, or face the

prospects of extending the program as revenues are in decline. NAPA's white paper to Congress entitled "Renewing the Federal-Aid Highway Program," will be launched at the TCC Fly-In. The paper calls on the next President, Congress, and governors to hold a transportation summit in early 2009 to agree on a framework bill and legislative timetable to ensure enactment of a new bill by September 2009.

### TRB committee considers asphalt research.



The Transportation Research Board Committee on General Asphalt Issues (AFK10) met in Irvine, Calif., this week. Topics included the sustainability of HMA, safety and functionality of OGFCs, warm-mix asphalt, the need to monitor the performance of HMA pavements, and Perpetual Pavements. The

committee is considering sponsoring a number of TRB sessions, writing a TRB circular, and developing research needs statements for consideration by AASHTO. Committee members include Jon Epps of Granite Construction Inc., Frank Fee of NuStar Asphalt Refining LLC, Don Watson of National Center for Asphalt Technology, and Dave Newcomb, NAPA's Vice President--Research & Technology.

### NAPA staff participate in materials summit.

NAPA staff was involved in the recent Beneficial Use of Industrial Materials Summit held in Denver. The meeting was designed to provide a forum for the exchange of information and ideas among regulators, industry, and other stakeholders. The meeting strongly embraced recycling. One segment of the meeting was dedicated to the use of materials, including recycled asphalt pavement (RAP), in transportation applications. NAPA continues to advocate for increasing use of RAP in roadway applications.

### NAPA staff meet with Wal-Mart about parking lots.

NAPA staff also attended the Wal-Mart Sustainable Buildings Network Summit. Wal-Mart is pushing sustainability in construction of their facilities and in the products they sell. Porous pavement is one of the sustainable building methods they consider for their stores. The company is developing porous pavement specifications. NAPA will continue to work with Wal-Mart on porous pavements and other issues related to construction of their pavements.

### NAPA's Midyear Meeting will feature two information-packed plenary sessions.



Join NAPA Members and guests at the Antlers Hilton in Colorado Springs July 28-30 for a time of networking, committee meetings, and two plenary sessions. "Green is the Same Color as Money" is the theme of the plenary session on July 29, which will address both sustainability and recycling. The presentations will include an overview of how sustainability is affecting the market for asphalt pavements, strategies for breaking down your DOT's barriers to more recycling, and an outline of potential legislation on climate change and cap-and-trade programs. The other plenary session will showcase Charlie Cook, a political analyst for NBC News, who will tell you how the upcoming elections will affect the highway industry. Cook is a frequent guest on CNBC, MSNBC, CNN, C-SPAN, and National Public Radio. The Midyear Meeting will also have the

inaugural meeting of the Warm-Mix Asphalt Task Force. To see the schedule for the meetings, or to register online, go to the NAPA Web site. For more information, contact Nancy Lawler, Vice President--Conventions & Meetings, at [nlawler@hotmix.org](mailto:nlawler@hotmix.org).

### Asphalt Smooth Rider custom chopper shines.



People are still talking about the Asphalt Smooth Rider after its first appearance at CONEXPO-CON/AGG. And why not? The custom motorcycle was a show-stopper, designed, fabricated and built by Thunder Mountain Motor Sports. It is a classic long bike style chopper.

By participating in the raffle for the bike, not only will you be in the running for this one-of-a-kind motorcycle, but you will also be helping to raise money for NCAT equipment needs. The bike will be raffled off by the NAPA Research and Education Foundation with the NAPA Associate Member Council coordinating the event. The bike will be on display at the World of Asphalt 2009<sup>®</sup> Show & Conference, in Orlando, Fla., with the drawing taking place at the event. This activity is registered with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, registration #CH25645. The raffle tickets cost \$100 each. To buy a ticket, see photos, or get more information on the custom chopper, go to [www.smoothrider.org](http://www.smoothrider.org). Included in the Web site is a list of NCAT's equipment needs.

### Granite Construction Inc. recognized for ethical practices.



Granite Construction Inc. is one of the recipients of the top rating, "Best Overall Government Contractor Ethics Program," for its ethics and compliance initiatives in the 2008 Government Contractor Ethics Program Ratings. The rankings will be published in the current issue of *Ethisphere Magazine*. Researchers from the Ethisphere Institute analyzed more than 1,000 federal government contractors as part of the 2008 ratings. "At Granite, doing the right thing is embedded in our culture, and we are extremely proud to be recognized for our

efforts," says William G. Dorey, Granite president and chief executive officer. For more information, go to <http://ethisphere.com/2007-worlds-most-ethical-companies>.

### Paving season is here. Get the workers you need at [www.AsphaltJobs.com](http://www.AsphaltJobs.com).

**AsphaltJobs.com**

Post your jobs to the only Internet job board dedicated to the asphalt pavement industry. Current jobs include:  
Paving superintendent, Roanoke, Va.

Estimator, Forest Park, Ga.

Asphalt plant operator, Phoenix, Ariz.

Estimator, Denver, Steamboat, Glenwood Springs, Colo.

Asphalt quality control technician, Bend, Ore.

### NAPA welcomes new Member.



Island Construction LP, Texas, is the most recent Associate Member applicant. Pending applications will be reviewed by NAPA's Board of Directors at their July 30 meeting in Colorado Springs, Colo.

### It's free! It's timely! It's *ActionNews*!

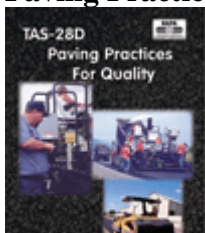
Help your colleagues stay informed about the latest that is happening in the asphalt pavement industry. If your company is a NAPA Member and you know people in your organization who would benefit from receiving a copy of *ActionNews*, please let us know. We can add their names to our e-mail list at no charge. *ActionNews* provides information about the hot-mix industry including technical and environmental news, legislative activities, and much more. Please send the individual's contact information, including e-mail address, to Joanie Frykman--Manager of Membership Services, at [jfrykman@hotmail.org](mailto:jfrykman@hotmail.org). *ActionNews* is a benefit to NAPA Members. We ask that you not share it with others who are not Members.

### In the News

Payne & Dolan Inc.'s warm-mix paving operation in Milwaukee was featured in the March issue of *Roads & Bridges*. To read the complete article, go to (<http://www.roadsbridges.com/Beer-garden-article9069>.)

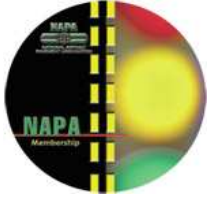
Curran Contracting's new asphalt plant equipment was recognized as good for the environment (<http://www.daily-chronicle.com/articles/2008/04/12/news/news02.txt>).

### Paving Practices for Quality (TAS-28D).



This 30-minute DVD includes three segments demonstrating the proper techniques for HMA construction and illustrates the basic principles of paving for quality. The segments can easily be incorporated into a training program. The three 10-minute segments are entitled "Roller Operations for Quality, It's Up to You," "Paver Operations for Quality, It's Up to You," and "Paving Site Work Practices for Quality, It's Up to You." The cost to Members for the DVD

is \$30. To order your copies, go to the NAPA online store, or fill out the attached fax-back form. For more information, contact Judy Hornung, Publication & Information Services Coordinator, at [jhornung@hotmail.org](mailto:jhornung@hotmail.org).



### Member Moment

I've been coming to NAPA Annual Meetings for over 30 years, and from a professional standpoint, the most recent one in Phoenix was the best one yet. The session on "101 Ideas to Reduce Costs" was a real winner. We are definitely looking at ways to reduce costs, so this was extremely beneficial. The sessions on energy conservation and warm mix were also helpful. We are looking to implement some of those ideas and plan to do a warm-mix project in the near future.

Joe Hanbury  
Aggregate Industries  
Stoughton, Mass.