Mechanistic-Empirical Pavement Design Guide

November 2010 – The American Concrete Pavement Association (hereinafter ACPA) has long held the position that fair competition between the pavement industries on surface transportation infrastructure is the most beneficial means of providing the highest returned value to the American taxpayer. Fair competition is affected at many points in the process of road design, bidding and construction.

One of the keys to achieving fair competition between the pavement industries is through the use of technology in the pavement selection, design, construction, preservation, and/or rehabilitation.

ACPA congratulates the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials on the achievement of its new design guide, and has adopted the following position regarding the Mechanistic-Empirical Design Guide (MEPDG):

In principle, ACPA affirms that:

- MEPDG is the most comprehensive, scientific approach to developing comparable pavement designs available at this time;
- MEPDG, when calibrated and used with properly selected design inputs, will produce more accurate pavement performance predictions and reduced occurrences of over- or under-design than AASHTO’s previous thickness design guides.
- MEPDG is currently a pavement analysis tool rather than a design procedure, and that this limitation will be addressed with the official release of the AASHTOWare DARWin ME program planned for April 2011;
- The concrete pavement industry supports the adoption of AASHTOWare DARWin ME by state highway agencies for design of both concrete and asphalt pavements, provided that its implementation is based on locally derived calibration factors and its application is based on judicious and fair selection of input variables;
- The concrete pavement industry will provide assistance to any agency interested in calibrating and implementing AASHTOWare DARWin ME; and
- The Association will provide training to local industry representatives on the proper consideration and use of AASHTOWare DARWin ME.
- The Association also will continue to support mechanistic design procedures, such as StreetPave, for city, county, state and private facilities where properly implementing AASHTOWare DARWin ME is deemed infeasible due to complexity and expense, where implementation is deemed to have been inadequate or skewed, or where other procedures allow for technology not addressed in AASHTOWare DARWin ME.

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