

NJ ASPHALT PAVEMENT ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Issue: # 2020-04

April 2020

We continue our commitment to inform our members about important industry news and issues. To that end, we welcome story contributions, member highlights, and any suggestions to include newsworthy information.

Please contact Stacey Lindenmuth, staceyl@njapa.com, in the Association office if you have any press releases, company news or other information you would like to share with the Association.

NJDOT Bidding and Awards

NJAPA staff speaks with NJDOT senior staff every day to review, engage and advocate on a range of issues. Urgency in continuing to bid and award work, specifically paving work, is always the top agenda item. Recent discussions with the Director of Construction Services, Director of Operations & Maintenance, Assistant Commissioner of Capital Programs, Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner all confirm that NJDOT is working to bid all work originally planned for FY2020 (which ends June 30) within that same time frame.

Some notes regarding FY2020 work status as of 4/23/2020

- 65 projects bid with a low bid value of approximately \$852 Million
- 17 of these projects were paving specific with a low bid value of approximately \$176 Million

- 38 projects awarded thus far with an award value of approximately \$651 Million
- 9 of these projects were paving specific with an award value of approximately \$68 Million
- Awarded projects include approximately 470,000 asphalt tons, total asphalt tonnage awarded for FY2019 was 1.71 million, total for FY2018 was 1.27 million.
- 9 projects currently advertised through May 14, 3 of which have significant asphalt quantities, total asphalt tonnage of approximately 430,000 tons.
- 2 Additional Maintenance Roadway contracts to be bid in advance of May 31, 2020
- 14 Additional Capital Projects with a bid range of \$128-\$285 Million, 4 of which are paving specific with a bid value of \$16-\$35 Million.

Federal Funding/Stimulus

President Trump and Democratic Congressional Leadership have all made statements which indicate that infrastructure funding will be included in the next round of stimulus legislation. Republicans in the House and Senate, however, have resisted the inclusion of up to \$800 Billion in infrastructure funds in the next stimulus bill which could lead to the funds being delayed until a future bill. At the moment, it still appears that renewal of the FAST Act which expires September 30, 2020, will remain a stand-alone bill that the Congress deals with later in the year. A number of National Transportation advocacy organizations are pushing a plan by the American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials (AASHTO) to include \$50 Billion of aid to State DOTs and further to temporarily suspend the State required match for funding since State tax collections have been reduced so dramatically. Please see a [letter](#) and [fact sheet](#) which provide an overview of this proposal. National Asphalt Pavement Association is also supportive of this proposal, their letter to Congressional Leadership is attached [here](#).

FHWA planned visit to NJ and Asphalt Plant Tour/Industry Listening Session

FHWA has planned to send several representatives to NJ in early May to review performance testing and high RAP mix design with NJDOT. FHWA also requested that industry representatives schedule a plant visit during their time in NJ. NJAPA has been working with our Technical Committee and NJDOT to schedule the plant visit and to have other producer members in attendance to provide broad based and representative feedback to FHWA. FHWA has forwarded the following questions which apply to both Performance mixes and RAP mixes, for which they would like responses. The questions are as follows:

1. What challenges existed to get staffing and equipment to meet the new requirements?
2. What changes have been made to asphalt mixtures to get approved designs?
3. Was there less bidding competition on projects with these requirements?
4. What challenges and risks existed during mixture acceptance?
5. What issues or adjustments were needed during production (e.g., aggregate, plant, QC, others)?
6. Have there been benefits to these new mixture design methodologies?
7. What are some of the future activities that can help improving and advancing the overall process?
8. Any other comments or thoughts?

At this time the meeting is still scheduled for May 11-15, 2020 however NJDOT expects the FHWA visit to be delayed. We will be prepared to fully participate at the appropriate time. Please advise any questions, comments, concerns, etc. based on the above questions.

NJ Department of Environmental Protection Issues (RAP and Dirty Dirt)

The NJ Legislature is actively moving legislation which would extend a range of DEP and DOT permits so that pending developments would not be stalled or otherwise impacted by COVID-19 related delays. NJAPA worked cooperatively with the NJ Concrete and Aggregate Association to gain an amendment to the bill which would specifically extend the timeframe for compliance with the recently enacted “Dirty Dirt” legislation. While it appears the bill will move forward soon, it was not approved in advance of the DEP registration deadline. NJAPA has sent several communications to members regarding this matter and have advised members to file the initial registration and if they believed the legislation should not apply to their operations, they should also include language to that effect, reserving their rights to cease compliance in the future once the issue was clarified. NJAPA and NJCAA have written to DEP on this matter and we have had numerous discussions with Senior Staff at DEP. Our joint letter to NJDEP is linked [here](#).

NJAPA also continues to aggressively push NJDEP to respond to industry concerns and move forward cooperatively with us on the RAP Guidance/Regulations required by the RAP Legislation which we wrote and had signed into law. NJAPA staff continues to have calls and video-meetings with key legislators on this matter should we need clarifying legislation and/or legislative oversight.

NJAPA Scholarship Program

We have heard from many potential scholarship applicants this year who have advised of issues and delays with compiling the information typically required to complete the NJAPA Scholarship Application. Issues include the availability of transcripts and difficulties gathering letters of recommendation.

In recognition of the unique circumstances we are all facing, the NJAPA Scholarship Committee is revising the application process for 2020. To be eligible for an NJAPA Scholarship applicants will simply need to complete and return the one page application linked [here:](#)

Please return the completed application by email to StaceyL@NJAPA.com by 5pm on May 11, 2020.

If you have already submitted an application, either by mail or email, we ask that you complete this application as well.

COVID-19 Resource Center

NJAPA has been working to keep our membership informed and up to date about COVID-19 related developments which impact our industry and will continue to advocate for the best interests of our member firms. To that end we have established a web page at www.njapa.com which includes a wide range of COVID-19 related materials and resources.

NJ Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin Chairs Soup Kitchen 411to Support Feed NJ

FeedNJ is a unique campaign aimed at tackling the increased food insecurity caused by the COVID-19 pandemic by purchasing meals from local eateries and donating those meals to neighborhood soup kitchens.

Unlike Feeding America or other nonprofits geared towards serving food pantries, we are geared towards soup kitchens, which serve warm meals on-site and in this case as take-out due to our state's safety guidelines. Soup kitchens help serve the most vulnerable of

the food insecure population. Many people who are disaffected by hunger do not have access to a kitchen to prepare the types of non-perishable items distributed by food pantries. For this reason, soup kitchens play a critical and commonly overlooked role in tackling hunger.

Due to restaurants being restricted to take-out only, many of these restaurants are struggling to stay open, if they are open at all. FeedNJ will be spending **100%** of the money raised in this campaign on purchasing meals from local New Jersey restaurants. This effort will not only bring more warm meals to soup kitchens, but will also help support the local economy.

Normally, a meal at a soup kitchen costs less than \$2.50 per person, but in today's environment where restaurants are struggling, many places have quoted us at \$5.00 per person.

On average, every \$500 = 100 warm meals. Our goal is to serve **200,000** free meals through the FeedNJ campaign.

[To contribute online click here](#)

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- **NJAPA Annual Awards Dinner**- Currently scheduled for June 11, 2020, however we are actively considering a move to Fall. We have September 17, 2020 on hold with our host facility.
- **NJAPA Scholarship Committee Meeting** (Video-Conference)- 9am on April 23, 2020.
- **NJAPA Environmental Committee Meeting** (Video-Conference)- 10am on May 19, 2020.
- **NJAPA Technical Committee Meeting** (Video-Conference)- 10am on May 26, 2020.

- **NJAPA Board of Directors Meeting** (Location or Video-Conference TBD)- 9:30am on June 4, 2020.

I hope and trust that you and your families are well during this very challenging time for our State and Nation. Stacey and I are primarily working remotely and are in communication with each other throughout the day to make sure all routine Association business is managed properly.

Please call or email anytime should you have questions or wish to discuss any issue.

Contact the NJAPA office if you have any questions.

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**Promoting the broadest application of Hot Mix
Asphalt (HMA) throughout New Jersey.**

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