

PAVINGtheWAY

A PUBLICATION OF THE PLANTMIX ASPHALT INDUSTRY OF KENTUCKY AND THE KENTUCKY ASPHALT PAVEMENT ALLIANCE

ETA-KY Alliance Announced

On November 10, a group of industry leaders gathered in Frankfort to announce the kick-off of a new alliance called ETA-KY (Economic Transportation Alliance for Kentucky).

The alliance will provide information to the public, the media and local governments concerning the need for developing and maintaining a safe, convenient and efficient transportation infrastructure, as well as provide a highway system that ensures motorists' safety, improves economic development opportunities and enhances the quality of life for Kentuckians.

The group heard some sobering figures on road conditions and travel that confirmed the need to address the growing problem.

CONDITIONS

Highway traffic has increased more than 50 percent in the last decade, and the state can't keep up. Just 10 years ago, only 10 percent of interstate pavements and five percent of parkway pavements were rated poor. Today, those numbers are 33 percent and 47 percent, respectively.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Every \$1 billion invested in transportation

- creates 47,500 jobs
- generates more than \$2 billion in economic activity; and
- creates a \$54 million boost in federal income and social

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"Let's Get Ready to Rumble!"

It may sound like the opener to a wrestling match, but this is something quite different — rumble strips are what you see in the pavement on the side of the roadway. A common and life-saving safety feature in road and highway construction.

According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), run-off-the-road (ROR) crashes account for almost one third of the deaths and serious injuries each year on the Nation's highways. Many think that drunken or drugged-driving is the primary cause of ROR crashes, but often there are more simple factors at play such as fatigue, driver inattention, distractions, or falling asleep at the wheel.

"In our multi-tasking society, Americans are expected to find a way to do more, and as motorists, that means they are experiencing an increase in distractions," said Brian Wood, Assistant Executive Director of PAIKY. "In addition to dealing with children, inclement weather and drowsiness, drivers are now asked to contend with diversions from cell phones, CD and DVD players and PDA's while operating automobiles."

When a drowsy or distracted driver drifts toward the shoulder, rumble strips—through vibration and noise—can alert the operator and effectively reduce ROR events. Or, in times of poor visibility, such as heavy rain or snow, drivers may have a hard time identifying the edge of the road. Rumble strips provide a means for the driver to stay on track.

There are two primary types of rumble strips: rolled-in and milled. Rolled-in rumble strips are created with a modified asphalt roller than makes indentions in the hot asphalt shoulder as a part of the paving and compaction process. Milled rumble strips are constructed using a mechanical device that carves indentions in the shoulder pavement and may be done after the paving operation is completed.



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security taxes and a \$6 million jump in state and local tax revenues.

Every \$1 invested in highway construction

- yields \$6 in economic productivity and
- \$1.80 of gross domestic product in the short term.

SAFETY

Kentucky has one of the highest traffic fatality rates in the nation, with more than half of those fatalities (during 2002) occurring on rural roads. On the state's highways during 2002, one fatality occurred every 10 hours. Motor vehicle crashes in 2002 cost the state \$2.1 billion for emergency services, medical costs, lost productivity and property damage. That equals more than \$500 for every Kentucky citizen.

There have been improvements in the transportation network since 2000, but according to ETA-KY spokesperson, Jack Fish, "Many roads remain unsafe, lack good pavement or are too congested to handle the growing amount of daily traffic. Good roads are the lifeblood of our economy. They create jobs, allow goods to be shipped on time and help us get to work on time."

ETA-KY wants the public to be aware of these issues and to build understanding as to why an increased transportation investment in Kentucky must be addressed now.

"A sound transportation system is essential in getting people to work and home safely today while ensuring economic possibilities for the future," Fish said.

For more information about ETA-KY, visit the Web site at www.etaky.com

Asphalt Institute, Kentucky Transportation Center Collaborate on National Study

\$500,000 in Transportation Appropriations to fund Research

The Kentucky Transportation Center (KTC) at the University of Kentucky will collaborate with the Asphalt Institute on a \$500,000 joint research project funded through the 2005 federal Transportation Appropriations Bill that awaits President Bush's signature.

The project will study the relationship between good pavement construction practices and the long-term durability of asphalt pavements. The American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials had supported the proposal because the study by KTC, housed in the UK College of Engineering, and the Lexington-based Asphalt Institute has benefits for local, state and federal transportation agencies nationwide.

"This project is important because so much of our nation's economy and standard of living relies on the quality and conditions of our highways to move people and goods. I am pleased to see continued support for this important work," said Wendy Baldwin, UK's executive vice president for research.

"The Asphalt Institute and KTC jointly identified this study as an important project that would offer long-term benefits for the tax-paying consumer through improved roadways," said Pete Grass, president of the Institute. "This will be an applied research study that will produce results that can be practically and directly used at all levels of the road transportation system."

Grass and KTC Director Paul Toussaint approached Kentucky Sen. Jim Bunning earlier this year about opportunities for funding the research. Bunning and Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell supported the study and encouraged collaboration by the Institute and KTC.

"Senator Bunning and Senator McConnell recognized the Asphalt Institute's 85-year heritage of asphalt research and its desire to develop a stronger relationship with the Kentucky Transportation Center," Toussaint said. "Our Kentucky delegation championed this study proposal in Washington, and as a result, the state of Kentucky will be using its resources to improve our nation's roadways."

In 1919, the year the Asphalt Institute was founded, there were only a few hundred thousand cars in America, and the number of paved road miles was even less. Today, most American roads are paved with asphalt, and the growth of those paved roads is due in large part to the decades of work by the Institute.

The 85-year-old Institute, based in Lexington since 1989, remains a leading resource for promoting the benefits and use of liquid asphalt through engineering, research and education.

The Kentucky Transportation Center provides research, technology transfer, and education to the transportation industry, as well as promoting safe and effective transportation systems.

Safe Driving for the New Year

Traveling to see family and friends is a valued tradition, particularly during the holidays. But in the last few years, roads and highways have borne the largest burden of travelers as heightened security, long lines and high prices have limited the practicality of using airlines to travel shorter distances.

Though the heavy travel season kicks off in December, the remaining winter months offer plenty of good reasons to be on the road.

They also offer plenty of good reasons not to be on the road: snow, sleet, freezing rain and less daylight to name a few. And don't forget road conditions. Kentucky has notoriously narrow highways, especially in rural areas. Plus, even if you manage to navigate safely the winding highways through nasty weather, there is no guarantee that the people around you will be equally adept.

During the four-day 2003 Thanksgiving holiday period, Kentucky's roadways saw a record 11 fatalities in 11 separate crashes. One of those involved alcohol, and eight of the victims were not utilizing seat belts.

Preventive Measures. Get an engine tune up in the fall. Consider switching to a heavier engine oil, top off fluids, get new wiper blades, have the brakes adjusted and make sure all lights are in good working order. Also, check the battery for charge and the connector cables to be sure they are not corroding at the terminals. If they are, here's a little hint: use a paste of baking soda and water and apply to terminal posts. Let the mixture foam and then rinse

with water. Apply a thin layer of petroleum jelly to the posts and reconnect.

Emergency Kits. A few things should be on-hand if you'll be motoring in winter weather. A scraper with a brush on one end, tow chain or strap, tire chains, jumper cables and a flashlight with extra batteries are all helpful. Sand or salt are useful for creating traction if you get stuck. If you can't find flares, store a piece of brightly colored cloth in your car to flag down help. A blanket, mittens, hats, bottled water and a few items of high-energy food, such as dried fruit or chocolate could help you get through a severe situation.

Execution. Remember to drive more slowly and be more aware of your surroundings in winter weather than you normally would. If you drive faster than other drivers, you may disrupt the flow of traffic, causing confusion. Also, don't brake too quickly or follow behind the driver in front of you too closely. Their quick brake could quickly turn into your accident.

If you find yourself in a skid, keep your cool and think it through. Front- and rear-wheel drive vehicles should handle skids the same way. If your rear wheels begin to skid, turn your steering wheel in the direction you want to go, but don't overcorrect.

If the front wheels skid, take your foot off the gas and shift to neutral. As the wheels skid sideways, they will slow the vehicle and traction will return. Gently shift back to drive and slowly accelerate, steering your car in the direction you would like it to go.



And remember, ABS systems aren't your grandfather's brakes, so don't pump, just push down hard.

Don't be discouraged from traveling this winter, but be prepared and take precautions to see that when you have to be on the road, you are driving safely.



Winter Training School 2005: Don't let it pass you by

Set the pace among your peers in the industry. Don't miss PAIKY's 19th annual Winter Training School. PAIKY will host the three-day event at the Galt House East in Louisville (Call 800-626-1814 for reservations) from Monday, February 7 at 1 p.m. through Wednesday, Feb. 9 at noon. The cost is \$125 per person.

To register, log on to www.paiky.org and look for the **Winter Training School** info at the "What's New" link. Need more information? Contact us at 800-544-8522.

Rumble from front

“Safety is the key and milled rumble strips do a better job alerting the drivers who stray from the roadway,” says Brett Kik, Vice-President of Charbon Contracting. “For high volume and high speed roadways in Kentucky, the trend is to use more milled rumble strips.”

Studies have shown that rumble strips, particularly milled rumble strips, are effective in warning drivers of large trucks when they leave the road because of the noise created. One study indicates that milled rumble strips are 12.6 times rougher and 3.4 times louder than rolled rumble strips.

FHWA reports that the installation of rumble strips has “consistently shown significant decreases in single vehicle run-off-the-road crashes.”

Next time you are on the highway, pay attention to the rumble strips along the shoulder. It’s a subtle safety feature – one that is rarely noticed or appreciated – but realize that it might save your life one day.

PAIKY MEMBER RECOGNIZED

JC Equipment, a PAIKY member, was recently honored with three awards from Topcon Positioning Systems, for which JC Equipment is a dealer at the dealer annual meeting. JC Equipment Sales and Leasing is a provider of lasers, machine control and GPS guidance systems in the tri-state marketing area representing Topcon Positioning Systems.

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