

NEWS RELEASE



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Asphalt Pavement Industry Urges Support for STRA21

Senate Bill Provides Historic Funding for Nation's Surface Transportation Infrastructure

GREENBELT, MD—On behalf of its 1,200 member companies, the National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) issued a letter to Tom Carper (D-Del.) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, in support of their bipartisan Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act of 2021 (STRA21). In the letter, NAPA President and CEO Audrey Copeland, Ph.D., P.E., shared NAPA's "strong support for the robust funding levels proposed in STRA21."

The proposal would provide \$303.5 billion over five years (FY2022-2026) for surface transportation maintenance and improvements, including key provisions in support of safety and resiliency.

"NAPA has been very pleased to participate in bipartisan efforts to envision predictable and future-oriented funding for the nation's roads, highways, and bridges," said Dr. Copeland. "We are very supportive of the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act of 2021, including provisions we sought to keep pavement crews, and the travelling public, safe on our nation's roads."

Under STRA21, dedicated funding for America's surface transportation network would see its biggest bump in the upcoming fiscal year (FY2022). The proposed legislation also includes a provision allowing states, at their discretion, to use federal funds to incorporate work zone safety enhancements during roadway construction activities, above and beyond minimal requirements. With a keen focus on preventing injuries and fatalities, NAPA led industry-wide advocacy for a safety contingency fund to protect workers and the public during road construction activities.

"While the asphalt pavement industry is excited to rebuild America's roads, we're most committed to ensuring that the women and men on our pavement crews stay safe while performing this essential work," Copeland added. "NAPA is proud of our work in this area and grateful to see worker safety included in STRA21." She further expressed NAPA's support for ongoing neutrality in pavement type selection and reauthorization of the Accelerated Implementation and Deployment of Pavement Technologies (AID-PT) program.

The full letter is available at www.asphaltpavement.org/expertise/advocacy/advocacy-tools.

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The National Asphalt Pavement Association is the only trade association that exclusively represents the interests of the asphalt pavement material producer/contractor on the national level with Congress, government agencies, and other national trade and business organizations. NAPA supports an active research program designed to improve the quality of asphalt pavements and paving techniques used in the construction of roads, streets, highways, parking lots, airports, and environmental and recreational facilities. The association provides technical, educational, and marketing materials and information to its members; supplies product information to users and specifiers of paving materials; and conducts training courses. The association, which counts more than 1,200 companies as its members, was founded in 1955.